

he Daily Tar Heel John Sweeney UNIVERSITY EDITOR Amy Cappiello CITY EDITOR Aaron Beard SPORTS EDITOR Jeanne Fugate EDITO Robbi Pickeral SPORTS EDITOR Todd Darling ARTS & FEATURES EDITOR Michael Kanarek COPY DESK EDITOR World Wide Web Electronic Edition Kathleen Oehler PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR Established 1893 Shyam Patel DESIGN EDITOR Jim Webb GRAPHICS EDITOR 103 Years of Editorial Freedom Robin Linehan EDITORIAL CARTOON EDITOR **BOARD EDITORIALS**

In the Affirmative

JULY 11 — The Supreme Court's failure to rule on an affirmative action case should not sway administrators in their efforts to make this campus reflect the state's diversity.

The high court let stand a federal court ruling that race-based admissions to the University of Texas law school were biased against white applicants

The ruling threatens affirmative action programs in three southern states - Texas, Louisiana and Mississippi — and leaves other schools wondering where they stand.

UNC, which is facing a pending lawsuit re-garding race-based scholarships at the School of Law, might cower before the judicial branch's lack of support. But to do so would severely jeopardize UNC's educational mission.

Diversity among the student body lends itself to more diverse discourse. Discussion stagnates among students with cookie-cutter backgrounds and ideologies.

And no one has ever claimed that students with the highest GPAs and test scores will necessarily contribute the most to the institution. Affirmative action opponents further ignore

JUNE 27 — Chancellor Michael Hooker announced three measures to crack down on the risk management problems that have plagued Interfraternity Council members this past year. The new measures would shorten rush, tighten alcohol policies and expand educational programs.

Hooker has gone far beyond the flaccid efforts of past years.

An administrator has finally looked beyond the Greek community's higher-than-average grade point averages. But that does not mean he will easily change years of tradition.

Shortening rush is a bad idea.

Fraternities that have elaborate plans to woo freshmen will not drop their investment with the loss of official sanction. Instead, what is not allowed to go on during the formal rush period will happen one week sooner.

And while tighter enforcement of alcohol policies would be admirable, it would take an unbelievably iron-fisted director of Greek Af-

JUNE 20 — As the Chancellor's Task Force on Alcohol seeks answers to the alcohol problem, they can harrumph all they like about the declining values of today's youth.

All of this commentary will do little if not tempered with the perspective of those who understand best the problem's lack of easy answers: students.

Students might not choose to recline under a tree and pore through Plato, as Chancellor Michael Hooker so idyllically remembers spending free time. But there is more to drinking than mere stress relief.

Whereas students used to choose between the sole watering hole, a bordello or books, today's students have any number of outlets that have little to do with books and everything with risking their lives. When Allen Ginsberg said he had seen the

best minds of his generation die, he hadn't seen anything. Visit the 1990s. Watch the best minds of this generation abuse their minds and bodies.

With excessive drinking; casual, unprotected

problems with these measures of ability. Manufacturers of standardized tests admit

that their products are not race blind. Because of cultural references, students of certain ethnicities might be less prepared. And not all students come from backgrounds

that allow them to focus their full efforts on maintaining high GPAs.

Campus admissions officers recognize these faults and already weigh other variables in the admissions equation.

And sometimes the barely quantifiable factors will make one student shine at UNC - or gain more from college — than other equally qualified students.

Students who can bring a badly needed perspective to a campus fraught with institutional racism should be looked at in a different light. The Supreme Court should have issued a

decision to end the affirmative action debate. But maybe UNC's educational mission will be benefited by its silence. For now, the University can continue to serve the entire state, rather than be mandated to serve only its white, middle and upper echelons.

No Kush

fairs to stop overeager members from sneaking cheap beers to wide-eyed prospectives. Education seems to be the suggested cure for

all societal ills, but in this case it is probably not enough

Additional policies could help. Students should be required to have a minimum GPA before being allowed to rush. The University should mandate study halls and additional, continued educational sessions. When a Greek organization does something that damns its community, it should face significantly more than having its collective mouth rinsed with soap.

While administrators must tread warily to rein in the little control they have over private, off-campus entities, they hold the power of students' enrollment above recalcitrants' heads.

It is easy to blame this particular group for a pervasive campus problem. But Hooker should make sure not to forget the 82 percent of undergraduates who do not belong to a Greek organization, yet who fall under similar influences.

Driven to Drink

sex in an age of life-threatening sexually transmitted diseases; skyrocketing drug abuse; and escalating physical violence, students today face a world unlike any other. And students choose this

This generation has been given too much for doing too little. Society has produced food enough to continue our reign as the fattest nation

and we've turned out a nation with eating disorders. Society has provided money, and we've turned out a nation of people who waste it seeking unnatural highs.

Society has given us everything, and we've spent it trying to find something to challenge us and to provide a built-in excuse for failure. If students succeed in even turning out marginally successful despite self-made "challenges" - like drinking to excess - they have passed a different test than past generations.

And if all of this fails, this generation will have an excuse. Unlike our parents who blame poor beginnings or societal prejudices, we can blame substances. It's enough to drive you to drink.

EDITORIALS

Coalitions Divide, Conquer More Than Societal Ills

orget the summer of love, now decades past. Our generation — as demonstrated by one national student organization that visited campus this summer - throws all such camaraderie to the winds. Ironically enough, they do it in the name of "coalition building," or, working within your special interest group to further shared goals. The United States Student Association — or

The United States Student Association — or rather, one USSA delegate — let me in on this height of social awareness. The lone delegate, looking more dejected than would be expected from a participant in the largest student lobbying group's conference, wandered into my office. But he said he had good reason. "Ifeel excluded," he said. "I'm a white male." And he went on to describe the various coa-

And he went on to describe the various coa-litions being built in the Student Union that evening—like so many walls being built around special segments of the USSA delegation. USSA, meant to represent over three million

of my peers across the nation, fractured off into caucuses for students who are: disabled, homosexuals, homosexuals of color, transgendered, veterans, Jewish, women, nontraditional, people of color (broken down into those of African, Native American and Arab descent and Na-tional Asian Pacific students), internationals of color, international, from private colleges, from community colleges, from public colleges, men of color and from graduate schools.

Whew And the group further mandates that certain

leading positions be filled by people meet-ing certain background checks - a woman, a minority or a handicapped person, depending on the position. While we can all

relish in toppling archaic power structures, we should be wary of abandoning one quota system for

ing testosterone to succeed into the fire of requiring an ethnic or cultural background for success?

And it just gets so tiresome always to repre-

bent. I get sick of being categorized as believing certain things and being required to profess certain beliefs because I am a woman, a woman of Floridian descent and a woman of feminist bent.

merely because I happen to believe them, regard-less of how my background has carried me along.

It's easy — and I have done this categoriza-tion myself — to assume that because you share a background with someone, you will necessar-ily share the same goals and beliefs.

A lot of times you do. But that does not make for the most informed discussion. Nor does it make for what the USSA claims is the most powerful force — people coalescing from divergent backgrounds. bell hooks, when she spoke in Memorial Hall last spring, said I, as a white feminist, could not

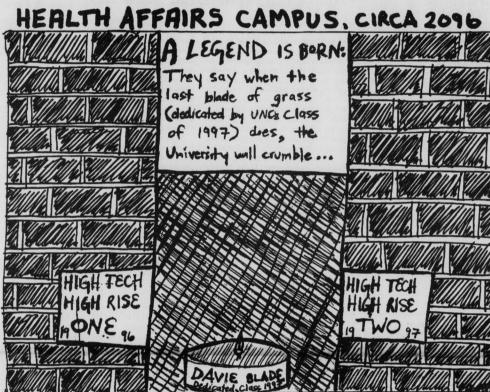
in any way, shape or form understand what she, as a black feminist, had gone through, and that I was probably seeking goals that would be detrimental to her.

Certainly, we of different backgrounds do not face the same issues. But there is no way that either of us will work

beyond the status quo — the feeling of kamikaze fighting against The Man, the glass ceiling, mi-sogyny, whatever — until we can keep from ing walled in by our special interests. I am proud to be a woman, a woman of

Floridian descent and a woman of feminist bent But even more than that, I'm proud to be part of a brand new caucus — created in the space of time it takes to write a column. It's the caucus of Caucuslessness. Interested parties please contact

me as soon as possible. Even white males



Sorrow Can't Be Roped Off With Police Tape

This column originally appeared in the May 16 edition of The Daily Tar Heel.

n graduation morning, my giddy senior friends and I made our way to Kenan Stadium. One of us made a joke about the fire at the Phi Gamma Delta house. Another friend silenced him, saying that someone was in the hospital because of the fire.

At that early juncture, none of us suspected that anyone had been critically injured, much less killed. It was only after the ceremony, as we gathered with our families for backyard parties, that the details began to emerge. By early after-noon, too many of us had learned that we had beet birthe alwarm the for identified on the second lost friends, classmates or family — forever. Sunday's fire struck quickly and lethally, kill-

ing five and barely sparing three. But unlike past tragedies, there's no insane gunman or careless bartender to point our col-

gumman or careless bartender to point our col-lective finger at. A cigarette butt, a garbage can and some pine panelling are the new killers. And that, along with the timing, make this tragedy so hard to accept, and so easy to believe. When other people die, we usually comfort ourselves: "That could never happen to me." But most of us who graduated — and most of

But most of us who graduated -- and most of the students who stay — cannot find that com-fort. Most students have been to fraternity par-ties. Lots have spent the night in one. Countless These normal actions conspired early Suncalled saving, "See you tomorrow," on Saturday night, only to learn the next day that the anonymous "victims" included that same person expected at a post-Commencement kegger

Thefire-soraw horrifying and indis-THANASSIS CAMBANIS criminate in its

power — tarnishes | **GUEST COLUMNIST** the usual happiness of Commencement. But as with any terrible event, the human reaction first is to accuse, then to try to learn. On a day when so many of us were thinking about the future, the fire reminded us how precarious plans can be.

The graduation exercises were held a 10alk away from the Phi Gamma Delta house. Seamus Heaney, the Nobel Prize-win-ning poet, said that May 12 will be an unforget-table day for us. A few hours later, firefighters carried body bags out of the fraternity house. UNC will leave a mark on all its graduates;

May 12 might leave a scar, too. Heaney conveyed an unconventional message of hope in his commencement address. He told us not to fear unexpected things, and that life brings with it ups

the fire's victims was a close friend of mir Of course life goes on. The fire dot mine. Of course life goes on. The fire chief and Chapel Hill Town Council members are already talking passionately about sprinkler laws. The director of Greek Affairs is discreetly ensuring that the fraternity system receive no criticism dent leaders are organizing a vigil.

Hope works that way. In the face of loss we must do something, and it's best to do something constructive. But it's good to see students mourning openly and not boarding up their emotions in

response to Sunday's senseless events. Many of us are turning to wiser elders and asking why it happened, and what we should think. There are no simple answers, and what happens makes no sense. Death rarely does.

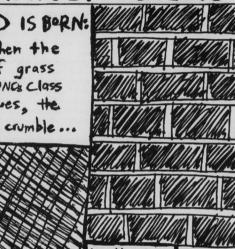
Heaney's words offer some explanation, though. Sunday's deaths were far more real than the prepackaged fête of Commencement. And hopefully what happened Sunday will turn the Class of 1996 outward, rather than inward. Most of us woke up worrying about our future and how to keep in touch with friends. We went to bed mourning the irrevocable loss of five peers

We should remember always not to take life for granted. A very normal course of events culminated in such destruction at the Phi Gam house. An incredibly normal group of kids kids like us - died. No plane crash, no terrorist, no virus was responsible; just a party, an old building, some seniors and their friends.

IEANNE FUGATE EDITOR another. Why jump out of the frying pan requir-Sent your background and "special interests." Call me reactionary, but I get tired of fulfilling some cliché of what I'm supposed to stand for. I get sick of being labeled a woman, a woman of Floridian descent and a woman of feminist Sometimes I act quite zany and argue things

And sometimes I like people even if they are not women, women of Floridian descent or women of feminist bent.

Jeanne Fugate is a senior English and creative writing major from Ocala, Fla.



JULY 3 — UNC-system President C.D. not to mention the difficulties parents with chil-Spangler has asked Chancellor Michael Hooker to bring the University up to snuff with a systemwide goal of 150 school days per year, compared to the current 146 days.

Four days of extra reading, writing and 'rithmetic poses less of a problem than the N.C. General Assembly mandating a systemwide calendar, as they have threatened to do if schools do not comply with Spangler's request.

Such a calendar would be disastrous. Traffic snarts on shared vacation dates for area institutions would drive even non-UNC affiliates crazy, dren who attend different institutions will face.

Students will complain about four more days of classes. And perhaps veteran professors who have grown used to copying tried and true syllabuses will groan. Administrators are already moaning about having to alter class schedules they have arranged up to the year 2000.

But some students and professors will enjoy the additional four days to delve more deeply into subjects that have had to be skipped over in the interests of time. If not, they can waste the four days complaining about being in class.

day morning to create an inferno that has swal-lowed up not only a group of loved people, but the fragile sense of security in our community.

e fragile sense of security in our communication On Sunday afternoon I wasn't the only person saying, "It could have happened to me could have happened to any number of my friends whom I saw Saturday night on their way to the Phi Gam late-night, Dazed friends re-

owns that we must face with our individual, personal arsenal. Again and again in his speech, he emphasized

that at every juncture in our lives we will have to ake a constant effort to start again. I'm glad I paid attention. Within hours of make a cor

leaving Kenan Stadium, his words echoed with a sadder ring. Heaney's wisdom, which surely he intended more optimistically, helped prepare me for the news I received later that day. One of

Firefighters have officially condemned and boarded up the charred house. Two benches covered with flowers hold vigil over the eerie buildi ng.

But we can't rope off and board up our own sense of loss.

Thanassis Cambanis graduated May 12 with a bachelor of arts degree in history and creative writing.

Greek Organizations Provide Quality, Safe Experience

THE DAILY TAR HEEL

Four Us?

Business & Advertising Staff

1

Vendy Holmes, rece nager: Lisa Reichle

Editorial Staff

Design: Kim Davis and Michelle LaPierre. Editorial Board: Georg Beuhler and Jenny

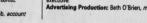
Idell. phice: Callie McCraw and Beth Pow rtography: Emily Adcock and Dann prts: Craig Kiser, assistant sports ed

ons expressed in the columns, cartoons, photo illustrations and letters that appear on The Daily Tar Heel's igned editorials that appear on the left side of the editorial page are the decision of the editorial board ar Heel's pages are the views of the individual writers rial board, composed of 7 writers, the editorial pag ers and cartoonists

The Daily Tar Heel is published by the DTH Publishing Corp. a non-profit North Carolina orporation. Monday-Friday, weekly during the summer, according to the University

calendar. Callers with questions about billing or display advertising should dial 962-1163 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Classified ads can be reached at 962-0252. Editorial questions should be directed to 962-0245/0246.

1



noison, Jonathan Yvexoer. Umiversity: Cindy Henley, Marva Hinton, Mend Hodges, Sheng Lee, Kelly O'Brien, Stephanie M. Shaw, Amy VanderClute and Jon Williams. Editorial Production: Stacy Wynn, manager. Printing: Triangle Web Press.

ISSN #1070-9436 NATIONAL NEWS ASSOCIATION

Office: Suite 104 Carolina Union address: CB# 5210 Box 49, Carolina Union s: P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3257

1

want to update the University community on recent initiatives in the fraternity and sorority community

This fall, fraternity and sorority pledges Ins rail, insternity and solonly prequestively interpreters will be required to attend three educational seminars. The first, Risk Management, covers the alcohol and hazing policies. Dan Jones, Chapel Hill fire chief, will present an expanded section on fire safety at this seminar.

The second seminar is about expectations of dating in college. It will be presented by student leaders and staff from the Office of the Dean of Students, Student Health Service, the Department of Housing and the Orange County Rape Crisis Center.

The newest seminar, which will be pre-sented by Student Health personnel, is about alcohol and substance abuse

Some chapters already have sprinkler and fire alarm systems. A number of other groups are installing such systems this summer and more will do so this upcom-**RON BINDER** ing year. We support the GUEST COLUMNIST

city ordinance on sprinkler systems and expect it to pass

A number of task forces are studying how to improve fire safety by upgrading interior finishes, renovating to incre e compartmentalization and improving inspections of houses. They are making recommendations to the Chancellor's ommittee on Greek Affairs. The fire safety education task force has Committ

suggested producing a fire safety video that would be shown to all chapters annually. A number of University and city offices, as well as students and alumni, have volunteered for this project.

■ Interfraternity Council Rush now runs the first two weeks of school, ending September 2.

■ We are improving the flow of information from fraternities to rushees and back. Our office is widely disseminating the 1996 spring semester

fraternity report, which includes GPA rankings, hours spent in community service and money raised for charity. Also, rushees are being asked to submit a brief informational form to our office. We will distribute them to the fraternities. Finally, a Rush Information Meeting the evening of August 21 will allow rushees and fraternity brothers to meet each other on an informal basis.

All recruitment functions will be alcohol free. We already have been moving in this direc-

tion, but we will see significant improvement. IFC fraternities have a spending cap. Some of these initiatives are new, while others have been in place.

Taken together, they offer students a high-quality, safe experience that reinforces the four principles of fraternities and sororities: scholar-ship, community services ship, community service, campus involvement and sisterhood or brotherhood.

Ron Binder is the director of Greek Affairs.

