

Walking on the Grass Is an Honor Code Violation

Pay up if you believed this headline was true. Once and for all, the offices of the student attorney general and the Honor Court would like to dispel this Carolina legend. Nowhere in the UNC Honor Code or Campus Code does it say that students cannot walk across the grass.

Now you can stop worrying about being charged with "heinous traversing." Students can also allay their fears of being charged with an alcohol violation by the Honor Court. Drinking is not a Campus Code violation; violations of the alcohol policy are maintained by the administration. In addition, off-campus conduct might not be charged by the student attorney general if he feels that the University's interests (maintenance of an open educational environment, safety of all persons in the University community, and protection of University property and integrity) have been met by the police

or campus security.

Several myths have been circulating about the attorney general's staff and the Honor Court. The members of these campus offices would like the opportunity to explain what really goes on when a student is charged with an Honor Code violation. First of all, the Honor Court does not operate like "The Practice" or "Matlock." It is not a court in which scheming attorneys engage in trickery and deceit. Our system is not designed to be adversarial; it is cooperative and focused on discovering the truth.

The idea is not for students to "get off" on technicalities. The members of the community determine if a student has violated the community's standards. If a student is found guilty, students determine the appropriate consequences. The focus is on students tak-

ing responsibility for their actions and being judged by a jury of their peers.

The process begins when the student attorney general receives a report of an alleged violation. The majority of complaints come from professors or campus police.

After meeting with the student and contacting the person who filed the complaint, the student attorney general first asks himself whether it is more likely than not that a violation occurred. Second, he decides whether the alleged violation occurred under the University's jurisdiction. If he answers 'yes' to both, the student attorney general formally charges the student with an Honor Code violation. The student's case is scheduled to be heard by five Honor Court members. Of the 276 cases reported in 2001, 157 charges were made.

Once a case is scheduled to appear

before the Honor Court, student counsels are assigned to work on the case. Defense and investigative counsels both work to discover the relevant facts and evidence; they develop strategy and case theory separately. The investigator is not a "prosecutor" but rather the person who represents the interests of the University by putting the facts on the table for the consideration of the Honor Court. The defense counsel assists the accused student with the presentation of his case and ensures that his rights are not violated during the process.

At the hearing, the Honor Court chairman is in absolute control of the process. The hearing begins with statements by each of the counsels. The investigation presents the University's case first, then the defense makes a case. The accused student always has the right to ask questions and make statements. Counsels are provided to

guide the student. They assist in a system that can seem foreign, and possibly intimidating, to the typical Carolina undergraduate. Unlike the process in courts of law, Honor Court proceedings are not filled with complicated motions or distracting objections. The focus is on what happened in the case and how that action affects the student and the University. The proceedings are more of a congenial discussion than a courtroom drama.

When a student is found guilty, the court begins a sanctioning hearing to deliberate an appropriate outcome. This phase gives the student an opportunity to present any character evidence to assist the court in selecting a proper sanction. There are no cookie-cutter policies in place. When the court chooses a sanction, it takes many factors into account. It may assign community service, probation, suspension, expulsion, failing grades or a uniquely tailored sanction.

The offices of the student attorney general and Honor Court would like to increase campus awareness of a system that is unique. UNC is one of a handful of schools in the nation that trusts judicial governance completely to its students. Most universities delegate the responsibility of enforcing the Honor Code to an administrator. UNC should be proud of its 200-year tradition of student involvement in judicial affairs. We should also take pride in our quads - remember cutting across the grass might not be an Honor Code violation, but heinous traversing can be hazardous to the health of our campus. Please contact the attorney general's staff with questions or comments at slain@email.unc.edu. We are on a mission to dispel all rumors about the Honor Court system.

Jonathan Slain is the associate student attorney general. He can be reached at slain@email.unc.edu.

JONATHAN SLAIN
GUEST COLUMNIST

JONATHAN DUCOTE
GUEST COLUMNIST

ASG Works to Better UNC Students' College Experience

Since the inception of the UNC-system Association of Student Governments in 1972, by then-UNC-system President William Friday, its mission has been to advocate student concerns and advance higher education in North Carolina. ASG represents over 169,000 students and encompasses all active UNC-system Student Government Associations.

Currently, ASG operates on a small budget where each UNC-system Student Government Association pays \$250 in dues. Unfortunately, not all SGAs are able to pay their dues, so ASG fulfills its mission and supports higher education on a typical budget of less than \$2,500 per year. As such, the association can only do so much each year.

Despite this small budget, the ASG has done much to affect the lives of UNC-system students. Last year the ASG organized the "March on the Capitol." More than 4,000 university students, faculty, parents and community supporters demonstrated at the General Assembly in response to massive budget cuts. For the first time in February of 2001, ASG hosted "Students' Day at the Capitol" with featured speaker UNC-system President Molly Broad.

More than 600 students from across the state lobbied legislators for increases in faculty salaries and financial aid and a student vote on the UNC-system Board of Governors. Just this year the ASG has lobbied for and the students received a reduction in the number of class days per semester.

The ASG has set for itself a solid foundation and is ready to build upon that foundation. However, the ASG is lacking the resources necessary to handle larger and more substantive student issues within the state.

Tackling issues such as tuition increases, larger class sizes, less faculty and capital improvements cannot remain a twice-a-year issue at the legislature. These issues must be brought up on a daily basis by someone who works for the students all the time. As such, \$40,000 of the \$165,000 proposed budget is going to pay for a managing director. The managing director will be putting student issues back on the forefront of the state's priorities.

However, one person cannot do all of the work of 169,000 students, nor should they be expected to. As such, living stipends have been set aside for ASG officers. These stipends are very similar to those received by student government officials across the UNC system. To date, ASG officers work nearly 20 hours a week on student-related issues. This takes up time that could be used working at a job which would bring in money for rent, books, food and other necessary items. The officer stipends allow for basic equity within the association. Without this equity, students from underprivileged financial statuses will never be given a chance to even participate.

We are trying to develop a system that is not exclusive but is inclusive to all who wish to participate.

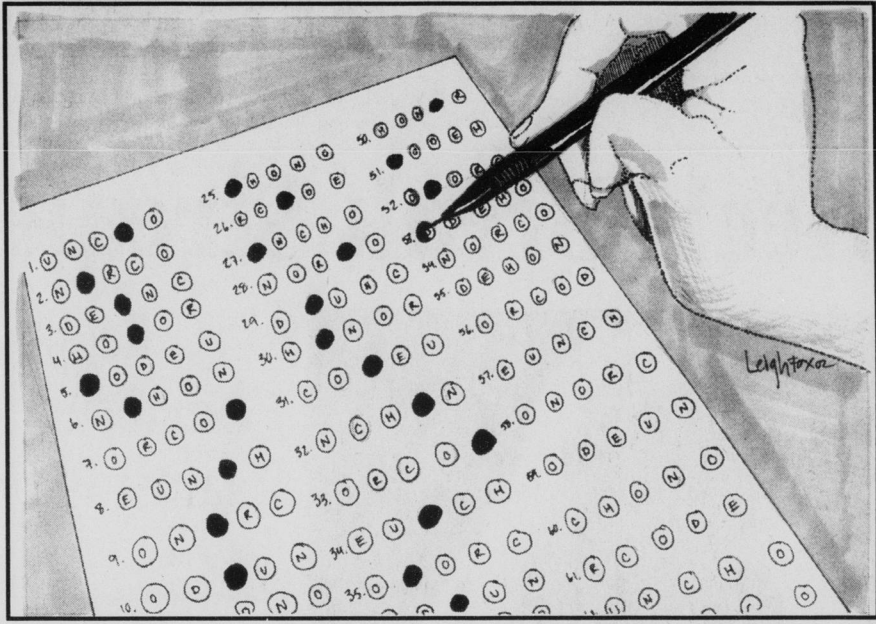
Those participants who attend ASG events and their elected officers will maintain control over the association. The professional staff will provide support and continuity from one president to the next, which will allow ASG to further accomplish its mission of helping UNC-system students receive an affordable and quality education. It is true that the student member of the UNC Board of Governors does not have a vote. But for the first time last year ASG successfully guided "Student Vote Legislation" through the N.C. House of Representatives. Once the legislature reconvenes, ASG will continue to lobby the N.C. Senate leadership to allow House Bill 169 to be voted on by the full body.

Due to a lack of resources, the students, through their ASG, have not been able to hold a continual relationship with the state legislature. Apparently, this has led the General Assembly to believe that they are no longer accountable to the students and families that the Constitution was designed to help and protect. This lack of relationship, coupled with an absence of voting representation in policy matters, is belittling the University experience for all students now and in the future.

Until students have voting representation, we must make sure our voices are heard and our presence is felt through other means. Students must stand united. The structure for unity is established through the ASG. We must empower the ASG to represent us fully on statewide issues on a day to day basis.

I invite you to see how ASG is working to better your collegiate experience. Contact your student body president, Justin Young, to find out more information.

Jonathan Ducote is ASG treasurer. Reach him at jducote@unity.ncsu.edu.



Marathon Efforts Peak This Friday

This Friday and Saturday in Fetzer Gym, the Carolina community will unite for an event like no other. The UNC Dance Marathon is a 24-hour celebration of the extraordinary achievements made possible by a community committed to a common cause. We will come together as a culmination of a year's worth of effort - to thank each of you for your support, to provide opportunity for interaction with children from the hospital, to recognize all the campus organizations and caring individuals who have allowed us to fulfill our mission and, mostly, to have fun.

At 7 p.m. Friday, Fetzer Gym will be abuzz as more than 600 students prepare to stand on their feet for 24 hours. They will be joined by 200 moralers, 300 volunteers and many spectators to watch a lineup of 40 plus acts. Friday highlights include the Athletic Lip Sync at 10:15 p.m. and a Battle of the Bands beginning at midnight (five local bands will play for the title). On Saturday, the Silent Auction runs from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Fetzer, and the NPHC Step Show starts at 3:30 p.m. Undoubtedly the most popular portion of the marathon starts at 3 p.m. with Kids Hour (the chance to meet and play with children from the hospital and community) as well as Family Hour at 5 p.m. (the emotional climax of the event). Admission is free, so please stop by to support a friend who's dancing, bid at the auction, meet some of our families or just enjoy the show!

The marathon is special because it involves many different people participating and supporting in any way they can and because of the For the Kids Fund. It consists of all money donated and gives it directly to the families of children receiving care. The pediatric social workers distribute the fund to families who cannot afford costs of hospitalization not covered by insurance or Medicaid. Sadly, literally thousands of families bearing financial as well as emotional burdens pass through the hospital each year, as the N.C. Children's Hospital is the only one in the state that accepts patients regardless of financial status. Through the fund, the marathon provides the tangible evidence of our commitment to the hospital and the kids.

In the past year, money raised by UNC students and members of the Carolina community has been used to buy phone cards for children who otherwise would not be able to call home, provide meals for family members who are at the hospital for hours on end and in one case pay an electric bill so a child could return home to a house with heat and running water. These examples offer only a small insight to the power of the fund. As Jessica Shea, a social worker at the hospital says, "The fund allows us the opportunity to relieve some of the incredible burden these families face. This money is making a meaningful difference." By attending our celebration, you are becoming

a part of a yearlong effort to improve the lives of these families.

The marathon effort represents the incredible power of a united Carolina community: a community of thousands of students, faculty, staff, administration, alumni, neighborhood members and hospital personnel; a community of people who generously give both time and effort. Carolina students of all walks of life participate in the marathon. For example, UNC athletes go canning at basketball and football games, members of the Greek community participated in the PowderPuff tournament this past weekend, and more than a hundred student organizations get involved in a variety of ways including the Holiday Benefit Concert, RHA Penny Wars and volunteering at the marathon. The Chapel Hill Town Council has declared this week "Dance Marathon Celebration Week," and many local businesses, schools and civic organizations are actively participating. Dance Marathon members will be in the Pit all week. Please visit us to ask any questions you may have, learn more about the event or buy a T-shirt. More information, especially about the online auction, event lineup and list of dancers, is available online at www.uncmarathon.org. The Dance Marathon is changing lives. Thank you, as the marathon only succeeds with your support. This weekend, visit us in Fetzer Gym to celebrate UNC's achievement, have fun, and make a difference.

SCOTT WERRY
GUEST COLUMNIST

IAN URBINA
GUEST COLUMNIST

Why Black Hawks Go Down: Lessons Learned the Hard Way

On Oct. 3, 1993, U.S. forces entered the Somali capital of Mogadishu to capture officials of one of the main warring clans and, if possible, its leader, Mohamed Farrah Aidede. The mission was a complete fiasco. Of the 160 Americans involved in the operation, 18 were killed, 75 wounded and one captured. The bodies of American soldiers were dragged through the streets. Anywhere from 500 to 1,000 Somalis were killed that night.

The event, which is the subject of the recently released Hollywood film "Black Hawk Down," raises an important question. Somalia is a country characterized by its factionalism. The running joke is that if there are four Somalis in a room, there are probably six rival clans present.

Yet when the two U.S. Black Hawks went down, an entire city seemed to drop its internal differences and attack the very forces that were there to feed them. Why? Did the Somalis rampage simply out of an inherent hatred for outsiders?

Few populations, least of all among the formerly colonized, warmly embrace foreign involvement in domestic affairs, and the Somalis are no different in this regard. But there were a number of specific factors that set the stage for the distinct fury in Mogadishu that day.

One important factor was the massacre of July 12. Three months prior to the downing of the Black Hawks, the United Nations and United States decided to put pressure on Aidede by attacking a meeting of his native Habr Gidr clan. The Washington Post

described the event as a "slaughter" in which "a half-dozen Cobras pumped sixteen TOW missiles and two thousand rounds of cannon fire" into a gathering of elders, intellectuals, poets and religious leaders, "first blowing away the stairwell to prevent anyone from escaping." Not only did the move turn many Somalis against the United Nations, but it also was entirely counterproductive since the meeting's purpose was to consider a U.S.-initiated peace plan. Another factor was the United Nations. There was widespread distrust in Somalia of then U.N. Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali who previously as an Egyptian official had been a backer of notorious Somali dictator Siad Barre. Incoming food shipments notwithstanding, many Somalis who had suffered under Barre's repression could not swallow their distaste for this political tie.

The broader context leading up to the intervention is also important to consider. One of the main symbols of the West for average Somalis was the International Monetary Fund. Throughout the 1980s the IMF attempted to stave off the country's financial woes by imposing austerity measures which placed the brunt of the suffering on the shoulders of the weakest in society. When farmers were lucky enough to escape drought, they had little market to turn to. Many watched their children starve. As a desperate migration from the countryside increased, young men arrived to cities with little more than an acute sense of anger toward so-called Western solutions. It didn't help that the country was awash in arms. In Mogadishu it was and still is

almost easier to buy a machine gun than lunch. It's not uncommon to see 10-year-olds walking the streets with rocket launchers on their shoulders. For years, the United States kept Siad Barre propped up with \$50 million in annual arms shipments, of which Barre kept the best hardware for himself while redistributing the rest to the factions he skillfully played off each other. It was these same arms that were used as U.N. and U.S. forces tried to restore order. None of these factors lessens the tragedy of the American lives lost when those Black Hawks went down, not to mention the hundreds of Somalis killed that day. However, there may be lessons to learn.

Short-term stabilizing relationships with repressive leaders have long-term destabilizing consequences, especially when these relationships are bought with weapons. Not only should the United States begin taking human rights more into account as it chooses its friends, but it should also begin supporting the United Nations in its efforts at international small arms controls. This would be a reversal from the role that the United States, and the gun lobby behind it, played at the U.N. arms control convention of last year.

Above all, Somalia was a lesson in the danger of ignoring failed states and the longer-term political and monetary policies which contribute to their demise. Leaving societies stateless so as to avoid the responsibility of nation-building is short-sighted foreign policy. The United States may want to bear this in mind as it withdraws from Afghanistan only to consider re-entering Somalia.

The Daily Tar Heel

Professional and Business Staff

Business and Advertising: Janet Gallagher, Cassel, director/general manager; Chrissy Beck, director of marketing; Melinda Heen, classified/customer service manager; Lisa Reichle, business manager; Nick Davidson, retail sales manager; Nichole Campbell, business assistant.

Customer Service: Kristin Chamblee, Holly Herveyer, Susan Ricker and Amanda Taylor, representatives.

Marketing Group: Courtney Carrillo, Lauren Goodson, Josh Hall, Shannon Watson.

City: Jonathan Chaney, columnist; Matt Viser and Kathleen Wirth, senior writers; Chris Blow, Ben Brooks, Michael Chen, Daniel Cho, Adrienne Clark, Katie Davis, Nate DeGraft, Erika Heyder, Jenny Huang, Jennifer Johnson, Tom Kingsley, Scott LaPierre, Jocelyn Oberdick, James Russ, Colin Sulker and Scott Warfield.

Copy: Brenner Allen, Lindsay Apple, Lisa Giencke, Peter Gilchrist, Kristal Jones, Hester Kast, Laura Mayhew, Laurie Osborne, Meghan Tegus, Jennifer Williams and Jordan Williams.

Design: Winnie Bridgewater, Randi DeMagistris, Michelle Kutner, Nicole Neuman, Justin Osborne, Tiffany Pease and Audrey Wilkinson.

Editorial: Niel Brooks, Amy Dobson, Cate Doty, Danielle Eubanks, Jon Harris, Pat Hogan, Matt Minchew and Mark Seeley, editorial board; Kenneth Chandler, Johanna Costa, Ben Dickens, Eugene Kim and Travis Raines, columnists.

Plumber and Zedekiah Worsham.

Display Advertising: Erica Lundberg, senior account executive; Candace Doby, Heather English, Sarah Mobley, Andrea Sarubbi, Amy Schaff and Eryn Wade, account executives; Courtney Poole, display classifies.

Advertising Production: Penny Persons, manager; Kathryn Klein and Karen Stone, assistants.

Classified Production: Cindy Henley.

State & National: April Bethea, columnist; Dan Blank, Christen Broecker, Emma Burgin, Nathan Coletta, Michael Davis, Chase Foster, Mike Gorman, Dara Gould, Amanda Iler, Julia Lamm, Rachel Leonard, Sara Longenecker, Jamie McGee, Michael McKnight, Wes Misson, Nathan Perez, Emilia Reita, Russ Thompson, Lindsey White, Creed Wood and Cleve Wootson.

University: Katy Nelson, columnist; Will Arey, Jordan Bartel, Joy Buchanan, Tina Chang, Rachel Clarke, Brock Corwin, Phyllis Cramer, Ben Davidson, Jamie Dougher, Kara Eide, Krista Faron, Erin Ganley, Courtney Hinesley, Jenny McLendon, Andraena Miller, Meredith Nicholson, Eshanti Ranasinghe, Joelle Rieck, Jeff Silver, Jessica Sleep, Addie Sluder, Ruthe Washenbort, Nikki Weirking and Larita Withers.

Editorial Production: Stacy Wynn, manager.

Printing: Triangle Web.

Distribution: Triangle Circulation Services.

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

ISSN #10709436

The editorials are approved by the majority of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor, editorial page editor, assistant editorial page editor and eight editorial writers.

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

Callers with questions about billing or display advertising should call 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.