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The Daily Tar Heel

89th year of editorial freedom

Rushing and drinking

Asking a group of 50 or so male students to meet in a social atmosphere for two or three hours and not drink alcohol is requesting a lot, but most fraternities recognize the Intrafraternity Council's formal rush rule of abstinence as one that is necessary. While no one believes the rule is never violated, it is a bit surprising that IFC President Jim Maynard plans to send a letter to a University administrator concerning one fraternity's violation of the no-drinking rule.

Maynard and the University's adviser to fraternities have received about 10 complaints from various fraternities saying that the Zeta Psi fraternity violated formal rush rules by having alcohol present before formal rush hours had ended on the second night of rush. The Zetas weren't the only fraternity to have alcohol present during formal rush. One rushee said he saw drinking at two other houses, and surely there was drinking in small amounts at many other houses.

Because the Zetas are not members of the IFC — their ties to the University were severed in February 1980 — they have no formal responsibility to abide by IFC rules. Although they are not required to follow IFC rules, if the Zetas want to gain University recognition when their suspension ends, they should follow the laws of the IFC. To their credit, the Zetas generally have.

There are good reasons for fraternities not to have alcohol present during formal rush, and the University expects all fraternities to uphold that rule. When the Zetas come before the University in 1983, the University is going to expect the Zetas to have followed IFC rules during their suspension.

The Zetas, however, did only a small amount of drinking — they had already given out all their bids for the night, and only pledges and brothers drank — and it would be unfair to single them out. Because he feels a responsibility to IFC members, Maynard said he would write an informal letter to the Office of Student Affairs in recognition that he received complaints about the Zetas' alcohol consumption. Maynard said he would not criticize the Zetas in the letter, but merely would inform the University that he has received complaints. For the sake of fairness, Maynard should also mention that other fraternities — governed by IFC rules — had alcohol present during formal rush, and that the IFC is equally concerned with that.

Maynard rightfully wants the University to know that the IFC is concerned about the complaints he has received. At the same time, he must make sure that he does not imply that the Zetas broke a standard that other fraternities did not. It would be a double standard for the University to hold this incident against the Zetas when they seek University recognition. In the meantime, the Zetas should realize if they want to attain University recognition in two years, they are going to have to play by the IFC's rules now.

Breaking apathy

When a large number of students cast votes at the Law School in Tuesday's Campus Governing Council election, they could well have started a break with traditional apathy in campus elections.

In the past, poll tenders have waited long hours for a piddling number of students to vote. In September 1980, only 134 students voted for two open positions on the council.

But this year, 196 students voted for one seat on the council. The number, in District 1, represented two-thirds of the total vote in the race for six council seats. The vote also exceeded the 171 votes cast in February's presidential election in District 1.

Students at the Law School attributed the high turnout to the candidacy of conservative Ray Warren. To counter Warren's campaign, students banded together to form the Coalition for Better Campus Government, which rallied behind write-in candidate Anderson Harkov. Members of the coalition distributed fliers asking people to support Harkov, which contributed to his receiving 83 percent of the vote.

Despite the political ideologies of the candidates, it is encouraging to see students take an unprecedented interest in CGC elections. By assessing a candidate's views and opinions, those at the Law School correctly placed importance on a position that can ultimately decide both the fate of student organizations and Chapel Thrill concerts.

But elsewhere on campus, turnout was again low. In one district a candidate was unofficially elected to the council with one vote. These students would do well to learn from Tuesday's vote at the Law School before next year's campaign, when all 27 seats on the council will be up for election.

The Bottom Line

Auction bust

The United States government is hoping that someone, somewhere would like to buy five busts and an oil portrait of former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

The government may be more successful getting rid of a brass cigar box from Thailand or a silver gilt Russian liqueur set. These items and many, many more were gifts from foreign countries to U.S. officials that they were prohibited by law from retaining.

The gifts have been kept in storage since 1977, when the federal law was passed. The government first offered these items to federal museums and then offered the remaining 182 gifts up for auction.

One item, a Piaget gold watch valued at \$6,000, was given to former U.S. chief of protocol Henry Catto from the nation of Oman.

Other items included a watch from the King of Saudi Arabia and a picture from Mexico given to Kissinger made from duck, quail and cardinal feathers.

Roy Markon, an official of the Government Service Agency, said the

government hoped to make between \$40,000 and \$60,000 from the auction.

"This is like a garage sale," he said. "We've accumulated gifts for several years, and it's time to dispose of them. Much of the good stuff has been snapped up. But the beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

Well, we know of one person who would consider those Kissinger portraits beautiful. But we hope he'll save at least one for somebody else.

Ticket splitting

Local elections have often been known to divide communities in half. But the Greensboro City Council election seems to be splitting one candidate in half.

Terry Barry, a Greensboro character of some renown, is running for city council using the slogan "I'm schizophrenic and happy."

A Barry victory would pose some interesting political dilemmas. If his district is reapportioned into two districts, could he run in both? Could he run in both the Republican and Democratic party primaries?

And that's the bottom line.

Ireland's hunger strike ends, but not in vain

By MARK MURRELL

A macabre Irish ritual has repeated itself 10 times since May. Last spring, Bobby Sands became the first Irish nationalist to die in the Maze prison near Belfast in a five-month hunger strike. After Sands, the hunger strikers' names became much less important. It was their number that mattered.

While the English reveled in the pageantry and ceremony of life through the summer, Ireland observed its ritual of death time after time. It was always the same.

After 60 to 70 days without food, the prisoners would lapse into unconsciousness, and their families would endure an excruciating vigil that ended in death. The garbage-can lids would clang on the streets; black flags would droop from windows of houses adorned with posters of the dead; the black-hooded honor guards would come to take the body away, and the violence would begin. Some wondered if it would ever end.

Late last week, the prisoners announced an end to the hunger strike in the Maze prison's H-block. The six remaining strikers had been thwarted by families who refused to watch their sons and brothers die after lapsing into unconsciousness. The publicity and concern that the deaths caused around the world is likely to wane now, but this is a most crucial time for the hunger strikers. Negotiations about prison reform can now begin with the British government, which adamantly refused to grant any concessions as long as the protest continued.

Northern Ireland Secretary James Prior said this week that now it was almost certain that some prison reforms would be introduced. He did not, however, elaborate. Some speculate that prisoners will now be allowed to wear their own clothes and be given a greater voice in what type of work they do.

Those are only two of many demands made by the strikers, and by far the least important. It is doubtful that the British government will recognize them as political prisoners — the strikers' most important demand — because to do so would recognize the Irish Republican Army as a legitimate political organization.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has been steadfast in her refusal to recognize the strikers as anything more than common criminals, although some have even been elected members of Parliament. Most have been convicted of "non-political" crimes — murder, bombing and weapons violations, she said.

The nationalists also demanded to be able to associate with the more than 400 other IRA prisoners in the Maze, to be able to write letters, to have more visits and to be eligible for reduced sentences.

Their claim that they are political prisoners — while not at all accepted by the Thatcher government — is true. The Irish Republican Army and its political arm Sinn Fein are undeniably terrorists, but they are nevertheless politically motivated by understandable grievances.



Perhaps if the hunger strike has achieved anything, it will have drawn so much attention to the problems of Northern Ireland that Margaret Thatcher will be unable to simply continue to ignore one of her country's oldest problems.

Of course, it is ludicrous to think that the British will just pack up and leave Ireland within the next few years. It is not often that 800-year struggles end overnight.

The latest wave of violence started 12 years ago, and after this constant strife, there is a desire for peace on both sides. But the views differ so much on each side that a working compromise seems far away.

When Margaret Thatcher was visited by John Hume, a Catholic from Northern Ireland, this summer, Hume brilliantly summarized the entire situation.

"What you say is entirely correct from your point of view," Hume told her. "What I am saying is entirely correct from my point of view. The gulf between is what is called the Irish problem."

British domination is certainly not a new problem for the Irish. The recent hunger strike is not the first. People have given up their lives in this struggle for centuries.

It is too soon to tell if Bobby Sands and his nine followers will have any impact on the British position in Northern Ireland or on the conditions in the Maze prison. More than likely, little will have been really accomplished once negotiations end and concessions — if there are any — are announced.

To many, the deaths were meaningless. Even the families of the strikers, once behind them, began to feel late this summer that their men were dying in vain.

But these were not the first Irishmen to fight the British through such protest. In 1920, Thomas McSwiney, an Irish nationalist who starved to death in a British jail, explained the Irish hunger strikers' position.

"It is not those who can inflict the most, but those who can suffer the most who will conquer," he said.

Sixty years later, many on both sides have suffered. But none have yet conquered, and it is doubtful if anyone is even winning. Ten men have given up their lives since May, and to the world they now seem important. But their martyrdom is likely to fade as the years pass and as others follow them, protesting a situation that seems to change only in its degree of severity. It is an existence for which there is no easy remedy. Everyone knows that something should be done, but no one even knows where to start.

Bobby Sands and his followers arbitrarily picked a time to start a desperate protest. It was in many ways absurd and has accomplished little in concrete solutions, but it made people all around the world stop in awe, listen to arguments and begin to think once again about the situation in Ireland. However fragile and small an achievement that is, it is at least a beginning.

Mark Murrell is a senior journalism and English major from Jacksonville.

Letters to the editor

Debate urged for factual Carrboro election

To the editor:
Having lived in Carrboro on and off for the past seven years, I have observed Carrboro politics and perceive the coming election to be a divisive one for the community. I would also like to say that I am not a member of either the Carrboro Coalition or the Association for a Better Carrboro.

It is interesting to listen to the statements issued by all Coalition candidates, and it is not difficult to determine where each takes his position. The voters of Carrboro deserve the truth and more information with which to make informed decisions. I would suggest a series of debates, so that candidates will be encouraged to be factual.

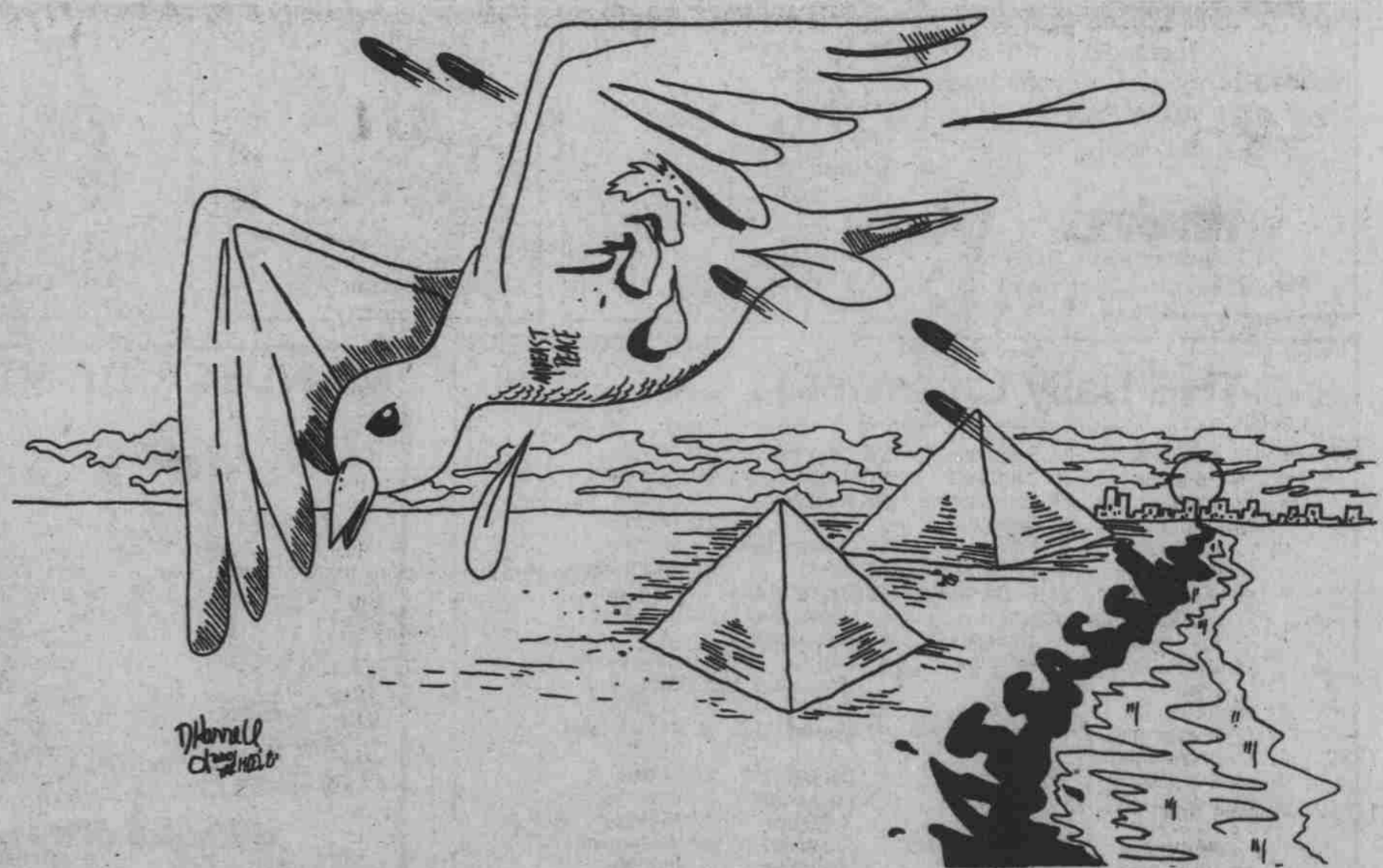
Recently Sonya Lewis, without knowing the candidates for the Association for a Better Carrboro and before the release of its position paper, accused her opponents of being against the bus service and for exorbitant box fares. Such comments are not given from a fair or open mind.

The facts concerning the Carrboro bus system are the following: The Carrboro bus tax referendum authorized a 10-cent tax on property to support bus operations. The 1981-1982 Carrboro budget provides the following sources of funds for bus service: UMTA Grant, \$65,630; property taxes, \$65,025; 1980-1981 revenue sharing, \$27,200.

During the next two years, inflation will add an additional 3 cents to the tax-related cost of the bus system. But the Carrboro tax base will not begin to grow until 1983-1984. The conclusion must be that there will be a higher cost fare to riders and that Lewis is not aware of the financial intricacies of the bus system.

I reiterate the need for a debate, so that both sides will have an opportunity to present their stands in a factual manner.

Celia Pistolis
Carrboro



Maverick lawyers

To the editor:
After reading recent articles in *The Daily Tar Heel* concerning the Law School, we feel that it is necessary to set the record straight. Contrary to the thrust of recent articles, most law students are interested in the practice of law and in finding jobs upon graduation. Only a handful of our number are throwbacks to the 1960s protest culture.

Steve Schoeberle
and 10 other law students

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes letters to the editor and contributions of columns for the editorial page.

Such contributions should be typed, triple-spaced, on a 60-space line, and are subject to editing. Column writers should include their majors and hometowns; each letter should include the writer's name, address and telephone number.

Parcourse fitness trail should not be wasted

By LYNNE THOMSON

In a town full of joggers and physical-fitness enthusiasts, the Parcourse, an 18-station fitness trail at the old Chapel Hill Country Club golf course, is a great place to enjoy beautiful scenery while getting in shape.

But the poor condition of the course provides health enthusiasts a good chance of injuring themselves and then taking the course's owner, Student Government, to court.

The possibility of getting hurt on the course is real. One area where participants are instructed to jog is pitted with holes 3 feet wide and more than 2 feet deep. The holes are so overgrown with grass that a jogger would not see them until he had already injured himself. Further, the secluded location of the course means that an injured runner could spend a long time there before any one could find him.

The course also includes equipment that would not hold the weight of someone doing the suggested exercise and steep gravel areas where one is supposed to jog.

The course is clearly unsafe, and Intramural Director

Ed Shields has acted properly in posting a sign warning potential users to avoid the course. The problem is that Shields cannot close the course because it belongs to Student Government. It was bought for \$6,600 in 1979 with student activities fees.

But the allocation only covered the purchase price of the course's equipment. The next year, the Campus Governing Council had to allocate \$500 to pay for transportation costs; the course equipment had been held for six months at Raleigh-Durham Airport until the shipping charges were paid.

The allocation also did not cover the cost of constructing or maintaining the course. It was set up by volunteer students and members of Delta Tau Delta fraternity, with help from the Physical Plant.

The lack of maintenance and poor placement of the stations has led to the present problems, Shields said. Portions of the course are in areas that stay muddy for a week after a rainfall, and the layout of the course is erratic.

In addition, there is a lack of directional signs, and someone wishing to run the course would have to be clairvoyant or very industrious to even find some stations.

The Parcourse could be a real asset for Chapel Hill.

Similar courses in Raleigh are very popular, and Shields said that the course gives a workout that is more complete than jogging. The course is in a beautiful wooded area, free from the dangers and exhaust fumes that plague runners on city streets.

The course should be taken over by the physical education department, which could use it for physical education classes. The department could then use the resources of the Physical Plant to get the course in shape and its own staff to maintain it. Student Government does not need to be in the physical fitness course maintenance business, because it does not have the equipment nor the protection from liability it would need.

Physical Education Department Chairman John Billing is planning to tour the course this month with a representative of the Physical Plant to determine what it would take to get the course in shape.

The cost of repairs is sure to be high, but administrators should remember that much student money and volunteer work has already been invested in the course. It would be a shame to tear it up.

Lynne Thomson, a junior journalism major from Raleigh, is a staff writer for *The Daily Tar Heel*.