

The Tar Heel

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Tri-Delta housemother released from position

By Tom Conlon
Staff Writer

A Delta Delta Delta sorority housemother whose contract was not renewed for the 1985-86 school year claims her release was due to personal conflicts with the House Corporation, while other sources claim the decision was made on financial management grounds.

Lynn Ryan, who has been housemother at the Delta Delta Delta sorority house on East Franklin Street for the past two years, was informed graduation Sunday, May 12, that her contract would not be renewed despite unanimous approval for re-hiring by the sorority members in February.

"I had no idea what was coming until graduation Sunday," Ryan said. "The girls had voted to keep me unanimously and I assumed I'd be here next year. Jane Capettini (Acting Chapter Advisor) and Heidi Carpenter (Advisory Council Financial Advisor) came by at 4 p.m. and informed me my contract was not being renewed because I was over the budget and owed a bill."

Ryan said she was responsible for a \$52,500 food budget for 1984-85 and that she exceeded that budget by about \$2,000.

"I requested a greater food budget because prices were rising and we had more girls to feed," she said. "A lot of girls were not eating at the house before. Instead, they lowered the

food budget, and I requested more funds in January. I used the lower budget but went over the budget by about \$2,000. However, the food was better quality and that was the budget we needed."

Val Williams, current chapter advisor who was on maternity leave when the renewal decision was made, said Ryan was responsible only for the food budget, but that 5 percent of the budget was to be used as surplus. She added that the budget was set the year before and money had been allocated at that point.

"If you see you're low at a given point, you try to make amends," she said. "The budget was drawn up by the sorority treasurer the year before. The size of the house this year is the same as last year."

Gay Todd, chapter treasurer from February 1984 to February 1985, could not be reached for comment at her Wilmington home.

Williams declined to elaborate on reasons, saying the feeling of the advisory board was that the reasons were personal.

"Mrs. Ryan is a fine person and has done some fine things for the house," she said. "But we did what we felt was right and had to be done. You hate it when you have to do this. The advisory council and Mrs. Ryan had a very good relationship and Mrs. Ryan and I are good friends and still are - I hired her."

Williams added that the national

Tri-Delta office, headquartered in Texas, was aware that they are now looking for a new housemother but that the action was left to the local level.

Ryan also said that House Corporation, a group of Tri-Delta alumni who own and maintain the house at 407 East Franklin Street, were reluctant to make necessary improvements to the house.

"I fought for everything for the girls, and they just don't get anything," she said. "When I came here two years ago, there were roaches in the house and parts of the house were in great need of repair. I put a lot of demands on the council to fix it up. The council was reluctant to provide the work needed and got upset when I requested that work be done."

Ryan said she felt that such relations with the House Corporation were the ulterior motives for her release.

"I think that's the major reason for my firing - I'm the only one who's ever challenged them," she said. "The first thing I do is look out for the comfort of the girls."

Ryan said many of the maintenance problems were corrected which she is proud of, but added that there still was work to be done to make the house a better place for the girls.

"I think the action for a minor budget overdraw - which was done in the best interest of the girls - was

too severe an action and not the real reason behind my contract not being renewed," she said.

"I was in a state of shock when they informed me of their decision," she said. "I thought everything was going along smoothly until they told me. They initially said I had to be out of the house in three weeks, but I couldn't leave that soon."

"They came and simply told me they were not going to renew my contract and to not say anything to the girls," Ryan said. "They said they'd tell the girls. My opinion was that they'd make me the fall guy."

Williams said housemothers are hired and fired by the sorority members, but that the chapter advisor and district president must also approve and have final say. The House Corporation, she said, plays no role in the hiring and firing of the housemother.

"The decision was made strictly among the chapter alumni advisor (Capettini), the financial advisor (Carpenter) and the two house representatives (Chapter President Glenna Burress and Treasurer Charlotte Eaves)," she said.

Ryan disagreed, saying that the two house representatives had no say in the matter.

"Jane Capettini, Heidi Carpenter and Luke Page (House Corporation President until April 1985) were the ones responsible for the decision to my understanding," Ryan said. "The president and treasurer heard about it after the fact and had no input in the decision at all. They were the only two girls who knew. They didn't even mention it to me when they left as I guess they were asked not to. Val Williams was told after the fact - she had no say in it and was upset about the decision."

Neither Burress nor Eaves could



Lynn Ryan

be reached out of town for comment. Luke, when questioned about Ryan's dismissal, refused to elaborate on the fact.

"It's a personal matter and something I don't think should be in the

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Mr. Gatti's closes permanently due to rent increase, drop in sales



Mr. Gatti's, a favorite hangout of many students closes.

By Lane Mitchell
News Editor

Mr. Gatti's, the 104 W. Franklin Street pizza eatery, has closed permanently due to an increase in rent and a decrease in profit said Mr. Gatti's manager, Tom Tarlton.

Four weeks ago Mr. Gatti's rent went up by 70 percent while summer business dropped 60-70 percent. "It's not unusual for business to drop 70 percent in the summer," Tarlton said.

"We closed down because we thought it wasn't economically feasible to stay in business," he said. "We came in here (this summer) and felt like we needed a more consistent high volume of business to make a profit."

Tarlton said that Mr. Gatti's has a student clientele and when the students go home in the summer business lags off. "Summertime is real tough on businesses in Chapel Hill," he said.

"We stuck it out here for four years," he added. "This year though, with the excess rent, we found it better to sell out instead of hang in."

According to Tarlton an Italian restaurant will move into the Mr. Gatti's location. Tarlton does not plan to open any other restaurants in Chapel Hill.

The property is owned by the late Bruce Stroud Ars and held by W. Frank Craig, a public accountant in Charlotte.

Sanders brothers' trial begins in murder case

By Dawn Reavis
Staff Writer

The trial of two brothers accused of killing a UNC-CH student last winter began Tuesday in Orange County Superior Court in Hillsborough. Steven Wallace Sanders, 20, and Richard Anthony Sanders, 21, both from Pittsboro, are each charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of Thomas Perry Zimmerman, a 21-year-old UNC-CH senior from High Point.

The Sanders brothers are also charged with three counts of armed robbery.

District Attorney Carl Fox said that he was seeking the death penalty for the Sanders brothers and that the trial may go on for two weeks.

This will mark the first time in about eight years that the death penalty has been sought in Orange County.

This will also mark the first time a television camera will be allowed to film superior court proceedings. Durham's WTVD is coordinating pool coverage of the trial for other area television stations.

During an earlier probable cause hearing witnesses testified that Zimmerman was visiting three friends in a mobile home near Chapel Hill when two men, one wearing a ski mask and the other a dark coat, broke into the trailer demanding money and cocaine. The intruders then began to beat the men with wooden boards and just before they fled shot Zimmerman.

Witnesses were kept from hearing each other to prevent testimony from being tainted in the probable cause hearing.

Court-appointed attorneys, Kirk Osborn and Lunsford Long are defending the brothers and filed a pre-trial motion Monday to dismiss first-degree murder charges. They said that pre-meditation which is a key element in capital offenses wasn't clearly defined in grand jury indictments.

Superior Court Judge Wiley F. Bowen, who is presiding over the trial, granted Fox's motion to try the brothers together, but denied the motion to dismiss the murder charges.