

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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Females in frats Little sisters not treated as equals

The Kappa Delta Sorority national chapter recently passed a resolution discouraging members of the sorority from becoming little sisters to men's fraternities. This resolution was taken by many national chapters of Greek organizations to abolish the joining and organizing of such auxiliary groups. Because the resolution stands against harassment and sexism, which can be a common element of little sister programs in many fraternities, UNC Greek organizations should either prohibit the formation of these groups or make the women an equal part of the fraternity.

Many fraternities on campus have already stopped little sister programs. As many fraternity members would agree, little sisters are becoming a remnant of the past because of liability problems and concerns over promoting sexism.

A few of the fraternities that still organize little sister programs do so to have female companionship within the fraternity and to offer an alternative to sororities. The women are thought of as good friends and treated as equals within the house. But the horror stories of women submitting to sexual pressures from members of the fraternities leave such programs with a bad name. A prime example of sexism can be found at one UNC fraternity house, where little sisters dress up as bunnies and serve cocktails at a "casino night" rush function.

According to members of this fraternity, the little sisters are asked to wear pink leotards and other bunny-like items and to serve drinks to the men. This "dress-up" party has been a tradition of the house, the fraternity members say, and the attractive

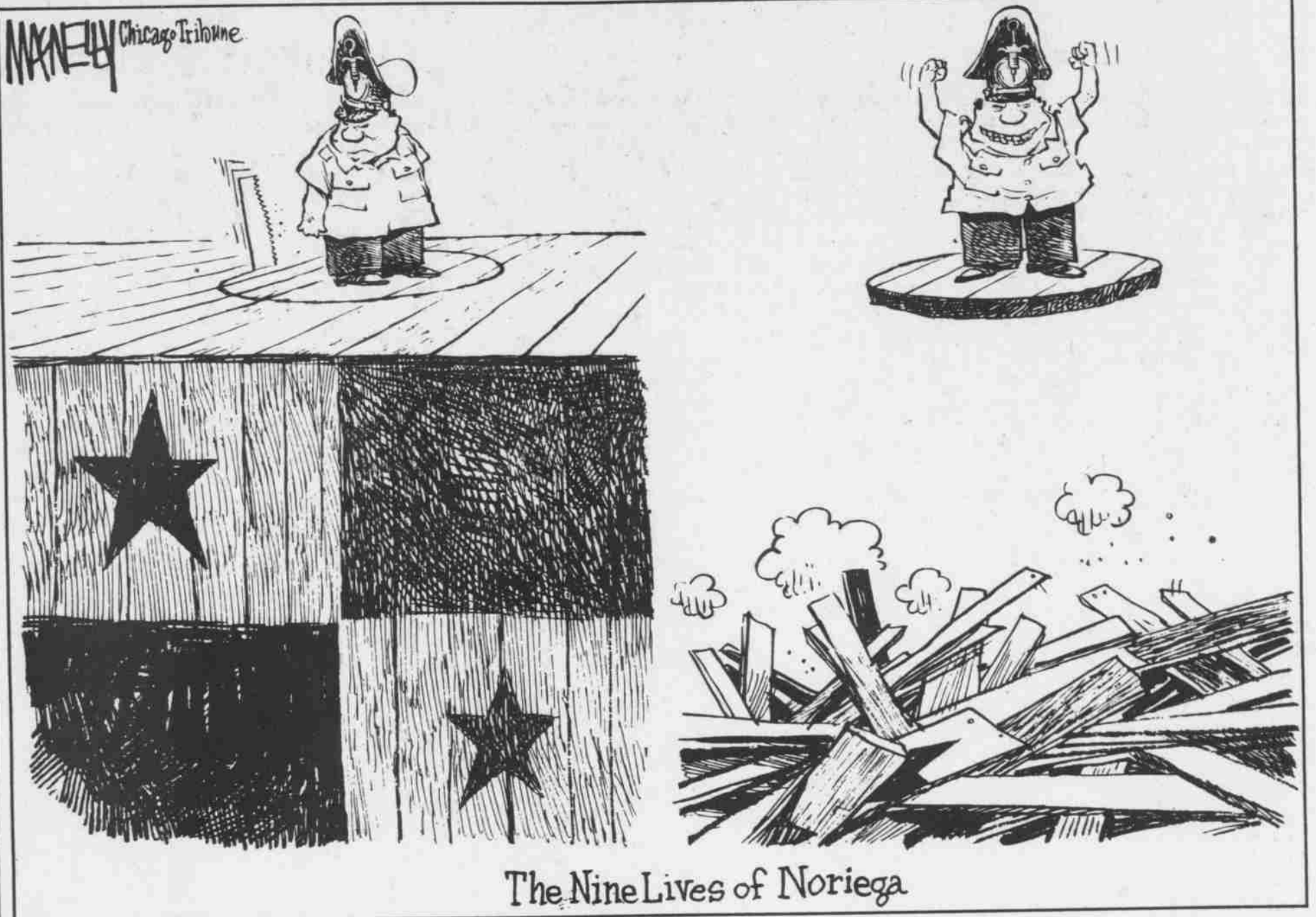
girls give the house more appeal. Because the party is a casino night, the men think the bunnies simply enhance the atmosphere, making it more like Las Vegas. However, this is still degrading to the women who choose to take part.

Of course, this one annual practice is not enough to condemn all little sister programs. But too many women at other fraternities tell stories of wanting to be little sisters and feeling pressured to participate in sexual acts to feel accepted by the fraternity members to not condemn the system.

Certainly, the women who participate in such behavior deserve as much blame as the fraternities which host such programs. They do not seem to be forced into doing anything against their will, and they can abandon the programs at any time. Women who participate in such degrading activities only aggravate sexism and further scar the name of "little sister."

But fraternities should not sponsor programs where the women can only participate in activities within a limited sphere. Unless women are given full fraternity rights, such as house and voting privileges, the fraternities should abolish little sister programs. The women should no longer receive partial rights — it should be all or nothing. This idea would probably be distasteful to Greeks, because fraternities and sororities are outlets for the sexes to socialize with their own sex — going coed would destroy the purpose of these organizations.

UNC Greek organizations should seek a way to stop the harassment and sexism often associated with little sister programs. Fun and games — such as dressing up as bunnies — should no longer be tolerated within the Greek system.



The Nine Lives of Noriega

Readers' Forum

Stop giving CIAAC so much publicity

To the editor:
I see the DTH is continuing to keep its fingers on the pulse of UNC by keeping its readers fully informed of the latest "newsbreaking" events concerning everyone's favorite headliner, the CIAAC starring Dale McKinley. ("Activists request debate with CIA," Oct. 10 and "CIAAC stages protest," Oct. 12). Why must I be constantly bombarded with front page updates about every breath this organization takes? While I respect their right to their opinions, I seriously question their worthiness of the headlines the DTH continues to award them. It is hard to believe that even on University Day the DTH gave the CIAAC top billing! The controversial issues and tactics of the CIAAC, now in its third year, may still be a hot topic to members of the DTH, but it is all becoming quite stale from the reader's perspective. Is a simple letter requesting a debate or passing out fliers really the kind of news entitled to the day's headline along with interviews and a photo insert of a leading member? To the best of my recollection any article concerning the CIAAC since the fall of 1987 has appeared on the front page of the DTH. Is this much coverage standard procedure for all campus organizations or needless hoopla for a DTH endorsement of the CIAAC?

I am pleased with the diverse coverage otherwise offered by the DTH. But certainly this paper is more capable of "serving the students and the University community" as its motto proclaims. I urge the DTH not to take a passive approach by milking a two-year-old story. There is so much going on throughout this diverse campus and Chapel Hill that will appeal to the majority of readers. Go out and find the story. No one said your job was easy. Continue to report on the newsworthy aspects of the CIAAC and every other organization, but reserve your headlines for events most of your readers will feel deserve the position. Consistent headlines for the CIAAC will only result in readers attributing a negative

image to the organization, its members and its goals, if they have not already.

I understand the CIAAC's desire to inform students of their views, but they should have to do it like other campus organizations. The CIAAC should not be able to achieve recognition from each incoming class through the free publicity the DTH constantly affords them with front page headlines, interviews and photographs. This is not the purpose of the DTH.

ROBERT K. BATES
Graduate student
Law

High Kicking Heels promote UNC spirit

To the editor:
In response to Pamela Dilavore's outlandish observations stated in her letter about the High Kicking Heels titled "Women dance to men's tunes at UNC" (Oct. 12), I would have to say that the letter was not only prudish (as she herself states), but also uncalled for. The High Kicking Heels is a dance organization designed and devoted to promoting spirit within the student body and for the school itself. Their routine is not "putting on a little T and A." The dancing is designed to get students excited about their school. I personally do not find myself getting excited watching 18 girls prancing around in ballet shoes and tu-tu's en pointe singing "Go Heels" in opera voices.

Nor do I see the reasoning behind her accusation that they "are wasting themselves on foolish repetitive gyrations that more appropriately belong in a strip show." I myself am not a High Kicking Heel but I do find the letter offensive and foolish. Take a look around... television, magazines, advertisement, etc. Today is filled with exciting dances, funky music and dancing girls and, yes, even guys. I don't guess it would have been a problem had there been 18 sleek sexy guys "gyrating" in the Pit.

LEIGH ANN NORTHCUTT
Sophomore
Advertising

Editors too critical, need to do better job

To the editor:
The controversy over Jeffrey Beall's proposal to hold a recall election for DTH editor is a lot of hot air. Those who have recently addressed the subject in the DTH, including Matt Bivens, need to "get a grip." I regret that the issue has been undermined by the fact that it was presented by Beall. Why was it necessary that this issue be lumped in with the SRC, the abortion legislation issue or other Student Congress activities in its criticism?

Let's pretend, shall we, that the proposal had been presented by a Student Congress member who hadn't already been criticized as a showboat and raked over the coals for past proposals. Perhaps the DTH editorial board, especially Keschull, would take at least some notice of the fact that there are members of the student body (like it or not, it's not the sole opinion of Beall) who are dissatisfied with the paper under Keschull's leadership. If the editors would take just one minute to examine their own job instead of devoting their time to slamming down Beall's presentations, they might recognize their flaws. Perhaps as Jurgen Buchenau said, "It would have been better if we just made it a protest." Think about your "editorial freedom," Keschull, but think about your readership, too. Try to live up to your history as a news source for the student body, by presenting more reports of newsworthy information based on fact and less selected insignificant articles of opinion.

I read the DTH daily, but this year I have found its contents less worthy of my time. (Don't fear readers, I did not say this because I have been taken over by the mind-controlling powers of Beall.) I felt this way before Beall's proposal, and I will continue to feel this way until the DTH improves, at least to its old standards. Keschull may have "numerous years of journalism experience," as one reader cited, but that does not make her a good editor. The changes in the DTH this year have been ineffective,

and the paper no longer maintains the quality and substance that it presented in the past.

A final note — all this smoke about whether the Student Congress has been doing its job and spending its time wisely should not have been tagged as part of the issue at hand. It was both sloppy and unprofessional. More time needs to be spent putting out a quality paper and less time mudslinging Student Congress. Get to some important straightforward news reporting, and you won't hear as much criticism of your publication.

HEATHER E. BANNISTER
Sophomore
Business

Check map before criticizing columnist

To the editor:
Now I understand why most Southern states consistently rank at the bottom of the list in regard to SAT scores. In his letter entitled "Columnist's words were way off-base," (Oct. 4), C. Glenn Wallace stated "you are a resident of Maryland living in the South by choice... Show some respect or, to coin an old phrase "Yankee go home." Well Mr. Wallace, obviously where you come from, history and geography were not taught. The state of Maryland lies due south of the Mason-Dixon Line; and therefore, is considered a Southern state. I guess Bivens, one of your fellow Southerners, isn't as proud of the South, or for that matter, South Carolina, as you.

DONNA M. HAINES
Junior
International Studies

Letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticisms. When writing letters to the editor, please follow these guidelines:

- All letters must be dated and signed by the author(s), with a limit of two signatures per letter.
- All letters must be typed and double-spaced, for ease of editing.

Action, not talk NCSU athletics have a long way to go

In response to accusations of eight National Collegiate Athletic Association rules violations, N.C. State University officials have announced the creation of a new position and a program to inform athletes, boosters and local business owners about potential rules violations. Basketball coach Jim Valvano also has imposed restrictions on player recruiting from 1989-90. These are positive first steps, but it will take more than press releases and official reports to salvage NCSU's image.

The proposed changes in State's athletic program are detailed in a 1,600-page response to charges filed by the NCAA in September. These charges accused the university of rules violations involving athletic boosters and player misconduct. According to university officials, the report is based on interviews with players, coaches, boosters and business owners and the report's recommendations should eliminate the possibility of any future NCAA rule conflicts.

NCSU has announced a new position of director of compliance to ensure that the university abides by NCAA rules. But university officials have not explained how this new position will differ from the position it already has in its assistant director of athletics for compliance. The new compliance officer will answer to the athletic director and the chancellor, but to prevent any future violations, the

university must ensure that this new administrator will not be just another rubber stamp for the basketball program and athletic boosters. This officer's duties should include regular reports to NCSU administrators and the board of trustees to ensure a reliable check on the activities of the university's athletic program.

The NCAA report also mentions other steps the university has taken to prevent future violations. This is in response to allegations that NCSU basketball players were selling their sneakers or trading the complimentary shoes for cash and clothing, and Valvano has described this as a "fail-safe" method of preventing violations. Another new policy will require weekly team meetings to discuss NCAA rules. But while these are excellent ideas on paper, no policy is fail-safe, and no rule can be effective without stern enforcement.

NCSU officials are making an effort to investigate the NCAA accusations and it appears that some positive changes in the athletic program are being initiated. But administrators need to recognize that in the world of big-money college athletics, it takes more than a slap on the wrist to clean up the system. While some may argue that good guys finish last, NCSU officials are beginning to understand that the ends do not always justify the means.

— Charles Brittain

the last word

"God is dead." — Nietzsche

These three words led to one of the bigger edit page controversies in recent memory — one that made this year's Playboy affair (pardon the expression) look tame by comparison.

On Sept. 4, 1985, The Daily Tar Heel, under editors Dave Schmidt and Arne Rickert, ran the now-infamous bottom quote that caused angry campus conservatives to try to defund the DTH. They failed.

The controversy — like most — soon died down. We're still partially funded by student fees (for now), and we still run bottom quotes. The "God is dead" incident is the most memorable — but by no means only notable — DTH bottom quote to grace the front page in the five-year history of bottom quotedom.

The first bottom quote ran on March 19, 1984, under editor Jeff Hiday. No one knows what prompted Hiday to start this tradition, but DTH legend has it that the front page was a half-inch short the night before Hiday's first paper, and in desperation he grabbed a copy of Bartlett's Familiar Quotations. The rest, as they say, is history.

For the record, the first quote was "History is the short trudge from Adam to atom." — L.L.

Levinson. Kind of anticlimactic, isn't it?

Melanie Black, our design editor, chooses the quotes most days from a 100-page notebook of suggested quotes. The book is only a quarter full, but we like to think it 25 pages of the wittiest things ever said.

Over the years, such great thinkers as Aristotle, St. Augustine, Woody Allen and Squiggy Squigmann have had their say on the DTH front page. Some of our personal favorites have been, "It's not impossible. I used to bullseye womprats in my T-16 back home." — Luke Skywalker; "It's good to be the king." — Mel Brooks; and "Of course you are." — James Bond.

Our favorite quotes that never ran are, "Son, you got a party on your head." — "Raising Arizona" guy in pickup truck; "Politics is the womb while war is the fetus therein." — Wang Chang-ling; and "Jesus died for somebody's sins but not mine." — Patty Smith.

One editor told a professor recently who wanted to be quoted that he had to "say something great." Readers who know of a great quote should turn them in to us — feel free to be outrageous — but no promises. — Justin McGuire and Tom Parks