

# The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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## UNC knows

### Group shows good sense in changing slogan

The hate crimes at UNC in the past semester have served as a source of injury and alienation on campus. Attempts by student organizations to begin the healing process are admirable, and the Students for the Advancement of Race Relations' decision not to use the slogan "UNC Knows Racism" shows good sense and a serious attitude toward dealing with those problems.

The committee was considering selling T-shirts displaying the slogan and drawings depicting racial incidents on campus. Committee members said the T-shirts were designed to call attention to campus racial problems. The committee asked Student Congress representatives to consider putting their organization's name on the T-shirts last week, but representatives voted down the proposal. SARR's motives were undeniably positive, but the effect of the T-shirts' slogan might have actually been negative.

"UNC Knows Racism" is a parody of Nike's "Bo Knows" slogan. Nike's slogan is used in an unmistakably light-hearted sense, and giving it a negative context

concerning UNC could have caused confusion.

But regardless of the way it would have been interpreted, the slogan was extremely flippant and ill-suited to the serious goals of the committee. The appropriateness of using a parody of a slogan invented to sell athletic shoes to call attention to an issue as serious as racism was questionable.

The stated purpose of the T-shirts and the committee's Race Relations Week is to educate people about the problem of racism, not to make light of recent campus racial incidents. The brash nature of the slogan could have offended people who might have benefited from the week.

Feb. 1 marked the beginning of Black History Month—a time for learning about the contributions of African Americans. The unfortunate events of the past semester have taught students about the effects of racism. By joining in Race Relations Week and Black History Month and supporting SARR's efforts, students can start the healing process this campus so badly needs. — **Jen Pilla**

## Everywhere a sign

### Regulations for posters should be enforced

During campus election season, students' eyes have grown accustomed to seeing campaign signs everywhere, even where they shouldn't be.

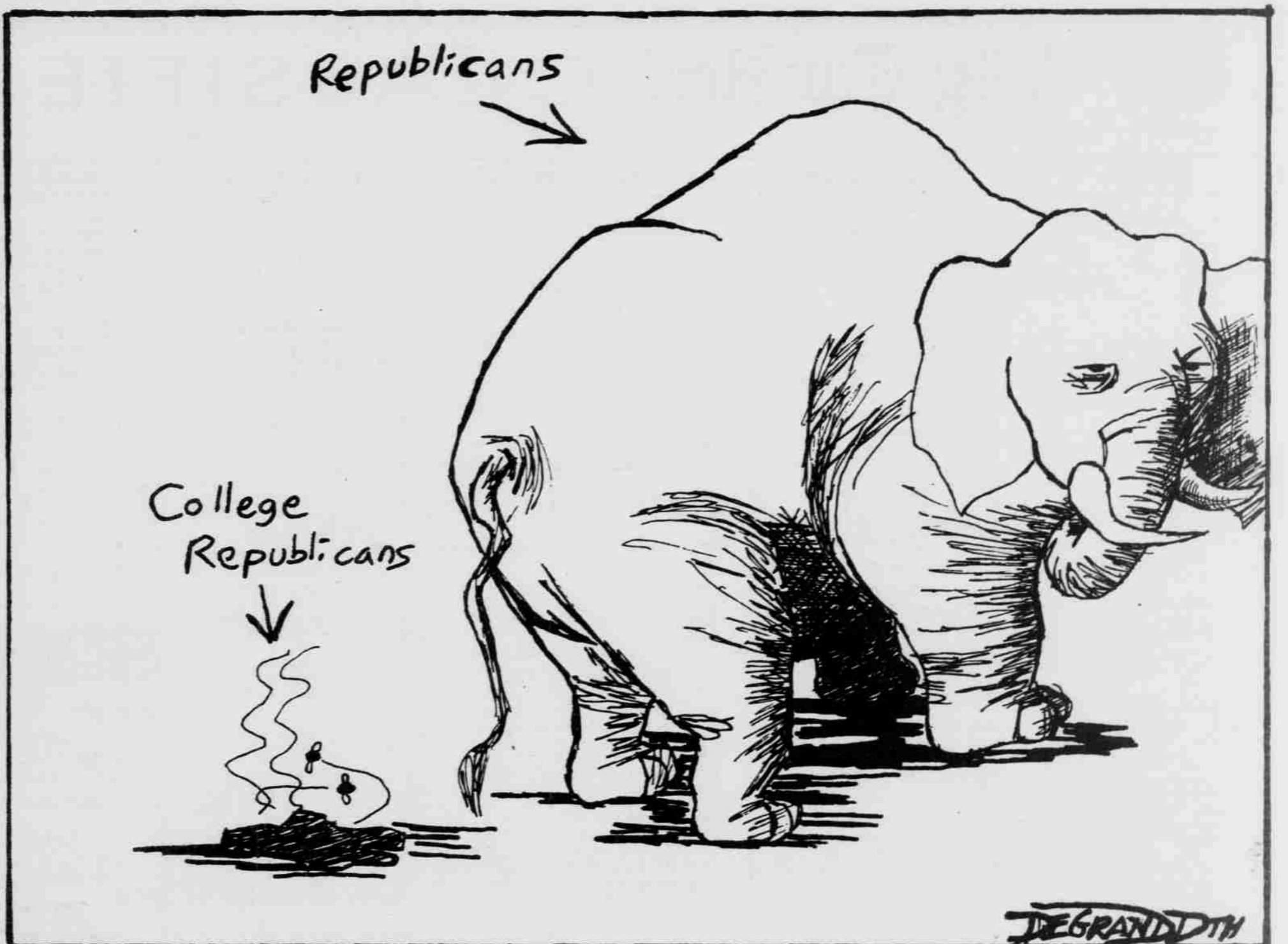
A few candidates or campaign workers have hung posters in areas of the campus that are supposed to be off limits. Someone has been taking down those materials, but has not returned them to the Elections Board. Although candidates should not violate the guidelines for campaign posters, whoever took the posters down should have returned them to election officials.

Candidates are not supposed to hang materials where they could interfere with teaching or the smooth flow of campus traffic. Several posters did not meet these guidelines; for example, they were found on blackboards in Greenlaw Hall. Although the ones in Greenlaw did not cause permanent damage to the facility, those placed

on newly painted walls in Howell Hall will cost the University considerable money to repair.

In all fairness, the campaign staffs are not the only problem. Whoever took the posters down without giving them to the Elections Board used less than sound judgment. Even if a poster does interfere with the daily routine on campus, it should not be thrown away; campaign materials cost candidates money, and they are an important form of communication with the general student body.

The Elections Board has the power to fine candidates for posting materials in off-limits areas. Considering the limits on campaign spending, these fines are taken seriously by candidates. The elections board can solve the problems of improper posting if this campus gives it a chance. — **H. Brock Page**



## Elections conjure nightmarish school memories

Jenn Layton

### I Just Work Here

Campus election time is always a bad time for me. It brings back horrible memories of the year I was in junior high school and ran for Student Council chaplain.

I'm serious. *Chaplain.* What a strange office to hold in a junior high school council. You've never seen anyone run for Student Council priest or Student Council rabbi, have you? How about Student Council *sage*? With a sage, there would be no need for a president or any other council members. The school could just build a mountain behind the school for the sage to sit on and reflect on important junior high school matters. Every once in a while, a lowly student could climb to the top of the mountain with a pressing question.

"Oh, wise sage of Kinston Junior High," the student would say, bowing low, "Homecoming is upon us. What shall we do to raise school spirit?"

"Homecoming, my child?" the sage would respond. "Why do we need this Homecoming?"

"To make the student body proud of their school, your excellency. To make them want to come to our sacred football field and watch our sacred football team beat the snot out of Green Central."

I guess I didn't think it was strange for our school to have a Student Council chaplain because I decided to run for the position. It sounded easy. All the chaplain had to do was open each meeting with a prayer. I was an expert on prayer. I composed some of my best prayers during geometry class.

"Dear God," one of them went, "I don't understand anything this woman is trying to explain. I know that math is not my calling, and besides, I didn't do the homework, so please don't let her send me to the board. Please God. Please. Amen."

Thank you, I'm pretty proud of it myself. So on the afternoon I decided to run, I was standing with a group of my friends on the

school grounds during lunch. I announced my decision.

"I'll be your campaign manager," offered a girl named Kim. I didn't really know her that well, but I appreciated the support and accepted her offer.

That was the last I saw of her until after the election. She came up to congratulate me on winning and probably to take some of the credit.

She had nothing to do with it. I won because nobody ran against me.

Do you have any idea how stupid I felt going through the whole campaign process with no one to run against? I should have known better than to put myself through the whole thing the first day I started passing around my petition.

"Here," I'd say, holding out a sheet of paper to my fellow students. "Please sign this petition so I can run for Student Council chaplain."

The student would look at me blankly.

"Student Council what?"

"Chaplain. Just sign it."

"I don't know. Who else is running?"

"No one."

The student's look would change to confusion and then total resignation. "No one? Aw, hell, okay." The candidates for the other positions had the fun and excitement of mudslinging and making clever posters. Students collected little pins with stupid slogans like "Vote for Susie Appledent for Student Council President!" Candidates spoke of their drive and leadership skills. In junior high school, that amounted to winning the science fair or being captain of the cheerleading squad.

What could I say about running for chaplain? In a fit of complete writer's block and total embarrassment at having to go through this whole election with no opponent, I wrote a slogan that was a complete disgrace to the democratic process: "Get involved and raise your voice! Vote Jennifer for chaplain — you have no choice!"

One of the English teachers got all of the candidates together halfway through the campaign to give us advice on how to give our speeches. One thing she told us to do was tell the student body what made us the better candidates over our opponents.

Needless to say, I couldn't exactly follow that advice. I could just hear myself: "Fellow students, I am the best choice for chaplain. Unlike my opponent, I am a human being. Unlike my opponent, I am a student at Kinston Junior High. Unlike my opponent, I have a name you can write on a ballot."

I was so relieved when the whole election was over and the results were finally announced. The winners in the other races went home and celebrated with their families and friends. I went home, crawled under the rug, and had a nervous breakdown.

I must say that I did a fine job of chaplaining. I had no say in Homecoming preparations or other important junior high matters, but I said the best darn opening prayers ever read in a student council meeting.

To all the candidates running for this year's campus elections, I wish you the best. I wish you strong support, campaign managers who actually help you out and good reasons why you're a better choice than your opponent. But more than anything else, I wish you opponents. Good luck.

Jenn Layton is a senior English major and retired chaplain from Ontario, Canada. Amen, and Women too.

Advertisement for "The Nintendo Solution" featuring an image of a game box and a timer showing "00:01".

Advertisement for "The Daily Tar Heel" listing staff members, contact information, and subscription details.

## READERS' FORUM

### Our hearts should go out to those at war

To the editors:

At the time of this obscene war, our hearts should go out to the Iraqi, Kuwaiti, Israeli and other civilians in that region, whose lives have been cruelly marred by death and destruction, caused on the one hand by a hypocritical, crude, terror-mongering Saddam and Co., and on the other hand, by hypocritical, smooth-talking, jingoistic Bush and Co. The hypocrites lie in Saddam claiming to be the champion of the common Arab's cause, while in reality it is economic and political gain he's after; and in Bush claiming this war to be a righteous war to liberate Kuwait from evil, while in reality he would deliver it to another evil — the former monarchy. Moreover, this "just" war is expected to deliver a message to every country not to attack a peaceful neighbor (even if they do think it was their grandfather's property), while it is obvious that the only thing that anybody has learned from any war is to avoid strategic mistakes and to amass lethal weaponry in order to fight another more efficient war. Our attitude is pathetic: "Those guys are used to war and violence, so let them get it full blast." As if the civilians in Iraq and Kuwait will be totally death-proof from the tons and tons of bombs being dropped on supposed military and communications sites. This torrential bombing is supposed to continue for another 2-4 weeks, barring Saddam and Co.'s capitulation. This high-tech allied attack is as cruel as the arbitrary missile attacks on Israel and Saudis by Saddam.

Our hearts go out to the soldiers on both sides (volunteer or not), even though the eagerness of some is quite disconcerting — those blood-curdling yells propelled by

delusions of bravado and honor, the comparisons of war to Super Bowl (war being more exhilarating since complete lives are involved here and not just fingers or leg-bones) — how sickening!

What more can I say? I am another peace lover asking: Can't this madness stop right now?

KARIN CHAMBLESS  
Graduate  
Romance Languages

### Protesting war hurts the Gulf War effort

To the editors:

What goal or overall objective does protesting the war serve? If the goal is to help the U.S. soldiers in Saudi Arabia, I am afraid protesting hurts more than it helps.

More than 20 years ago soldiers were coming home from another unofficially declared war. These men and women were heroes in their own right, but they certainly were not praised for their efforts. It was an era of turmoil in this country, which diverted attention away from the war effort. I do not want to see history repeat itself because we here at home did not give the support needed. By pulling together we will surely be strong.

Protesters of the war in the Persian Gulf have to realize we are in this war together and cannot turn back; too many people depend on our forces. If citizens around this country keep on demonstrating against the war effort, speaking out against their own government in a time of conflict and dividing the American public, the consequences on the war effort could be devastating.

Many of the protesters have friends and family in the gulf, and want to see them home safely. No person can dispute these feelings.

However, I believe our commitment to this war requires us to pull together as an army of support instead of weakening our forces by dividing them in half.

MATT REID  
Junior  
Business

### Support needed for fuel economy bill

To the editors:

On Monday, Jan. 28, Sen. Richard Bryan, D-Nev., introduced a bill to require that automakers increase their average fleet-wide fuel economy to 34 miles per gallon by 1996 and 40 mpg by 2001. A similar bill was defeated last year.

Passage of the fuel economy bill would reduce our dependence on Mideast oil, reduce air pollution and help reduce our trade deficit.

Help get this bill passed. Let your senators know that you care about reducing our dependence on foreign oil. Write to Sen. Helms and Sen. Sanford and ask them to support Sen. Bryan's fuel economy bill. (Sen. Jesse Helms, 403 Dirksen Senate Ofc. Bldg., Washington, D.C., 20510. Sen. Terry Sanford, 716 Hart Senate Ofc. Bldg., Washington, D.C., 20510.)

Please write. Your voice counts. Your action will make a difference. We can reduce our crushing dependence on foreign oil.

MICHAEL L. DUBS  
Graduate  
Psychology

### Number of minorities in army not an issue

To the editors:  
Like Matt Halso and Kerr Robertson, authors of "Student's

view on deadline unfounded," I, too, am saddened by terminology which segregates the population. Unfortunately, sometimes statistics fall hand in hand with terminology as a segregation factor. Such is the case in Terrence Garrison's "African-American attitude apathetic" editorial which rests on the same page as the aforementioned article. Garrison ponders the question of why the number of "brothers and sisters" serving in the armed forces in Saudi Arabia, especially on the front line, is so disproportionate. My question to Garrison is why must we segregate soldiers, front line or not, with racial statistics? Does it matter what color these men and women are? I think not. What matters is that they are courageous Americans who are fighting side by side for their country.

If one insists upon raising the question of why the number of African Americans in the armed forces is so high, then that person should not ask "the powers that be" but the soldiers themselves. No draft has been enforced. All of the men and women fighting in Saudi Arabia are volunteers who choose their forces, they pick what they would like to do, whether it be mechanics, armory, artillery, etc. Generally those who elect fields such as artillery are sent to the front lines. These processes allow little room for the blatant discrimination accused by Garrison because of the mere fact that they are voluntary.

Why question these volunteer soldiers or the government which they fight for? Instead, allow your mind to desegregate them. Think of all as brave "brothers and sisters" who are fighting for the USA.

KIM MILHOLLAND  
Freshman  
Biology