

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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Kicking them while they're down

UNC Kappa Alpha Theta sorority members are getting kicked out into the cold, and the central office of the sorority has put on some spiked heels to do the job.

Sorority members attended a meeting Sunday night with members of the central office which not only put an end to the local chapter of Kappa Alpha Theta, but also gave the 38 women who live in the house a mere 10 days to ship out. The dreary weather can't be a match for the moods of these sorority members faced with an uncertain future.

Kappa Alpha Theta, with just 80 members and 11 pledges this year, has seen better days. According to the central office, last year's graduating class of sorority members was just too large, and this year's pledge class was just too small to justify the continuance of the local chapter. And sorority members say they are willing to accept — albeit with sadness — the termination of the chapter.

But having to find new places to live is another story. Telling the women in the house that they have to pack their bags in less than three weeks is only acerbating their wounds.

Sorority members may have some legal recourse, and if they do, they should definitely consider taking action. Women living in the house have an outstanding nine-month lease, and if sorority members do not agree to release their charter, it is likely that the house could not be taken legally before the lease is up. The central office would probably be violating the housing contract by breaking the lease.

But many sorority members are ready to wash their hands of the entire mess. Do you blame them?

Sharon McClelland, a sorority member, said almost everyone living in the house

had already found a place to live. And although they want to continue the close relationships with members of the local chapter, McClelland said they really don't want to have anything more to do with their sisters in the central office.

Legal matters aside, it's difficult to understand how the central office could be so insensitive to the needs of the local chapter. With their "kick 'em while they're down" mentality, the central office has certainly given a bad name to the rest of the sorority.

To add icing to an already bitter cake, members of the central office were apparently less than understanding during the meeting that took place Sunday. After informing sorority members of the termination of the local chapter and telling them that the house had to be vacated, members of the central office couldn't seem to understand why chapter members were angry. In fact, the national representatives walked out of the meeting.

"They said we were rude," McClelland said.

Rude? Imagine that!

So after being dealt two very serious blows from their sisters in the national office, chapter members were lucky not to be nailed to the wall. Members of the local chapter have every right to be angry, and they have every right to be rude because their treatment by the central office has been everything but civil.

It seems ironic that an organization that prides itself in camaraderie and sisterhood would turn its back on members of its own happy family. It seems a little family therapy may be in order. Otherwise, this dysfunctional family may lose more than its Chapel Hill chapter.

Beat State in the name of charity

Here's your chance. Get rid of all that pent-up, Valvano-inspired, Corchiani-fed hatred of N.C. State. Channel years of anger into non-violent courses of action, such as fund-raisers for Habitat for Humanity and the American Diabetes Foundation. At UNC — this week only, get 'em while they're hot — anti-State sentiments go hand-in-hand with worthy causes!

Friday night, UNC students are invited to Cat's Cradle for a Beat State party, the proceeds of which will go to Habitat for Humanity. The event, sponsored by Delta Upsilon fraternity, features bands Mary on the Dash and The Dead Milkmen. So, for \$5, students are afforded the opportunity to hear some great music, complain about the manure smell creeping up I-40 from Raleigh and benefit a worthy cause.

But that's not all. UNC students can pick up the gauntlet and engage fellow "students" at State in direct aluminum-recycling combat. UNC and State students are the participants in a recycling contest that will benefit the American Diabetes Foundation. Students can put cans in recycling bins at the Sigma Chi fraternity house until 6 p.m. Friday, and the winner will be announced Saturday at the Rock and Roll Lawn Party — featuring Nantucket and

Brice Street — at Meredith College. Proceeds from the recycled cans and the \$8 cover fee for the concert will go to the diabetes foundation. There's something in it for students, as well: Harris Inc., Harris Wholesale Inc. and Anheuser Busch, Inc. will donate \$1,000 to the winner's library.

This is truly the Golden Age! Don't let these opportunities slip by. Recycling is certainly an intelligent thing to do, and doing it this week at the Sigma Chi house will benefit the diabetes foundation; this is a great way to kill three birds with one stone: do something good by recycling, benefit a worthy cause and beat State.

Similarly, the work done through Habitat for Humanity is as admirable as that done by any charity. Habitat focuses on the individual by providing low-cost, interest-free housing.

Delta Upsilon and Sigma Chi have provided UNC students with the opportunity to take part in some painless benefit work. So recycle your cans at the Sigma Chi fraternity house, go to a concert Friday and Saturday and tell your parents you've been doing charity work all weekend.

After all, N.C. State's going to need a little charity this weekend if they want to even come close to the raging Tar Heels.



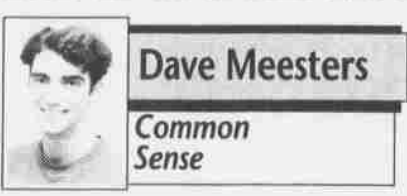
Libertarians call for freedom in market, bedroom

Now that I've spoken my mind on a couple of current topics and probably alienated half of the student body in the process, this seems like a good time to talk a little about libertarianism and this column in general. Since I am very libertarian in my thinking, and these views are going to show themselves in most of my columns, I figure it might be a good idea to provide an introduction.

When it was printed in the paper that I was a libertarian, some of you probably said "Oh, no!", some of you said "Huh?", and some of you said "Finally! A lone voice of reason in the clouded sea of political backwardness!" Depending on where you fit, my job is either to convince you, to inform you or to reassure you, respectively. At least, that's the plan.

For those of you who said "Huh?", a brief explanation is in order. Libertarianism is really a concept so simple that you'll be embarrassed for not having thought of it yourselves. Distilled to its core, it constitutes a stunningly new concept: *Do what you want.* Now before you get any ideas, this does not mean that libertarianism is some adolescent, Dionysian, anarcho-hedonistic sect advocating wine and grapes and buck-nakedness. It just says that people should be allowed to do what they want, provided that they do not infringe on the rights of anyone else.

This is really just common sense, and most people act on libertarian principles in everyday life. We expect to be able to live our lives and make our own decisions without anyone else coercing us to do otherwise. Similarly, we do not try to force others to act as we feel they should. For instance, we don't force our neighbors to listen to the same music as we do or to treat their possessions as we treat ours. These are all personal decisions, and we have the right to decide them as we see fit. The only groups that generally do not act on these principles are



Dave Meesters
Common Sense

criminals and governments. It is the libertarian position that no one, including the government, must interfere with a person's rights to life, liberty and property.

Libertarianism does not fall neatly onto the traditional political spectrum of "conservative" and "liberal." Allow me to oversimplify for a moment. Conservatism, in general, advocates economic freedom and personal regulation. We must have a free and open market, which usually implies laissez-faire capitalism. But what people do privately is subject to regulation. For instance, most people who support censorship of pornography and denounce homosexuality are conservative. On the other hand, liberalism is a near opposite position, favoring personal freedom and economic regulation. We can do what we want privately, but the economy must be regulated to achieve certain goals, people are taxed and income is redistributed, etc.

Libertarianism advocates personal freedom and economic freedom, because any other situation would be a violation of our rights. Allow people to do whatever they want, so long as it does not infringe on the rights of anyone else. Similarly, allow people to acquire property in a free market, to keep that property and to do with it as they see fit. The philosophy is one of mutual respect and personal responsibility. We must be allowed to live our own particular lives in the way that we choose, without government interference. The government's only legitimate

job is to protect us from intrusions on our liberty by guarding us from violence, robbery and fraud. In this way, the government provides a safe environment in which each person is free to pursue their goals to the fullest, with their rights intact.

I am writing this column for The Daily Tar Heel to discuss my views on various topics. Since my convictions, political and otherwise, are somewhat atypical, I hope to shed some new light and provide a different way of looking at various concerns. The libertarian arguments involving certain issues are often very different from the arguments that we're used to hearing. This is what I tried to show with my first column about gun control. I specified early in the column that I was not going to be dealing with the same pro-gun arguments that we've been hearing forever: appeals to the Second Amendment, statistics on crime rates, etc. I argued from a new perspective that did not rely on these justifications.

I'd also like to make it clear that my word is certainly not the last on any subject. I do not claim to possess Revealed Truth or definitive knowledge. I am presenting what I believe, and the reasons why I believe what I do. Sometimes those reasons are not completely clear even to me, and there are several matters that I feel very uneasy about. I do not expect you to agree with everything I say, but I do hope you at least listen and try to understand where I'm coming from. Even if I do not convince you of my way of looking at things, I will have at least made you think about the issues and defend your views against mine. If this reveals any weaknesses in your opinions or in mine, then so be it. That is how we learn.

Dave Meesters is a sophomore psychology major from Miami.

READERS' FORUM

Public hearing needed on Glaxo incinerator

To the editor:

After looking over the current Glaxo draft incinerator permit, I believe there are serious issues that have not been presented adequately to the public nor addressed sufficiently by the public. This proposed incinerator seems to have proceeded along while citizens of the RTP and surrounding areas have been focused on or embroiled in controversy over a commercial hazardous waste incinerator, thus diverting their attention. Although the Glaxo public hearings were advertised in the newspapers and written of in news stories, the information presented does not seem to cover the information contained in the draft permit.

It greatly disturbs me that not only low-level radioactive material be burned, but infectious medical waste, solid waste, chemical by-products, hazardous waste and a mixed category will also be burned. Simple high school chemistry tells me that molecules become unstable at high temperatures and electrons seek new mates, creating new compounds, elements, etc. The DE-REGULATIONS on low-level radioactive materials, as well as hazardous waste, allow much more potent materials than ever before to be buried in our landfills and burned in incinerators such as these. New compounds, etc., created may be completely unknown to science. Even at 99.9999 percent efficiency, a fair amount of toxic ash and gaseous emissions will become airborne to land in surrounding and even distant communities depending on wind patterns and strengths.

I am also extremely concerned that the incinerator's capacity does not seem to have been set and information given to me seems to indicate that capacity will be determined after the permit is issued (and after the facility is built) by the trial burn.

I have, therefore, strongly re-

quested that another public hearing be held immediately to discuss these and other aspects of Glaxo's proposed incinerator before the permit is issued. I urge other citizens to request another public hearing by writing the following governmental officials before Sept. 26 if possible.

Mr. Mel Fry
 Div. of Radiation Protection
 P.O. Box 27687
 Raleigh, N.C. 27611-7687

Dr. George T. Everett
 Director, N.C. Div. of Envir.
 Mgmt.
 Attn: Ms. Laura Butler
 P.O. Box 29535
 Raleigh, N.C. 27626-0535

Mr. Jerry Rhodes
 Section Chief
 Hazardous Waste Section
 Div. of Solid Waste Mgmt.
 P.O. Box 27687
 Raleigh, N.C. 27611

(signed)
 GLENDA WHITEFIELD
 Creedmore, N.C.

Southern pride frowned upon by rest of country

To the editor:

BRAVO to Glenn Gerding for his Sept. 23 letter, "Subcultures should make way for American unity." It was a sound, rational and clearly composed essay. Many conservatives fear investigation and subsequent punishment by that bastion organization of First Amendment ideology, the Thought Police, so I am very thankful to Gerding for exercising his right and addressing issues that have needed mentioning for a long time.

I would like to focus in on one of Gerding's points, the public's ignorance of true Southern culture. I am fiercely proud to be a Southerner; I state that position with no apology to the PC-mongers or the "open-minded" liberals who are reeling at such an admission. Pride in a Southern culture is

a dangerous thing at this university, where a Southern background magically makes one a "racist." Southern heritage transcends such picayune name calling. Pride in a Southern background means pride in gentility, courtesy, soft-spoken accents and a sense of tradition. Sadly, we cannot exhibit our culture due to the adverse dictates of our liberal colleagues.

This inability to revel in a Southern heritage exists not only at Carolina, however. In the 126 years since the War Between the States, the South has been humiliated and ostracized for having a slower, more relaxed, (and dare I say better?) lifestyle and speech pattern than some other regions. For example, the Southern accent, a beautiful, enchanting and soothing refuge from the harsh tones spoken elsewhere in the rush and fury of the modern world, is vanishing thanks to the bland "Standard American" accent broadcast over millions of television waves (television executives require that any trace of Southernness be eliminated unless it is the vile and hideously fake speech one finds in modern-day shows like "Designing Women" — speech patterns designed to make Southerners appear to be fools.)

The tragedy of the whole situation is that we Southerners cannot defend our heritage thanks to the whinnings of anti-Southern liberals. We do not go so far as to demand a "subculture" status as other groups do, thus eliminating the notion of an "American" culture. We do, however, write from the pain of the double-edged sword that has made our cultural heritage and pride in that heritage nothing short of a political crime.

BRIAN D. MILLER
 Sophomore
 History

Quote needs revision; try these on for size

To the editor:
 In response to Tritan Tzara's

outrageous quote of the day printed in The Daily Tar Heel Sept. 24, "Any work of art that can be understood is the product of journalism," I give you Marvin Saltzman, artist and UNC art instructor: "Any work of art that can be understood is not art," and even better, "Any work of art that can be understood by a journalist is not art."

JOHN L. AMOS
 Senior
 Studio Art

Theta welcomes support for difficulties

To the editor:
 As a recently alumnus member of Kappa Alpha Theta, I am extremely thankful for those people who have expressed their concern over our recent situation. At a time when sisters must all deal with the pressures of exams, along with trying to find a place to live within 10 days, it is so helpful to see people's support.

At the same time, I am deeply saddened by the callous attitudes of a few Greeks, who seem to be rejoicing in our sorrow. May you never have to suffer the loss and anxiety that we have endured since last Sunday.

JENNIFER L. O'NEILL
 Junior
 Psychology

Letters policy

Letters should be limited to 400 words, although longer letters are accepted. However, the shorter the letter, the better chance it has of running.

If you want your letter published, sign and date it. No more than two signatures.

Include your year in school, major, phone number and hometown.

If you have a title that is relevant to your letter's subject, please include it.

The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity.

The Daily Tar Heel

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 U.S. Mail address: P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3257