

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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Support UNC's support services

Many University housekeepers live less than ideal lives — cut off from the American Dream by poor working conditions and abysmal wages.

Housekeepers earn the below-poverty-level salary of about \$11,000 a year, and they have not received a raise in the past two years. Coupled with rising prices, this low pay will continue to be mired below the poverty level. In order to provide for themselves and their families, many housekeepers work additional jobs and live in low-income housing but still have trouble paying the bills. And the housekeepers' working conditions are getting steadily worse; when workers quit, the University has trouble attracting new employees with its \$11,000-a-year offer, so many housekeepers are required to do twice as much work for the same low salaries.

In response to these dire circumstances, a group of about 30 housekeepers filed a grievance last spring protesting low pay and lack of advancement opportunities. Earlier this month, some of the group members pursued the grievance to Step 3. That grievance will be heard by a panel of University officials outside the housekeeping department.

A group of housekeepers met with supervisors and University officials last week to discuss problems faced on the job. In the meeting, housekeepers asked for supervisors to increase wages and provide better training opportunities and a voice in management. But the meeting failed to resolve the conflicts. Housekeeping assistant Marsha Tinnen said after the meeting that

she didn't think the supervisors were very interested in housekeeper concerns. "But they'll do anything to get you out of their face," she said.

However futile it may seem, the housekeepers have begun the battle for better wages and working conditions. Now is the time for students to join the fight. Campus Y members already have given their support to the housekeeping staff, meeting last week with a group of housekeepers to discuss how the groups can work together. Similarly, the Sonja Stone Task Force, Students for the Advancement of Race Relations and the Student Environmental Action Coalition have made efforts to help the housekeepers spread their message. Other students should follow the example of these groups: The housekeepers need student support to help organize and publicize their struggle.

University housekeepers are in desperate need of support, and students are the very group to provide it. Students have a chance to make a difference, to make people's lives more livable. Joining the housekeepers' fight is not the duty of the politically minded or the overly sensitive; rather, it is the duty of every person. The housekeepers' goals are tangible reasonable ones, and student support could be the factor that helps them become realized.

A group is being oppressed within the confines of the University. Will students do anything about it? Or will students ignore the housekeepers' struggles as they clean our bathrooms?

Keeping the dream alive

For the first time since the February murder of political activist Bob Sheldon, there is some good news for Sheldon's store, Internationalist Books. Parents Howard and Dorothy Sheldon gave the bookstore to the volunteers who have run it since their son's death.

Although police say Sheldon's murder probably was part of a bungled robbery, some have suggested that the death could have been related to Sheldon's vocal opposition to the Persian Gulf War, which was in its darkest days at the time of the murder. They cite a threatening phone call Sheldon received shortly before his death as possible proof of this motive.

After Sheldon's death there was talk of closing the bookstore because of fears of further political violence, but Sheldon's friends and fellow political activists in Chapel Hill decided a more fitting tribute to him would be to keep the store open and true to Sheldon's philosophy of liberal political activism.

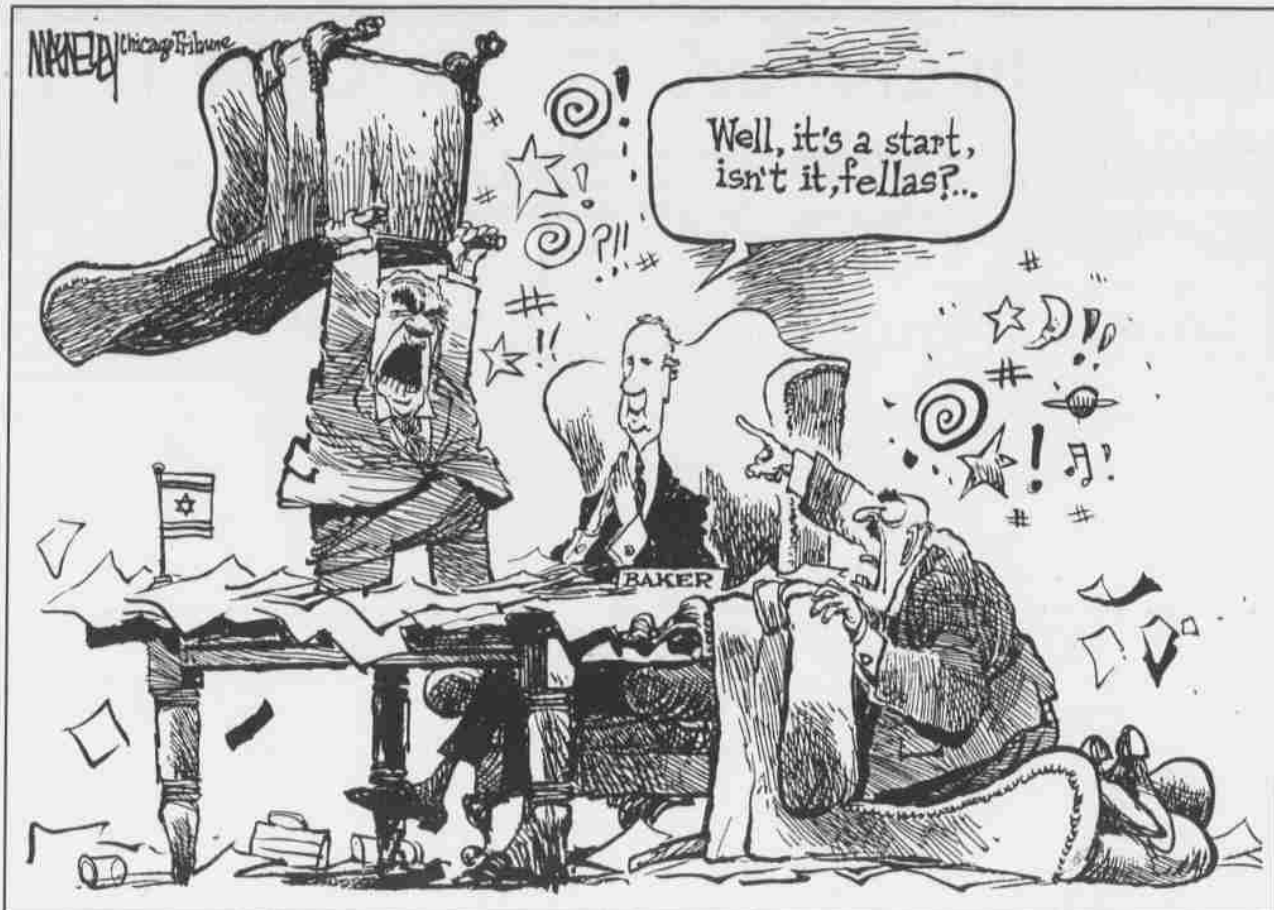
This they did with a vengeance, setting up the Internationalist Books Committee and appointing a nine-member board to run the store, which reopened as a taxable, non-profit corporation six weeks after Sheldon's death.

Although the future of the store was

always uncertain, volunteers worked hard to make it more successful and business-like, donating a computer and several other items the bookstore needed to operate. Today the list of volunteers is so long that potential workers have to wait for openings to work a shift at the store. The only thing the bookstore lacked was security — with the store's new owners living in Colorado Springs, Colo., there was always the possibility that the store would be closed, sold or moved. No matter how dedicated volunteers were, it was hard to plan for the future since they weren't even sure there would be one.

The Sheldons removed this uncertainty by donating the bookstore to the Internationalist Books Committee, and now there is nothing standing in the way of the bookstore's continued success.

The Sheldons could have closed the Internationalist, or they could have sold it to the highest bidder. Instead, they chose to keep their dead son's bookstore and dream alive. One bookstore in one town may not be enough to do it, but if enough people learn from the examples of Bob Sheldon and his parents, perhaps some day Sheldon's dream of a world in which people can discuss any topic from any point of view without fear or anger will come true.



Men: women don't ever 'ask for' sexual assault

It does not surprise me that one out of every six women is assaulted during her four years in college. Hurt and scare me, yes. Surprise me, not at all.

I've known enough women who have gone through the hellish nightmare of date and acquaintance rape or assault to believe that one in six is a conservative estimate. However, what upsets me even more are statistics that show that one out of 12 men describes having participated in acts fitting the description of rape or attempted rape and does not think what he did was wrong.

Judging from the responses I have heard from various people regarding alleged rape/assault cases on this campus, I know that an ignorance of what constitutes rape prevails among students, especially male students, at UNC. You would think students at a college of UNC's supposed prestige would understand the logistics of basic English. It's really quite simple.

Men, when you had sex with a woman, did you ask her to have sex with you? Did she say yes? If she was unable to respond, that did not mean yes. If she said no, she meant no. It's the same basic principle we've been taught since birth. When your father says you can't have a hundred dollars, I seriously doubt you hold him down and steal it from him — or wait until he's drunk and take it out of his wallet. The same principle is at work for women who say no or who are unable to say no but who definitely have not said yes.

Unfortunately, many men have problems applying this basic rule of respect to women. Almost half of all women — 47 percent — can expect to experience rape or attempted rape on



Erika Campbell

With No Assistance

first or casual dates with men they had hoped would be their friends. With statistics like that, how does one discriminate between a friend and a potential rapist?

And no, you cannot be my friend after you have raped me. If I did not give you my permission, then this was not just a round of casual sex with a bit of high-powered fighting and scratching thrown in for fun. This is my body, and I did not invite you to have sex with me. I realize that in this country especially, we have a hard time grasping the concept of women having control of their own bodies, but, men, just think about how you would like to be treated. Would you like a person with whom you would not have chosen to have sex to force you into having intercourse with her, beating you to submit to an act in which you do not want to participate?

I do not think all men are potential rapists. I know a few men who not only wouldn't consider raping a woman, but are also feminist. I know, however, that most men have difficulty understanding the frustration and danger that entraps women on a campus such as UNC. No woman likes having to depend on a boyfriend or male classmate to escort her around campus.

I absolutely hate having to ask someone to take me where I want to go. Unfortunately, it is something we must do in order to protect ourselves. Men who make it difficult for women to

ask this simple favor that could save their lives are encouraging women to do what I stupidly have done too many nights — walk alone.

Many women, myself included, realize the precarious situation in which they are placed. In order to survive, we must remember our situation and take the limited precautions we can. We cannot go where we want, when we want, with the person we want to trust. However, while we are taking precautions to protect ourselves, we must insist upon educating our selves and men about what needs to be done in order to improve our precarious situation. We have to demand that students, male and female, become aware of the dangers and consequences of date rape. We must push campus officials to make this campus a safer place for all students to live.

In the almost 3 1/2 years I have been here, I am pleased to say that I have seen a move toward educating the community about the numbers of assaults and rapes that occur in this area. From the flyers and residence hall programs to the men and women who have dedicated their time to tonight's Take Back the Night march, sponsored by the Women's Forum of the Campus Y, there is a move toward awareness. These programs are designed to educate all of us about the right of students to exist in an environment that will not tolerate the barbaric rape and assault of women. I hope all students, male and female, will participate in these educational experiences and learn how to improve campus life for all students.

Erika Campbell is a senior English major from Chattanooga, Tenn.

READERS' FORUM

'Eurocentrics' can't stop African-American gains

To the editor:

Well, well, well. It seems we have another AFRICAN-AMERICAN HOMECOMING QUEEN. It certainly thrilled my heart to hear the announcement of another AFRICAN-AMERICAN QUEEN at the game Saturday. To my surprise though, the BLACK QUEEN did not get a lot of cheers. I wonder why (this is sarcasm, people, I know why).

I am very proud of my race (African American) because we have shown Eurocentrics we can come together and win and be consistent about it. Most people felt the winning of Homecoming queen two years ago would be a fluke (she was also an African American). Well, they were wrong. African Americans have been able to celebrate Homecoming festivities the way we want for the past three years, and there is nothing Eurocentrics could/can do about it. Despite all attempts to scare us, we still have overcome the racial attitudes on this campus.

Laura Anderson, a very personal friend of mine, and the second BLACK QUEEN in a row at this university, received harsh words written on her car last year. I could not believe people were so jealous to see her win that they would do something like that. And this year, attempts were made to keep the current AFRICAN QUEEN, Cherie Smith, out of the finalists. When will you people learn that African Americans will not succumb to your insipid antics any longer?

I am truly very proud to be AFRICAN AMERICAN, and I am very proud of my race because we worked together to "FIGHT THE POWERS THAT BE" on this campus. This is a lesson and a warning for others on this campus. African Americans are sick and tired of racism and the constant lies you give us. We cannot be stopped, and just because we are outnumbered on this campus certainly does not mean we are out-classed.

Boy... I feel good right about now. African Americans were 2-0 this homecoming just like last year. We won the football game, and we have another Black Queen. Boy, in the future we might have to change

the name to "Miss Black Homecoming Queen."

I wonder who will be crowned Miss 1992 Homecoming Queen? Better yet, I know who it won't be.

JOHN PRICE PATTERSON, Jr.
 Senior
 Speech Communications

Improve housekeepers' work before salaries

To the editor:

Having lived in a residence hall for 2 1/2 years now, I never have been impressed with the quality of housekeeping services. Hence, the threat of a housekeeper in the Oct. 31 article, "Students support housekeepers' fight for better wages, conditions," that if housekeepers stop cleaning residence hall bathrooms students will not be happy, struck me as ironic. I am not happy now that my rent pays for one "thorough" cleaning per week in my suite bathroom. I am not happy that each morning as I enter the shower I find myself greeting the fungus that grows there unchecked. I am not happy that I have to buy cleaning products to improve the conditions of my bathroom to passable sanitary standards. And finally, I am not happy that every time I see the housekeepers, they are smoking and watching television in floor lounges.

I am sure that cleaning up after University students is not high on anyone's list of fun things to do. In my time in the residence halls I have seen bathrooms, lounges and lobbies positively trashed. I can understand that housekeepers' morale is low and that some conditions (namely bad supervisors and lack of advancement opportunities) need to be addressed. However, as a resident who has enough respect for her suitmates and fellow residents not to be a slob, I don't think three or four cleanings a week is too much to expect from the housekeeper, whose daily duty now appears to be emptying the trash can. As far as hours are concerned, the housekeepers in my building work Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. I work worse hours while at UNC and while working at home on University breaks.

Finally, I would like to address a quote from Monday's article, "Forum will publicize housekeep-

ers' issues" (Nov. 4). Marsha Tinnen, a housekeeping assistant, said she wants students to talk to their housekeepers. I no longer speak to mine, since my first 10 to 12 overtures to be friendly were met with stony silence and a glare. Maybe Tinnen should encourage housekeepers to be a little more friendly, and they would receive more sympathy. As it stands now, until my bathroom is cleaned according to any standard of livability, my sympathy lies elsewhere.

DEIDRE S. HOLMES
 Junior
 English Education

Censorship unfortunate result of photo contest

To the editor:

A picture of mine that was selected by jurors at the N.C. State Fair showed a handicapped person in a wheelchair smiling as she enjoyed participating in State Fair activities while another non-impaired child grimaced upon seeing her.

As stated in the N.C. State Fair catalogue, "The N.C. State Fair reserves the right to refuse any work that may be offensive or obscene or that State Fair management deems inappropriate for minors to view."

The jurors at the State Fair had ruled that my picture was not offensive. But obviously some people were upset enough by its content to consider my photograph and any other future photographs I might do to be offensive and worthy of being censored.

The Monday after the State Fair closed I was told by the principal of the school my daughter attends that I was no longer permitted to take pictures of the children entering or leaving school.

She said it was illegal to photograph the children because some were handicapped. She said because a person cannot tell by looking at the children which ones were handicapped (i.e. low IQ, hyperactive, epileptic, etc.), no one was allowed to take pictures of any of them.

It seems that censorship has moved way, way beyond the naked people a la Robert Mapplethorpe. Censorship now includes photographs of children entering or leaving school because

some of them possibly are handicapped even though visually a person cannot tell whether the children are handicapped.

I guess I'll just have to make myself content with taking pictures of naked women running around my living room.

ROY H. MILLER
 Chapel Hill

Some Native Americans are proud of the Braves

To the editor:

I am writing in response to the editorial titled "Bringing sensitivity to sports" (Oct. 28). The editorial seeks to draw parallels between teams named for Native Americans, such as Braves, Chiefs and Indians, and hypothetical teams named spics, niggers and Jemimas.

The problem with this is that the names used for Native Americans, with the possible exception of Redskins, in no way are derogatory, while the hypothetical names certainly are.

Also, while the Braves' fans may not use the historical relics in the proper way, I do not feel that they are being disrespectful at all. In fact, the former Braves mascot was a full-blooded Native American, Nakahoma, who obviously had no problem with the team name or paraphernalia.

As a Native American, I personally do not feel offended at all by these names, and I have been a fan of many of these teams for no other reason than their names.

It would be a different matter if, as suggested in The Daily Tar Heel, the names made fun of Native Americans and their problems, such as alcoholism, poverty, unemployment and lack of education.

In fact, the reason these names were chosen was for the bravery, courage and persistence of the Native American.

In conclusion, I feel that the energies being put forth by the ultra-liberal PC factions and the protesting tribes should be directed to solving some of the above-mentioned problems facing Native Americans today.

KEVIN BEAMAN
 Sophomore
 Chemistry

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The Daily Tar Heel

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