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# We all share these streets

Beyond the posh facade and starry-eyed nostalgia it evokes, Chapel Hill can provide a wake-up call to a world harsher and more unforgiving than its title, “The Southern Part of Heaven,” would suggest.

It’s not uncommon to see a person asking for spare change or searching for their next meal on Franklin Street.

While working with Talking Sidewalks, a literary magazine featuring writing and artwork from discussion groups held at the Inter-Faith Council’s men’s shelter, I met Gary Harwell.

Gary had committed to sobriety after 40 years of what he liked to call “fermented thought.” The positive effect his infectious optimism had on my life was just one example of what we have to gain from listening to anyone with a story to tell.

Our Wednesday night meetings were weekly high points, where lived experience and stories became a currency of sorts. Still, the conversations never felt transactional. Gary and the writers of Talking Sidewalks instilled in me that speaking and listening are not just charitable acts. They are the cornerstones of our humanity.

The documentary “Have the Homeless Become Invisible?” poignantly underscores the invisibility of people experiencing homelessness in New York City. In a social experiment, subjects walked by relatives dressed to appear homeless. None of them recognized their own family member.

Often, we try to piece together explanations for people’s circumstances with cold, hard arithmetic. Our inclination is to make convenient judgements rather than to grapple with the socio-political context behind homelessness.

But poverty and homelessness do not exist in a historical vacuum. In the United States, homelessness is predetermined by the intersection of race, class, mental health and housing insecurity. A federal report identified in 2010 that among people afflicted by homelessness, 37 percent have a disability, while 58 percent are racial minorities.

We both categorically refer to persons as “the homeless” and criminalize people for daring to render their bodies — and their poverty — visible. The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty found a 60 percent increase in citywide bans against camping and a 25 percent growth in laws against begging.

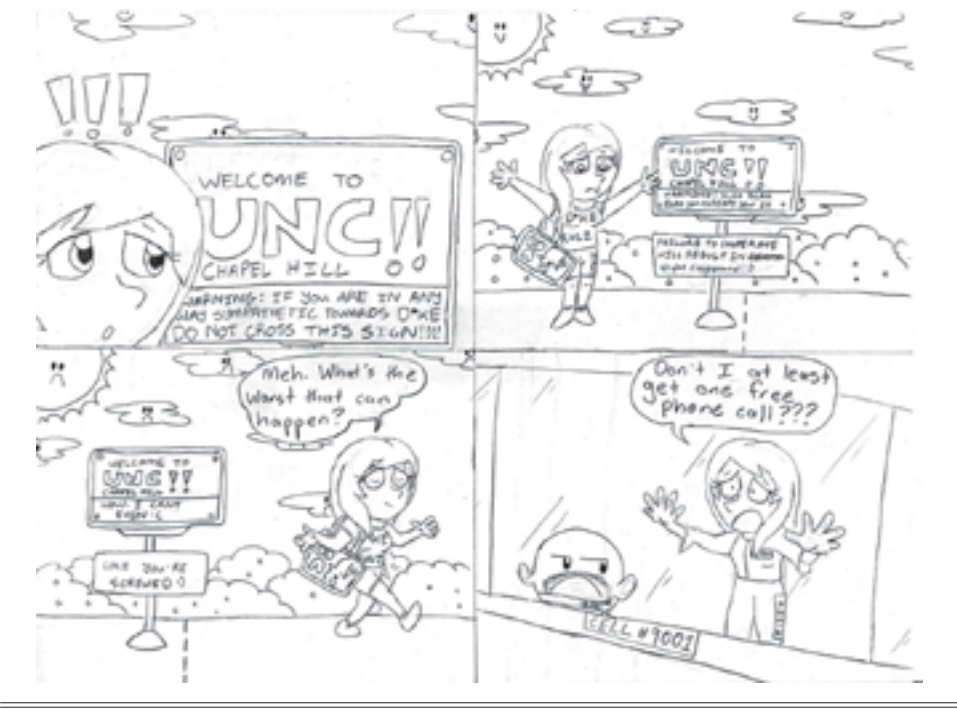
In exchanges with persons experiencing homelessness, passersby become gatekeepers to money, conversation, time and attention, all of which can be offered at our discretion. Each person is not the first to walk by someone asking for change; rather, we must consider the possibility that we might be the 100th set of eyes to not shift a glance that day.

The processes of dehumanization and objectification go hand in hand, and they serve to transform people experiencing homelessness into fixtures of the “streetscape.”

Let us not brush off someone’s livelihood because we feel them to be a nuisance to our own.

We share this space, these streets.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Jamal Rodgers, jmlrgs@gmail.com



EDITORIAL

# Take hazing seriously

## New methods are needed to address hazing on campus.

It is too soon to opine on allegations that the football team hazed a player, but now is the perfect opportunity for all University stakeholders to engage in a broader dialogue on hazing.

The University should convene a working group modeled after its sexual assault task force to catalyze this conversation.

Such a task force would need to tackle the Herculean feats of reviewing and reforming the procedures for handling hazing complaints and of issuing recommendations on changing the campus culture that too often tolerates the crime.

Currently, multiple bodies, including the police, the Office of Student Conduct, the Honor System and the Greek Judicial Boards exercise concurrent jurisdiction over hazing allegations.

North Carolina’s definition of hazing myopically concentrates on physical acts. Given this and the difficulty of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, hazing is under-reported to legal authorities.

Both the Honor System and the Greek Judicial Boards can hear hazing complaints, yet it is not clear that either is equipped to do so. They sensibly define hazing as an act “that causes or permits an individual,

with or without consent, to engage in activities that subject that individual or others to risks of physical injury, mental distress or personal indignities of a highly offensive nature...”

The Honor System offers extensive due process protections to groups accused of conduct violations and has the flexibility to impose a broad array of sanctions on offending groups. Harsh punishments alone will not prevent hazing, which in all its gradations runs from inappropriate bonding to a violent crime. The court should signal that the University will not tolerate hazing by opting for the most strident sanctions warranted.

It should also capitalize on the fact that groups are not protected by the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and announce its findings on convicted groups with the names of individuals redacted. This transparency will make for a safer University. Ultimately, the University should consider if it is appropriate for the Honor Court to hear hazing cases at all.

Hazing is not exclusively a Greek issue, but almost twenty percent of the student body is Greek, and hazing is a habitual concern within Greek chapters.

Their boards do many things well. Their lower evidentiary standards are well-suited for handling complaints that are often made anonymously or by concerned third parties, and the Interfraternity

Council judiciary board has started more consistently and appropriately sanctioning offending members.

But has the board accelerated the evolution of its member chapters fast enough? If not, how can the University help it eradicate hazing faster? Furthermore, can an institution composed solely of elected representatives from its constituent parts ever be a neutral arbiter of justice? These are questions for the task force to answer. Meanwhile, the path for Greek students eager to enhance the safety and well-being of their members is clear: they must unequivocally oppose hazing.

The task force could spend years reviewing and altering its procedures for handling hazing cases, but such reactive action will never be sufficient. To eradicate hazing the University must eliminate the vestiges of traditionalism and cruelty that permit its continuation. For more input on how to do so, it should solicit the perspectives of experts from other universities and from all walks of campus life. Such a cultural shift would reap huge dividends elsewhere on campus, likely augmenting ongoing efforts to mitigate binge drinking and end sexual assault.

Students need not wait to stop hazing. Groups contain individuals, and all Tar Heels must take full responsibility for their actions.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

“If we can create a collaborative approach to the need-based aid conversation, we have done a service to UNC.”

Kyle Villemain, student body vice president

## FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT

“UNC’s people do an awful lot of talking about leadership but then show none when it is needed.”

PersesContractor, on the investigation into football hazing allegations

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### More soccer, more headaches

TO THE EDITOR:

Expanding the men’s and women’s soccer season, as endorsed by your Aug. 27 editorial, is a terrible idea. Have our recent scandals taught us nothing? Haven’t we seen enough to know how an overemphasis on athletics can undermine and even disgrace the academic mission of the University?

“Student-athletes” already work as many as 60 hours a week in practice, traveling and playing. We know what this time pressure can lead to: eligibility built on bogus courses, illegal grade changes and systematic disregard for the Honor Code.

And now the soccer coaches want to double their players’ time commitment? And the DTH agrees because “the sport would benefit?” How about the players? How will they benefit from doubling their sports time and halving their educations? And how will the University benefit from diluting its academic mission even more?

Athletic abuses have damaged UNC enough. It’s time to stop the madness and recover our basic priorities.

Prof. Harry L. Watson  
History

### Teachers would benefit from unions

TO THE EDITOR:

In “It’s ‘Labor Day,’ not ‘Union Day,’” Mr. Mix conveniently excluded the perspective of hundreds of North Carolina teachers who recently moved from our “right-to-work” state to educate children in states where teachers unions guarantee that workers will enjoy more secure and well-compensated careers, and where union dues provide a significant return in wages, job security and retirement on a small investment.

Surely, the return that unions provide on that investment is a financial scenario Mr. Mix and the corporations that fund his anti-worker’s rights group might appreciate, if it were not exacted at the expense

of their plans to privatize our public education system.

Prof. Henry Veggian  
Department of English

### Use market to pursue environmental goals

TO THE EDITOR:

When considering how to address climate change, many will have the impulse to jump straight to stricter regulation of American business. Far less burdensome to the economy and equally effective in addressing the issue would be to remove some of the regulatory nightmare of our modern government.

Consider little-known regulations that stifle innovation in the auto industry. Tesla Motors creates cutting-edge electric vehicles, allowing for a potentially huge drop in carbon emissions for future transportation. Yet regulations preventing the direct sale of automobiles to consumers, kept in place by the auto dealership lobby, prevent Tesla from capturing more of the auto market and lowering our emissions.

Solar panels allow Americans to remove themselves from the largely fossil fuel dependent power grid, but many government actions prevent more widespread usage. For example, zoning restrictions and building codes in most states make installation of solar panels on many buildings costly or illegal.

Nationalized flood insurance in the U.S. prevents the costs of climate change from appearing in the price system, yet a private flood insurance market would see higher costs as weather-related damages increase. Making these costs apparent through privatization allows for both more freedom and an incentive for property owners to act on climate change.

Many more examples could be noted, but the point is clear — before we begin enacting more economically burdensome regulations, let’s remove the barriers to American innovation.

Tuck Kennedy, ’16  
Vice President  
UNC Young Americans  
for Liberty

## JOIN US: The Daily Tar Heel is hiring for the fall semester.

**Apply to work for the best college news team in the country** — We’re looking for dedicated, inquisitive students to staff our news and visual desks. Applications can be found online at [dailytarheel.com](http://dailytarheel.com) and are due by 4 p.m. on Friday.

### Q: Do I need to be a journalism major to join?

A: No. Everyone is welcome to apply from any department at the University. Both undergraduate and graduate students are encouraged to apply.

### Q: Do I need any previous experience?

A: No. The Daily Tar Heel is a teaching paper, and the editors are ready and willing to help new staff members learn new skills. We will teach you how to do anything on the paper that you want to learn how to do. If you worked for your high school paper or another campus paper, you can include those clips with your application, but experience is not required. The opinion desk has separate applications.

## SPEAK OUT

### WRITING GUIDELINES

- Please type. Handwritten letters will not be accepted.
- Sign and date. No more than two people should sign letters.
- Students: Include your year, major and phone number.
- Faculty/staff: Include your department and phone number.
- Edit: The DTH edits for space, clarity, accuracy and vulgarity. Limit letters to 250 words.

### SUBMISSION

- Drop off or mail to our office at 151 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, NC, 27514
- Email: [opinion@dailytarheel.com](mailto:opinion@dailytarheel.com)

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