

Students begin "Vote Yes" baseball campaign

By Sarah Rackley
Contributing Reporter

The Minnesota Twins have announced that they are leaving Minneapolis and have signed a letter of intent to come to the Triad area by 1999. In a referendum to be held May 5, voters in the Winston-Salem, Greensboro and High Point areas will vote on whether to build the new stadium required for the team to come to North Carolina.

Freshman Elly Robie and sophomore James Little are leading a campaign on campus to get students to vote yes for Major League Baseball.

Robie and Little are currently working to get students registered to vote in North Carolina. Voters must be registered by April 9, and after voting in the referendum, students may switch their registration back to their home state. Through flyers, posters,

"Charlotte was the size of Winston 10 years ago. I want to see this community grow, and I want to see more opportunities for more opportunities for young people."

Elly Robie

Freshman

Student "Vote Yes" campaign manager

tables in the Benson University Center and speaking to sorority and fraternity representatives, Robie and Little have been trying to educate students about the vote.

"Charlotte was the size of Winston 10 years ago. I want to see this community grow, and I want to see more opportunities for young people," Robie, a lifelong resident of Winston-Salem, said. Robie said

she feels that Major League Baseball in the Triad will bring national recognition and more business to the area, which will translate into increased opportunities for the 18-to-35-year-old age group which tends to leave Winston-Salem for employment and entertainment.

May 5, voters in Forsyth and Guilford counties must each pass the referendum with 40 percent approval for the construction of the ballpark to occur.

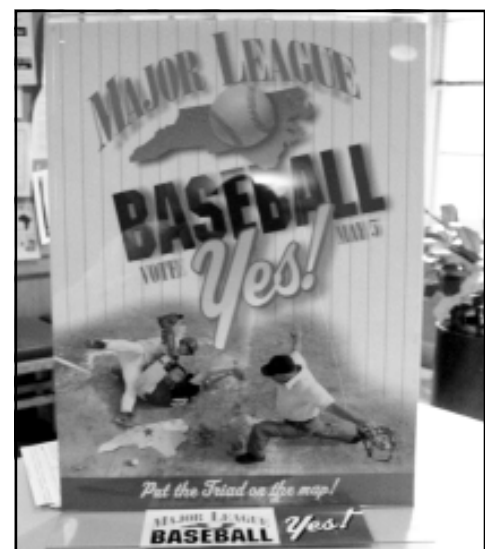
Having a Major League Baseball team in the area is projected to have a \$140 million annual impact on the Triad, and 3,100 new jobs would be generated. It is also predicted that Major League Baseball will add an affordable new source of entertainment, as well as entice young people to stay in the area instead of moving to cities such as Charlotte to search for jobs.

For the team to move to the Triad, however, a \$210 million ballpark must be built.

The ballpark would be financed by a one percent tax on prepared food and beverages (a restaurant tax) as well as a 50 cent surcharge on tickets to games in the stadium. It is estimated that the average person would pay \$1.40 per year to fund construction of the ballpark.

With 6.5 million residents in the Triad (a larger market than Charlotte) and 10 minor league teams in North Carolina, Major League Baseball formulas indicate that the Triad would be a successful location for a major league team. Eighty-nine percent of voters recently surveyed support Major League Baseball for the Triad. Seventy-six percent of voters believed baseball would improve the quality of life in the Winston-Salem area.

Tables for voter registration will be set up in Benson this week. Robie said she plans to have a poll on campus during the May 5 vote to make voting easier for students.



Ashley Twigg/Old Gold and Black

This poster is part of the campaign in support of the MLB referendum.

Campus Report: The University of Texas at Austin

Pledge injured in hazing

By Amy Strahan
U-Wire

AUSTIN, Texas — University of Texas officials are investigating hazing allegations against the Kappa Alpha fraternity after a UT freshman alleged he was spat upon, urinated on and thrown against a wall by members of the group.

Tim Hesselsweet, a freshman, said he suffered bruises and a concussion after fraternity members grabbed him by the shoulders and threw him against a wall during a pledge meeting Feb. 15.

According to Hesselsweet and his attorney, Bill Whitehurst, Hesselsweet was hospitalized for at least three days in Brackenridge Hospital following the incident.

Hesselsweet said the alleged hazing occurred at the Kappa Alpha house at 2515 Leon St. and that about six students were present, most of them fellow pledge brothers.

"He was taken into the basement of the fraternity house and beat upon and spat on and urinated on and pushed up against a wall with such force that it cracked his skull," Whitehurst said. "He had intercranial hemorrhaging."

Whitehurst said no criminal charges will be filed against members of the group, but that he will file civil complaints against fraternity members.

Sherri Sanders, the associate dean of students, said the university is beginning to investigate the matter and would not comment further. But she added that the university will investigate both the individuals involved in the incident and the group as a whole.

UT officials were informed March 16 about the situation by a letter from the national office of the Kappa Alpha Fraternity, she said.

"The real tragedy is that we've had so many things like this at the University of Texas and the fraternities don't get the message," Whitehurst, an Austin attorney with the firm of Whitehurst, Harkness, Ozmun and Archuleta, added. "This could have been a death, very easily."

He added that doctors have advised Hesselsweet to drop all but one of his classes and not to drive due to his injuries.

Jim Ewbank, an Austin attorney representing the fraternity, refused to talk about the matter.

For other members of the Greek community, news of the Kappa Alpha investigation was disheartening.

Micah Hirschfield, the vice president of standards and the chief justice of the Interfraternity Council Judicial Board, said that the IFC will have to wait for the results of the university's investigation before it takes any action.

"We don't get the big hazing cases - we get the cases that deal with alcohol violations and such," Hirschfield said.

He added that it probably would not be appropriate for students to investigate other students in such a serious matter.

"I am a frat boy, and the guys on the judicial board are fraternity boys — it's almost a conflict of interest, in a sense," Hirschfield said.

"We're all students at the university and when you have an investigation like this, the university takes that, because the students are here to study and make good grades. We don't have the time to do this."

The president of Kappa Alpha could not be reached for comment, but sources close to the fraternity said he is no longer a resident of the town.

Brad Glenn, the president of the Interfraternity Council, said the IFC certainly doesn't condone the behavior described by Hesselsweet, but said the matter is out of their hands for now.

"Usually, in cases like this, the university punishes the fraternity adequately," Glenn said.

The allegations are the first reported against the Kappa Alpha fraternity since October 1996, when a student submitted a videotape to UT officials showing a student apparently taped to a tree.

Since that time, however, the fraternity's image has been relatively clean.

Hirschfield said allegations like these are troubling for the Greek community.

"The UT Greek community is a positive thing — a place where guys can come and have camaraderie," he said. "It's the best thing I ever did."

But Hirschfield added that such incidents damage the reputation of other fraternities.

"The image that we're working to convey is one of community service and the well-rounded student at the university," Glenn said. "Any incident that blocks that or departs from that path smears that image."

If UT officials find that hazing did occur, the fraternity could be kicked off of campus.

Both IFC officers said most pledges do not receive the kind of treatment from fraternity members described by Hesselsweet.

"When I got here, I didn't know anybody," Hirschfield said, adding that he has adjusted well to UT life. "I love my fraternity brothers, and I'd do anything for them."

Amy Strahan writes for The Daily Texan, the student newspaper of the University of Texas at Austin.



Carlton Ward/Old Gold and Black

Sunny day, chasing the clouds away

Freshman Jean Bostick sits and studies in the grass. Many students can now be found outside studying, sunbathing or lounging around.

GALBA attends GROW, stresses student tolerance

Continued from Page A1

films and readings, is intended to educate all members of the campus community in an effort to appreciate the diversity of sexual orientations at the university.

Members of GALBA attended the Grass Roots Organizational Workshop conference in Greensboro and started brainstorming about ways to educate members of the university. But for Howard and other members of GALBA, there are questions that heterosexual students can address:

"The majority of opinion on campus is really against homosexuality in general, and we want to know why. Is it because they just don't know about us or just don't like us? I've gotten a lot of verbal insults, prank phone calls, stuff like that. It might seem harmless to them, but it starts to wear on your mind," Howard said.

Though Howard has never been physically threatened and has never heard of a physical threat on this campus, he emphasized the alienation that gays often feel. This sense of isolation is one of the main reasons why Pride Week was begun this year.

According to Howard, GALBA is mostly a straight organization, with gays as the second largest group, and what they jokingly call their "token lesbian."

Sophomore Sarah Gullely, a member of GALBA, explained that it's important for straight students to be educated about and supportive of alternate lives.

"I am a member of GALBA as an act of support for my friends. I think it's important for the gay community to know that they do have their supporters. We're all tied in this community and we need to be aware of gay and lesbian issues because they are community issues," Gullely said.

"(Gays, lesbians and bisexuals on campus) are people that we know, people that we love," said Gullely. "These are talented, bright, dedicated people who happen to like members of their same sex. I would not trade these friendships for anything. From a personal

"The majority of opinion on campus is really against homosexuality in general, and we want to know why."

Tyrese Howard
Freshman

standpoint, if my membership in this group makes people who don't know me think I'm a lesbian, I guess I'm not going to get asked out on very many dates, now am I? But my sexuality is my business and I don't care what people make of it."

Speculation about gay issues has certainly been sparked by the advertising campaign. From venues as diverse as electronic newsgroups to lunchtime lectures, gay issues have been a feature in campus conversations.

Joe Louderback, a subscriber to wfu.misc, explained the importance of support and awareness groups on a college campus.

"The first makes sense because there are problems (that come) with being gay — social pressures, discrimination, violence, etc. The second is part of college; students should be exposed to a variety of ideas," Louderback said.

Despite the supportive attitudes on display this week, Howard feels that there are some members of campus who would greatly benefit from open discussion of their feelings about alternate sexualities. Only education, he said, will encourage some members of campus to accept both the gay presence and gay rights.

"For a person to be comfortable and out on this campus is a risk," Howard said. "It's an emotional risk: there are lots of teens who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender who are outcasts from their friends and people who would be their friends if they were straight."

Debaters impressive despite youth

Continued from Page A1

in second and third place with four individual speakers in the top 10.

During the interim, the team prepared intensely for nationals, sacrificing its spring break to insure that they had a complete understanding of the resolution. The team had to anticipate what points its opponents would bring up and

be able to refute these points accordingly.

Such a process was time-consuming, but the team's hard work paid off, as two of the three teams made it past the preliminaries and advanced to the elimination round at nationals. Jarrod Atchison, the team's only freshmen to compete in the elimination round, considers the performance at the national tournament to be a success.

"I think you could make the analogy that the debate team is sort of like the basketball team. I'm not sure how applicable that is, but it seems like the debate team is relatively young compared to years past. We only had one senior on the team this year who traveled to nationals. Hopefully, our performance this year will pave the way for improvement," Atchison said.

Habitat outlines future plans, hopes to raise \$45,000 in BUILD project

Continued from Page A1

and recruit new members. "The Blitz Build is a really good time to learn about Habitat for Humanity and find out if you want to become more involved in the organization," he said.

In addition to the plans for building more houses this semester, Han said that the organization also has two long-term goals, including sending a group of ten students to Africa for a construction project.

Also in the works is project BUILD, a yearly effort to raise the \$45,000 necessary to sponsor a house construction project.

With this financing, students would have their own house to work on rather than vying for labor positions

"The Blitz Build is a really good time to learn about Habitat for Humanity and find out if you want to become more involved in the organization."

James Han

Freshman

President of the university's Habitat for Humanity group

in projects sponsored by other community organizations. Han said he hoped these funds would be raised through fund raisers, donations and contributions from other student organizations.