

EDITORIAL

Pie-in-the-sky leases fall on students' faces

The problem with saying “told you so” is that it assumes one party is more enlightened about a situation and its solution than the other party. We don't possess any particular insight into the campus real estate market that other students don't have.

Still, it doesn't surprise us that at least one of the brand new high-rise apartment buildings will not be fully ready for students when they come back next month. Why?

It's common knowledge that the insanely hurried market for student housing begins almost immediately after move-in. Landlords who are constructing new or improving old buildings are eager to remain competitive. Students are enticed into signing a new lease as soon as possible by pools, gyms, HDTVs and other amenities.

Unfortunately, many of these decisions are made based on speculation and the necessarily optimistic promises of landlords that your apartment will be ready in August. This week, as many times before, students found out that sometimes these promises just don't hold up.

This time, it was due to an incredibly rainy year thus far and a seemingly overly ambitious project. Next time it could be something else, and chances are there

will be some delaying factor.

But students can't fault the landlords, who don't have any interest in seeing potential customers disappointed and relocated. A number of people could have warned them about the dangers of choosing to live in a building that doesn't exist. Anyone from the Tenant Union to the many older residents of Cam-pustown to whom this has happened before could have seen this one coming months ago.

Instead of being greeted on campus by a complimentary TV and personal gym, some students will be greeted with not only a harsh reality but also a good life lesson: Don't let temptation sway your common sense.

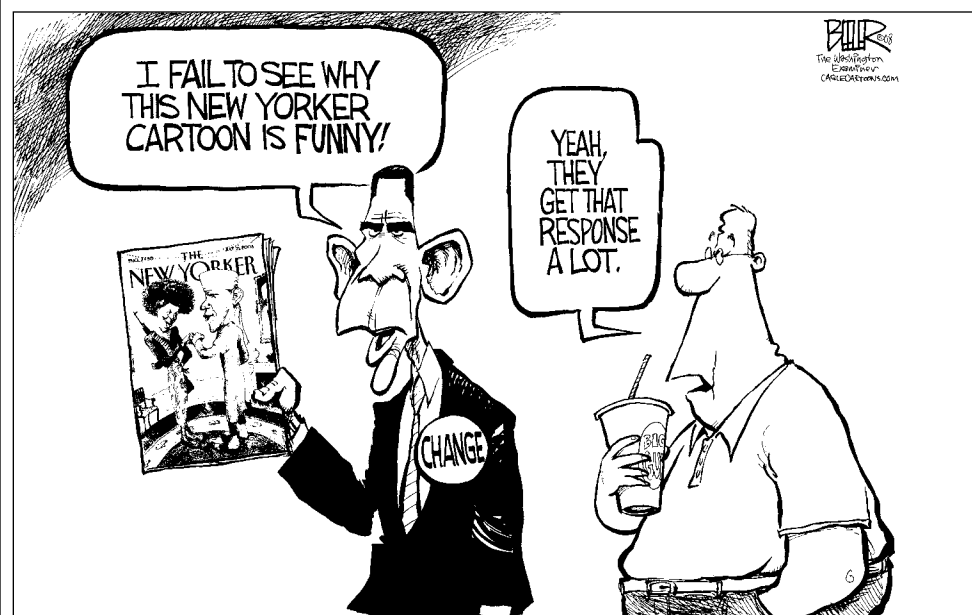
Everyone else who has the home they signed up for can also do more to change this outrageous system.

Every fall, we should be allowed to breathe a little bit and enjoy our homes (maybe even focus more on our schoolwork) instead of being forced by the market to stress out about where to live 12 months from now.

Maybe then students wouldn't be so tempted to jump at a building the landlord is more immediately concerned with leasing, rather than completing.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

NATE BEELER, THE WASHINGTON EXAMINER



Dear New Yorker Editor:

Re: A letter in response to Barry Blitt's cartoon “The Politics of Fear” (July 21st, 2008)

The controversy over The New Yorker's cover depicting an anti-American Barack Obama in the Oval Office is unquestionably rooted in the darkest ideologies of scare tactics and fear mongering.

Your magazine thinks that the caricature is a satirical lampoon of the mudslinging the right-wing uses to smear Obama. The American people are not that dumb. This nation has waded through enough garbage that the media-machine has fed us during this election and seen the illustration not as harmless, biting satire, but for what it truly is: a tasteless, offensive and libelous attack.

Inevitably, the cartoon will reignite the fiery misconceptions about Obama that he has worked so hard to put out this election, centered on his possible Islamic faith, lack of patriotism and sympathy to terrorism, while fooling the American people into derailing his White House dream.

Oh wise, intelligent magazine, what will you tell the hopeful, young Americans who walk by a newsstand only to lose their fragile grasp on reality after seeing their herald of change worshipping Osama bin Laden, engaging his militant wife in an erotic terrorist fist tap and burning the American flag?

Maybe you can explain that your printing and subsequent defense of the cover show a colossal failure in editorial judgment. Shame on your journalistic enterprise for publishing something without any consideration to how a political campaign may feel about it.

If The New Yorker did not attempt to engage the public with a dry, witty commentary based on ridiculous fears, but instead abided by ethical standards used in the media today and pleased the political campaigns, these vicious rumors may have never been brought to light.

Obama, McCain and the rest of the universe



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give you get an F for successful satire. Unlike right-wing TV host Stephen Colbert who uses his wit and our universal hate of bears and terrorism to educate first with a splash of entertainment second, The New Yorker chooses to poke “subtle” fun at something that not everyone immediately understands. NEWSFLASH, if not everyone's laughing, it's not satire.

What your cover does is insult the intelligence of the American people. We aren't ignorant masses who will latch onto a “satirical” cover and chuckle at your political “commentary.” Instead we'll decipher your true, cruel intentions.

You try to bring “issues” to the open and hold a mirror up to society's absurd fears, but The New Yorker underestimates how the true meaning of a picture speaks loud and clear. We will not waver, nor will we be intimidated into reading anything a 14,500-word article may have to say.

The New Yorker can clink its wine glasses and pat itself on the back all it wants, but the American people are not as dumb as you think we are.

For your next cover you should draw a picture of America on the toilet wiping its butt with your controversial cover. For clarity, in big letters the caption can read: THIS S#IT IS SATIRE.

Sujay is a senior in biochemistry who wonders why now it's cool to like Batman, when last week it was geeky.

Our Opinion

Editorials represent the majority opinion of The Daily Illini Editorial Board, whose members are Steve Contorno, editor in chief; Susan Kantor, managing editor; Kathleen Foody, assignment editor; Andrew Mason, opinions editor; Meghan Montemurro, assistant assignment editor; Wes Anderson, copy chief.

Readers' opinions

The Daily Illini reserves the right to edit or reject any contributions. Summer letters must be limited to 200 words. Contributions must be typed and include the author's name, address and phone number.

University students must include their year in school and college.

Inquiries about possible guest columns should be submitted to opinions editor Andrew Mason via e-mail or by calling 217.337.8366.

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