

## Ancient trees hold hope for future



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STAFF WRITER

Have you ever seen a 400-foot-tall tree? Because I know I haven't. If you were going through forests in Northern California, redwoods — monstrous trees that stand at 400 feet, or the equivalent of a 40-story building — wouldn't be uncommon.

The redwood is not your average tree. Redwoods have been said to live from 1,000 to 3,000 years, and possibly even 5,000 years. They've probably seen more history than your history textbook could even tell you about.

Tree enthusiasts are trying to revive these ancient trees, partially for the possibility that redwoods could help change the effects of global warming.

But, how, do you make a 40-story tree out of just about nothing?

Cloning.

If you can clone a cat or dog, why can't you clone a tree? According to an article in The New York Times, cloning trees would use a process called micropropagation — taking samples of the trees and feeding them



with synthetic growth hormones.

How will this affect the rest of us?

Well, you can be certain you won't see a redwood on your street corner any time

soon, or in your backyard. Redwood clones are to be sold and then planted to finance this cloning project, according to David Milarch, the co-founder of the Archangel Ancient Tree Archive.

Redwoods were harvested in the twentieth century. What those deforestation people didn't know is they were destroying history. "About 5 percent of the native old-growth redwoods remain," speculate experts from The New York Times

Deforestation needs to stop. Trees are essential for life because they suck up all the carbon dioxide that we breathe out. If there are not trees to exchange this for oxygen, then the human species may cease to exist. Planting a redwood could help re-forest old woods, as well as suck up more carbon dioxide than the average tree because they have longer lifespans.

Although redwoods are not ideal to plant in a neighborhood, the idea of cloning trees should be taken into great consideration to help the environment. If more redwoods, or trees in general, were planted across the country — if not the world — each tree would help increase the exchange of carbon dioxide to oxygen and help reverse the global warming that continues to affect the world.

The changes won't be instant, as much as we may wish, but the more redwoods that are cloned and planted, the more we are reversing the deforestation and effects of not recycling and being environmentally friendly over the years.

## Decreasing debt, bipartisanship



Chris Roe  
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Debt, debt, debt. Spending, spending, spending. Well, so what? Big deal, right?

This is the first time in American history that our generation will do financially worse than our parents. And, all of this is thanks to the pathetic conservative mentality.

The giant battle over ideology and the clash of economic and law making philosophy are fueling the political war today. To avert a government shutdown on April 8, a deal was signed by the President and the Republicans to cut domestic spending by \$38 billion. Bipartisanship at its best, I'm sure, and the fight for spending will only continue to devastate Capitol Hill and our country.

While a deal was forged

between the Republicans and the White House to drastically cut spending, this is a blip of a victory to be shortly savored by both sides.

The Republicans bring nothing more to the table than an ideology, talking the talk. President Obama brings forth hope and optimism that will fix our long-broken society.

Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI), the chair of the House Budget Committee, finally revealed a plan to reduce the deficit while cutting vast amounts of domestic spending. Ryan's plan proposes to cut \$4 trillion over 10 years, whereas a plan brought forth by Obama cuts \$4 trillion over 12. The two plans, however, are starkly different about bringing these changes, and Ryan's plan just won't cut it, so to speak.

The Republicans are playing a card trick, and it worked in the Congressional elections last year. Their smokescreen was so successful that Obama now has to cater to the misinformed American people by cutting funding and taking a more centrist approach. He is damned if he does, damned if he doesn't. Politics at its finest.

The Republicans have

much of the American people soiling their pants from fear of the darned communist government that wants to kill us all. That government is a lie, video game fans.

While Ryan talks about government spending ad nauseam, Obama's plan gets things done with investments into our future, taxing the rich, and closing the gap that plagues our society.

If consumers and the government stop spending, the economy will collapse. While the conservatives whine about the national debt, they have no idea what spending actually does.

Perhaps one of the most important parts of government spending is providing for equity. When there is no equilibrium, and the lower- and middle-classes shrink, the rich become market powers and this results in a market failure. We saw this in 2007, but it seems the public forgets how much the Bush administration really put our economy in a salad shooter.

As the Republicans fail to understand that government spending helps the poor, their policies are entirely selfish. Ryan, in his rebuttal speech

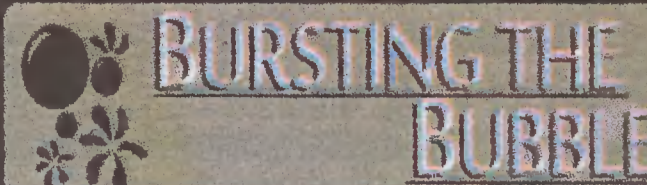
after Obama's State of the Union Address, mentioned the words "debt" and "spending" countless times, yet didn't mention a plan whatsoever.

We have a major equity problem in this country, where the record gap between the rich and the poor looms over us. The Republican ideology drives their motives to not tax the wealthy. Ryan's proposal, sad as it is, does not consider taxing the wealthy. This will cost us trillions of dollars over the next 10 years and beyond. This will not only fail to help pay off the debt efficiently, but it will continue to ruin the country.

The Republicans think that the rich serve as a spending power. However, referencing the past, they don't spend their money, but rather invest it into various commodities, stocks, and so on. Another Great Depression, anyone?

So what's in store for our future?

If the Republicans win, you will be sitting around in your old age, struggling to pay your bills. With Social Security lacking funds, and the Republicans privatizing Medicare, good luck having any money.



## Summer fun for everyone



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Are you still living in the bubble?

After hearing countless tales of the Greensboro that lies beyond the intersection of West Friendly Avenue and New Garden Road, it doesn't seem possible that you could be. It doesn't seem possible that anyone would want to root themselves too firmly to the Guilford grounds when there is a whole big, lively, exciting city beckoning to you.

This summer, Greensboro will be home to many of you. And as the days get longer, there is only so much time you can spend laying down by the lake or loitering at the Westborough pool. So rather than lamenting the dog days of summer, try being proactive.

Start off your summer fun on May 7 with the twenty-sixth annual Yes! Weekly Carolina Blues Festival. This event, which will be held downtown in Festival Park, will feature two stages for double the blues for your buck.

A couple of months later is the Fun Fourth Festival. From July 2 through July 4, downtown will be alive with good old American music, amusements, and crafts, all of which will culminate with a traditional holiday fireworks show.

And in the time between those two festivals, why not buy a box of Cracker Jacks and take yourself out to a Greensboro Grasshoppers baseball game? Tickets are \$7, home games are a dime a dozen now through August, and the mascot's name is Guilford. What more reason do you need?

For the big spenders that love big name entertainment, look no further than the Greensboro Coliseum. Taylor Swift, Jeff Dunham, Matthew Morrison of "Glee," and Rihanna with Cee Lo Green will all be performing a mere five miles from campus.

Moral of the story: Greensboro is a more than happening town. I sincerely hope that this isn't news to you.

All year, you've been tantalized with the fun, controversial and exciting goings-on of the 'Boro, which we all now call home. And those goings on don't cease to exist the day we move out of the dorms. The only difference between summer and the rest of the year is that you have even more time and sunny days with which to explore and enjoy what's around you.

So find a park to eat lunch in, a coffee shop to do homework in, or a cause to devote your time to. Just please, I beg you wholeheartedly, get off campus!