

The Daily Tar Heel

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Overdue Ordinance

If you are in Carrboro and you are harassed by a panhandler, you now can rely on the law to put things back in order.

The Carrboro Board of Aldermen unanimously passed an ordinance Tuesday night to restrict aggressive panhandling in the town.

The ordinance prohibits begging in an intimidating manner. In an effort to protect citizens and control the problem of panhandling, the ordinance also makes it illegal for panhandlers to curse, follow, block or touch residents.

The timing of the ordinance could not have been better as more and more panhandlers have been flocking to the area, disturbing and harassing the Carrboro community and even Carrboro Elementary School students.

Carrboro's ordinance reflects a good compromise between a stricter ordinance — which failed last year — calling for a complete ban on panhandling and a proposed ordinance that only would address verbal abuse.

Panhandlers' First Amendment right to free speech ends as soon as they start harassing others and infringing on others' rights.

The new ordinance will act as a deterrent against aggressive panhandling. Maybe panhandlers will think twice about being too pushy and even be polite in soliciting for donations.

But panhandlers might realize that Carrboro is more restrictive than its next-door neighbor, Chapel Hill.

The town of Chapel Hill now does not have a panhandling ordinance on its books, so aggressive panhandlers simply can cross the town border to legally continue their practices.

It is a good time for Chapel Hill to follow Carrboro's lead and enact an ordinance prohibiting aggressive panhandling.

With the close proximity of the two towns, it only makes sense that Chapel Hill and Carrboro work together to protect citizens against harassment and abuse.

Community Participation

UNC students are very fortunate to be here at the University during its Bicentennial Celebration.

University Day officially marked the beginning of the observance, and the 29 events that took place Monday and Tuesday presented students with many ways to celebrate.

But student turnout at the events Tuesday was markedly low and hopefully not a reflection of future student involvement.

The University excused students from classes on University Day to allow them to take part in the celebration, but many did not take advantage of the opportunity.

Many distinguished faculty members offered interesting lectures throughout the day. It would have been preferable that the problem was deciding which lecture to attend (many occurred concurrently) as opposed to whether to attend one at all.

Fortunately, there was considerable turnout for the main event of the day — the Bicentennial Convocation in Kenan Stadium. Attendance for the president's address was impressive, and those patient enough to wait in line all afternoon were rewarded.

President Clinton's speech was visionary and charismatic, conveying his ideas in a fashion

that was relevant to the University community. Some participants complained that Clinton did not cover any new issues, but it would have been inappropriate to let the announcement of a new program or policy overshadow the UNC's Bicentennial Observance.

Some logistical problems did arise during the ceremony. A combination of security problems and organizing the spectators' seating meant that a contingent of high school bands could not perform as planned. It was unfortunate that they could not formally play, but it also was unfortunate that some of them decided to play at inappropriate times, such as during some of the speeches.

Although University Day has passed, there still is much to celebrate. There are special exhibits and activities happening throughout the entire school year.

On behalf of the students and the University, four students on Tuesday night presented President Clinton with a book of essays on the Student Bicentennial Planning Committee's chosen theme for the Bicentennial Observance — community.

The University — including its students — needs to come together and celebrate the remainder of the Bicentennial year as a community.

Tar Heel Quotables

"If we do not follow the tradition on which this University was founded, change will become our enemy."

PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON

During his convocation speech Tuesday night

"I speak for all of us who could not afford to go to Duke and would not have even if we could have afforded it."

CHARLES KURALT

CBS News anchorman and UNC graduate
During his speech at the Bicentennial Convocation

"Freedom is not free. It costs. Although we were prepared to die when we first came to

the square, we now had to face it, eye to eye, face to face."

LI LU

Deputy leader of 1989 Tiananmen Square demonstrations

"If tobacco tax goes up, N.C. can't afford Bill Clinton."

Sign held by protesters outside Kenan Stadium before the President's speech

"I liked it at first. But you have to pretend to be someone you're not. I don't think it's a job for anyone who can think. It's the dumbest job I've ever had."

"AMEL", East Carolina University junior

On her eight-month job at a Greenville topless bar

PHET SAO
OCT '93



BCC Supporters, Opponents Should Try Compromise

It's time for the topic we've all been fearing. The topic that, in all honesty, I'm scared to talk about. Three little letters that prick up the hairs on the back of necks all across campus. Not NRA. Not UNC. Not GRE. But BCC.

Honestly and realistically, my view of the need for a black cultural center and my view of where it should be placed will accomplish nothing and will just get everyone angry. Besides, the free-standing BCC, as a conceptual institution, has proved neither its importance nor its worthlessness yet because it doesn't even exist.

What makes me mad is that, all around this campus, people are calling me childish. They call me childish because I kid around about things that supposedly are serious. I'm telling people in my childishly sarcastic way to lighten up, to fight for your right to party, to stop pretending we're in the real world because we're in a little semi-osmotic bubble called college, and college is the punch line to a 17-year-old joke called education.

But our campus is filled with people who are taking on the responsibilities of 30-year-olds, fighting for their rights, fighting for others' rights, fighting for anything and everything. So many students on campus are fighting — a responsibility for adults — but they're acting like they're in fifth grade. Sure, I act like I'm in fifth grade, but I'm not taking much responsibility, either. I'm balanced. This campus, however, is not.

We've got people so upset about the BCC that they're flying banners over Kenan Stadium. But they don't have the guts to take accountability for it. They symbolize whites everywhere when it comes to race relations: when in support of the cause, they're standing hand-in-hand with it; when against the cause, they'll protest it, but they won't show their face.

By not taking responsibility for those banners, by not taking responsibility for "No BCC" scribbled in chalk all around campus, whites are turning what should be simple opposition into a Ku Klux Klan rally. They're not wearing hoods because they're not even coming into the light.

There is nothing wrong with opposing the BCC if there's a good reason for it. If they truly had a good reason for their protests ("good reason" does not include beliefs in racial superiority), they should not hide, because that just helps out the BCC cause.

Our campus will not accept the presence of an invisible KKK, and nobody is going to support an opposition they can neither see nor identify. I also don't mean "good reason" as a term to be interpreted by African Americans, either, because there is no such animal if you ask them. According to them, any opposition comes from racism, and there will be no further debate.

And what are supporters of the BCC thinking? "Lessee, how can we gain support from the campus? Hmm, let's tell them we're taking over

the country, that we're unstoppable, that we're better than they are and that they owe us everything we ask for. That should gain support. Sure."

I honestly support a BCC, and for only one reason. It can't hurt. But it is a flawed notion to believe that the University owes it to African-American students.

Granted, we are a "gimme gimme" society. We want things for ourselves, we don't want to share and we think we should have it coming. "I deserved that job. I deserved a better grade. They owe me that promotion. They owe me recognition."

Whites, especially white men, who admittedly have gotten more than the rest, now are expected to give some of their share because they owe it to other deserving people who perhaps were ignored on the basis of race, gender or sexual orientation.

Who are you kidding? I'm on this planet for two reasons: to enjoy today and to wake up tomorrow with as little discomfort as possible. If you think that part of enjoying today involves balancing out my ancestors' wrongdoings, you're just another brainwashed college student.

Don't get me wrong, I'm all for equality. I wish the world truly was harmonious. I wish we could all get along, but me giving the less privileged what is mine isn't going to happen. I worked hard to get where I am, and I'm not giving that to anyone else. What I've gotten, the world owes me.

Okay, my dear hypocritical readers. Take a moment to pass your judgment on me. Tell me it's people like me who keep race relations stymied (no pun intended). But then look at the BCC's opposition to a multicultural center. The argument is that the Black Student Movement, not other minorities, has worked for a center. If they other minorities want a center, then they should work for their own because African Americans aren't going to give an ounce of what they've worked so hard for to anyone else.

Here are some phrases from last year's DTHs: "It's our center, go fight for your own," and "I'm sure other minorities deserve one, but it's not the BSM's responsibility to fight for their center."

Can you imagine the stink a white boy would raise by saying that?!

"It's our college/corporation/country. Go fight for your own. I'm sure African Americans deserve one, but it's not a European's responsibility to fight for a black's education/income/rights."



**BILLY FAIRES
EVERYMAN**

And the rhetoric of many African-American students is getting us nowhere when they say that blacks in this country have moved forward in spite of what whites have done. People got mad at me when I said whites allowed blacks freedom from slavery. How dare I claim that whites had anything to do with it, they implied.

Well, didn't they? I didn't know Abraham Lincoln and the rest of the Union were black!

Many African Americans will flat-out deny that whites have done anything to advance the rights or the lifestyle of blacks, but they are wrong, plain and simple. We've had whites who beat the black man, and we've had whites who bandaged the beaten black man. We've had whites who whipped the black man, and we've had whites who have soothed that black man's pain.

I just want to force the whole campus to watch "Glory." White racists hate it because it shows that blacks can do anything whites can. Black racists (insert another word here if you don't believe blacks can be racist) hate it because it shows the white man in a superior position. Idealists hate it because the 54th Regiment dies having failed their mission.

I love it. Morgan Freeman is inspirational. And the very end shows what we all should be trying to accomplish and what we all be trying to avoid: a white man, sliding down into his grave, and a black man sliding down next to him. They compliment one another, and it is beautiful. But they're dead. Want the beautiful? Stop the fighting.

And we're wasting our time on an issue like the Homecoming queen. What about compromise, folks?

African Americans say whites want it to end because blacks are winning. Whites say they want it to end because only 300 students care. Hey, I've got an idea.

Move the step show, a staple of Homecoming week for anybody who's got rhythm and soul, to halftime, and vote for Homecoming Posse by applause. That way, nobody has to put up with the silliness of girls with layers of makeup, or controversy with its layers of makeup. Instead, we get to see a true cultural experience, everyone gets to vote, and African Americans still win the day (as we know, white men can't jump, and white men have no rhythm, so they have no chance in a step show, either).

Let's try more compromise. Let's be less afraid of opposing every minority cause that springs up. Let's take responsibility for our actions. Let's stop using scare tactics to reform the white man. And please, stop acting so childish. That's my job.

Billy Faires is a senior psychology and English major from Chattanooga, Tenn., and a human being from this planet.

Article About Bennett's Visit Didn't Include Whole Truth

TO THE EDITOR:
I am outraged over the article titled "Former Drug Czar to Speak at UNC" that appeared in the Monday DTH. Being close to the source, I feel that I should correct misleading information that was contained in the article.

The student who is mainly responsible for the effort to bring William Bennett to campus is Amanda Scoggins. I know because she is my roommate, and she first mentioned the idea to me over a month ago.

Miss Scoggins came up with the idea on her own and was the only person to contact the Young America's Foundation about the event. Student Body President Jim Copland heard about her efforts and offered both his assistance and that of the executive branch of student government.

No date has been proposed or planned for this event. As of this writing, the official proposal has not been submitted to the Young America's Foundation.

The article incorrectly states that "approximately \$12,000 has been allocated for the event." The only money that has been secured is the \$500 donation from Student Congress.

Of course, Miss Scoggins was present to speak on behalf of her project. And since the plans for Mr. Bennett's lecture are far from definite, there is no way to speculate on which topic he may choose to address.

The article itself is incomplete in its coverage of the topic in that Miss Scoggins' name was not



READERS' FORUM

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticism. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 400 words and must be typed, double-spaced, dated and signed by no more than two people. Students should include their year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff should include their title, department and phone number. The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity.

even mentioned. The reporter, Leena Pendharkar, did attempt to reach Miss Scoggins on Sunday afternoon, but she was out of town and unavailable for comment. I think that this fact should have been included in the article with information about her efforts.

I hope that in the future the DTH can make a commitment to the whole truth in all of its articles.

I also would like to recommend that Miss Scoggins be contacted for future articles about the possibility of William Bennett coming to UNC to speak about an undetermined topic.

Sara L. Frisch
FRESHMAN
JOURNALISM

Students Should Think About Plight of the Homeless

TO THE EDITOR:
How many of us think about homeless people in Chapel Hill? As we go to classes, work out at the Student Recreation Center, and go to Chase or Lenoir for dinner, how many of us think about those who have no food?

There are hundreds of people in Chapel Hill who have to think about where they are going to sleep that night or when they are going to get their next meal. Many of them stay at the Inter-Faith Council shelter merely a few blocks away from the center of UNC's beautiful campus.

IFC is a 52-bed facility which is always full — on most nights citizens have to be turned away. Last year more than 1,000 persons were guests at the community shelter. Many children have to be turned away because only eight of the 52 beds are allotted for children.

Take a walk by the shelter, or even just take a walk down Franklin Street and talk to a homeless person.

You may start to realize that these people are more like you than you would have ever thought and have just had a bad break in life.

Use your time to think about things that really matter, such as homelessness and hunger, and come up with some creative solutions about how our social programs can be improved to better serve the needs of the poor.

Beth Salvi Hudgins
GRADUATE STUDENT
SOCIAL WORK

FRANKLIN'S Clip 'n' Save

Panhandler Cards

ABUSIVE PANHANDLING IS NOW ILLEGAL IN CARRBORO. HOWEVER, IT LOOKS LIKE IN CHAPEL HILL ANYTHING STILL GOES. SO THE NEXT TIME A DUDE ASKS YOU FOR "BUS FARE TO STATESVILLE", JUST HAND HIM ONE OF THESE:

GET A JOB	GAVE ALL MY \$ TO GUY WITH "WILL POLKA FOR FOOD" SIGN	CALL THE CAMPUS Y; THEY'LL FEEL SORRY FOR YOU
FUNNY, I WAS GOING TO ASK YOU THE SAME THING	HAVE YOU CONSIDERED SALLY STRUTHER'S HOME CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOL? YOU CAN MAJOR IN GUN REPAIR, TV/VR REPAIR, ACCOUNTING, ART!	HUH-HUH YOU SMELL
CAN I SEE YOUR UNION CARD, PLEASE?	MAKE LIKE A TREE AND GET OUT OF HERE	ORDINARILY I'D GIVE YOU A BUCK OR TWO, BUT I'M JUST IN AN OPPRESSIVE MOOD TODAY

CLIP 'N' SAVE