

The Daily Tar Heel

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Ticketing tradition

This Saturday, University Police fulfilled their promise to more rigorously enforce the University's open container ordinance in the parking lots surrounding Kenan Stadium.

Because of the wording of the Chapel Hill ordinance, people can only be cited under the town law for drinking on the property and streets of Chapel Hill. With this limited power of enforcement, the University Police did an admirable job and took a step toward confronting the campus' drinking problem. The Chapel Hill Town Council should further enlarge the wording of their ordinance to include all public areas within the town limits — including the University — thus avoiding inconsistent enforcement.

Police officers showed admirable understanding of the prickly nature of the problem by handing out mostly citation warnings, giving fans time to wean themselves from their much-beloved pastime.

These warnings move away from the previous laissez-faire attitude toward alumni who have money — as well as flasks — in their back pockets. The University Police, however, still need more substantial support from the town. Alumni might not take the University-ordained citations too seriously. Involving the weight of civic authorities would better encourage fans to amend their indulgent behavior.

Chancellor Michael Hooker prefaced Saturday's stepped-up enforcement with a letter to alumni season ticket holders. In the letter, Hooker warned them of the change in the unwritten rule of allowing tailgaters their indulgences, and reminded them of their duty to set an example for students. The University, however, needs the threat of legal action to see that it is taken seriously.

Fans confronted by police officers pointed out that tailgating is a long-standing tradition. While traditions are important, this country's pastime of rampant abuse of alcohol is one we could stand to abandon. To invoke the positive connotations of "traditions" in reference to our bad habits is distasteful, to say the least.

Drinking is a part of college life, a part that will not evaporate as quickly as spilt beer. While not always harmful, there is nothing laudable about alcoholic indulgence. Drinking is dangerous, particularly given the zealotry with which students address it. The police understand that, and the time has come for alumni and students to do likewise.

When Georgia Tech comes to town on Sept. 21, tailgating football fans should expect to face something more severe than a warning from the University — a ticket from the town would be nice.

Kenan kickoff

Whew. 45-0, what a way to open the season. Saturday afternoon brought lines of students streaming through campus, buses unloading dihard Tar Heel fans, orange-clad fools marching arm in arm and a host of others eagerly making their way across hill and dale to the fortress we call Kenan Stadium.

From start to finish it was a game to behold. But in addition to the amazing triumph on the field, there were a number of all-around interesting and peculiar impressions made on the hearts and minds of fans. As it is with every opening home game there was much to notice, and much to wonder about. In an effort to raise football game awareness, uphold sensitivity standards, advocate student interests and protect our planet from alien invaders, we have put together a humble list of the most frequent impressions the game experience left on the minds of the masses. Watch carefully.

1. Huge dirt pile. Anyone for a little King of the Hill?
2. Students can sit ONLY in, around and near orange tape, the Carolina Athletic Association officials said. We hope those students illegally

tailgating were better able to understand the directions than their sober peers.

3. Since when did David Letterman get a stadium club named after him?

4. Only \$2 for Cokes? Hey Coke man, half of that money better be going to a student scholarship fund like Student Stores does with the profits from its exorbitant prices.

5. Rameses XXVII, live on ABC, blue horns and all. Somebody tell Bob Costas.

6. That west-end film crew way up on the raised platform. The question remains: How do they get to the bathroom?

7. Speaking of which, if you're a man are you allowed to go to the bathroom in Kenan Stadium?

8. Need leg room.

9. OK, athletic tops and tube tops simply cannot be tolerated as game-going apparel. At least, not until the State crowd comes over. Though, of course, anything's better than the Carolina blue ensembles that some alumnae have shopped long and hard to find.

10. We have a quarterback, we have a defense, we have Leon, we have a team.



Silver or gold, why so obsessed with winning?

"Competition's good. It brings out the vital parts."
— Q-Tip, the Abstract Poetic

Last week, I asked a classmate how she felt about working with me on a class project. She said, "No." Not for any racial reasons. Not because we really didn't know each other. I was chewing gum, so it wasn't my breath. She just didn't want to share information with anyone. She felt that her information was too valuable to share with anyone. I don't want to fault her, because I've been guilty of being even stingier with my work. But I thought for a minute about competition. Competition at UNC and in the entire country has reached a sad state.

I'm not whining. I was never the one sixth grader with glasses who was always last to get picked on a dodge ball team. Competition is good. And it's necessary for producing a high standard of achievement and performance.

"You don't win silver, you lose gold." This statement was constantly being thrown around at my internship this summer. And, for some Olympians, it's true — if you're the best in the world, you expect to win. To place below first means you made a mistake. If the Olympic women's basketball team or women's soccer team had not won gold, they would have fallen short of their expectations.

The Dream Team lulled people to sleep because there was no competition. The outcome was predetermined. Who gave a damn if there was no challenge, no mystery involved, no difficulty, no thrill in pursuit. I've learned in athletics and academics that there are three levels of competition. First, you compete with yourself. You try to get better and better. Your enthusiasm and drive lead you to a point where you gain confidence and seek more challenges and more difficulty.

Next, you compete with other people. If you're an athlete, you compete with people on your team. At work, you compete with some

of your co-workers. Still, your competition is based on learning and improving, not winning. You compete with your team, you compete on a national level, then eventually a world-class level. Finally, you try to surpass your own limits.

Within all of this is the key: competition lies within self. Look at the Michael Jordans, Bill Gates and Jim Carreys of the world. They know they're the best. MJ doesn't have anything to prove to anyone except himself. When he steps on the court, he knows he's the best on his team. He's the best in his conference, his league — maybe even the world. What elevates his game is not competing with schoolboys like Jerry Stackhouse, but competing with self.

Breaking a world record and performing a personal best are the same because both involve exceeding one's own expectations. The challenge has nothing to do with the victory, but everything to do with the process.

But we need to step back and realize an "A" is not a gold medal. We aren't all heroes or olympians.

We, the Generation X, the kids who grew up on Star Wars, the adolescents who watched too much A-Team and too many Die Hard movies, the young adults who witnessed our country beat the mess out of every small third-world nation that thought about challenging the big ol' U.S. We're the future of this country and we need to chill out.

In some schools at UNC competition is terribly unproductive. I've seen how biology lemmings, (or students, whatever you want to

call them) try too hard to stand out in a big crowd. In the School of Journalism and Mass Communication students guard information like a valuable treasure. But often that information is fools' gold.

Journalism majors, so you got the scoop on the Carboro Aldermen story; big deal — your classmate might know something that will make the story better. History and African-American studies majors, I've seen you check out books from the E185 section of Davis Library and not return them for months so your classmate doesn't get the source you found.

A friend of mine at Harvard University told me stories of pages being ripped out of books in their libraries. She said competition had become so bad some people didn't want their classmates recovering the same information they'd found.

Competition is no good when it destroys the integrity of an academic environment.

Journalism Professor Chuck Stone said, "Competition is good as long as emphasis is placed on the process." Our quest for victory has overwhelmed the appreciation for the process.

America and UNC are obsessed with winning. Winning has replaced having fun, building a team and meeting a challenge.

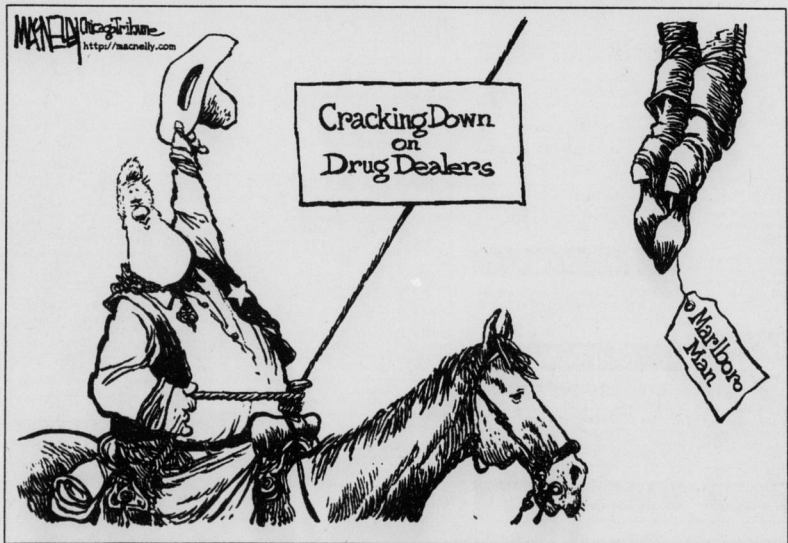
People, let's look at the big picture: your grade does not directly affect your résumé, which does not directly affect your career, which does not directly affect your total disposable income, which does not directly affect your happiness. And even if it did, you'd still end up working more hours for less pay or doing something you love to do.

End note: somebody e-mail me the names of all the minority GIJoe figures — including women, Asian, Native, Latino and Black people.

Richard Harris is a senior journalism major from Hercules, Calif.



RICHARD HARRIS
AIRING DIRTY LAUNDRY



Summer experience at Hilton Head Island gives students ability to shape local movements

Hilton Head Island residents, tourists and hotel owners did not extend their southern hospitality this summer to Union Summer participants. We were flicked off, told to "go home and ruin someone else's vacation," escorted off entire islands by resort security and repeatedly told to find new forms of employment.

With new President John J. Sweeney, the AFL-CIO has redefined its vision and dedication to organizing. After extensive campus and community recruiting, 1,000 organizers from across the country convened in 20 sites this summer for the first time to re-invigorate the labor movement.

This summer, four UNC students were paid a stipend by the AFL-CIO to organize with a dozen other participants in South Carolina, the least unionized state in the country. We were housed at the historic Penn Center with the long tradition of education, organization and activism. It was there that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference often strategized during the civil rights movement.

The Penn Center is on one of many sea islands off the coast of South Carolina that were originally deemed useless and given to freed slaves after the Civil War. In the 1950s, developers saw the potential for a resort industry and began forcibly removing entire black communities from their islands. Most of the people who work on Hilton Head do not actually live there, but commute daily from surrounding rural counties. They are bused onto Hilton Head Island in a system civil rights leader Rev. James Orange compared to that of South Africa.

The Melrose Resort on Hilton Head Island was the focal point of most of our organizing.

The employees had democratically voted in a union almost two years before we arrived, but the Melrose Board, fearing an organized work force, refused to negotiate a contract.

In the meantime, they illegally fired workers and were charged with bad faith bargaining by the National Labor Relations Board. The Melrose employees saw a union contract as the only way to obtain job security, a decent living wage, better health benefits and the elimination of the racially charged hierarchy of management.

As organizers with the AFL-CIO, we educated the community about the injustices on Hilton Head Island, used direct actions at pools and beaches to disrupt the usual flow of unaware tourists, agitated board members and infiltrated the Melrose resort by sending several organizers to pose as guests. We were met with hostile threats as well as outright community support.

The diversity and energy of Union Summer participants made a statement not only to Hilton Head tourists, but to union critics who viewed the AFL-CIO as outdated and narrow.

After a summer of bull horns, chants, posters, house calls, letters, press conferences, bus rides, educating door to door and marching arm in arm, the Melrose Board of Directors finally signed the contract. As a result, Melrose workers earned wage increases, improved insurance policies, travel compensation and re-



KIM DIEHL
GUEST COLUMNIST

spect. These workers are the heroes of the island because they were the first group of workers to actively mobilize and form a union.

Our experiences helped shape the movement towards economic justice not only on Hilton Head Island, but in our own communities. We understand the greater implications for organizing the state to overcome racial barriers and years of economic slavery.

The UNC Housekeepers Association, like the Melrose employees, are the heroes of this community and state because they are the first group to stand in solidarity and organize for better working conditions.

On Sept. 4, we plan to join other workers and students from the Triangle area at N.C. Central University, which is hosting an alliance-building forum to build the movement for economic justice. Transportation will be provided to meet at NCCU at 7 p.m. For more information, call Jeff Jones at 914-7728.

Kim Diehl is a senior international studies major from Longwood, Fla.

Got an opinion?

Any students interested in taking on an opportunity of a lifetime should consider applying for The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board. We are looking for a few informed and articulate students who can write with the best of them.

Applications are available at the DTH office in Suite 104 of the Student Union. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Editorial Page Editor Chris Yates at 962-4086.

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