

BOARD EDITORIALS

PROMOTING HONOR

Overall, leaders in the judicial branch have done an admirable job of publicizing the Honor Code and strengthening the honor system.

Former Student Attorney General Jonathan Slain worked vigorously to improve the relationship between the judicial branch of student government and UNC administrators and to educate the student body on the Honor Code's meaning.

The year has been marked with many highlights by the judicial branch and its yearlong Honor Carolina program, but it kicked off with Honor and Integrity Week, which was a publicity success.

Honor Week got the attention of students, faculty members and other members of the campus community, and the judicial branch offered many programs for students to learn more.

The beginning of Slain's tenure also saw the implementation of the newly rewritten Honor Code.

He has done much to repair the branch's reputation with administrators, after the 2000 computer science cases. Twenty-four students were accused by a professor of sharing information, and in the ensuing chaos several students' rights were violated by the court. Many of the cases were dismissed as a result of the poor handling by the judicial branch.

In the wake of the reformed Honor Code, Slain has done much to repair the institution's tarnished image.

He challenged his office to take on a lot of extra effort. It's especially impressive that the judicial branch managed not only to do its regular work, but also to improve upon last year's progress. The student attorney general's office faces the enormous task of dealing with Honor Code violations at UNC — a duty held by administrators at most schools.

Slain oversaw the successful completion of those duties, and under his leadership, the branch also took steps toward making a measurable improvement in the amount of time it takes to process cases.

In March, The Daily Tar Heel reported that faculty-student resolutions, which the honor system implemented this year, account for 31 percent of all guilty pleas in academic cases.

The new system allows students and their professors to submit their own proposal for punishment subject to the approval of a 3-member panel.

By the end of the year, student infractions of the

Honor Code had been processed in an average of 30 days — which matches the goal set by Amanda Stokes, who was attorney general last year.

However, Slain's progress with the judicial branch should be continued next year, and there remains much to be done.

This year's attorney general's office most notably lacked a solicitor general, who would have had an instrumental role to play during this year's student elections. Slain did the job, interpreting the Student Code for the Board of Elections.

The empty position, however, is no fault of Slain's. The position should have been filled by last year's executive branch, which decided that the student attorney general could perform both functions adequately.

The student elections debacle showed that there is a need for an officer whose sole duty is interpreting the Student Code on behalf of student government. And since the position will be filled next year, judicial branch officers should work with the solicitor general to apply outreach funds to the enigma that is the Student Supreme Court.

Students and organizations should have the resources and understanding to use the court when they feel the Student Code has been interpreted poorly. The past set of elections is evidence enough that the system is far too unknown, and the supreme court might be far more utilized if the student body knew it existed or understood its function.

Given the ineffectual presence of the Independent Defense Counsel, new Student Attorney General Carolina Chavez should work to implement a bar exam, so that students are competent to represent individuals brought before Honor Court charges.

While the DTH editorial board has, at times, disagreed with the politics coming from the judicial branch, Slain's efforts have been remarkable. Much work must still be done, but the branch has seen a great deal of progress.

The honor campaign slogan was undeniably cheesy and it's debatable whether one can really "smell the honor" on campus — but its presence is noticeable.

The effort should be sustained.

DISAPPOINTING SHOW

Decrying the investigation of a possible bias on campus is one thing, but some students drove their protest outside the bounds of civility.

The Pit was host to one of the most remarkably immature events of the year Monday. The Committee for a Queerer Carolina held a mock investigation of the debacle stemming from English instructor Elyse Crystall's inflammatory e-mail lambasting one of her students.

In principle, it is entirely worthwhile to protest the foolhardy federal investigation that now looms over the University.

But it is an embarrassment to UNC that students would so brazenly mock the beliefs and lifestyle of one of their peers.

Chase Foster, one of the event's organizers, foolishly remarked that Crystall's attack on student Tim Mertes' classroom comments could not possibly be discrimination, given his status as "a white heterosexual male."

Members of the Committee for a Queerer Carolina — like all members of the UNC community — have every right to express their disapproval of Mertes' beliefs in whatever way they choose.

But the belittling manner in which they did so was not at all tasteful, and further undermined their arguments.

Foster took the role of Mertes in the mock investigation, acting out an immature, unnecessarily insulting parody of the classroom incident.

It is one thing to disagree with the views of a person, party or institution in a civil manner. But insulting the opposition deflates the University's vibrant intellectual exchange.

Furthermore, statements that Mertes' perspective and speech should be disallowed from the classroom are just dead wrong.

It is especially hypocritical for the Committee for a Queerer Carolina and its members to espouse that an individual should not have the right to express his or her beliefs.

Thirty years ago, the perspective coming from the Committee for a Queerer Carolina would not have been accepted so readily on this campus.

So the implication that only individuals on the committee's side of the ideological spectrum should be allowed to voice their beliefs in the classroom is as ironic as it is disturbing.

This University is supposed to present a setting in which individuals may be exposed to ideas that they had not previously considered. Some of those ideas will be palatable, and some will not.

But it is the duty of the University to encourage the exchange of those ideas, no matter how much people on either side of the ideological divide hate them.

The mockery put on display in the Pit on Monday stifled that exchange, rather than contributing to it.

It is equally ironic that the Committee for a Queerer Carolina would send a petition to Chancellor James Moeser asking him to prevent the federal investigation from having any ill effects on speech in the classroom.

They have missed the point entirely. Speech in the classroom was restricted the moment Crystall lampooned her student for expressing a basic, moral conviction — no matter how misguided the conviction.

Hopefully the future of this debate will not feature such ill-conceived buffoonery.

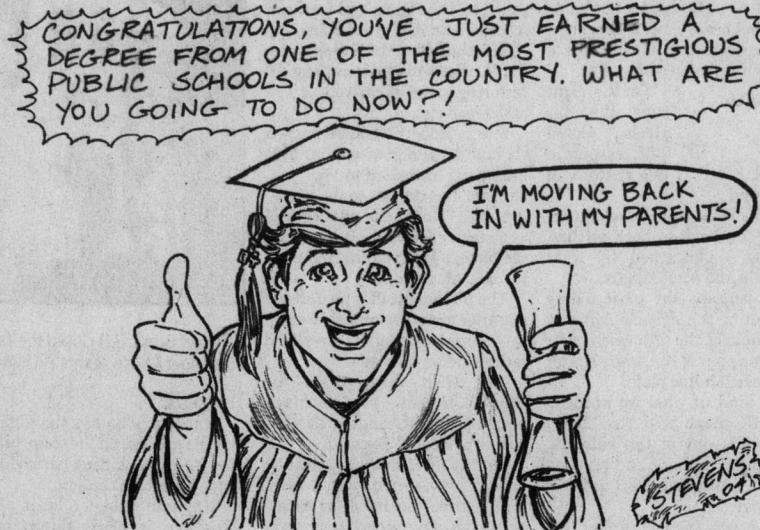
ON THE DAY'S NEWS

"How far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world."

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, PLAYWRIGHT

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Andrew Stevens, crazyaj@email.unc.edu



COMMENTARY

Terror, marriage, guns and others have been hot topics

As my time at Carolina comes to an end, I am saddened that I was only able to write a limited number of columns over the course of the semester.

Truthfully, there are hundreds of other issues I believe warrant discourse, yet only a few were discussed. That being true, let me just share with you some final thoughts about issues not readily discussed.

2004 Gubernatorial race

I am watching with much anticipation the upcoming gubernatorial race. While it is safe to say the incumbent, Mike Easley, will represent the Democratic Party, it is still unclear who will represent the Republican Party come November.

While any of the candidates would do more good for North Carolina than "Tax Hike Mike," I must say that one candidate has stuck out so far. The GOP candidates agree on most of the core issues, so that wouldn't be something to differentiate them.

However, their openness and sincere willingness to connect with college students does. That being the case, Bill Cobey has proven to be the only candidate who has showed genuine interest in engaging students. While I respect the other candidates and wish them the best of luck, my support goes to Cobey — a man with proven conservative values and the most experience.

Gun rights

If you read Monday's issue of The Daily Tar Heel, you saw in the Readers' Forum the arguments concerning the support of the Assault Weapons Ban of 1994.



BRENTLEY TANNER
FRESH OUT OF THE OVEN

However, their claims are false. First of all, the ban was nothing more than a stunt to win some political points with voters. As UNC NRA member Jonathan Reich put it, the only "differences between banned firearms and legal ones are entirely cosmetic." The guns covered in the ban are used more by hunters than by terrorists, gangsters or habitual felons.

Also, let's not forget that such restrictions on guns existed before tragedies such as Columbine.

Perhaps the killers' 19 previous offenses committed before the tragedy demonstrate that they should have been appropriately dealt with beforehand. Perhaps they can start a commission on that to show the Clinton administration's failure?

Lastly, guns don't kill people, dangerous people do, regardless of any weapon bans. And believe me, they'll be "packed." You should be as well.

War on Terrorism and 9-11

This topic really gets me going. For anyone who may have forgotten what happened, Islamic fundamentalists flew airplanes into our buildings, ripping families apart and forever changing our foreign policy.

Granted, you won't see any more footage of the attacks because it is apparently too much for the media to show historical

truth. Instead, they sugarcoat everything to ensure political correctness.

Also, you may be the anti-war type, but you still should support our troops instead of burning flags. Nothing does more to dissuade to the troops' morale than to commit such acts. It's because of our brave soldiers that you are free. If only Democrats were more like Sen. Zell Miller, D-Ga., the world would be a better place.

"The ones who want to argue and assess and appease, and the ones who want to carry this fight to our enemies and kill him them before they kill us," Miller said. "And, in case you haven't figured it out, I proudly belong to the latter." Me too, sir.

Gay Marriage

I emphatically support the Defense of Marriage Act. I don't hate homosexual people, but that doesn't mean I have to support their lifestyle. If that bothers you, just blame it on my white, homophobic, heterosexual, Christian privilege. We know some others — namely Elyse Crystall and the community that defends her — who would, at least.

Chancellor James Moeser

Tuition increases every year I have been at UNC. Constant debacles with the summer reading program. Susan Ehringhaus' nice retirement package and wasteful spending of overhead receipts. God knows all the other mishaps you have bestowed on UNC. Too bad Donald Trump isn't your boss. I think he'd say, "You're fired!"

Contact Brentley Tanner
at gtanner@email.unc.edu.

READERS' FORUM

Yusko departure loss for the University community

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to express concern over the recent loss of Mark Yusko as chief investment officer of the University's endowment.

I currently work for a hedge fund in New York of the type in which Yusko would place the school's money. Hedge funds are innovative investment vehicles that offer not only higher market returns for investors but also higher fees for the fund's managers.

Due to the higher pay that hedge fund managing positions receive, they tend to attract the most intelligent, diligent and innovative people on Wall Street. Using this superior management, they add value to the investors they serve.

What concerns me is that the University, by not retaining superior personnel such as Yusko, compromises not only its future financial situation but also the students it seeks to serve.

Yusko's salary is high by public employee standards. But the task that he oversees — managing over \$1 billion in assets — makes the returns he provides to the University maybe one of the best values around.

Yusko has proven himself a leader in innovation of school endowment management. He has

achieved superior returns for the school, the alumni and the state of North Carolina. The University missed an opportunity to promote the future of the university by not rewarding Yusko for his dedication and intelligence.

I doubt UNC's search for a new manager will be easy.

Many people are launching their own funds and the financial industry is hiring. The University's endowment likely will be the big loser unless the management company board can begin to think more like Yusko.

UNC officials must recognize that stifling creativity and risk-taking and not rewarding their key employees will mute the returns they receive.

Jonathan Liggett
Class of 2001

Murphy mischaracterizes AOPA defense of airport

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in response to P.C. Murphy's April 20 letter to the editor. As a UNC senior, instrument-rated private pilot and member of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, I feel it is my duty to set the facts straight regarding the Horace Williams Airport and the author's disparaging remarks about AOPA. I also would like to commend The Daily Tar Heel on its unbiased article about commu-

nity pressure to keep the airport open.

According to the UNC MedAir Web site, MedAir has been operating out of the Horace Williams Airport since 1968 and currently operates a fleet of six aircraft. Contrary to Murphy's letter, the article did not inflate MedAir daily flight figures; rather, AHEC typically flies between five and seven flights per day to locations throughout NC. They fulfill a vital service for the state of North Carolina and represent a truly unique aspect of our university. This is something we should all be proud of.

It is true that Horace Williams Airport is a taxpayer-funded airport; however, so are 73 other airports in the state.

The airports are there to be used by the public. Anyone who wishes to go through the required training can earn their pilot's certificate as well as the ability to utilize these services provided by the government.

Most pilots are not especially wealthy. In fact, most live very modest lives. They fly because it is useful, efficient and because they enjoy it.

The federal and state governments recognize this, and in the interest of safety for everyone, provide services and facilities for them.

Someone who commuted by bike and did not drive a car would-

n't question the need for building and maintaining the taxpayer-funded interstate highway system just because they themselves did not use it.

Murphy's article paints AOPA as a dishonest group, which could not be farther from the truth. AOPA is the largest, most influential aviation organization in the world, with a membership over 400,000, meaning that it represents over two thirds of all pilots in the United States.

While AOPA has taken particular interest in keeping Horace Williams open, at no point did they announce plans to stack a legislative study committee. We are always up front and honest in our lobbying efforts. Such an accusation is simply untrue.

AOPA is lobbying to keep the airport open out of the best interests of the public as a whole, who benefit from the services provided by AHEC. Murphy claims this is circumventing the "best interests of the University and the town." If such a claim were to be true, it would be simply short-sighted, when considering the state as a whole.

However, Murphy is simply projecting his own beliefs onto the town and University. Bill Dunn, AOPA vice president for regional affairs, summarized it best: "(The airport) is a vital aviation transportation link for community members, tourists, alumni and

university guests, and it is ideally situated to support the AHEC program, which provides medical services to rural areas." This represents the interests of everyone.

In closing, the airport in Chapel Hill doesn't have to be the albatross around the university's neck that it's being made out to be. I feel that it represents a great untapped opportunity for the University.

Having an airport owned and operated by the University close to campus is something that distinguishes UNC from most other universities, so it should be taken advantage of, rather than fought against. The sky is the limit, if only it were to be given a chance.

Lee Smith
Senior
Computer science

The length rule was waived.

TO SUBMIT A LETTER: The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 300 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. Publication is not guaranteed. Bring letters to the DTH office at Suite 104, Carolina Union, mail them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 or e-mail them to editdesk@unc.edu.

Established 1893
111 years of editorial freedom
The Daily Tar Heel
www.dailytarheel.com

ELYSE ASHBURN
EDITOR, 962-4086
OFFICE HOURS 2:15-3:15 PM MON, WED.

DANIEL THIGPEN
MANAGING EDITOR, 962-0750

JENNIFER SAMUELS
PROJECTS MANAGING EDITOR, 962-0750

NATHAN DENNY
EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR, 962-0750

BROOK R. CORWIN
UNIVERSITY EDITOR, 962-0372

EMMA BURGIN
CITY EDITOR, 962-4209

CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR, 962-4103

BRIAN MACPHERSON
SPORTS EDITOR, 962-4710

MICHELLE JARBOE
FEATURES EDITOR, 962-4214

NICK PARKER
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, 962-4214

ALEX OBREGON
COPY EDITOR, 962-4103

BRIAN CASSELLA
PHOTO EDITOR, 962-0750

MICHELLE KUTTNER
DESIGN EDITOR, 962-0750

KRISTEN OLIVER
ONLINE EDITOR, 962-0750

JOHN FRANK
PROJECTS TEAM LEADER, 962-0246

ERIC GAUTSCHI
OMBUDSMAN

If you have any concerns or comments about our coverage, please contact Ombudsman Eric Gautschi at gautschi@email.unc.edu or 918-1311.