

# The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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## Editorials

### Geer for CAA president

This year's question about who should take over Mark Pavao's presidential office for the Carolina Athletic Association has many good answers, but there is only one best answer. There is one candidate who knows the spectrum of Carolina athletics well enough to put her role in perspective. That candidate is Carol Geer.

After going through three revisions in the last year, the University's ticket policy must be solidified into a feasible plan that pleases students. While all the other candidates hedged on that issue, Geer suggests a clear-cut, new solution to change distribution to Sunday afternoons. This brings back weekend distribution but gives students time to return to Chapel Hill from weekend trips.

Denny Worley may know the system, but on this, as on many issues, he proposes no changes. Suzanne Lowe and Randy Diggs suffer from lack of research.

Each of the candidates stress the need for student awareness and increased publicity of lesser-known varsity athletic programs, but Geer mentions a point no other candidate says so well. She wants to "channel students' partying energy into energy for non-revenue sports," sponsoring pre-game events that generate excitement, enthusiasm and school spirit. She's quick to realize both students' needs and the realism that most varsity sports don't suffer from media hype.

### Rankin, Freeman for senior class

The senior class president must meet seniors' needs while trying to make the frantic, anxious last year the best for the Class of '88. The Daily Tar Heel believes Scott Rankin can best accomplish this balance.

Among the three candidates, Rankin seems to have the most useful ideas. His best efforts would include a hotline; seniors would call a recorded message detailing pertinent upcoming events and deadlines, such as resume drops. Rankin's senior information booth is another good idea, providing seniors with easy access to information.

The greatest problem with Rankin's campaign may be that he has no vice presidential running mate. This year, presidential and vice president will be elected separately. If Rankin wins, his vice president will be an opponent's running mate. Rankin says the situation would bring in new ideas. We wonder about the working relationship the senior class vice president can have with an officer who defeated his running mate.

Rankin's solo candidacy also puts the DTH in the unusual position of

### Clark for RHA president

The Residence Hall Association is the students' representative voice on housing concerns. The president of this organization must have the ability to deal with students and housing administrators, as well as have a working knowledge of RHA and dorm life. Given these conditions, The Daily Tar Heel endorses Kelly Clark for RHA president.

As governor of Morrison Residence College and chairman of RHA's finance committee, Clark understands how RHA functions alongside a Department of Housing administration that has been at odds this year with student leaders. He doesn't intend to implement a lot of new ideas as much as he wants to see some existing plans carried out.

Clark chairs a committee comparing the housing allocation systems at other universities to UNC's lottery system,

Geer wants a lot that students want, and, because of her experience, she's the most likely of the four candidates to get it. She has already proven to have a powerful duality: creative ideas plus the ability to carry them out. As chairperson of the CAA's special projects committee, Geer helped initiate an on-campus fitness trail that will appear next fall.

Geer can profit, however, from suggestions offered by some of her opponents. Lowe has a knack for communication and her ideas for homecoming show ingenuity. She wants to contact record companies and attract benefit concerts coordinated with big-time sporting events. However, her strength — Homecoming — may also be her downfall; she lacks insight on other issues.

Worley is mainly a status-quo man who has some good funding ideas that include area businesses, but it seems he would elicit little positive change. Diggs mentions a sorely needed communications system to link the CAA branches more closely. Unfortunately, as a first-year committee member, he lacks the experience and background to carry out plans.

Diggs realizes the need to improve communication, Worley understands business interests and Lowe knows homecoming royally — but expertise in one facet of the job is not sufficient. Geer displays a much broader cognizance of what the job entails, and what students need.

endorses a vice presidential candidate without endorsing his running mate. Our choice for vice president is James Freeman, whose leadership ability and organizational experience with campus political groups would be valuable to seniors.

Freeman is running with presidential candidate Durrall Gilbert. The DTH's second choice, Gilbert is the enthusiast (perhaps too much so) that contrasts with the quieter Freeman. The cheerleader and the doer would combine well.

The biggest asset of the other candidates, Ann Davidson and David Brown, is their awareness of campus issues and politics. In their interview, the pair demonstrated potential to influence the University administration on seniors' behalf. But they were uncomfortable presenting their ideas. There may be a problem in the Davidson/Brown ticket with an ability to communicate and persuade others.

The class of 1988 will not lose whomever they choose for their officers, but they may have the most to gain with Scott Rankin.

a system he acknowledges has some flaws.

In addition, Clark wants to follow up on a recent RHA survey in which on-campus residents indicated how they want their rent money spent. Working for student input into that process is a most welcome idea and one we hope housing officials heartily accept.

Another of Clark's ideas is to amend the current alcohol policy. He advocates a judicial board of dorm residents to handle disciplinary actions, a kind of "Dorm Honor Court" that takes some of the burden off area directors. This idea may need research before adoption is possible, but Clark's ingenuity is to be commended.

Like DTH editorial candidate Jill Gerber, Clark is running unopposed. Nevertheless, Clark's credentials and insight show he is qualified for the job of RHA president.

## Tar Heel Forum

### Abortion issue sparks controversy

#### Male viewpoint

To the editor:  
 I shall refrain from addressing all the dubious claims made by Huges and Leete in their piece on abortion. Instead I shall focus on their most provocative assertions.

Anyone who states that abortion is a rejection of the function of the womb, a symptom of self-hatred, and diminishes a woman's personhood must be prepared to have a similar position on male reproductive functions. If they do not they should show why. Huges and Leete did not do this. Accordingly, Huges and Leete must at least believe that a vasectomy has the same effect on men as it has on women. At the extreme, their position could mean that wearing a condom constitutes a rejection of the basic function of the penis, a symptom of self-hatred, etc. Or, simply, real men don't wear condoms.

Regarding the Supreme Court's decisions on various "advice" statutes, the Court has found that such legislation placed women under an "undue burden." This means the court believed that such laws hampered women when they tried to exercise their right to abortion that *Roe vs. Wade* established. The court found that many such laws were designed by abortion foes not with the intent of informing the woman of relevant facts, but with the intent of discouraging abortions. The position of Huges and Leete validates this reasoning. Those in favor of such laws usually want to reduce, if not eliminate, abortions, even if it means terrorizing a woman right out of a doctor's office.

This brings us to the most unsavory part of Huges and Leete's musings. While decrying intimidation when it is used to foster abortions, they seem to have no compunction about using any scare tactics in order to stop abortions. Surely any husband or boyfriend who forced a woman into an abortion is a worthless worm. It seems also clear that someone who would try to intimidate a woman out of an abortion is at least not a very nice person. Huges and Leete try to intimidate by saying that physical and emotional problems often accompany abortions, omitting the fact that such problems often do not accompany abortions.

Any decision on the propriety of abortion must be based on the facts of the matter and the moral principles one chooses to adhere to, not on cynical scare tactics.

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#### Endorsement letters

Letters supporting candidates for student office will be run on a double-page editorial section Monday, Feb. 1. These letters must be in the DTH letters to the editor box by 1 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31. The deadline will be strictly enforced. Two letters per candidate will be published.

### Abortion not linked to 'top-heavy' society, abuse

To the editor:  
 In reading Skip Hagan's article on abortion (Jan. 22) in the DTH, I observed several misconceptions and exaggerations which I would like to address.

My first problem with the article is Mr. Hagan's concern about a "top-heavy" society causing serious financial straits for a nation. First of all, if not enough babies and too many elderly were seriously a problem, we would have to blame birth control, people's wishes for smaller families, women's wishes to work rather than to raise families and above all, improved medical technology allowing people to live longer, healthier lives. Yes, abortion would be a contributor to the problems of a top-heavy society, but it would hardly be the sole cause. However, even if a top-heavy society could cause economic problems for our nation, these problems would be short-term only. In the long run, the older people would eventually have to die, and an equilibrium at a lower population level would be regained.



The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comment. For style and clarity, we ask that you observe the following guidelines for letters to the editor and columns:  
 ■ All letters/columns must be signed by the author(s). Limit of two signatures per letter or column.  
 ■ Students who submit letters/columns should also include their name, year in school,

major and phone number. Professors and other University employees should include their title and department.  
 ■ All letters/columns must be typed. (For easier editing, we ask that they be double-spaced on a 60-space line.)  
 ■ The Daily Tar Heel reserves the right to edit letters and columns for style, grammar and accuracy.

### It's a woman's body, woman's right

To the editor:  
 I agree with Skip Hagan ("For Some an Anniversary of Sorrow," Jan. 22) that Jan. 22 was the 14th anniversary of *Roe vs. Wade* and that abortion provokes intense debate. Beyond that I question aspects of Hagan's argument.

Hagan mentions a "top-heavy society" and postulates that retirees will be a financial strain. What about young women who would have to go on welfare if the option of legal abortion was no longer available? These women on welfare, caring for their children at home, could not be considered "wage-earners."  
 Hagan states: "The advocates of 'choice' offer abortion as the only solution to such problems (i.e. 'financial disasters' and a 'population problem')." How ludicrous! Pro-choice means a woman should have the right to choose whether to assume the responsibility of carrying a child for nine months. The pro-choice position does not advocate abortion as a means of birth control!  
 Hagan proceeds to correlate

the legalization of abortion to an "astronomical... increase" in child abuse. It is highly probable that child abuse is not a trend; it was happening before *Roe vs. Wade*. The rise could be attributed to society's increased willingness to discuss and report such cases. A correlation between two variables does not establish a causal relationship.

I assume that Skip Hagan is male. As a female, I question Hagan's decision that women have not benefited from the legalization of abortion. Women no longer have to confront the possibility of a back alley abortion with its pain, humiliation and dangers. Women now have a measure of control over paths we may wish to explore. Biologically, a male can never experience the possibility of an unwanted and unplanned pregnancy. Can any male imagine facing the emotional and physical strain of carrying a child to term with no support from the father or family?

Though Hagan wants "abortion stopped," he offers no alternatives. It would be unwise

to assume that just the illegality of abortion would prevent the procedure from being performed. Unless they had a knight in shining armor, it is likely that many women would seek illegal abortion and possibly suffer the consequences of a back alley "operation." This is hardly a solution.

Although this is a complex issue, I believe that part of the answer lies in educating youth about the consequences and responsibilities of being sexually active; a simple anatomy lesson will not do. Facing the facts of human biology could be a step towards prevention as a means of solution through increased awareness of birth control.  
 The "holocaust," as I see it, would be for a male to be able to take from a female her right to control her body. But then, perhaps Hagan sees the more liberated woman and the right to control one's own destiny as parts of "our present moral decline."

TRISHA HOUSER  
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 Psychology

### Illogical mix of controversial issues

To the editor:  
 I found Skip Hagan's article, "For some, an anniversary of sorrow," (Jan. 22) disturbing not only because of its simplistic treatment of a complex issue, but also because of its blatant ignorance of social facts.

Hagan blames abortion for several of the world's most pressing problems. He inaccurately draws a causal link between abortion and a declining population. He does not acknowledge that the declining birth rate in this country has been profoundly affected by birth control and the participation of women in the labor force.

Furthermore, he expresses concern over the declining respect for human life, specifically the alarming increase in child abuse since the legalization of abortion. Child abuse has occurred for centuries; the "astronomical increase" is in large part due to increased reporting of its incidence.

Perhaps the most sobering statement of all was that "the ultimate scar of abortion is when the death of the mother as well as the death of the fetus results." It is well documented that abortion does not disappear just because it is illegal. Women have always had abortions, but the methods have

been unsafe and the costs emotionally and financially have been substantial. In 1959, before *Roe vs. Wade*, one third of all maternal deaths were due to illegal abortions.

Abortion is a controversial issue. I would highly recommend Kristin Luker's objective and informative book, "Abortion and the Politics of Motherhood," which provides an analysis of a complex problem. Linking two disparate issues — abortion and child abuse — is a simplistic assumption without basis in fact.

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unmarried women who could not handle a child at that time. Early and forced marriages tend to end in divorce, with each member of the couple resenting each other and the child. The child then resents the parents, and never learns what a happy family is like. Instead, he follows his parents' example and the cycle of unhappiness is repeated. Obviously, this is not always the case, but just as obviously, looking at crime and "problem behavior" rates of children of teen parents, it often happens.

I am not trying to imply that abortion is the only solution, or even necessarily the best solution in dealing with unwanted or hazardous pregnancies. What I am saying is that it is a realistic approach to a problem for some people at some times. Above all, it is a choice which should be left up to those involved, not dictated by the mandated of a supposedly democratic society.

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