

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

JENNIFER WING, Editor

STEVE POLITI, University Editor
 CULLEN FERGUSON, Editorial Page Editor
 NEIL AMATO, Sports Editor
 CHRISTINA NIFONG, Features Editor
 ALEX DE GRAND, Cartoon Editor
 MITCH KOKAI, Copy Desk Editor
 GRANT HALVERSON, Photography Editor

AMBER NIMOCKS, City Editor
 ERIC LUSK, State and National Editor
 VICKI HYMAN, Omnibus Editor
 JENNIFER DICKENS, Layout Editor
 JOANN RODAK, Managing Editor
 AMY SEELEY, Copy Desk Editor
 KATHY MICHEL, Photography Editor

Calling for a Code Convention

There has never been any shortage of controversy, politically speaking, on this campus. In the short span of a month, numerous controversies have arisen over contradictions in the Student Government Code, such as whether it was legal for the Student Supreme Court chief justice to run for student body president. A similar problem arose over the appointment of the Elections Board chairman. Both of these debates have sparked interest in the rules and regulations governing our student leaders.

The code is filled with ambiguities and contradictions. For example, the number of voters necessary to pass a referendum, especially fee-related ones, is questionable. The code still includes rules about the obsolete campus political parties. A decision on the legality of judicial branch members campaigning for themselves would have to be based on the interpretation of unclear legal jargon, rather than the enforcement of an unequivocal regulation.

Various student leaders have voiced additional problems with the code. Tim Moore, speaker of Student Congress, says the code needs to be made more specific to avoid time-consuming debates about contradictions such as the ones that have plagued the summer session congress.

Mark Shelburne, speaker pro tempore of Student Congress, says the organization of congress into three major committees needs to be revised. His main complaint is that a third of student congress, the Finance Committee, has a huge work overload. Because of time constraints, a quarter of a million dollars in student fees is allocated to student organizations in just one weekend. Congress has very little knowledge of how much money the various organizations actually need; by spreading out the financial

responsibilities, more educated decisions could be made.

Shelburne also pointed out that the code requires a 2/3 vote by congress to turn an issue into a referendum, denying students the right to vote on many important issues. A majority vote would certainly be more appropriate.

Student Body President Matt Heyd feels that the code has unnecessarily complicated student government. Because of the complexities of the code, students can use it as scapegoat for many different problems.

With a simplified, more usable code, student government would get a lot more accomplished for students instead of spending a great deal of time focusing on government rules and regulations.

So far, more important things have taken priority over what would be the long and tedious process of revising the 113 page-long document. But in order to ensure the efficiency and credibility of student government in the future, someone (perhaps an outgoing student body president) has to face this task. Former SBPs and congress speakers, along with local lawyers and Institute of Government officials, could meet in Chapel Hill for a sort of "Code Convention." These folks could meet and hammer out the sticky sections and produce a code that would put government on the right track.

UNC students will always find worthy, controversial causes to support, but some of the petty political debates could be easily eliminated by a revision of those rules and regulations in the code.

Renovating the code would not only save time in the future, but it could be the most beneficial task accomplished by government this year.

Take out your own trash

Some Chapel Hill residents can't stand the sight of their own garbage.

At least, that's the message they are sending town council in response to a pilot curbside trash program in five Chapel Hill neighborhoods. At the Monday night council meeting, some residents complained that the 90-gallon roll-out trash containers were unsightly and that traditional twice-a-week backyard pickup was preferable to the weekly roll-out service.

Poor people! Not only do they actually have to trudge out to the corner once a week, lugging their garbage behind them, but they are assailed by the unbearable sight of their own waste. Perhaps such a sight will teach them a lesson — one that not only could save the town \$400,000 if adopted townwide, but also could raise awareness about the need to reduce waste output.

Until now, it's been all too easy for Chapel Hill residents to take a nonchalant attitude about their trash. When all you have to do is toss it out the back door, it's easy to lose track of just how much needless waste you're creating. If sanitation workers do your dirty work for you, you don't mind tossing out that extra bottle or can that could be recycled instead.

But now some Chapel Hill residents must face for themselves the mountains of trash they're creating, and they don't like what they see.

So the trash is too heavy? Do whatever you can to create less of it. Recycle those items that can be recycled and avoid using disposable plastic, styrofoam and paper products when a reusable substitute is available.

People 65 and older and those with physical disabilities should be granted exemptions for the roll-out program. With those exceptions, it's not asking too much of residents to get a little exercise and save the town some money in the process.

And as for those ugly containers, if residents can muster enough energy to roll them back behind their houses right after the trash is picked up, they won't have to suffer the sight of them for very long. Trash is indeed an ugly thing. The sooner we realize that, the sooner we'll do something to create less of it.



'Uncle Toms' could be Afrocentrics in disguise

Uh, girl, she makes me sick. I don't know who told her she was white. She needs to slap a pot of perm in her hair, put on some normal clothes and stop hangin' around all those white people.

"I don't know why he is coming into the 'hood now. I don't want to be bothered with him after he has been sleeping with all those white girls. He must have finally been called a nigger and decided that he wanted to come home. I ain't got nothing to say to him."

There are so many shades of black and gray, with so many people ready to define each one and assign them as labels. Does being an African American mean having dreads or beads or Kente cloth? Does it mean being very dark-skinned with Afrocentric features? Do you have to listen to a certain kind of music or believe in certain political values to be an African American? Do you have to date only African-American people?

I have a very good African-American friend who is a Tri Delta at Duke University. She has no problem with interracial relationships and has been known to date a few white men herself. She absolutely loves Garth Brooks, Randy Travis and Hank Williams Jr. and does not own any Kente of which I know. She probably has no idea who Haki Madhubuti is, but I would not be so quick to label her as being a washed-out sister with no sense of self. I know that she was not brought up in a household that was ashamed of being African-American because she is my sister, and we were brought up in the same home with the same parents.

People often ask me how we can be sisters and be so different, as if my sister is an alien African American. We really are not that different. I admit that I do not especially like Garth



Erika Campbell
 With No Assistance

Brooks and have not been kickin' it with a man who was not of African descent, but I still believe my sister and I are very much alike. She does like men who are African-American. She also loves rap and listens to tapes by Naughty By Nature, D.J. Quick, Geto Boys and Too Short. Not to mention the important aspects of being a responsible African-American person. She believes in improving the African-American community and believes all African-American people are indebted to this community and must give back to it. She chooses political leaders based on this belief, and, unlike some people who wear Afrocentricity on their sleeves, she is a registered voter and does not miss elections.

My sister says that she believes that African-American people, especially educated African-American people, who fall into the trap of portraying one style of African-American culture allow themselves to be culturally enslaved. I agree with her, and I am proud that I have a sister who is rooted deep enough within her own culture that she can embrace other cultures openly and force them to accept her on her own terms. My sister is not unlike many African Americans who find themselves excluded from the community only because they have ties with other cultures.

Having ties with other cultures and completely giving up your own culture to adopt

another are two entirely different acts. I do believe that those people who are too ashamed of their own cultures to know them and admit it are very confused and mentally ill people. Too often, however, those of us who are proud to be African-American place this confused and mentally ill label on people who have chosen simply to portray their versions of African-American culture in a manner different from the status quo. When we reject someone of our own culture simply because he believes that being African-American means having the right to express himself and his culture in the manner he chooses, we are rejecting sisters and brothers who may be even more sure of their African-American culture than we are of ours.

Names such as "gray," "Uncle Tom" and "oreo" hurt as much as "nigger," and we really should watch the way in which we throw them around. I am ashamed to admit that there was a time when I quickly and ignorantly called people these ugly names without really knowing these people or their beliefs.

Now I watch what I say and think before I speak. The very person that you or I may judge on face value to be a "boogie Uncle Tom" could be the most Afrocentric person. On Monday night, a good-looking African-American man wearing a nice double-breasted blue suit spoke in the Black Cultural Center. On face value, he could have been an Uncle Tom or an oreo. But he wasn't. He was Haki Madhubuti, the most Afrocentric of African-American businessmen, who taught all that listened some valuable lessons about aiding the African-American community.

Erika Campbell is a senior English major from Chattanooga, Tenn.

READERS' FORUM

'Pseudo-Christians' perpetuate hatred

To the editor:
 "Every female who braids her hair shall be charged with a misdemeanor punishable by a fine up to but not exceeding \$50" (based on 1 Timothy 2:9). "Anyone convicted of eating bacon shall receive punishment of fines up to but not exceeding \$500 and up to but not exceeding six months in jail" (based on Deuteronomy 14:6). "Any one found guilty of raping an unwed and unengaged virgin shall be fined \$50 (payable to the virgin's father) and shall be required to marry her. Divorce is forbidden" (based on Deuteronomy 22:28-29).

How would you like to have laws such as these? This is similar to what you would get if this country's legal system were based on the Bible, as Stephen Knowles has revealed to us in his letter ("Biblical morality forms basis of U.S. Constitution," Feb. 17). He assumes that since our "founding fathers" based our system on religion (a debatable point), it is still the best way to run this country. This article referred to the case in which Superior Court Justice Shellie Bowers quoted biblical passages in defense of a verdict against same-sex marriage.

In quoting these excerpts, Bowers supported select passages as the basis for some of our nation's laws (especially the "crimes against nature" laws that make illegal many forms of sexual expressions of love between same-sex and two-sex couples.) Most likely, Bowers would not like to face fines for eating pork or have a daughter marry a rapist, but Bowers does like to use vague quotations to discriminate against a minority group. So Bowers, as well as many others against non-heterosexuality, makes a judgment about which portions of the Bible to base our laws/belief systems.

How do these pseudo-Christians make these judgments? They form their beliefs on what the *perceive* to be the social norm, or perhaps their beliefs make them feel comfortable. Then they justify them-

selves by interpreting certain passages of the Bible to concur with their beliefs. They ignore the more harsh biblical passages with defenses such as "The New Testament supersedes the Old Testament." This inconsistency only perpetuates discrimination and hatred against those who are not part of the mainstream American culture.

JOHN D. JOHNSON
 Junior
 Math Education

Love your Mother: Ask for your pizza on a plate

Editor's note: The writers are TARP co-chairwomen.

To the editor:
 With the recent expansion of services on campus, recycling has become more popular than ever (see campus elections if you need proof). What is being overlooked is that recycling is only one part of the solution. In order to truly conserve our resources and save our landfill space, we must reduce our consumption of disposables, reuse whatever we can, then recycle what we have no further use for.

The one activity that probably creates the most unnecessary waste on an individual, daily basis is eating. For example, on Feb. 12, TARP (Tar Heel Recycling Program) collected 300 used pizza boxes from trays in Lenoir. These were boxes that were never taken anywhere but to a table inside the building. We fail to see the necessity of a box when a plate will serve the same function without creating waste. The fact is that an overwhelming majority of the pizzas that were eaten inside Lenoir were from a box and not from a plate. We estimate that at least 2,500 are wasted in this manner every week, roughly 100,000 a year, at Lenoir.

It is unconscionable that so much unnecessary waste should be created. Trees are cut down to make those ugly little boxes. These boxes are not recyclable and will go straight to the landfill. If space runs out in Orange County's landfill, a new one will be started,

maybe on Duke Forest, or maybe in your backyard. Doesn't it make more sense to just avoid the waste in the first place? This is what is known as pre-cycling — avoiding excessive packaging and disposable products.

We're not asking people to stop eating, but there are responsible ways to go about it, especially on campus. Marriott, the corporation that operates Lenoir, Chase and the campus snack bars, is working for you, a student. You pay for your food; therefore, you have the right to request that it be served as you like. The folks who make the pizzas are friendly and will put a pizza, right out of the oven, on a plate for you. Just ask for your pizza on a plate!

And while you're at it, pizza boxes aren't the only disposables that can be avoided. When eating in, use a glass, not a paper cup. Use plastic salad plates and yogurt bowls, not styrofoam ones. Try not to take food out of the dining halls, especially in those huge styrofoam boxes. And remember that you can bring your own reusable mugs for drinks. (Marriott will offer a discount if you buy their mug, and SEAC has new mugs that will be on sale starting next week.) Avoid disposables at every turn.

It really takes very little effort to care about your environment and then act on your concerns. Marriott claims that they offer UNC students a choice when it comes to service. Show them that you choose not to waste.

CRISTINA PEREZ
 Sophomore
 Math

NANCY GOLDEN
 Junior
 Biology

Popular DJ at WXYC deserves second chance

To the editor:
 I was shocked to learn that one of the true treasures of Chapel Hill and an institution of the alternative airways, the "Orange County Special" on WXYC, had lost its host of the last 11 years. In this ME TOO

age of pre-programmed, top-40 babble, the "Orange County Special" was a refreshing three hours of non-commercial music.

Triangle Slim, the host of the show for the last 11 years, was suddenly fired a few weeks ago. Much of the eclectic and esoteric music heard on the show was from Slim's private collection of 10,000 or so pieces. Many of the recordings heard on these shows could literally not be heard anywhere else in the Southeast. Many of the live entertainers on the show were personal friends of Slim and would otherwise not be heard on the airways.

The DJs that replace Slim are also very good, but most of the music they play could be heard on other stations, if one took the time to search the dial. The local vinyl junkies and purveyors of non-mainstream music will certainly miss the alternative void filled by Slim. One of the reasons I relocated from Raleigh to Durham was so I could enjoy this arcane music show every Sunday. I believe WXYC as well as the music junkies will suffer as a result of this decision. Each year when WXYC did its week-long Begathon, almost one-third of the money was raised during this three-hour show.

Slim was working for the renowned Rounder Record Label and collecting music when the station manager was in the first grade. Hopefully, in the interest of WXYC, the station manager will reconsider his decision, take advantage of this valuable resource and allow the radio public exposure to this wealth of musical knowledge.

MALCOLM CARROLL
 Durham

Letters policy

Letters should be limited to 400 words.
 If you want your letter published, sign and date it. No more than two signatures.
 All letters must be typed and double spaced.
 Include your year in school, major, phone number and hometown.

The Daily Tar Heel

Business and advertising: Kevin Schwartz, director/general manager; Bob Bates, advertising director; Leslie Humphrey, classified ad manager; Allison Ashworth, business manager.
 Business staff: Michelle Gray, assistant manager; Gina Bernardino, and Laurie Davis, office assistants; Chrissy Davis, promotions manager.
 Classified advertising: Amy Dew, Becky Marquette, Lorrie Pate, Leah Richards and Jennifer Terry, representatives; Chad Campbell, production assistant.
 Display advertising: Ashleigh Heath, advertising manager; Milton Artis, Marcie Bailey, Robert Lee Carson, Carrie Grady, Angela Gray, David Hoffmann, Joanna Hutchins, Lynne Sandridge, Brooks Spradling, and Ginger Waggoner, account executives; Maria Miller, assistant account executive; Charlotte Weaver, Nicki Blair, proofreaders.
 Advertising production: Bill Leslie, manager/system administrator; Anita Bentley and Lorrie Pate, assistants.
 Assistant editors: Anne Michaud, arts coordinator; Hardy Floyd and Aimee Hobbs, copy; Dana Pope, city; Shea Riggsbee, editorial; Beth Tatum, features; Chip Suddeth, graphics coordinator; Valerie Fields, managing; Vicki Hyman and Mike Long, omnibus; Andrew Cline, photography; Stewart Chisam, Eric David, Warren Hynes and Bryan Strickland, sports; Anna Griffin, state and national; Birch DeVault, Ashley Fogle and Bonnie Rochman, university.
 Newsletters: Kevin Brennan.
 Editorial writers: Karen Dietrich, David Elchison, Adam Ford, Shea Riggsbee and Will Spears.
 University: Michael Bradley, John Broadfoot, Megan Brown, Shannon Crowover, Soya Elison, Kathy Ford, Heather Harrel, Valerie Holbert, Teasha Holladay, Kathleen Keener, Chandra McLean, Jenny McInnis, Marty Minchin, Marcia Moya, Jennifer Mueller, Cathy Oberle, Anuradha Seth, Marcia Sweeney, Jennifer Tahlum, Kelly Thompson, Marcy Walsh, Jon Whisenant and Michael Workman.
 City: Tiffany Ashurst, Jennifer Brett, Andrea Bruce, Kim Cable, Malia Carpenter, Andrew Cline, Carol Davis, Julie Flick, Chris Goodson, Christy Hardee, Jackie Hershkovitz, Grant Holland, Wendy Parnell, Emily Russ, Kelly Ryan and Brendan Smith.
 State and National: Josh Boyer, Tara Duncan, Brandy Fisher, Gilliam Hall, Vicki Hyman, Karen Lakey, Laura Laxon, Brian McJunkin, Rebecca Moore, Lara Munson, Adriana Parker, Jason Richardson, Bruce Robinson, Pete Simpkinson and Chris Trahan.
 Special Assignments: Alisa DeLano, Anna Griffin, Mara Lee, Jennifer Mueller and Gillian Murphy.
 Arts: Layton Croft, Ned Dirlik, Beth Forny-Duval, Laura Gay, Grant Halverson, Ashley Harris, Melissa Mankowski, Charles Marshall, Jonathan McCall, Rahul Mehta, Greg Miller, Elizabeth Oliver, Susie Rickard, Martin Scott, Jenni Spitz, Sally Stryker and Ian Williams.
 Features: Yi-Hsin Chang, Vicki Cheng, Michael Easterly, Jackie Hershkovitz, Thomas King, Mara Lee, Kristin Leight, Robin Lowe, Anna Meadows, Kelly Noyes, Mary Moore Parham, Sonja Post, Winifred Sease and Howard Thompson.
 Sports: Mark Anderson, senior writer; Jason Bates, Jennifer Dunlap, Jay Exum, Stuart Gordon, Dave Heiser, Doug Hoogervorst, Matt Johnson, David J. Kupstas, Mary Lafferty, John C. Manuel, Amy McCaffrey, Bobby McCroskey, David Monroe, Jay Stroble and Carter Toole.
 Photography: Brian Jones, senior photographer; Jonathan Atkinson, Kevin Chignell, Steve Exum, Garth Fort, Florian Hanig, Erin Randall, Elye Sandlin and Debbie Stengel.
 Copy Editors: Andy Bechtel, Tiffany Cook, Amy Cummins, Michael Gaudio, Kyle Hooper, Rama Kayyali, Jennifer Kurtes, Mara Lee, Marty McGee, Vicki Meeker, Mary Moore Parham, Susan Pearsall, Jennifer Reid, Christie Saleh, John Staton, Jacqueline Torok, Rick Twomey, Kenyatta Upchurch, Sara Watson, Amy Weller and Nancy West.
 Graphics: John Caserta, Jay Roseborough and Rick Stabile.
 Cartoons: Mandy Brame, Mary Brutzman, Lem Butler, Chris DePree and Carolyn Flanders.
 Layout: Shane Klein, Ian Long, Heather Modlin, Teresa Rucker and Sheila Terrell.
 Editorial Production: Stacy Wynn, manager; Lisa Reichle, assistant.
 Distribution and Printing: Village Printing Company.
 The Daily Tar Heel is published by the DTH Publishing Corp., a non-profit North Carolina corporation, Monday-Friday, according to the University calendar.
 Callers with questions about billing or display advertising should dial 962-1163 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Classified ads can be reached at 962-0252. Editorial questions should be directed to 962-0245/0246.
 Office: Suite 104 Carolina Union
 U.S. Mail address: P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3257
 Campus mail address: CB# 5210 box 48, Carolina Union