

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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Senior gift donation well spent

An education from this university may be priceless, but for many it simply isn't affordable. Scholarships aren't quite as available as high school guidance counselors make them seem to be, and financial aid has very rigid standards of income families must meet before receiving any funds.

Because there are not enough funds to help all needy and deserving students, any contribution to the scholarship pool is invaluable. Senior class officers should be commended for their drive to create two new scholarships and to buy new software for the computerized resource center through this year's senior class gift.

Seniors should be encouraged to pledge money to this worthy cause. Volunteers have called members of their class this week to ask for \$200 donations that can be paid over the next five years.

The class of 1992 has an opportunity to set a new trend in senior class gifts by being the first to give money for University scholarships. Since the first scholarships will be

awarded as early as next fall, students will see the fruits of their donations. There is also a good possibility that the endowment could increase in years to come, thus creating more scholarships.

Additionally, the money spent on software for the financial aid computer center will aid all students. It can be a time-consuming as well as futile exercise to sort through the folders stuffed with scholarship information in the financial aid office. A computer system in which students could enter information about themselves and receive a list of scholarships that apply to them would greatly simplify the process.

Seniors: If you told the senior class volunteer who contacted you that you weren't interested in donating money, please reconsider the offer. You have a unique opportunity to give something back to the University that has given you the education and the experience of a lifetime. It is an opportunity to benefit other students like you, who have a dream of graduating in a Carolina blue cap and gown.

Tyson fails as black role model

The phrase "stranger than fiction" seldom has seemed more applicable. It was strange when sometimes-millionaire Donald Trump last week asked Indianapolis legal officials to consider waiving the sentence of convicted rapist and former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson. Trump seemed to think justice would be served if only Tyson would donate revenue from ensuing bouts to rape awareness organizations. Justifiably, Indianapolis officials did not even consider Trump's request.

It was even stranger when a group of Indianapolis ministers announced Monday that they had gathered 10,000 signatures in a petition drive seeking a suspended sentence for Tyson. The Missionary Baptist Ministers Alliance hopes to gather 100,000 signatures before Tyson's sentencing on March 27. They contend that Tyson is a positive role model for black youth and that to put him in jail is to do a disservice to the black community.

A positive role model? Tyson? Even before the rape, Tyson was hardly considered a pillar of the world community. His

years in the public eye have been littered with early-morning scuffles, suspicious car accidents, charges of wife abuse and a rather embarrassing promotion of last year's fight with Razor Ruddock, in which Tyson told the fighter, "I'm going to make you my girlfriend."

If the ministers truly are concerned about losing a black role model, their fears are unjustified. The sports and political worlds practically are bursting with positive black role models, such as Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young, Gen. Colin Powell and NBA star Michael Jordan. The list of positive black role models is a long one — and Tyson's name is nowhere on it.

While the petition drive will probably prove ineffective, it is a disgrace that it even began: That 10,000 people have signed the petition is an insult to rape victims everywhere. The ministers' actions wrongly suggest that rape is a frivolous crime and that a slap on the wrist is a sufficient penalty. Tyson was found guilty of rape, and he deserves to go to jail as any convicted rapist would — positive role model or not.

Athletes' grad rates deserve an 'A'

Amidst social pressures and extracurricular activities, most of us have a difficult time keeping up academically. Add twenty hours of physical exercise each week, and this task becomes nearly impossible. This is what it's like to be a varsity athlete.

However, a recent report measuring the graduation rates of students within five years of enrollment showed that UNC student-athletes were winning the fight and graduating at a rate of more than 70 percent — a figure that nestled atop the rates for UNC-system schools.

The athletes' graduation rate is a tribute, not only to the coaches who recruit and encourage players to excel on and off the field, but to the players' own work ethics.

Playing a varsity sport at any school is a huge time commitment that brings added pressure to an already hectic academic and social schedule. In addition, scholarship athletes have monetary pressure, which serves to further entwine academic and sport priorities. Players in big name sports are often lured by the immense salaries at

the professional level. Some believe they can sacrifice a degree for this possibility.

This commitment to academics is epitomized by former Carolina basketball star Rick Fox. Fox attended summer school to complete his degree after he had already been chosen in the NBA draft by the Boston Celtics. It is likely that Fox will be comfortable financially for the rest of his life because of his pro career, but he has a college degree to rely on if an unforeseen injury occurs.

A spot on a pro-team roster is out of reach for a vast majority of student-athletes. The report indicates that UNC student-athletes understand this and have made a sincere effort to graduate.

In the heat of the football, basketball, soccer or volleyball season, it would be easy for student-athletes to forget the primary reason they are at Carolina: to receive an education. The recent high graduation rates show that this isn't the case. Student-athletes know why they are here and are getting the job — and a degree — done.



When searching for the perfect mate, watch out

Nick Sustana

Guest Columnist

My sister, Catherine, is getting married in March. Lorraine, my first sister, got married just last August. Including both engagement periods, all their lovey-dovey relationship stuff has been prominently displayed before me for well over a year now. I have tried to learn from them and from others how one reaches this pinnacle of mutual harmony in the hope that one day I, too, can be happily married.

It seems that the first and most difficult task is finding a suitable significant other. Unfortunately, the steady decline of social values and moral integrity in today's society has made this job more difficult for people ... about seven people. Despite this general lapse into wickedness, appropriate partners can still be found in all corners of the land. (I should note at this point that bowling alleys have very few interior walls and therefore very few corners, so don't bother.)

If you are a guy, you should try to look for a woman who is compassionate, intelligent and understands that as long as you make it to your trial on time, you get all the bail money back. A good woman will be hard to find, because unfortunately, most of them have brains nowadays. This means that they will eventually realize what a schlock you are and that spending the rest of their life with you would be as exciting as making mosaics of the Partridge family with a bag of stale trail mix. Nevertheless, you should still try to find a bright girl. A quick thinker will come in handy when you try to explain to her father why you must get married in two months.

A common mistake many men make is placing too much emphasis on having an attractive wife. This is perhaps the greatest folly any man can make. Such shallow attitudes are an insult to women everywhere and will doom you immediately to a life of pitiful bachelorhood. Your mate's physical appearance should only be important if you plan on looking at her more than once a week.

If you are a woman, your search will be slightly more difficult. The first thing you must do is take the notion of Mr. Right and toss it out the window. The number of National Rifle Association bumper stickers on the backs of pick-up trucks and the number of subscriptions

to Soldier of Fortune magazine should help you to realize that you are looking for a needle in a haystack. Once this realization is made, you can begin to form more reasonable expectations for your gentleman friend to fill.

The first thing you should look for in a man is sensitivity. It is a must for your future husband. Sensitive men will be difficult to find, though. Because of all the social pressure put on them to be headstrong and unbreakable, men often hide their feelings. It is up to you to figure out if your prospective beau is truly sensitive.

One method is to slip into a deep fit of grieving over the supposed death of your pet bunny. A truly sensitive man will show up at your door with flowers and candy and stay up with you all night until you feel better. In contrast, a truly insensitive man will show up at your door with a cold 12-pack of Coors Light and some Ding-Dongs and will probably pass out in your closet halfway through "Letterman."

Looks are important, but not nearly as important as wealth. Guys have an unusual ability to effortlessly blurt out incredibly stupid things that send their girlfriends to their rooms in tears. Because of their inability to converse like normal human beings, they often try to apologize by buying you things. This may seem materialistic, but it is often the best they can do, and they mean well. This is why wealth is an important quality. There is no sense in you bawling your eyes out just to receive some lame Snoopy Hallmark card. A proper gentleman's apology should start no lower than \$1.75 per tear. Remember, your relationship can end in a split second, but diamonds are forever, and alimony is pretty damn close.

Once a proper mate has been selected, the dating can begin. Dating is basically an excuse for you to blow off your classes, drink like a fish and act like a four-year-old all in the name of love. This is, of course, is rather pathetic behavior and cannot be excused after the first year and a half.

Nothing will get you thrown out of the lime-light faster than a healthy relationship. Frequent trips to Ben 'n' Jerry's with a jar of Vlasic and long walks through the arboretum with your beloved's best friend should keep your social ratings high. Sadly though, nothing can last forever, and eventually some other fresh couple will come along and dethrone you as the talk of the town. There is only one way to regain your previous status: Get engaged.

As far as I can tell, the engagement period is a time to build and strengthen mutual trust, mutual acceptance and mutual understanding of your fiancé's worries and concerns. These concepts are slightly modified after marriage, but they still involve the couple acting as one.

Mutual dissatisfaction over the fact that you are eating dinner out of the dog bowl because your spouse has made no distinct move in the last three weeks toward washing the dishes is a marital cornerstone. Combine that with the mutual hysterics produced by your spouse's idea of sexual gratification, and you have today's typical marriage.

Mutual acceptance of the fact that you both must have been on heavy drugs during your engagement period usually comes after the first poker night.

The road to marital harmony does indeed seem a bit rocky, but with a little perseverance, I'm sure anyone can make it. I'd like to offer my congratulations to both of my sisters for successfully weeding out the maniacs and finding two respectable gentlemen. (My father is still wondering when the wedding-out period is going to end.)

Guys, if you're still looking, you missed out, because two of the best girls have been spoken for already. Girls, if you're still searching, take heart.

Today the average man only serves 10.9 percent of his sentence. If you're in doubt about whether someone is right for you, let me know, I'll check them out. My sisters have conveniently dated every demented whacko on earth before getting married, so I can usually spot one a mile away.

Nick Sustana is a junior advertising major from Paradise Valley, Ariz.

READERS' FORUM

MLK's accomplishments outdo others' in history

To the editor:

I write this in response to the letter, "Leadership, not race should be celebrated," which led the Readers' Forum Jan. 23. Shaun Donegan, your point is well taken. However, you have been seriously misinformed about George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. I do not deny them their rightful places in U.S. history as prominent leaders, but I do feel you are misguided in your attempt to place them on the same level as Martin Luther King.

King fought for human rights as well as civil rights. In spite of the abuse and mistreatment he received from many White people, he harbored neither hatred nor resentment toward White people. Nor did he feel that opportunity should be taken away from a White person to be given to a Black person. He sought equal opportunity for all and saw all men and women, regardless of skin color, as his brothers and sisters.

On the other hand, George Washington refused to allow Black men to fight for their freedom as White servants were allowed to do in the Revolutionary War. Similarly, Abraham Lincoln did not see Black people as his equals and was only a leader in the fight against slavery when it proved to be politically profitable for him to be so. Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation to preserve the Union, not to preserve or improve Black lives.

I do not hold you responsible for not knowing these facts. There are many students at UNC and across the nation, Black and White, who

are as misinformed about U.S. history as you are, some even more so. I only hope that you take this constructive criticism in the spirit in which I give it — to inform and enlighten you and others.

King, unlike Lincoln and Washington, was willing to and did give his life to uphold his convictions and to fight peacefully for what he believed was right. I honestly do not know whether Lincoln or Washington were sympathetic to Black slaves or not. But the record shows that neither was strong or valiant enough in character to challenge popular belief and lead the country in doing what would have been morally and ethically correct at the time.

So, this is why Jan. 20 is celebrated as a national holiday and President's Day is not. Perhaps, if King had been president, President's Day would be worthy of national recognition.

EVA LADAWN DAWKINS
Senior
Political Science

Police should focus attention on real crimes

To the editor:

A few weeks ago, I was confronted with something so trivial that I never even thought it possible. As I was riding my bicycle on campus, as I always do for transportation, I decided to go up-town to the bank after class. Riding along on the sidewalk of Franklin Street, I was stopped by a University Police officer. Not only did he stop me for riding my bike on the sidewalk, but in addition, he issued me a ticket. Yes, a ticket for riding my bicycle on the sidewalk.

I wasn't upset so much by the

fine, but by the mere fact that these police officers wait around for bicyclists to break laws that are probably not even misdemeanors. With the recent string of robberies of uptown shops, I should hope these police have their priorities in line, which I am most certain they do.

I am not scolding the police department for their involvement with the sidewalks of Franklin Street, but rather would like to refocus their attention to the more dangerous criminals out there. I realize that the officer was just trying to protect the pedestrians, but let's face it, sidewalks are for everyone to use, both pedestrians and bicyclists. Let's leave the streets for the cars, because it is much easier for a bike to stop for one of those "aggressive pedestrians" on the sidewalk than it is for a car to stop for a bike on the street, where it should have the right of way in the first place.

QUINN L. ANTSHIEL
Freshman
Political Science/Spanish

Bibbs taints spirit of campus elections

To the editor:

In response to Steve Politi's Feb. 13 article, "Complaint may disqualify SBP election leader," I am forced to ask: MARK BIBBS — WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM?

In the past four years, I have been duly impressed by students who aspire to office in order to make this university a better place. Campus elections have also provided me with a tremendous amount of amusement: People who take themselves too seriously are among the funniest in the world. But certain repeat candidates have

taken all the fun out of the elections for me.

Mr. Bibbs, your ubiquitous campaign posters have become part of my college experience. I admire your zeal in pursuit of campus office. However, I cannot condone your post-election behavior. It reeks of poor sportsmanship, sour grapes and just plain whining! An admirable candidate (finishing fourth!) would have endorsed one of the remaining candidates in the run-off election. He or she would not have resorted to hair-splitting concerning poll-site procedures.

By implying that Rashmi Airan campaigned unfairly, Bibbs and his supporters have damaged an election process which is already far from perfect. Lighten up, gentlemen: We are talking about a campus election. Mr. Bibbs, it is important to be a gracious winner. Perhaps more important, though, is learning to be a gracious loser. Take heart: You are halfway there.

ADAM REED
Senior
English

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■ Letters should be limited to 400 words, although longer letters are accepted.

■ 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.

■ If you have a title that is relevant to your letter's subject, please include it.

■ The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity.

The Daily Tar Heel

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