

The Daily Tar Heel

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Duke Field Goal a Step to Greater Goal

On Saturday night, a freshman kicker on the Dook football team kicked the game-winning, 28-yard field goal with 1:22 left in the spring scrimmage game to give the team a surprise 24-22 victory.

The kicker was then carried off the field by the entire Blue Devil football team. While game-winning field goals by talented Dook freshmen are not normally behavior applauded by this particular paper, this is a special case.

The player who helped the Blue Devils come from behind to win this scrimmage has an unusual goal — she wants to be the first female to play Division I football, and it appears she is off to a good start. While she still has quite a way to go, and after accidentally being forced to throw Saturday, will definitely not pose real competition to the team's quarterback section, Heather

Sue Mercer is doing something that many would have thought impossible. She is also doing something many women would not have thought to try.

She now has a unique opportunity to disprove the often debated, and nearly always laughed off, notion that women can make it in male-dominated sports. With this chance comes the opportunity to show the world that women can break through barriers perceived as impossible with the only ingredients necessary ... determination and the right frame of mind.

Hopefully, along with a few more winning field goals for her team (but not too many) Mercer's example will send us all, and women in particular, an important message: Once you cease believing something is impossible, you have already done the hardest part of accomplishing it.

An Environmental Elephant

How much is one ton? Considering an elephant weighs about two tons, that would be about one half of an elephant. One ton is how much sulfur dioxide, the major cause of acid rain, is contained in a pollution allowance issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. These allowances are issued annually to utilities to designate how much of this harmful chemical compound legally can be released by each company. Companies that do not use their full allotment may sell their extra allowances to other companies or may auction them off.

Recently, eight Dook students used \$176 of school money to buy a pollution allowance at the annual auction. Eighteen allowances were bought by students and environmental groups. This effort displays the concern that is prevalent concerning the declining condition of the environment but also provides a positive course of action toward change.

With Earth Day approaching this weekend, progressive action like this should be the main focus — instead of more petitions and passive resistance as in the case of the Mitsubishi boycott, which was more of a symbolic gesture.

Sadly, this action is not enough. At last year's auction, Duke Power and Carolina Power & Light Co. bought 175,000 allowances each. A

system that allows utilities to employ lax environmental standards by giving them the opportunity to purchase extra pollution allowances is a system that needs revision.

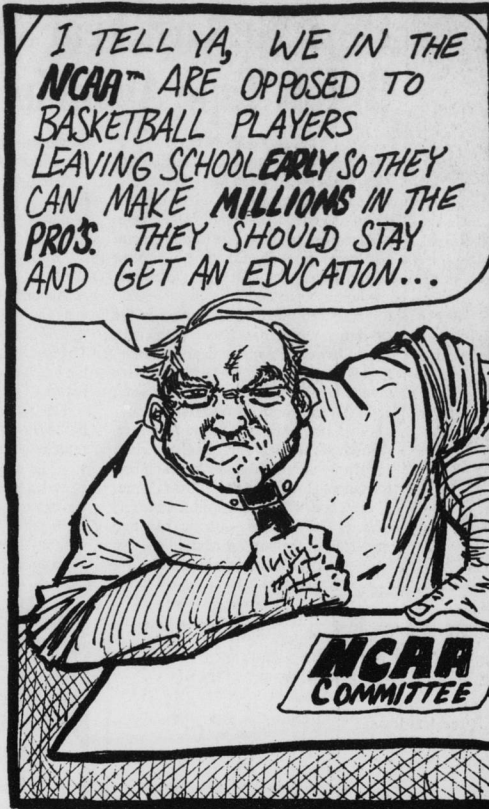
The companies that use less than their given amount of allowances should be able to sell them back to the government or at least should be provided with some other sort of incentive to use higher regulatory standards.

Instead, these companies must use funds from the sale of extra allowances to less conscientious companies in order to subsidize their own higher standards.

Some argue that changing the system would only increase people's electricity and water bills, but how will utilities ever make improvements if they are not all forced to perform on the same level? And how will these improvements become more efficient and more cost effective without allowing them the benefit of a free market system?

If environmental standards became stricter and loopholes like this allowance system were closed and the government stuck to its guns, there would come a time when environmentalists would not need to raise money to buy the right to stop someone else from polluting the air with half an elephant worth of sulfur dioxide. After all, elephants have to breathe, too.

EDITORIAL



Life and the Universe: The Search for the Divine

Last week, I, a student of science, attended a lecture on the divine. Although my mother raised me in the Methodist church, in the heart of eastern North Carolina's religious conservatism, that land of my childhood seems very far from Science, a land of eternal doubt, where a hypothesis can never be truly proved, only disproved. In science, the only point of faith — if you can truly call it faith — is that the universe operates according to laws. We may never understand all of those laws, but countless scientists have dedicated their lives to finding order and meaning in this universe. So, why the sudden interest in the divine?

As it happens, the religious lecture that drew me in was called "Creation and Time," and the speaker, rather than being a theologian, was Paul Davies, a physicist. For some reason, the popular press has labeled physicists "the high priests of science." I'm not sure how they came by their nickname, but I think I understand why it stuck. The nature of time and the moment of creation used to be the sole (soul?) province of monks in their towers, of theologians and of holy men.

The mathematics of the physicist are, to most of humanity, a strange and incomprehensible language, as deserving of reverence as the holy books that used to (and still do) hold such power. To those who know the language of mathematics, physics seems to possess an even greater beauty and power. This might explain why Dr. Paul Davies was (at least) the fourth physicist to win the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion (a prestigious \$1 million award) and why he spoke to a packed house the night of April 10.

Supposedly, Einstein himself once said that "God does not play dice with the Universe." But although Einstein may have attributed the cosmic order to the careful planning and actions of a divine being, present-day physics seems to

support the concept of a sort of cosmic Dungeon and Dragons game, where the rules are laid out in the beginning, but the specific results that are played out depend on the role of the quantum dice.

As Dr. Davies pointed out, we didn't have to end up with the physical laws that govern our particular universe. If we had gotten another set instead, our universe might have reached a state of permanent organization or permanent chaos. Instead, we live in a universe where many outcomes are allowed, from the birth of stars to the evolution of man. Yet the physical laws do not dictate that any particular outcome must occur. Those delicately balanced physical laws allow an eternal interplay between the tendency toward order and the tendency toward greater disorder.

The eternal battle between order and disorder isn't a new idea. Perhaps (as Dr. Davies believes) an ultimate truth must be timeless — true yesterday, true tomorrow. Long ago, Zoroastrianism, one of the world's first great religions, envisioned life as an eternal battle between good and evil, played out on a cosmic stage. Although the laws of physics dictate no morality, our human tendency to favor life could make it seem as if order is always good.

As a student of biology, I observe life's battle to maintain order every day. In my chemistry and physics classes, the laws of thermodynamics serve as the guiding principles. One of those laws is that the universe always tends to a state of greater disorder, like my desk at midsemester.



MONICA EILAND
WEIRD SCIENCE

On the other hand, in biology classes I have studied the intricate and beautiful order from which life arises. DNA is a chemical information storage system that directs the construction and operation of cells — a helical library that is fully subject to the laws of chemistry and physics. The evolution of life has depended on the survival of those animals best able to reproduce in a given environment, depending on the physical aspects of that environment, including the other animals living in it. Even the behavior of animals usually has some relationship to the various demands of survival.

Perhaps the struggle for life itself is the struggle to maintain order, the fight against entropy. Of course, all order in the universe somehow balances with the disorder somewhere else, on the cosmic garbage scow of existence. Eventually, disorder must win at the end of every human life, even as new life achieves new order.

Why, that sounds almost ... divine, doesn't it? At its genesis, science grew from the rib of religion. Although the history of that parentage seems strained and at odds, it is difficult to argue with the pyrotechnic glories of cosmology, as presented to us by modern physics. The men and women of science have spent lifetimes on their mental explorations of the universe and the possible reasons behind its existence.

Like the search for order through religious faith in the dictates of an eternal God, the scientific study of nature is another way of searching for meaning in the universe. While that motivation makes science no less rigorous, or valid, or valuable to humanity, I think that this search for meaning demonstrates how connected we are, to each other, to our universe and to the ultimate meaning of existence, wherever that meaning lies.

Monica Eiland is a senior biology major from Durham.



DTH Should Learn to Follow 'Competent Review Tradition'

TO THE EDITOR:
As a musicologist and singer, I was glad to find so much coverage of campus musical events in the Monday, 10 April issue, including reviews of Extractions ("Extractions 'Pull' Off Snazzy Concert With Humor, Music"), "Jesus Christ Superstar" ("Jesus Christ Superstar" Spotlights Campus Talent) and Tar Heel Voices ("Clever Theme, Group Bonding Unify Tar Heel Voices Concert"), as well as a prominent mention of Patrick Sharpe's composition recital (which, I should disclose, I participated in) in Tadd Wilson's column ("Fred Says: 'God Is Dead,' So Make the Most of It").

Wilson's mention was admirable; by using the recital, he not only gave an example of the beauty he admonished us to find, he also put his finger on the strategy apparent in many of Sharpe's compositions: affirmation in the face of struggle.

As to the reviews, I was shocked to find them so consistently positive. Having not attended the Extractions or THV concerts, I can only speak of Superstar, which I attended Thursday night. Certainly Company Carolina deserves our attention and this production has merit. However, it was not without problems.

Max von Essen and Sean Williams are undoubtedly talented, but they had their drawbacks: von Essen's literally head-shaking vibrato was distracting, while Williams' voice was not quite up to the demands of the score. The noose that was lowered for Judas' suicide evoked some snickers. The band did not completely hold the show together; ensemble was clearly lacking in the fragile "I Don't Know How to Love Him."

In no way do I mean to disrespect the cast; rather, my quarrel is with Alison Maxwell. If you're only going to report, don't label it a review (one vague appeal for "emotion" based on a simplistic mechanical vs. emotional dichotomy, does not a criticism make). If it is a review, get someone with musical-historical training for musical events, else you risk becoming simply a rah-rah rag. Good criticism doesn't mean crass negativity, but it does require a certain degree of knowledge and skill. Did Maxwell notice the novel reggae interpolations, or the fact that the final song was moved from its original position? More generally, she unquestioningly judged the performance on the notion that it should evoke an emotional response, but one of the questions that arises from Webber's musical setting is precisely this: does musical theater have to evoke emotion, or is it just "ear tickling"?

Reviews of events soon after they occur are



READERS' FORUM

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticism. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 400 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. Send e-mail forum to: dth@unc.edu.

notoriously bad (perhaps inherent given the speed), but a competent review tradition has existed since at least the 1820s. Read it.

Richard Rischer
GRADUATE STUDENT
MUSICOLOGY

Muslim, Nation of Islam Conflict Should Be Debated

TO THE EDITOR:
On the editorial page, over the last couple of weeks, there has been a written debate between the "Nation of Islam" and Orthodox Muslims on campus. The issue at hand is whether or not the "Nation" has the right to call itself an institution of Muslims. In the last letter to the editor, "Local Jihad: Round 3 — Nation of Islam Not Truly Muslim," the author expressed a desire to end the discussion because of the fact that it can go on and on.

I called the member of the "Nation of Islam" to discuss his views in more detail. Although I have the same opinion as mainstream Muslims, which is that the Nation was not Muslim, I invited the "Nation's" chapter at UNC to a public forum with the Muslim Students' Association either this semester or next. Because this year is about over, I would prefer fall '95. I believe this would be important due to the fact that we would invite experts in each faith to discuss the issue on an intellectual level.

I also think that it would be more effective than this back and forth effort that is going on now. I truly hope the "Nation" will accept the invitation.

Mohammad Banawan
JUNIOR
PHARMACY

Thanks to All the Volunteers, Gun Buyback Was Successful

TO THE EDITOR:
I would like to take a moment to thank everyone involved in Buy Back the Hill, which took place Saturday, April 8.

Through the incredible efforts of all involved, we purchased 119 guns, all of which will be destroyed. None of the guns were wanted by their owners, and no gun purchased will ever be used in a crime, stolen, used in a suicide, or fired accidentally.

This is a phenomenal number of weapons, and a true monument to the importance our community places on safety. Once destroyed, the guns collected this year may be added to last year's, which will be given to an artist to make a sculpture.

Specifically, I would like to recognize the efforts of the Chapel Hill Police Department for their help in assessing and handling the weapons, the towns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro for their support, and the citizens of our communities for contributing to this effort.

Finally, I wish to thank the UNC law students, UNC undergraduates, and Chapel Hill High School students who had the vision and fortitude to see this project to its successful end. Your hard work made this event more successful than anyone thought possible.

Keep in your hearts the knowledge that you helped save lives and reduce violence in Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

Allen Baddour
CHAIRMAN
BUY BACK THE HILL
LAW STUDENT

The DTH Needs You

Got something to say? Applications are now available for full editorial board members and for summer and fall columnists. Applications can be picked up in The Daily Tar Heel office, Union Suite 104, and are due Wednesday.

The editorial board comprises seven or nine members, including the editor and the editorial page editor, and is responsible for writing the unsigned pieces that appear on the left side of the opinion page. Each week, the editorial board meets Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday nights for about an hour and a half.

Columnists write the signed pieces on the right side of the editorial page that appear every week of the semester.

Questions? Call Editor-select Thamasis Cambaris at 962-0245.

THE DAILY TAR HEEL

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