

# The Daily Tar Heel

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Established 1893  
103 Years of Editorial Freedom

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### Caveat Voter

Welcome to student government, Aaron Nelson. So far, Student Body President-elect Nelson has tackled his new post with gusto. He has already been working with his transition team to put out newly revised applications for Student Government positions. He has spoken with Chancellor Michael Hooker to solidify plans for a University Council and an ambassador program with the state legislature. He should be commended for his actions ... so far.

Nelson's initiative shows he means to take his job seriously and plans to do something in Suite C. He should not get so bogged down in high-power lunches and coalition meetings that he forgets to represent the students who elected him. He ran as the voice of the students and should hold to that positive promise.

Nelson must make sure he sticks to his campaign platform once he takes office in April. The heady power of his position could divert him from his original goals. He obtained these goals by interviewing thousands of students and cannot forget their interests once he is inaugurated.

If Nelson receives the stipend proposed by current Student Body President Calvin Cunningham, he should be wary of letting it go

to his head. This stipend rewards him for his work, but it also makes him more accountable.

Nelson may have a fondness for coalitions, but he must be realistic about what they can accomplish. Answering to too many special interest groups could mean having less time for issues affecting all students. He should lead with a strong hand and not cater to every group.

When representing the student body, Nelson should remember he himself is a student. He must never bow to stuffed shirts by carrying a briefcase. If he wears his backpack with pride, he will relate better to his constituents and show legislators and administrators that he deserves respect as a student rather than as their clone.

Petty partisan politics can also cause turmoil. If Nelson drags any vendettas to Suite C he will have made his job more difficult. He should not discredit his office and Student Government by allowing silly grudges to affect his actions.

Nelson has the opportunity to take his office to a higher level. His overwhelming support showed that students liked what he had to say and wanted to see the results of his promises. His time has come to live up to their expectations. Let's hope he continues to do so.

### A Good Ram He Was

Friends, Alums, Tar Heel Persons: We come not to bury Rameses, but to praise him.

Rameses XXVI was a good ram, a talented ram and a joy to behold as he pranced around the football field with cheerleaders and fans alike.

Rameses XXVI was murdered viciously last Sunday by unknown assailants. UNC will never again share their joyous victories and rue their crushing defeats with the faithful ram.

Some maladjusts — or hungry vagrants — decided to take Rameses XXVI's life in the pursuit of their next meal. He did not die a hero's death, but that does not mar the service he has provided faithfully for the past year.

Rameses had only seen two-and-a-half years of the world, but perhaps it was better that he could close his eyes forever to his surroundings: a university that continues to have live mascots though most peer institutions have stopped the

practice; a community that regretted his death more than any suicide, rape, murder or accidental death in the past year; and media so caught up in catering to public interest that his death made front-page news.

Although the community is shocked into inaction by the horrific loss of a dear member, Rameses would not want us spending precious moments on his passing. He would want us to go ahead with our lives and important issues, as he longed for Leon Johnson to forge down the field.

Rameses, the brave soul, would tell us to focus on faculty salaries, increasing diversity on campus, augmenting the intellectual atmosphere and, of course, supporting our athletic teams (all of them — Rameses once remarked that it was a shame no one saw him at women's games).

Rameses XXVI was a good ram, and we mourn his untimely death.

## Sports: Natural Expressions or Ritualistic Frenzy?

With apologies to the industrious producers and collectors of "Hooker headlines," Tuesday's paper produced the best headline (well, OK, subhead) yet: "Officials say the death of Rameses XXVI was not satanic or sports-related."

It's not often that Satanism and sports find their way into the same discussion. We tend to compartmentalize and even polarize various aspects of our culture into different realms, failing to see their eerie affinities. Thus sports are usually seen as the distilled expression of the purely physical side of our nature, the arena wherein we exist most purely as human animals engaged in developing our natural selves.

Athletics allow us a healthy escape from an overly technical, highly analyzed society, and if they nurture ideology (ideals of excellence, persistence and strategy, for example), they do so in a healthy way by cultivating natural drives like competition. After all, don't girls who play sports get pregnant and drop out of school less often because their self-esteem is better? Isn't a sound mind in a sound body the ideal human condition? Shouldn't the human animal be all it can be?

Sure. But you need not have been beaten to a pulp by British soccer thugs to observe that sports are also the focus of large-scale ritualized behaviors that are, directly or indirectly, violent, disturbing and mysterious. Not only can you get your aggression out on the ball court without fear of assault charges, but if you're a good enough player, you can inspire thousands to watch with rapt attention as you wreak violence that is rationalized by the highly structured circumstances under which it occurs. For instance, it's fine to pound others, and even break their bones, provided they wear numbers on their backs and you pummel them on an oblong surface with lines drawn on it while a timer is counting the seconds. Not to mention the violent fervor of worshipful fans. Whether Rameses the gazillionth was actually offed by rabid Duke Fans, or whether he was in fact gutted and quartered by an opportunistic barbecue fancier from rural Kentucky (where barbecued mutton is king), the theory that sports fans would mess-

ily kill a sheep out of team loyalty merited police investigation.

The sacred status of sports hostilities is part of early conditioning. As the slow kid in gym class from early youth, last picked on the softball team and the butt of relay-team captains, I absorbed years of legal hazing three times a week. It's not that I grudge successful athletes due recognition; after all, school is full of rewards for intellectual ability. But even in the allegedly supervised arena of school sports, heaping insults and even physical abuse on the opposing team or the weak members of one's own team was practically authorized. Had I publicly sneered at classmates who got the wrong answer or yelled at a member of my spelling bee team for screwing up, I would have found myself in the principal's office getting a lecture on cooperation and mutual respect. But sports-related contempt and abuse were privileged; the gym teachers catcalled right along with the jocks. If you couldn't take them in stride as part of the ritual, you were deemed dysfunctional.

Sure, some sports are notoriously violent rituals; tennis isn't hockey, although, as we learned last Olympics, maybe figure-skating is. But while sports may — MAY — absorb and redeploy violent competitive energies that would otherwise be used for bloodier sports like warfare, even the less violent ones evoke religiously obsessive behavior.

Why, for instance, is it so compellingly necessary to watch a contest when the results will have absolutely no effect on one's own life and will furthermore be entirely obsolete a day from now? Why the violent loyalty to a team whose relation to you consists entirely of the fact that they wear the name of your school or region on their uniform?

Take my attachment to those perennial losers, the Boston Red Sox. I was not born in

Boston, have not lived there for seven years and have been to only two Red Sox games in my life. What mystical phenomenon causes my emotional state to fluctuate as I check the American League East standings, waiting for the inevitable mid-season dive?

It can only be the Gods of sports, who are powerful enough deities to cause rioting in British stadiums and animal sacrifice at enlightened universities. Mysteriously inspiring our loyalty, causing untold amounts of gold to fly about the planet in the service of contests whose outcomes have no intrinsic material results, they are a potent force directing our primal selves, who live on in rituals that are ostensibly mere recreation. The pre-Columbian stone ball-courts that still stand in South American jungles seem to have been used for ball games with religious significance, where the winners were sacrificed in the post-game ritual. Compared to that, a little sheep-slaughter seems a very gentle reminder of how close barbarity lies to the surface of play.

From Hell to Breakfast, of course, thinks there are infinitely better reasons to sacrifice the flesh of sheep. But to avoid unpleasant repercussions and tough, stringy meat, buy your lamb chops at the supermarket.

If Rameses' murderer was indeed a rogue gourmet, I suspect he is still torn between the desire to marinate the mutton long enough to tenderize it and the need to get rid of the evidence promptly. For young, tender lamb chops, you need only broil them, although I feel they are tastiest when slathered first with herbs, garlic and mustard.

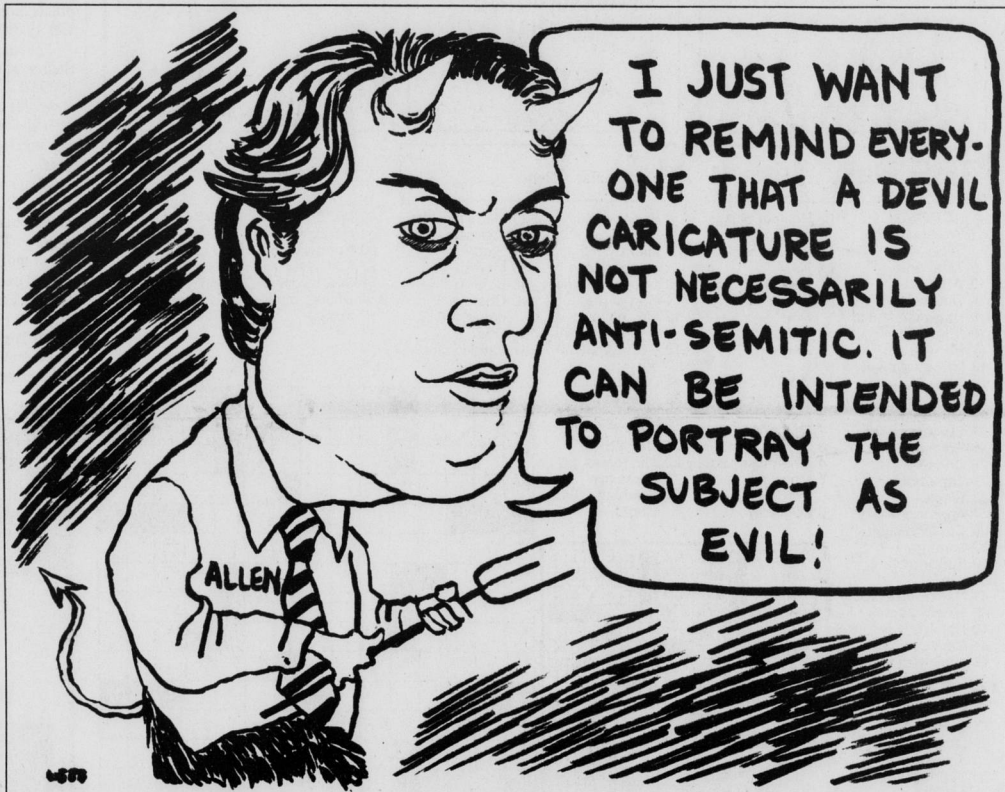
#### Lamb Chops with Mustard-Garlic Coating

Crush two cloves garlic. In a small bowl, combine with 1 1/2 Tb dijon mustard and 1 tsp soy sauce; beat in 3 Tb extra-virgin olive oil. Add 1/4 tsp ground thyme or rosemary. Coat both sides of two 8-oz shoulder chops with the mixture and let stand for 1/2 hour. Broil until medium rare. Serve with a salad and any kind of potatoes for a transcendent dinner.

Marya DeVoto is a sixth-year graduate student in English.



MARYA DEVOTO  
FROM HELL TO BREAKFAST



### Don't Just Ban Handguns; Stop Screwdriver Crimes, Too

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing a response to the article about the Screwdriver-Wielding Assailant ("Screw Driver-Wielding Assailant Holds Up Student on Campus," Feb. 19). The terrifying assault frightens me because of the realization that crime is everywhere. The passage of the concealed handgun law bans handguns on University property. Government, in its infinite wisdom, realized crime can't possibly occur on campus, so law-abiding citizens should not have the option of carrying a handgun. The thugs that mugged seven people on Saturday committed a violent act on University property. No-handgun signs force citizens to become vulnerable because criminals do not listen to signs. The thugs know that if law-abiding citizens are not carrying weapons, then criminals are the only ones with handguns. The great aspect of allowing citizens to carry handguns is the deterrence of crime. A mugger is going to think twice about pulling a knife if the possibility exists that the victim is armed. The ban hurts everybody, not just those who choose to carry handguns.

My response to those who want to just ban handguns — should we also ban all screwdrivers? I bet that sounds pretty good to the out-of-touch Chapel Hill Town Council. Is a sign with a picture of a gun with a slash through it going to prevent criminals from having a gun? It won't because the slimes that rob and murder have a blatant disregard for law. You would be better off to just put up a sign with the word CRIME with a slash through it. If anyone puts up signs banning handguns to prevent crime then they believe that Hillary will be re-elected.

Brian Ehrenfeld  
CLASS OF 1994

### Insensitive Bombing Cartoon Showed Disrespect, Frivolity

TO THE EDITOR:

The Daily Tar Heel published an editorial cartoon which attempted to show the recent terrorist bombing in London in a more benevolent, sit-com light (Feb. 20). It is disgraceful that an event in which people were killed and maimed can be equated with the mischievous doings of a "Family Matters" character. This insensitivity to the impact of the bombing is truly a blow to



### 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 length, clarity and vulgarity. 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 forum to dth@unc.edu.

the credibility of the DTH staff. In the future, it will be difficult for me to view the DTH as anything but an exercise in frivolity.

David A. Borasky, Jr.  
CLINICAL RESEARCH UNIT

### Housekeepers Only Ask to Be Treated as Part of Community

TO THE EDITOR:

If housekeepers win, students win. Tadd Wilson's pro-privatization editorial ("It's in the Students' Best Interest," Feb. 19) does not understand this linkage nor withstand scrutiny. Wilson obviously read leisurely and guessed that any old economic model could be applied. But one should question Wilson's argument. Because a housekeeper cleans whatever is dirty, and because those decisions are left to the housekeeper, Wilson's argument that contracting out leads to "local" decision-making is inappropriate. The local decision-maker is already the housekeeper.

If worker morale is low, one should expect a decline in quality. The article makes no distinction between level and quality of services. With adequate monitoring, a private firm can maintain a "quality." But monitoring mechanisms cost money. Where is the efficiency — the savings — if there are such safeguards?

Wilson's argument would mean that the Uni-

versity system should be privatized. The UNC system has limited resources and a bureaucracy that doesn't always work well. Public education exists because the U.S. decided that education was necessary to create a well-informed citizenry.

Members of the Coalition for Economic Justice believe that economic justice is necessary for community building. The Greensboro sit-ins weren't just about eating at a lunch counter with white folks. The sit-ins were about black people being regarded as full members of the community. With membership come shared rights and shared responsibilities.

The Housekeepers Movement asked simply that housekeepers and groundskeepers be regarded as members of the broader community. Perhaps this notion asks too much. After all, it requires that one regard a group that is largely black, female and poor as human beings. This notion is the same for those who sat behind the lunch counter; for those who sat in South Building to realize the vision of a free-standing Sonja Haynes Stone Black Cultural Center; for those who lobbied to make the multicultural requirement for Arts and Sciences; and for the majority of the South African population who brought Apartheid to its knees.

Justice did not ask to be tempered by profit. Any savings in the short term will not benefit the University. Short-term gains will be lost in the long run.

Market-based strategies for efficiency are bound to fail. The very presence of government means that the microeconomic model of firm behavior does not apply to state institutions, especially if they are in any way peculiar.

Wilson's application of general economic models to public sector issues is tainted by his lack of understanding. Wilson found one case that might support his position. Wilson doesn't point to general trends. He can't tell us what the implications are for families. Even General Administration admits that contracting out doesn't produce cost savings in all sectors and recognizes that efficiency for one sector doesn't translate to another. If General Administration can recognize these uncertainties, perhaps you should too, Mr. Wilson. We are all under attack. Instead of dividing our strength, we should be unifying. Let us discuss our interests. If the housekeepers lose, we all lose.

Fred Wherry  
SENIOR  
PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS/ CREATIVE WRITING

### Beer Patriots, Ho!



A salute to all the exotic places students will visit over Spring Break that don't have an open-container law — so long as the Alcohol Law Enforcement troopers don't track them down and nab their fake IDs, that is.

### Dean Made It



Yesterday marked the 65th birthday of one of UNC's living idols — the namesake of the Dean Dome himself. Happy Birthday, Coach Smith. Maybe your players will give us all a birthday present in your honor at the ACC Tournament.

### The Real Thing



The next time crafty thieves try to suppress a political statement by stealing The Carolina Review, they should instead go straight to the horse's mouth. Why settle for 1500 copies of Charlton Allen's words when you can have the real thing?

### Rock the Voters



It's too bad it takes MTV to get students to register to vote. Maybe there would be better voter turnout if Daisy Fuentes ran for the Republican Presidential nomination. Anyway, whatever happened to the Rande of the Redwoods for President campaign?

## THE DAILY TAR HEEL

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The editorials are approved by the majority of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor, editorial page editor and seven editorial writers. 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 962-1183 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.



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