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Office Hours Friday 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

# The Daily Tar Heel

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BOARD EDITORIALS

## Smart Growth

Town leaders should help make UNC's idea for affordable housing for graduate students and faculty at Horace Williams tract a reality.

In a town where housing is limited and prices soar through the roof, UNC graduate students are often left without a place to hang their hat. But that could all change if a recent proposal for the development of UNC's Horace Williams tract comes to fruition.

When University officials meet in April to discuss the plan, they must do everything in their power to make this idea a reality.

The plan, presented by architects and campus planners to the Airport Advisory Committee, includes 1,000 to 2,500 units of affordable graduate student and faculty housing. That would be a vast improvement over the sparse 300 units currently available on campus.

In addition to housing units, the proposal includes 5 to 6 million square feet of private and University research space, green spaces for recreation and a mass transit system capable of shuttling students to and from campus in five minutes.

Commercial developments, similar to downtown Franklin Street, are included as well. The proposed community would measure up nicely to the living-and-learning environment envisioned in the Master Plan.

But University officials need to factor in the costs for the niceties early into development process, so sticker shock doesn't hit after construction has begun.

If a desirable living space for graduate students and faculty is the goal, these amenities must be carried through. All the perks look good on paper, but it becomes far too easy to get wrapped up in the costs and slash the "luxuries."

After all, the University does not want to construct a 979-acre ghetto. Just look at South Campus. As Mr. Rogers says, mistakes can be good if you learn from them.

And officials have to be prepared for the Chapel Hill Town Council's reaction as well. Local politicians have a history of using debilitating caution when it comes to growth, unable to see the town for the neighborhoods. Thousands of new housing units will undoubtedly spark their interference.

But town officials should be in favor of this proposal as well. Such a centralized community with readily available mass transit will boost ridership on buses. And Chapel Hill has long been an avid proponent of the merits of mass transit.

What's more, the town and Orange County spend millions every year to increase affordable housing. The council should readily support the University when it offers to do something about the problem.

It's time the town helped the University give back to a group that has given it so much.

## Federal Lifesavers

Kudos to U.S. Sens. John Edwards and Frank Lautenberg for doing what UNC should have already done — pushing for fire sprinklers.

U.S. Sens. John Edwards and Frank Lautenberg apparently have designs on the jobs of Interim Housing Director Dean Bresciani and Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Sue Kitchen.

Last week, Edwards, D-N.C., and Lautenberg, D-N.J., proposed a bill that would provide \$500 million in federal funding for fire sprinklers in university residence halls. Their concern for the safety of students everywhere is admirable, and the two senators should be applauded for their efforts.

However, those efforts should have at least started with Bresciani and Kitchen, not the federal government.

The senators' proposal comes two months after a fire at a Seton Hall University residence hall killed three freshmen and four years after a fire at a UNC fraternity house killed five students.

UNC has lagged in upgrading its residence halls. Chapel Hill quickly passed an ordinance requiring fire sprinklers in fraternity and sorority houses following the 1996 Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house fire, but the University and the UNC system chose to

commit themselves to a more gradual implementation program for the residence halls.

Even after the Seton Hall fire, Kitchen and Bresciani seemed content to maintain their glacial pace. They made no efforts after the disaster to lobby legislators for additional funds to upgrade fire safety measures.

While UNC plodded on toward its goal of fire sprinklers in all residence halls, fires continued to break out. This year, Morrison alone has had several fires break out in student lounges. Morrison is one of 23 residence halls on campus that does not have sprinklers, though UNC officials now say they are looking at installing them there.

While no one was seriously injured in the Morrison fires, it would be the height of arrogance to believe that what happened at Seton Hall could not happen here. Instead, it appears that it will take an act of Congress to do what four years, a fire in another state and pyromaniacs could not: promote the implementation of fire safety measures on campus.

Unfortunately, UNC students are left with the inescapable conclusion that their university doesn't care to agitate for their safety.



## Free Time Leads Naik to Epiphany

Some things off the top of my head as I sit here trying to escape Regis Philbin ... How many of you guys who missed class on Sunday were conveniently born again for the weekend? Come on, you can tell me — I used to use religion as an excuse to miss class all the time in high school.

To many of the fine folks in Robeson County, anything that wasn't Protestant was completely foreign.

I guess that's why one of my substitute teachers didn't find it odd when I excused myself from class as part of the ritual to pray facing Bombay five times a day.

(To those of you who may not know, many Muslims pray facing Mecca five times a day. I'm not Muslim, making the whole situation stated above comical ... get it ... brown joke ... all right, just forget about it ...)

Speaking of which, one day when I have a lot of time and money, I'm going to write a book entitled "Growing up Indian in Southeastern North Carolina."

Now before you dismiss this as a verved out idea, give it a chance. Think about it: Chapter 1 could be called "What Are Them Red Dots For?" where I discuss the trauma of being the only Indian in a neighborhood while playing cowboys and Indians.

I could deal with other pressing matters that would be of aid to fellow Indians, such as "How Not to Look Like You're Fresh Off the Boat," "Why You Aren't a Bum If You're Not Pre-Med" and most importantly, "How to Acquire the Most Prominent Table on Davis Library's Second Floor."

I'm not saying this book would make *The New York Times* bestseller list, but at least it'd get some laughs ...

Is anybody else looking forward to meeting with their advisers as much as I am?

I find that in the two and a half minutes that I am allotted with my adviser every semester, all the questions I have about my future are answered, with maybe even five or



AMOL NAIK  
FROM THE DANK CAVE

10 seconds to spare for small talk.

The only thing I like better than being advised is registering with Caroline herself ...

On a completely separate topic, what about this circus they're calling the Republican primaries?

First John McCain is supposed to be the reformer, now George W. Bush is the "Reformer with Results."

It really seems like neither one of them has a true identity, but both of these guys definitely have serious quirks.

Many respect McCain because he's a war hero, but his bitter nature and nasty campaigning are somewhat unsettling. Sometimes it seems as if all those years in the Vietnam jungle as a POW have, in the words of Eminem, "made him one Excedrin tablet short of a full medicine cabinet."

One of the shadier things about Bush is that he spoke at Bob Jones University in South Carolina before the GOP primary. If you haven't heard about this fine institute of higher learning, it has openly banned interracial dating, and the founder, Bob Jones himself, horrifically called the Pope "an instrument of the devil."

Bush has since apologized for not taking a stronger stand against these views, but conveniently doing so after he's already won in ultra-conservative South Carolina.

As of now, choosing between the two major Republican candidates looks like a

choice between dumb and dumber ...

If you still haven't gone to the Mexican food stand at Lenoir Dining Hall, hurry before it's too late. It seems as if others have also stumbled upon our discovery and are now gorging themselves with mass quantities of refried beans.

For their sakes, let's hope they're also stumbling across to the Student Recreation Center before they bare it all during Spring Break ...

Did you catch N.C. State find yet another way to lose, this time against Clemson? Those poor kids down in Raleigh just can't seem to catch a break.

I think pretty soon State Coach Herb Sendek is going to be writing his own book, "How to Go From Being the Coach of a Top 25 Team to Unemployed in Less Than a Month."

If Mike O' Cain is any indication, Sendek will be an assistant on the basketball staff just days after his dismissal ...

While we're talking basketball, there was an article in *The Daily Tar Heel* on Friday about some fan purchasing the rights to the Web sites bearing the names of Ed Cota, Jason Capel and Ronald Curry. Supposedly the fan bought the rights to these sites so nobody else would be a "squatter" and try to sell them back to the players at exorbitant prices if they became famous.

This of course led me to wonder who owned [www.amol.com](http://www.amol.com), which I discovered is actually in use and is run by some company called Ask Me On Line.

Fortunately, [www.amolnaik.com](http://www.amolnaik.com) is as of yet still unclaimed, but might be a wise investment for somebody that has a hundred bucks lying around.

Damn, I have way too much time on my hands ...

Amol Naik is a junior history major from Lumberton. Send questions and comments to [unc2001@hotmail.com](mailto:unc2001@hotmail.com).

## READERS' FORUM

### Monday Guest Column Slamming New President Reeks of 'Liberal Idiocy'

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm writing in response to Christopher Brook's Monday Point of View column on the Matthews/Smiley election. It is apparent that this type of poorly written liberal idiocy has become synonymous with *The Daily Tar Heel*.

Obviously Brook's objective was to bash Matthews by making him look ineffectual, while trying to deify Smiley as someone we should all admire. The irony lies in the examples the writer gives in his attempt to prove his "points."

Brook tells us that Matthews is so ineffectual as to actually care about issues that affect students. His example: off-campus Internet access. Brook goes on to make all kinds of unsubstantiated allegations that Matthews could have instituted this program under Heinke's presidency, but chose not to.

I'm interested to know just how Brook found all this out. If he did indeed have any proof of this ridiculous allegation why did he not put it in his article?

Brook then tells us of all the wonderful things that Smiley has done, such as her support for the lifting of U.S. sanctions on Iraq and putting a moratorium on the death penalty.

Call me crazy, but isn't that just a little bit outside of student government's jurisdiction?

Trying to legislate issues well beyond her scope of power makes her "gutsy," which is why we should all think Smiley would be a great president.

Much to the chagrin of liberals, democracy is a results-oriented institution. The assumption that government should serve the people in concrete ways is radical to be sure — just as radical as the 13 colonies breaking away from a government that no longer served its citizens.

Finally, I doubt it was slander that led to Smiley's defeat, as Brook suggests, but rather her own radical views. In the future, if Brook wants to learn how to argue a liberal point of view effectively, instead of writing attack pieces, he should take notes from Daniel Brezenoff.

Anthony Pirozzi  
Senior  
Political Science

The length rule on letters was waived.

### Shutting Down Poll Sites, Moving Ballots to Chi Psi Would Improve Elections

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to your Feb. 28 editorial entitled "Fair Move," we felt inclined to offer a modest proposal of our own.

First, all current voting sites should be closed. This would cleanse the current poll sites of their inherent biases, allowing new

traditions to be established.

To replace them, one centralized location should serve as the only polling site. Our proposed site is within a 10 minute walk of parts of Carrboro, Franklin Street, Granville Towers and the Pit.

Even more importantly, it is fortified by a stone wall. And for one day a year there is a moat.

The Chi Psi Lodge is an ideal polling site.

The members of this fraternity, as you have already mentioned in previous editorials and articles, control most processes on this campus.

Placing the elections here, where they are discussed in smoke filled rooms, is the obvious choice.

Please, consider the benefits: the members of Chi Psi are busy people and could save time in their busy schedules by voting in their own kitchen. Additionally, those closed-minded fools in "the Granville bloc," who always vote for the same person, will have to walk across the street to do so.

As you suggest, they probably won't make the effort.

Kudos to you for your insight that "no one constituency should have such political clout!"

Alex Little  
Junior  
Industrial Relations  
Eric Fletcher  
Freshman  
Mechanical Engineering

### Cut Coach Some Slack — Tar Heels Hoops Squad Can't Excel Every Season

TO THE EDITOR:

It's time to call the dogs off Coach Bill Guthridge. And didn't we just go through this with Carl Torbush?

Someone serves a UNC sports team for a number of years, toiling in obscurity while the head coach at the time receives all the credit.

After moving up to head coach there's some success, some disappointing losses and the caustic columns that inevitably point out that it's the coach's fault for not "motivating" the players.

Am I missing something? The young men on the basketball team are given housing, tuition, meals and the opportunity to play in fine facilities for one of the storied teams in a usually top-notch conference, and they're somehow unable to be motivated without a whining, yelling, pushing, spoiled "role model" like Bobby Knight? No.

Let's review: You can't be on top every year. Period.

And for all the legends of St. Smith, there were a grand total of how many titles? Bill Guthridge has the best first-two-year record here, including Coach Smith. Yes, he inherited players (which he helped bring in), but what coach doesn't?

In recent years the number of players opting early for the NBA has skyrocketed,

making consistency harder to maintain. Oh, think of the glory if Stackhouse and Jamison had stayed!

But porous defense and turnovers have proliferated all over the country, not just here.

After all, it's those highlight-reel dunks and three pointers that get you to the NBA, right?

Thank you, Coach Guthridge.

And please don't bring back the four corners. It was as much basketball as ballroom dancing is an Olympic "sport."

Mark Vitali  
Graduate Student  
Romance Philology

### Share Your Point of View With 39,000 Readers

If you've got something to say, say it. But say it loud and clear — and let 39,000 students, professors and UNC employees read what you're thinking.

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes submissions from its readers for its Viewpoints page every Monday. Guest columns should be about 800 words, written by no more than two people and discuss an issue relevant to DTH readers.

Submissions should be e-mailed to [editdesk@unc.edu](mailto:editdesk@unc.edu) and are due by 6 p.m. the Wednesday before the Monday the column will appear. Publication is not guaranteed.

For more information, contact Editorial Page Editor Scott Hicks at 962-0245.



The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticism. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 300 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. Publication is not guaranteed. 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: [editdesk@unc.edu](mailto:editdesk@unc.edu).