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The Daily Tar Heel

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One or the Other

Though a committee has recommended joining two labor groups, it would be stupid and wasteful for Bill McCoy to choose both.

Interim Chancellor Bill McCoy owes it to manufacturers, monitoring groups, staff, faculty and students alike to take a decisive stance on how UNC plans to enforce civilized working conditions in the factories that make Tar Heel gear.

That means deciding to maintain the University's ties with the Fair Labor Association or choosing to sign up with the Worker Rights Consortium.

One or the other, not both - as the Licensing Labor Code Advisory Code recommended Wednesday. Sorry, Bill, but you just can't have it both ways.

To its credit, the committee deserves a pat on the back for trying to find a way to make doubly sure that the companies that produce UNC apparel are doing right by their workers. But in such a complex issue, a clear, unwavering commitment to one group or the other is the only way to show both companies and monitoring groups that the University means business.

UNC cannot split the leverage it wields in

this issue between two groups. UNC holds a lot of power over the companies that make Tar Heel apparel, and dividing that power between both the FLA and the WRC means factories won't take the University seriously. And on the other side, the monitoring groups themselves deserve nothing less than UNC and McCoy's full support and participation.

Indeed, it would be a logical conundrum even to try to please both groups. While the FLA is run predominantly by representatives of the manufacturers, the WRC is spearheaded by student and labor activists. Trying to get those two sides together would be like Al Gore or George W. Bush picking the other as his vice presidential running mate.

With all the tension that's already been generated by this issue, it's time to move on. Taking a decisive stand and choosing one monitoring group over the other will save time and money, give the University a clear focus and cut down on bureaucracy.

Though it be nice to have both, McCoy must give one of the groups the pink slip.



Four Words: We're Going to Indy

Our fingernails are shorter and our hearts are still pounding, but boy does it feel good to have our team still playing basketball.

Indeed, the week became a little more exciting Sunday as the Tar Heel hoopsters knocked off Tulsa to advance to the Final Four of the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

It was a roller coaster of a weekend for many of us as we suffered through alternating fits of joy and agony with each play of the Tar Heels' two games. Our team seemed uninterested in blowing anyone out.

Even before this weekend's Sweet 16 and Elite Eight games, tension was mounting. When I flew back to campus from Spring Break, the tournament was in its first weekend with the Tar Heels in Birmingham, Ala.

As we waited to board the plane, everyone on my flight from Baltimore to Raleigh was glued to a small television at the end of the terminal, hanging on every play in the final minutes of the Tar Heels' victory over Stanford.

Had the game gone to overtime, the flight would have been delayed - no one was getting on that plane until the game was over, not even the Dookies.

And as the team continued to advance this weekend, fans released their pent-up nervous energy in a pair of classic Franklin Street celebrations.

Yep, post-Tennessee-and-Tulsa Franklin Street was quite a spectacle. Within a minute of the games' final buzzers, the street was blocked off and flooded with wild, obnoxious fans who stuck around for hours.

There were the standard bonfires, complete with fireworks, and a variety of pro-UNC, anti-Duke and bring-on-the-next-victim cheers. There was crowd-surfing and picture-taking and high-fiving. People even invoked the spirit of Dean Smith.

And displaying the Carolina touch of class, the crowd sang the alma mater with the help of a lone, yet excited, trombone player.

We have survived to play another day.



BRANDON BRISCOE
VOICE OF REASON

Only the police, firefighters and street cleaners, all of whom did an admirable job, were sweating it. One officer raced down the street with a recliner on his back, saving both the chair and the crowd from the flames of the bonfire.

Presumably the poor souls who left their cars parked on Franklin Street after the games were not thrilled either, especially when the vehicles became viewing stands upon which people stood for a bird's eye view of the festivities Friday night. One pick-up truck in particular took quite a beating.

How do you explain that to the insurance company? "Honestly, there were 20 people jumping on my car ... just for fun." I bet they hear that all the time.

Ironically, the last big party on Franklin Street was for Halloween. That night saw two basketball players arrested following a late-night brawl. Those charges are still pending.

Nonetheless, the gatherings were a fine showing of our school spirit, whose positive side had lain dormant for much of this basketball season.

Despite the enthusiasm of the "snow game" against Maryland back in January, it would be no stretch to call us fair-weather fans. After all, many members of the UNC bandwagon were decrying the merits of Coach Bill Guthridge and playing his funeral march just a few weeks ago.

Speaking of which, we certainly send our heartfelt condolences to Coach Guthridge on

the death of his mother this weekend.

But we've had to console ourselves several times this year. We never did get Duke's number, and who hasn't yelled angrily at Brendan Haywood to get a rebound or at Ed Cota to take a shot this year?

Yet when it rains here, it pours - in both good times and bad. The weekend's impromptu parties certainly proved that all is forgiven - and that UNC students know how to celebrate.

This is quite unlike our counterparts at Purdue University, who got a little carried away after their win Thursday, prompting police to fire tear gas into the crowd and haul people off to jail.

Thankfully, the UNC crowd and the Chapel Hill police exercised more restraint, although tear gas would likely have added to the delight of revelers who seemed to applaud just about anything.

And now we can happily move through another week, thrilled to be alive in the tournament and nervously awaiting the next big game.

Pity the souls who have tests and papers this week - concentration will be in short supply.

And win or lose, we have something to write home about and remember. Seniors are going out with a bang, and freshmen will get to tell stories in three years about how it was "back in the day."

Yes, it's great to be a Tar Heel this week. No need for next weekend to come too fast; it's more fun to soak up our good fortune and savor the moment.

Friday will come soon enough, and I'll see you around the fire after game, knock on wood ... and Florida. Go Heels.

Brandon Briscoe is a junior journalism and mass communication major from New Orleans, where the Tar Heels won their last championship. Send tips and Final Four tickets to brandon_briscoe@unc.edu.

Right on the Money

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in favor of common sense when it upheld the way many universities currently disburse student fees.

When a handful of conservative students at the University of Wisconsin-Madison lost their case Wednesday, students all over the United States won.

The Supreme Court rejected 9-0 the claims of young right-wingers at the school who said their free-speech rights had been violated because they were forced to contribute, through student fees, to activist groups they did not agree with.

The students said it was a violation of the First Amendment for the university to force them to endorse ideas or political causes they opposed.

If the court had accepted the students' arguments, the intellectual climate at all public institutions would have suffered. Without funding from student fees, many student groups couldn't exist or would have to spend too much of their time fund raising.

The justices said forcing dissenting students to pay student fees didn't force them to support ideas or groups they opposed. Rather, the money goes into a pool that is distributed to groups with all kinds of views.

At UNC, Student Congress decides which groups get how much in funding from student fees. Students elect representatives to Student Congress, and so the division of student fees should reflect students' opinions.

Throughout the United States, conservative students complain that most of the money from student fees goes to liberal student organizations.

But all nine Supreme Court justices - five of whom are widely considered conservative - agreed that the breadth of programs funded at the university was sufficient to make the system "viewpoint-neutral."

Unfortunately, the justices also opened the door for colleges and universities to adopt a "check-off" system that would allow students to choose what organizations their money would go to.

Schools should not begin using this system. Students often end up joining groups they never would have considered before being exposed to them at their colleges or universities.

Although they become a part of these organizations, they would not have given them their student fees as freshmen.

Furthermore, some students wouldn't care what their money funded and would just check off the first five choices. The A's would arbitrarily end up with much more money than the Z's.

Even if you don't agree with a certain point of view, being able to hear it improves your education.

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 and are due by 6 p.m. the Wednesday before the column will appear. Publication is not guaranteed. For more information, contact Editorial Page Editor Scott Hicks at 962-0245.

The Daily Tar Heel

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READERS' FORUM

Misogynist Comments Should Bar Columnist From Leaving Cave

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to share with Amol Naik some advice for further columns from "the dank cave" - if you don't have anything to say, don't write a three-column column and waste our time. Maybe the vacation put some deadline pressure on you and you had to just whip up something real quick, or maybe you just felt compelled to ramble about your lust problem with women or your slothfulness. But really, it's quite an insult to me that you would think that I - or anyone else - would enjoy or in any way benefit from your degradation of women and lack of journalistic skills.

I would like to recommend you invest in a personal journal and spare The Daily Tar Heel and its readers your depraved mind.

Meditate a little longer in your "dank cave," and come out when you actually have something to say.

Drama 16's Selection As Crossword Class Maligns Department

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in response to a section of your "Carolina's Finest" supplement March 23. I read several of the selections and came upon the "Best Class to Do Crossword in."

Drama 16 took the prize. I took Drama 16 as a freshman, and it was not my most challenging at UNC. I do not object to these students' opinions of the class. However, I do object to a degrading comment made against all drama majors as well as the Department of Dramatic Art.

Introductory drama classes do not teach advanced Shakespearean scan-sion any more than Chemistry 11 teaches organic chemistry. Yet these classes are necessary as building blocks for upper-level courses or contributing to a well-rounded education.

I recognize the stigma of "Drama 16" and its use to perpetuate the stereotype of drama as an easy A. The fact that students choose not to listen in the class reflects their lack of attention span more than the intellectual climate within the drama department.

Your commentary created a crude generalization, and your attempt for a joke insulted the hard work of your contemporaries in the Center for Dramatic Art. I would like to dispel the "easy A" rumor with fact.

I invite any "Crossword-er" to my Drama 150 class (Shakespeare in the Theatre). There will be no time with the class discussion, presentation and reading requirement to find the four-letter word for Luke Skywalker's mentor. Drama students dedicate a tremendous amount of time to their endeavors.

Stop by the Center for Dramatic Art and witness the hard work of these creative and enthusiastic students. LAB! Theatre, for example, mounts six plays a semester with students producing, directing, designing and acting. I encourage the DTH and its readers to learn more about the drama department, its faculty and its students before making any further comments on the education it offers.

Annie Fair
Junior
Dramatic Art

The awards in the Carolina's Finest advertising section were chosen by readers, not The Daily Tar Heel.



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.

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