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# The Daily Tar Heel

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## BOARD EDITORIALS

# No Free Ride

Students purchasing parking spaces from Tar Heel Parking Services learned a valuable business lesson: Look before you buy.

"Buyer Beware" should be the warning issued to parking-deprived students by UNC and Chapel Hill law enforcement officials.

After this week's fiasco involving Tar Heel Parking Services, several things are apparently clear: Students are not displaying a whole lot of common sense and law enforcement officials are not doing everything possible to weed out shady "businessmen."

It recently became apparent, at the expense of several UNC students, that Tar Heel Parking Services, a company owned by Gus Mueller, was suspect.

Students complained about parking spaces purchased from the business after noting that the parking lot was nothing but "torn down buildings" and was "filled with rubble." In addition, students were told they could not receive a refund.

How does the old saying go? "I hate to say I told you so, but ..." Perhaps students shouldn't expect too much from a service that prefers doing business from the tinted window of a BMW. Giving suspicious-looking persons hundreds of dollars in cash is simply not a wise move.

To be sure, parking is a valuable commodity in Chapel Hill. And to that end, students, especially freshmen, need to realize that there will be people in the area looking to take advantage of the fresh crop of stu-

dents who arrive every August.

Before simply purchasing parking from a business, it would be wise for students to investigate the available spaces for themselves, while at the same time asking any questions possibly pertaining to the lot's security and distance from campus.

Chapel Hill and University police would also do well to crack down on possible parking scams. Apparently, Tar Heel Parking Services fell through the cracks. Fliers advertising the parking service, which were not approved by the University, were slipped under doors in many residence halls. Residence Hall Association officials finally got the hint and posted warning fliers about the company, but it was too little, too late for the students who had already shelled out a couple hundred dollars for a parking space.

This raises several security questions about who placed the fliers and how they got into the residence halls.

Students should remember not to admit strangers into their residence hall without a key.

Until a solution is reached, two things should happen: Mueller should refund the money of any student who doesn't want the parking service.

And students should be wary of BMWs offering the promise of parking

# High Hurdles

North Carolina's elections laws are too biased against third-party candidates and the restrictions should be lowered.

The excessively stringent nature of North Carolina elections laws create a hostile political environment for third parties and are in need of retooling.

Current laws require that a candidate from an unrecognized party must turn in a petition with the number of signatures equal to 2 percent of the votes cast in the last gubernatorial election.

That measure, however, only ensures that a candidate receives recognition for the current election. In order to remain a recognized party within North Carolina, the party's candidate must garner 10 percent of the vote in that election.

While these laws are necessary, they are stacked against alternative parties. The 2 percent signature is reasonable enough. After all, the law ensures that a large number of North Carolinians desire having the chance to vote for a certain party, preventing fringe candidates from clogging up the ballot.

But demanding a 10 percent return from a third party candidate is excessive, unrealistic and should be lowered to 5 percent. For instance, in the 1992 presidential election, Ross Perot only received 13.7 percent of the votes in North Carolina. Though it was above the required 10 percent, one must also consider that Perot spent more than \$60 million of his own money on his campaign and

participated in the national debates.

Other third party candidates usually do not have access to such funds or media attention. So the laws create a vicious cycle - gathering enough signatures to earn a place on the ballot, only to have to start all over again when the candidate does not meet the steep 10 percent requirement.

Thus, much of the manpower these smaller parties expend is devoted to recognition by the N.C. State Board of Elections and not campaigning, a hurdle that Democrats and Republicans are able to easily bypass.

By enforcing laws which are so stacked against third parties, the North Carolina Elections Board robs its citizens of true democracy and new ideas.

And although third party candidates, such as Pat Buchanan and Ralph Nader, might lack a real chance of winning a presidential election, their views and policies deserve to be considered by North Carolina voters.

In order to better uphold democratic ideals, North Carolina elections laws should lower the required 10 percent of the vote to a realistic number, such as 5 percent.

By enforcing the current laws, the Board of Elections is denying North Carolinians a rich and varied political climate and precludes North Carolina residents from truly making up their own minds.

## READERS' FORUM

### Senior Class Officers Pledge to Include All Seniors in Future Events

TO THE EDITOR:

This letter is in response to the concerns expressed by Sheryl Freedman in her letter to The Daily Tar Heel concerning the two Senior Class parties thrown during the first week of classes and their lack of access to underage seniors. While the second party was restricted to seniors who are 21 and over, the senior class administration did make arrangements to allow underage seniors into the first party. A number of seniors under 21 were admitted to the party early in the evening. Unfortunately, underage admission was limited later in the evening due to the management's concerns over the large number of non-seniors who took advantage of the underage admissions policy. We apologize for any inconvenience that was caused to any underage seniors who were denied admission to the party, and we are currently working on ways to verify upperclassmen status to avoid similar situations in the future. Our administration is very interested in including all seniors in our activities and we are very eager to get any feedback that can help us

accomplish this goal. If anyone else has any comments, suggestions or questions, feel free to contact us at cowlley@email.unc.edu or sjblack@email.unc.edu.

Jason Cowley  
President, UNC Class of 2001  
Senior  
History and Political Science

Sherilynn Black  
Vice President, UNC Class of 2001  
Senior  
Psychology

### Stereotypes, Sexism Rampant in Old East, Old West Column

TO THE EDITOR:

Upon reading the article "UNC Officials Should Leave Dudes Alone" by Ashley Stephenson, we momentarily hoped that it was a satirical piece.

Reading further we realized that the writer was rhetorically unskilled and showed a rather phenomenal inability to understand the importance of context when using slang in writing ("stoopid-fresh wardrobes" ... what?). Her inability to

refrain from referring to women as "chicks" simply reinforces her disrespect both for other women and for herself.

Stephenson displays an obvious contempt for other women, stereotyping them with sexist language and asserting that they should be disallowed from participation in the University tradition that she claims to hold so dear.

Further, she seems to ignore all aspects of the "tradition" of Old East and Old West that do not concern the gender of the occupants.

Should residents of Old East and Old West be only white males from the richest families in North Carolina?

If, as Ashley asserts, the women shouldn't be there, then all of the black, Asian, Hispanic, Native American, gay and poor men who happen to have made the mistake of living there should pack their bags as well.

The tradition that we should be focusing on as the first public university in the United States is one of academic excellence, a tradition of being a place of dynamic change where the past is seen as something to learn from, not something to hold onto blindly.

We seriously question the nature of Ashley's concern with this issue, when she

clearly recognizes the apathy of many men in Old East and Old West to the presence of their female neighbors.

Finally, advocating vandalism as the solution to the problem is the most ridiculous and immature suggestion that we have ever read in an editorial.

Sorry Ashley, but your timing on this issue is decidedly late and perhaps you ought to find something more substantive to investigate.

Liz Deans  
Senior  
Biology

Nora Wilson  
Senior  
Environmental Studies and Anthropology

### National Missile Defense Too Costly, Fails to Live Up to High Expectations

TO THE EDITOR:

It's so easy to believe. National missile defense sounds like a good idea - and if you're like Joe Monaco and don't know the whole story, it's simple



### WILLIAM MCKINNEY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Summer Reading Committee pick up "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Running a University."

This article was of particular interest to me because I was on the Summer Reading Committee, and in fact I recommended "Confederates in the Attic." After reading the editorial, I soon felt as if I were in the World Wrestling Federation and Jonathan was "cutting a promo" on me. (For those of you who don't live and breathe wrestling, apparently that means criticizing the program.)

So here I was, ready to mount a vigorous defense of my work in picking the book, when some upstart "graduate student" named Patrick O'Neil scooped me in Monday's paper. The book, he said, helped to give him a holistic view of all his values, as a Southerner and as a person.

Well, Patty, that's just dynamite. You saved me a column!

Actually, I heard similar stories around campus when I talked to freshmen about their summer reading.

And what Jonathan may also find disappointing is that many of these folks didn't mind reading the book and don't mind the program. Horrors! Frankly, there is no perfect book, save maybe "How to Make a Great Patty Melt," which is more a great meal than a great read.

Not everyone will like any book. So why try to hide that? I think that is a good aspect of the Summer Reading Program - it actually does create discussion, in class, in the residence hall and, crazy enough, in the discussion sessions.

Secondly, Jonathan seemed upset that we students at UNC should have to read a book because we are the "best of the best in the state of North Carolina." But students from Harvard to my hometown school, Furman University, have books to read in the summer.

So what is it that we have learned that they don't know? The book ain't meant to learn you nuthin'. It is meant to be an introduction to the idea that critical thinking is as key to college life as eating in Lenoir Dining Hall and sleeping in the library.

Jonathan wrote that on any given day at UNC, the intellectual climate includes many "lectures, seminars and symposiums." (By the way, boss, lectures and seminars don't count - they're called classes.)

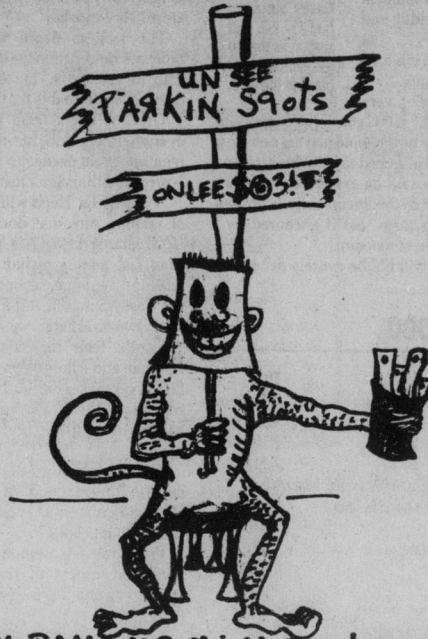
So I decided to see what was going on around campus by looking in the DTH. The Campus Calendar includes "intellectual" events such as a roller hockey meeting and the Dialectic and Philanthropic Societies debating the validity of the statement, "Pimpin' ain't easy." That's right - the oldest and perhaps most respected organization on campus is debating song lyrics.

What's next guys, "Oops, I Did It Again?" This is not to say that there is no intellectual life on campus, and that there are no smart folks walking around among us.

The rugby team, for example, has one of the highest grade point averages of any group on campus, all while they smash heads on the field and sell T-shirts to the unsuspecting masses. But still, they would be idiots, and so would you, if you said this University is as smart as it can be.

I am not talking about force-feeding freshmen intellectualism instead of letting them go to a football game, but reading a book over the summer is not a bad way to start your college experience.

William McKinney is a sophomore history and political science major from Greenville, SC who likes to wear berets and read in coffeehouses. If you would like to join him for a mochaccino and talk about Plato or Play-Doh, e-mail him at wmcinne@email.unc.edu.



SICK OF SELLING BANANAS, Chichi found a more lucrative trade.

KOLAS@email.unc.edu

# Fanning UNC's Intellectual Flames

I know that a good number of you have been waiting for the insider's guide to The Daily Tar Heel, a behind-the-scenes tell-all about a student newspaper like the show "World's Greatest Magic Secrets Revealed," but involving newspapers.

While I wouldn't place an order for it yet, I would like to tell you about the relationship between a writer and his editor.

In many ways the relationship is a partnership like Simon and Garfunkel and Cousin Larry and Balki Bartokomous from "Perfect Strangers." We work together.

When I finish writing something, I give it to the editor, in this case Jonathan. Jonathan then works his editorial magic and turns something that I say, like, "Thor eat meat from fire pit" into something more presentable like, "The new menu at the Carolina Coffee Shop strikes a perfect balance between the heart and the palate."

Actually, it is quite a sight to see Jonathan and myself together during our shared moments of editing. Jonathan looks like a guy you would see selling trinkets on Venice Beach to pay for his collections of surfboards and Pokemon cards. He is thin, with bleached blond hair, and wears a T-shirt and shorts; I look like I just got out of class at a boarding school in New England: khakis, collared shirt tucked in and decidedly uptight.

I, looking like the stodgy goody-two-shoes, advocate the liberal point of view, and Jonathan, the surfer/transient, is on the cutting edge of conservatism.

It's a lot like that Nicholas Cage/John Travolta movie "Face Off," where the characters switch bodies and then try to hunt each other down, except with less ballet-like violence and dove motifs.

Not surprisingly, Jonathan wrote in an editorial that the summer reading program at UNC, and the book chosen for it, "Confederates in the Attic," were both silly. Jonathan said these programs to enhance the intellectual climate at UNC were "insulting to incoming freshmen, and the student body as a whole." Jonathan ended his column by suggesting that the people involved in the



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.

Carrie Callaghan  
Junior  
International Studies and Spanish