

Comments or
concerns about
our coverage?
Contact the
ombudsman at
ombudsman@unc.edu
or call 933-4611.

MATT DEES
EDITOR
Office Hours Friday 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Kelli Boutin
EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR
Kim Minugh
UNIVERSITY EDITOR
Ginny Scabbarrasi
CITY EDITOR

Kathleen Hunter
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR
T. Nolan Hayes
SPORTS EDITOR
Will Kimmy
SPORTSATURDAY EDITOR

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893 • 107 Years of Editorial Freedom
www.unc.edu/dth

Jermaine Caldwell
FEATURES EDITOR
Ashley Atkinson
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR
Carolyn Haynes
COPY DESK EDITOR

CATE DOTY & LAUREN BEAL
MANAGING EDITORS

Sefton Ippock
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR
Cobi Edelson
DESIGN EDITOR
Saleem Reshamwala
GRAPHICS EDITOR

Josh Williams
ONLINE EDITOR
Brian Frederick
OMBUDSMAN

BOARD EDITORIALS

Vouching for Education

The state should help parents
send their kids to better schools.

By JON HARRIS

Within the public school system there
exists a wide range of performance levels.
Some schools perform at an excellent level,
others adequately and others poorly.
Parents should have the right to choose
whatever school is best for their child.
Governor candidate Richard Vinroot
has a plan that would make parental choice
possible through vouchers.
His proposed voucher plan would mirror
Florida Gov. Jeb Bush's "A" Plus Education
Plan. Every child in a public school that fails
state standards for two years in a row may
attend a better school at state expense.
Although these vouchers would be given
to any parents who would want their child
out of a consistently failing school, this plan
would greatly benefit low-income families.
Often, bad schools are located within big
city districts, where many poor families live.
Because these families cannot afford to send
their children elsewhere, their children are
stuck in bad schools. A voucher program
would give low-income parents the option of
sending their children to a better school.
This type of voucher plan has proved
effective in Florida. In the year of its incep-
tion, there were 58 schools that did not meet
state standards. Parents who wanted their
children to attend a better school were given
vouchers to facilitate this move. Within the
next year, all 58 of the poorly performing
schools lifted their performance.
Those who oppose a voucher system
claim that vouchers are simply a short-term
fix. But a voucher system is accompanied by
an increased financial commitment to public
schools so that substandard schools can catch
up to other well-performing schools.
No child should have to be subjected to an
inadequate education while school board or
state government officials drag their feet.
Another long-term effect of the program
can be inferred from the results in Florida.
Competition will arise among both public
schools and private schools, which in turn
will induce failing public schools to improve.
If states already are paying for the mis-
education of children in a few public schools,
there is no reason why state politicians
should object to giving parents the money
that would go to their children so they can
choose another school.
Parents have the right and responsibility
to send their children wherever they will
receive the best education. However, poor
families lack the financial means to do so. A
voucher plan would give these families the
means to take their children out of failing
schools and place them into better ones.

A voucher program would take
funds away from public schools.

By MARK SLAGLE

Education has been the dominant theme
of this year's gubernatorial race, with Mike
Easley and Richard Vinroot both seeking to
realize Gov. Hunt's dream of making North
Carolina first in the nation.
But whereas Easley wants to do so by
shrinking class size, raising teacher pay and
investing in preschool programs, Vinroot
thinks he can achieve the goal with, among
other things, a limited voucher program.
Although Vinroot's program is much
more modest in scope than other voucher
plans touted by politicians, it is nevertheless
a step in the wrong direction for North
Carolina's schools.
The program would use public funds to
partially cover private school tuition for
lower-income families whose children attend
schools that consistently fail to meet account-
ability standards. Vinroot argues that it is a
matter of giving parents a choice about
where they send their children to school.
Yet very few schools are classified as
chronically failing under the state's current
grading system, according to The News &
Observer. Those that do are mostly charter
schools, which both Vinroot and Easley sup-
port. Only a tiny minority of students in the
public school system, therefore, would be
able to benefit from the vouchers.
Those that do would still have to chip in
a pretty penny for tuition. The vouchers do
not cover the full expense of most private
schools' tuition, only part of it. Families hop-
ing to send their children to a first-rate pri-
vate school will either have to make up the
difference or send their children to a cheap-
er private school that might be worse than
the public school they are fleeing.
More troubling, even a limited voucher
program would siphon badly needed funds
from public schools. Despite the gains made
in education during Hunt's administration,
North Carolina's schools still lag behind the
national averages in several key categories.
Many classes are too large, and there is a
desperate shortage of qualified teachers
throughout the state. Taxpayers' money
should go toward fixing these problems
rather than allowing a few families to pay
for private schools.
Hunt proved that intelligent allocation of
financial resources can improve public
schools. Will it require work? Yes. Is it worth
it? Absolutely.
Vinroot's goal - making North Carolina
a template for success in education - is laud-
able, but his plan is flawed. If he's truly inter-
ested in choice, he should choose to repair
schools instead of abandoning them.

For the Record

The headline of field hockey coach Karen Shelton's Sept. 15 letter incorrectly indicated the letter
writer was referring to a lacrosse match. It should have read "Students Encouraged to Cheer Field
Hockey Team This Weekend."
The Sept. 15 editorial "User Glitch" incorrectly stated that the phone number for Academic
Technology & Networks' IT Response Center is 928-HELP. The actual number is 962-HELP.
The Daily Tar Heel regrets the errors.

The Daily Tar Heel

Professional and Business Staff

Business and Advertising: Janet Gallagher-Cassel, director/general manager; Chrissy Beck,
director of marketing; Melinda Heien,
classified/customer service manager; Lisa
Reichle, business manager; Catherine Wilkins,
retail sales manager.
Marketing Group: Cindy Rice, specialist;
Carrie Davis, Ben Hartmore, David Huffines and
Ashley Ryneska, associates.
Customer Service: Molly Blanton, Candace
Doby, Lisa Dunn, Holly Herweyer and Courtney
Poole, representatives.
Display Advertising: Katie Bowden, Skye
Nurney and Julie Roper, senior account execu-
tives; Eleanor Cameron, Nicki Davidson, Locoya
Hill, Erica Lundberg and Andrea Sarubb,
account executives; Amy Scharf, sales assistant.
Advertising Production: Penny Persons,
manager; Lauryn Mitchner, assistant.
Classified Production: Sheila Lanahan.
Editorial Staff
Gore, Isaac Groves, Stephanie
Gunter, Susan Hall, Kate Harrig,
Whehuk.
Graphics: Lauren Daughtey,
Caroline Gobble, Kristen Hardy, Tori
Newbern, Erica Stevenson and Mary
Stowell.
Online: Megan Garrett, Archana
Gawda, Lindsey Hanson, Venus
Hashemee, Meredith Hermance,
Andy Leung, Joe Margolis, Sara
Martz, Jonathan Miller and Adam
Shupe.
Photography: Miller Pearsall,
senior photographer; Audrey Barrett,
Sommer Basinger, Christina Baur,
Valerie Bruchon, Brent Clark,
Katherine Eaker, Laura Giovanelli,
Bess Loewenbaum, Mike Messias,
Christine Nguyen, Ivy Peacock, Casey
Quillen, Emily Schure, Ariel
Shumaker-Hammond, Margaret
Southern and Ryan Vasan.
Sports: Matthew Saha and Anne
Wagner, sports copy; Brad Broders,
Joe Disney, Jennifer Ertenman, Ian
Gordon, Owen Hassell, Adam Hill,
Roland Hoffman, Curt Kendall, Kelly
Lusk, Gavin Off, Tim Soltik, Randy
Wellington and John Zhu.
State & National: Anne Fawcett,
columnist; Melissa Anderson, Josh
Bassingore, April Bethea, Aimee



THE CLEAN-AND-JERK



THE CLEAN-AND-GET-JERKED-AROUND

EVENTS REQUIRING
OLYMPIAN STAMINA...

MIKE SUZUKI
2000 THE DAILY TAR HEEL

Females, Don't Sweat 'The Ratio'



KOFI BOFAH
PHILOSOPHY .22

John Stockton had a 3:1 assist-to-turnover
ratio in '89. The PE ratio of Wall Street
Darling Sun Microsystems is 96. UNC is
ranked no. 25 by U.S. News & World Report.
Michael Dell's estate is valued at \$17.08 bil-
lion. Estimated population of Baltimore-
Washington in 1998: 7.3 million.
Wait. I have another stat ...
What does 65:35 mean to you? Don't play
dumb, 'cause you know what I'm talking
about.
With all the women on campus sweatin'
this stat and crying about no men at The Hill
- we're all arrogant/we're all fake
playas/we're nothing - you can't hide from
'The Ratio.'
Sweetheart, so what if there are about two
girls to every guy. You can live with these cir-
cumstances.
Ladies, here is some advice. Pay attention,
because you know I keep it real.
To begin, make sure your head is on
straight out here.
Handle your business before it handles
you.
Don't sacrifice anything to get a man.
Recognize that you're too good to get toyed
with.
Don't take any junk, because that's how
you get in trouble.
Don't let anybody disrespect you, spread
rumors about you or cheat and get away with
it.
People have ways of knowing your busi-
ness. If it's obvious that you have a high toler-
ance for b.s., you'll become a target to be
played.
I don't have to tell you about the stakes
at every locale on this campus. Spies in
unmarked vans stay on the creep.
I bumped into Eddie Torres on Stadium
Drive last night. Torres didn't hesitate
to report all "suspicious activity" on every bal-
cony between Teague and Hinton.
Straight up New York Undercover out
here. There are plenty of fake MalikYoba cats
trying to play that J.C. investigator role.
Don't forget about the C.I.A. (Cuties in
Action). Your jealous so-called "best
friend"/roomie loves to talk. No doubt she's
gonna tell her boo about your maneuvers.

READERS' FORUM

Contrary to Column,
Mainstream Choices
Hardly 'Fresh'

TO THE EDITOR:
Cameron Mitchell's Sept. 11 col-
umn "Gore Offers Voters 'Fresh'
Choice" seemed more concerned
with raunchy rhetoric and dismal
attempts at vulgarity than having any
substantial political message.
Of course, it is hard to discuss
either of the two mainstream presi-
dential choices in political terms, as
neither have a coherent or substantial
policy proposal. Mitchell is correct in
suggesting that there are "plenty of ...
reasons to do whatever you can to
keep (Bush) out of the White House,"
but he hardly makes a case as to why
Gore should be voted in.
Bush and Gore both have records
that possess a similarity: both are
sons of powerful Washington insid-
ers, both are graduates of Ivy League
schools, both are in the wealthiest 1
percent of our nation. Furthermore,
there are more than 60 corporations

that have donated more than \$50 mil-
lion to BOTH Bush and to Gore.
A "fresh choice" would be a candi-
date outside this plutocracy - one
who represents people, not corpora-
tions. Unfortunately, these candidates
are systematically marginalized by
the Commission on Presidential
Debates and the corporate media, but
this needn't be continued or encour-
aged by a student paper. I would
encourage the public and the editori-
al staff of the DTH to look beyond the
unsubstantial mainstream candidates,
and remember the true "fresh choices"
- third party candidates who
believe in change, not party rhetoric.
Gwen Frisbie-Fulton
Senior
Sociology

various food establishments around
campus whose primary clientele is
the students, it has come to my unfor-
tunate attention that many customers
need to be reminded and prompted of
a common, but lost, etiquette called
"tipping."
Tipping is payment above and
beyond the cost of the food and bev-
erage.
It is an outward appreciation of
good service received.
There are obvious instances where
the service is deplorable, and a full
refund to the paying customer is
more appropriate, but these are few
and far between.
A guaranteed way of receiving
your food order in a timely fashion is
to be a generous tipper - few enjoy
cold pizza.
We relatively menial delivery driv-
ers will surely appreciate any
deserved fiscal generosity this
reminder might induce.
Andrew Rundquist
Junior
Economics

The Daily Tar Heel wel-
comes 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 guaran-
teed. 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.