

Concerns or comments 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.

The Daily Tar Heel

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

CATE DOTY & LAUREN BEAL MANAGING EDITORS

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

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

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

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

Josh Williams ONLINE EDITOR Brian Frederick OMBUDSMAN Laura Stoehr SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS EDITOR

BOARD EDITORIALS

Last Chance

The deadline to register to vote is today. If you haven't done it yet, don't waste your chance.

Today is the last day to register to vote, and to all you procrastinators out there, this is your call to action.

With issues ranging from the bond referendum to who the nation will select as the next leader, voter registration has become an ever more important endeavor for our generation of voters.

Do not deny yourself the right to vote. "Get Hyped, Get Registered" is a motto all qualified voters should pay attention to.

Several groups on campus have taken an influential lead in creating a positive atmosphere for hopeful voters.

educate students on issues that will directly affect UNC and the country.

Applause goes out to organizations such as Student Government, Young Democrats, Young Republicans and the Residence Hall Association, as well, for their jobs in getting people to register to vote.

Although it is a common cliché, every vote counts, and the only way one's voice will be heard is by visiting the ballot box and marking that ticket.

There are many reasons why today's young adults are not voting. College students and other young people tend to move frequently and do not remember to update their voter registration.

Students: Do not harbor this attitude. Your participation is crucial for the nation's democratic process to solidify itself and build momentum.

Our freedom to vote is one of our most important rights. Yet while countries around the world fight to gain and maintain this right, we have the inalienable privilege to freely voice our opinion.

EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK — MATT DEES

Respect Your Elders

The presidential front-runners learned from their running mates' debate performances. But the lessons didn't sink in all the way.

G-Dub and Phat Albert went into Wednesday night's debate having learned some important lessons from their elder running mates on how to (and how not to) conduct oneself in a debate.

Lesson 1: Be a gentleman. No one likes to see grown men get snippy, no matter how strongly a person might feel about one candidate or the other.

Lesson 2: Know your stuff. Dicky C. and L.L. Cool Joe completely showed up their hope-to-be bosses, both with their knowledge of the issues and the disarming, yet eloquent, way they articulated the two camps' ideals and values.

It appears Dub and Al learned the seemingly obvious political lessons — people like competence and civility — but I question whether their restraint wasn't just as calculated as their parties' conventions.

The debate saw its share of back-slapping comments, but the split-screen views showed each man chomping at the bit to respond as his opponent expressed his positions and

took underhanded shots at the other's character, policies, etc.

In other words, I find it hard to believe that the two have swept under the rug all the animosity that prompted the Boston grudge match. If you check out the candidates' Web sites, each contains vitriolic retorts crafted by spin doctors that accuses the other of "flip-flopping" on issues and "flubbing" the facts.

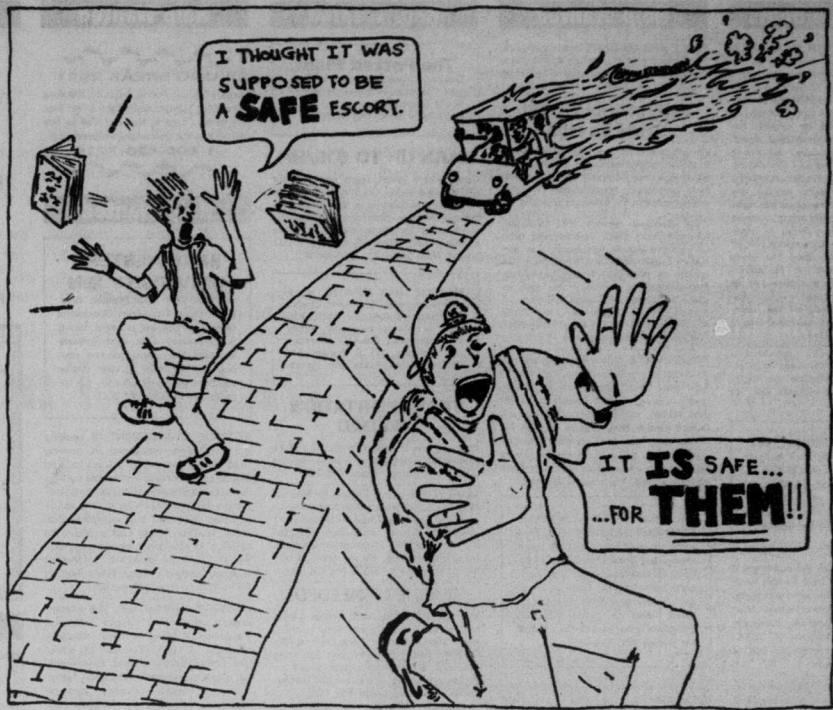
It's hard to know who is right, which tells me these rants are more about gaining political leverage than setting the record straight for the good of the average voter.

It also tells me that Wednesday night's dinner-table tone was just a front. Our boys were still glad-handing with the audience when their henchmen were unleashed.

By contrast, I thought Dick and Joe were genuine in their respect for each other and stayed true to each campaign's promise not to "go negative." The result was the most reasoned and informative debate of the season.

We can thank them for that, but the truth is their debate was the brightest spot in an otherwise ugly campaign.

In today's political realm, it seems the best nice guys can hope for is second place.



Doherty the Right Choice for U.S.

Wednesday night's debate at Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem cleared up any and all questions I had concerning this year's presidential election.

In fact, after carefully watching the debate, moderated by PBS' Jim Lehrer, I can state with confidence that I've finally reached a decision.

I'm writing in Slobodan Milosevic. Certainly, this nation would be better off with a genocidal dictator than with either of the other two baboons running for the presidency.

Geez. There has never, in the history of man, been two more nauseating, disingenuous circus clowns than these two. Gore is a phony, tree-hugging liar. Bush is a deceitful little idiot who needs Cliffs Notes to figure out who's on the Security Council.

These guys are awful. They want us to entrust them with the presidency of the world's greatest nation?

I wouldn't want them coaching my kid's Little League team.

At first glance, it would appear that our two-party system has left us no other options; we're stuck with one of these two knuckleheads.

Ah, but wait. Never underestimate the power of grass roots democracy. I believe I have uncovered a lesser-known, though far superior, candidate who can give these guys a run for their money in November.

Admittedly, my candidate and my scheme might seem a little far-fetched, especially at first. Regardless, I truly believe that if we all get behind my proposed candidate, the student body at UNC can make an enormous difference this Election Day. Here's how:

We're going to get Coach Doherty elected president.

I know, I know. It's brilliant! I don't know why we didn't think of it sooner.

But let's not beat ourselves up over that now. We've got work to do. Election Day is less than a month away.

I'm sure the upperclassmen recall the brilliant "Bersticker for President" campaign engineered last winter by the great Brian



JOE MONACO TRAILING AT THE HALF

Frederick. For those who don't, a quick recap: Although considered a long shot in the weeks leading up to the election, by midafternoon on campus election day, basketball stud and Chapel Hill lady-killer Brian Bersticker found himself running neck-and-neck with candidate Brad Matthews in the race for the completely unimportant position of student body president.

When the votes were totaled late that night, however, the lesser-qualified Matthews had somehow, by the narrowest of margins, managed to pull out a victory over our beloved power forward.

To this day, the events surrounding the tallying of the votes remain, to say the least, suspicious. Nevertheless, the dramatic run made by everyone's favorite blonde baller had come to an end. Despite a noble and valiant effort to restore integrity and decency to student government, Bersticker had come up short.

However, his strong showing proved two points:

a) By exercising their right to vote, the students at UNC can make a huge difference in politics.

b) The losing candidate can still pick up more chicks than the winner.

Bersticker is living proof of what we can do if we get behind Coach Doherty and support his drive to the White House.

And I'll be darned if tonight's "Midnight Madness" celebration isn't the perfect opportunity to jump start our campaign!

Picture it: The former Tar Heel champion returns to Carmichael Auditorium. His hair's a little grayer.

His voice is a little raspier. Perhaps he's even a step or two slower. However, he's still Matt Doherty. In fact, he's Coach Doherty.

He's still got that hard-nosed, Long Island attitude that made him a champion here at Carolina not too long ago.

And that's just the kind of guy America needs in the Oval Office.

Let's use tonight's "Midnight Madness" to rally the troops, so to speak. Every last student needs to come on out to support Coach Doherty's run for the presidency of the United States.

It'll be perfect. Coach Guthridge will serve as vice president, Coach Smith as Secretary of War. Peppers and Curry can be Secret Service agents.

I actually had a chance to speak with coaches Smith and Guthridge about my plan before running it in today's paper. They both agreed that a Doherty-Guthridge-Smith ticket was a great idea, and that they easily could defeat both Bush and Gore.

Coach Smith: "It's an easy victory for us because Americans will love our policy proposals. Take this one, for example. As Secretary of War, I will position military units on the four corners of each major continent. A smaller, quicker force — we'll code name it Phil Ford — will run around in the middle of the continent. This is Operation Four Corners. It's perfect."

Coach Guthridge: "We can also win over the voters with a tasty treat. As vice president under President Doherty, I will see to it that students receive free ice cream every morning."

Joe: "Coach, with all due respect, what in the hell does ice cream have to do with politics?"

Coach Guthridge: "I like ice cream." Maybe we ought to put Bersticker on the ticket.

Joe Monaco is a junior journalism and mass communication and political science major from Long Island, N.Y. who wants to see everyone at "Midnight Madness" tonight. Reach him at jmonaco@email.unc.edu.

BAROMETER

Sign of the Times A couple is suing McDonald's because the wife was burned on her face by a pickle. Does that mean burgers will come with warning labels, too?

Feelin' So Good A study released this week said having sex makes people look younger. If looking at people having sex has similar effects, then everyone who visited UNC's home page Wednesday should be feelin' like kids.

We Spel Reel Good Maybe the J-School should administer the Spelling and Grammar Exam to University Day organizers. Its sign at the procession read: "School of Journalism and Mass Communication."

Fan Fantasy Sports fans, this is your weekend. From "Midnight Madness" tonight to football versus State tomorrow, who could ask for more? Go Heels!

TAR HEEL QUOTABLES

"My life is over. (Ram Triple) seemed like it would always be around. It was a staple."

SOPHOMORE ADRIENNE KOVACIK Concerning the Rosemary Street theater's closing. Never fear, Adrienne. There's always Blockbuster.

"We just want to inundate the student body with student government."

STUDENT BODY VICE PRESIDENT LERISSA RENTAS Commenting on the Matthews administration's plans for the remainder of its term. We liked it better when student leaders just kept to themselves in Suite C.

"The penguin is a cool animal. It's not stubborn like a jackass, and it won't trample our rights."

LIBERTARIAN SUPPORTER TOM HOWE Explaining his choice of a symbol for his party and demonstrating why it wasn't included in Wednesday's debates — its members think too much.

"Yeah, Britney Spears is good. Just not those Backstreet bums."

THIRD-GRADER TRUDY WU You know bubble-gum pop has been around way too long when its biggest fans start noticing shades of difference.

Hut Has Special Meaning for Jews

Are you wondering what that blue hut is doing between the Student Union and Davis Library? Let me fill you in.

That hut has meaning to many Jewish students. It is called a sukkah, and it is used to celebrate the holiday of Sukkot. This year, Sukkot starts today and ends Thursday night, Oct. 19. The Jewish people have just concluded the High Holidays (Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur), which are filled with themes of repentance, judgment and forgiveness. Now, we are moving into a time of celebration.

Sukkot is one of three festivals which entailed a pilgrimage to the Holy Temple in ancient Jerusalem. It commemorates the Israelites' journey in the desert which began with the exodus from Egypt (celebrated on Passover) and includes the giving of the Torah (celebrated by Shavuot). Sukkot commemorates the Israelites' wandering like nomads in the desert and sleeping in huts.

All of the pilgrimage festivals have an agricultural element. Sukkot marks the time of harvest and the final gathering of produce before the winter. During Sukkot, some Jews live in the sukkah in honor of their ancestors. The main theme of Sukkot is joy. In bibli-

SARAH BRUCK POINT OF VIEW

cal times, Sukkot was considered the main festival of the year. People traveled far and wide to reach Jerusalem and partake in the festival rituals. During King Solomon's reign, there would be a public reading of the Torah every seventh Sukkot. Some Jews also believe that when the messianic era comes, all Jews will gather in Jerusalem to celebrate Sukkot.

There are three commandments concerning Sukkot. Jews are commanded to spend time in the sukkah, gather together four specific plant species and rejoice during the festival. There are many other rituals such as reading the biblical book of Ecclesiastes and inviting guests to the sukkah. The most important commandment is living in the sukkah. The sukkah itself is a temporary structure with tree branches as a roof. Most people eat in the sukkah, and some people even sleep in it. We also are encouraged to study, read and have discussions in the sukkah. There is an obligation to eat in the sukkah the first night, but if

the weather is harsh there is an exemption. One very important custom is that of the four species known as the lulav (palm branch) and etrog (citron — a fruit which looks like a bumpy lemon). The specific species are citron, palm, myrtle and willow. These species remind us of the usage of crops to praise God and the bounty the He/She has provided. The commandment is for each Jew to take the lulav and etrog together and shake them.

One interpretation of the four species is that they symbolize a person. The palm branch is the spine, the myrtle leaves are the eyes, the willow leaves are the mouth and the citron is the heart. Through these species, we can express our desire to serve God with all of our vital parts.

Please feel free to come eat lunch or just hang out in our campus sukkah this week and see a lulav and etrog. At 7:30 p.m. Tuesday there will be jazz in the sukkah, and on Thursday there will be a lunch-and-learn on social justice in Jewish tradition. I hope you will enjoy this special Jewish tradition.

Sarah Bruck can be reached at bruck@email.unc.edu.