

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
SPORTS/SATURDAY EDITOR

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

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

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

BOARD EDITORIALS

Let in the Minority

The rule that prevented Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan from debating is detrimental to the democratic process.

On Tuesday night, the two most popular presidential candidates debated in the absence of fellow candidates Ralph Nader and Pat Buchanan.

Although these candidates have almost no chance to win the election, these candidates have gained a strong base of support relative to the other "fringe" parties and should have been allowed to participate in all of the debates. Ralph Nader, representing the Green Party, has consistently received 4 to 5 percent in the polls. Buchanan represents the Reform Party, which is recognized by the federal government and has received federal money to finance its ticket for the presidency. He has received around 1 percent of the vote in polls.

Numbers like 1 and 4 percent might not seem like much, but in terms of total registered voters, this translates into the support of millions of people.

The Commission on Presidential Debates has chosen to ignore the millions of supporters for Nader and Buchanan and decided for the American people what ideas they will be exposed to. Sequestering the ideas of people who disagree with the status quo is simply un-American.

To participate in the debates, the commission mandated that a party must have at least 15 percent of the popular vote. This require-

ment puts third parties in somewhat of a catch-22. Most third parties usually get less than 5 percent of the popular vote, and without the national exposure that they would gain by participating in the debates, it is likely that they will continue to receive less than the large 15 percent requirement.

With 100 million people watching, the debates are major avenues to promote a platform that happens to be different from the traditional Republican and Democrat platforms.

For example, during the 1992 race, third-party candidate Ross Perot entered the debates with only 5 percent of the popular vote, and in the November election, he received 19 percent of the popular vote.

In addition, having more than two candidates in the debates does not solely serve the purpose of "making the debate interesting." In the second debate, it seemed like the candidates agreed on every other point. With four candidates all attacking each other, stances on issues would have to be explained so that people know what makes one candidate different from another.

In that case, people could stop using the argument that they must always pick the lesser of two evils - they could potentially pick from three or four of them or they could find one that doesn't seem evil at all.

Overprotection

A proposed law that would require certain schools to install filtering or blocking software has some major pitfalls.

Earlier this week, the U.S. Congress began to contemplate a bill proposal that would force schools and libraries to filter out certain Web sites or risk losing federal funding.

It is upsetting to see that the very people chosen to protect America's inalienable rights are attempting to suppress them. Students should be encouraged to explore all avenues of information available to them, because the benefits far outweigh the dangers.

The Children's Internet Protection Act would cut funding to noncompliant elementary and secondary schools benefiting from a 1996 measure providing a subsidy called "e-rate," covering part of the cost of Internet access.

To keep receiving the subsidy, schools would have to select and install filtering or blocking software on their computers to cut off access to obscene material and child pornography, and enforce a policy to ensure the blocking software is being used while minors are using the computers.

Unfortunately, current blocking and filtering software prevents not only access to what some might consider "objectionable" material, but also blocks legal and useful sites. Examples of sites that have been blocked by popular commercial blocking and filtering

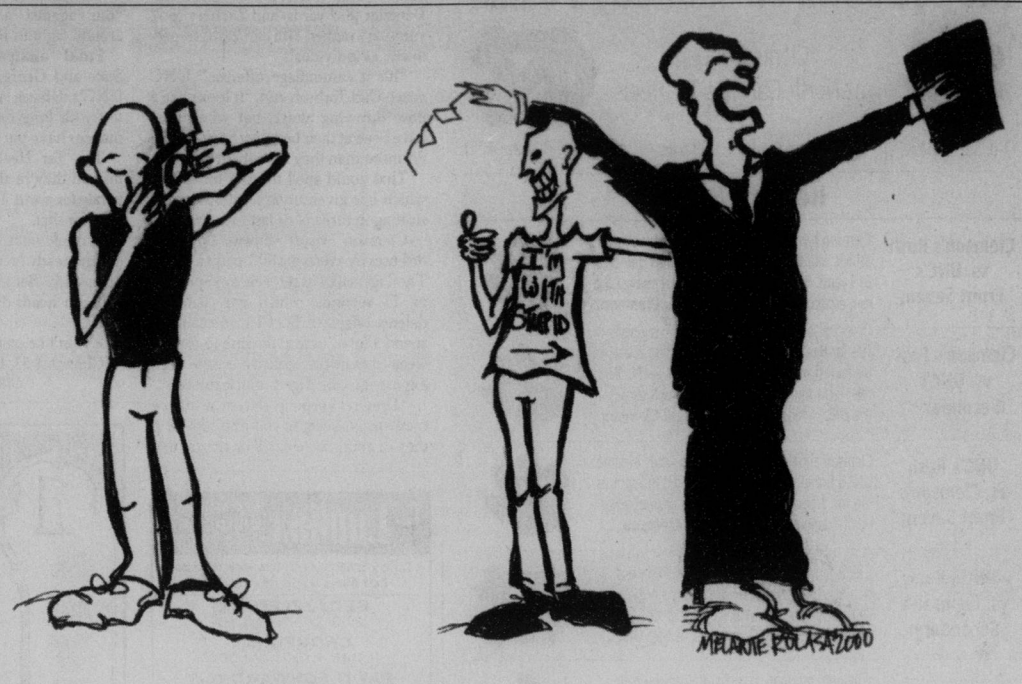
products include those on breast cancer, AIDS, women's rights and animal rights.

And this law stands on potentially shaky legal ground. On June 26, 1997, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that communications over the Internet deserve the highest level of constitutional protection.

The court held steadfast to the fact that communications on the Internet deserve the same level of constitutional protection as books, magazines, newspapers and speakers on the proverbial street-corner soapbox. A critical court finding was that venues that make content available on the Internet can continue to do so with the same constitutional protections that apply to the books on libraries' shelves.

Limited Internet access for children is akin to the book-banning movements of years past. Like those controversial books, the Internet is a learning tool, not an avenue for explicit terror.

Overall, this bill would do more harm than good for American children. The youth of this country must be able to reach their intellectual potential without government roadblocks or obstruction, even if that means they occasionally might stumble across less-than-desirable material.



Time for 'New York State of Mind'

Start spreading the news. Tomorrow evening, in the cathedral that is Yankee Stadium, the two-time defending world champion New York Yankees and their crosstown rival, the Mets, square off in the first game of the 2000 World Series.

In winning their respective league championship series this week, the clubs secured New York's first Subway Series since the Bronx Bombers and the Dodgers of Brooklyn went at it in 1956.

This is baseball's version of Armageddon, and it couldn't happen in a better city.

In any event, I believe the best way to get everyone ready for the Subway Series is to talk a little bit about the Big Apple itself.

Quite frankly, I was slightly overwhelmed by the prospects of discussing such a large city all by myself. Thus, I've asked a good friend and fellow New Yorker, Vinnie Boombatz, to help me out this morning. Despite what people say about New Yorkers and their attitudes, Vinnie is one of the kindest, most sincere guys you'd ever hope to meet. Vinnie, say hello to everyone in Chapel Hill.

"I'm not saying hello to everyone."
Vinnie, you're embarrassing me in front of all the readers.

"I'm going to punch you in front of all the readers if you don't shut up and get this show on the road."

I see. Anyway, Vinnie and I have prepared a brief, yet thorough, report on New York City in an effort to get us revved up for the Subway Series.

First, a quick history of New York.

In 1624, a Dutch explorer named Peter Minuit bought the island of Manhattan from its Native American inhabitants for \$24 in trinkets and beads. Upon completing the deal, Minuit thanked his new Indian friends for their cooperation, then immediately herded them onto reservations in North Dakota.

As governor of the frontier colony, Minuit realized there was much work to be done. His first official act was to rename the settlement New Amsterdam, which is Dutch for "let's see how many people we can squeeze on this



JOE MONACO
TRAILING AT THE HALF

frickin' island." Minuit's primary goal was to make the port of New York a major center for trade and commerce. Consequently, he oversaw the construction of an extensive system of streets and avenues that, to this day, nobody can figure out.

However, by the middle of the 17th century, the British were beginning to feel their oats. In 1664, England seized the colony and renamed it New York in honor of the Duke of York, an English aristocrat who also invented the Peppermint Patty.

"Hey, I've had it with this history."
But Vinnie, I'm only up to the 17th century, and we still have a lot to cover.

"If you talk about one more history thing, I'm gonna punch your teeth out."
OK. Let's move on.

"Good idea." For administrative purposes, the city is divided into five distinct boroughs: the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan and Staten Island. That number might soon drop to four, however, as scientists compile more and more evidence that Staten Island is, in fact, not an island, but actually the world's largest garbage barge.

Because all five boroughs are separated by fairly large bodies of water, New York City has a particularly large number of bridges. In the murky waters below each of these elevated structures are the skeletal remains of men who didn't cooperate with the Mafia.

"You got a problem with the Mafia? You got something against Italians?"

Vinnie, of course I don't have a problem with the Mafia. I like the Mafia. And I'm

Italian myself. Vin, "Goodfellas" is my favorite movie.

"That's good, newspaper boy. 'Cause if you got a problem with the Mafia, you're gonna be like the rest of 'em, wearing cement shoes at the bottom of the East River."

I see. Let's move along with our discussion. In terms of tourist attractions, New York is second to none. Standing tall in New York Harbor is the one of the city's most spectacular landmarks, the Statue of Liberty. For years, Lady Liberty has greeted boatloads of non-Haitian newcomers to the shores of this great land.

All Americans are familiar with the beautiful creed engraved at the base of the Statue. "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, and especially your Cuban baseball players whose fastballs top out in the mid-90s."

"Hey, that pitcher with the Yankees... El Duque... Ain't he a Cuban defector?"

That's right Vinnie, he is. "We should get more of them. He throws real good. Good pitcher, that El Duque."

That's very true, Vinnie. "Did you just laugh at me?"

What? "Did you just laugh at me? I thought I heard you laughing at me."

Vin, I just snickered a little. You're a funny guy.

"Funny? How funny? Funny like a clown?" I think I've seen this in a movie.

"Do I amuse you, journalism boy? Mr. Big Shot over here. Mr. 'I got my own column at UNC' thinks he's better than Vincent L. Boombatz, heh?"

Vin, can we discuss this later? The ballgame's on TV now.

"OK, fine. Hey, I like that Bob Costas, from NBC. Good broadcaster. Is he Italian?"

No, he's a Cuban defector. "Oh. What about El Duque?" He's Italian.

Joe Monaco would like to thank his friend and fellow Long Islander, Sean Sullivan, for his help in writing this column. Reach Joe at jmonaco@email.unc.edu.

BAROMETER

Bleak Outlook
Student Congress added eight more members to its ranks Tuesday. Wonder how long it will be until the new guys start resigning?

Fishy Decision
The senior class gift is... a fish tank. Not exactly a gift that keeps on giving, considering the fact that a significant portion of it will be dead when seniors come back to visit with their children.

Better Settlement
Last week, a jury awarded a former Dook football walk-on \$2 million because she was unfairly cut from the team. The way Dook has been playing, maybe they also should have given her her spot back.

Fair Weather
This weekend marks your last chance to learn how the other half (i.e., N.C. State students) lives. So go strap on your biggest belt buckle and head on over to the fair.

TAR HEEL QUOTABLES

"(College students) have shown to be worthy credit card holders."

DISCOVER CARD PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR BETH METZLER
If "worthy" means "they rack up lots of debt and make us lots of money in interest," then we suppose she's right.

"We're pushing (the bond) for students not because administration is saying 'do it' or giving us money."

ASG PRESIDENT ANDREW PAYNE
Maybe not, but somehow we doubt you would mind it if they were.

"People will be coming for big chunks of money. It really pulls your heartstrings."

REP. KEVIN CROCKETT, DIST. 19
On the limited funds Student Congress has to give to student groups. Conjures up images of sad students panhandling on Franklin Street to finance their next pizza social.

"It was definitely written by lawyers."
STUDENT ATTORNEY GENERAL TAYLOR LEA
Explaining why she thinks the Instrument for Student Judicial Governance should be rewritten. Since when was it such a bad thing to have a document explaining defendants' rights written by actual professionals who understand that kind of thing?

UE's Decision to Protest Reasonable

UE 150, the North Carolina Public Service Workers Union, has been criticized for disrupting the chancellor's installation ceremony. As a member of UE, I defend our actions.

In December 1996, the housekeepers' lawsuit against UNC ended with a court settlement requiring administrators to meet with housekeepers at least once each month.

Since the settlement ended in December 1999, administrators have refused to meet with UE. Why have they failed to learn the most fundamental lesson of good management?

Administrators would have us believe the answer lies in a 40-year-old law. North Carolina General Statute 95-98 nullifies agreements and contracts between any subdivision of the state of North Carolina and any labor organization acting on behalf of public employees. This statute has been challenged, but the courts have held that the state has the sovereign right to contract with whomever it wishes, and conversely not to contract.

But administrators go one step further. They say the statute prohibits them from meeting with representatives of any labor organization. When Molly Broad first became president, her general counsel sent UE a letter outlining the legal reasoning for her refusal to

STEVE HUTTON
POINT OF VIEW

meet. Even I, a non-attorney, found this "legal" reasoning laughable. No court has ever held that conferring with employees would be a violation of 95-98.

One might conclude administrators are using illogical reasoning to hide behind this law in order to not meet with representatives of labor organizations. That's not true, either.

I'm also a member of the State Employees Association of North Carolina, and administrators meet with me on an as-needed basis to discuss District 25's concerns. When the Faculty Council meets with administrators it is acting de facto as a representative of a labor organization. The chancellor never would refuse to meet with the council.

The correct answer, then, is that administrators hide behind 95-98 when they choose. I will leave it to you, the readers, to decide if their choices are based on racism, classism or managerial arrogance.

Whatever the cause, the result is a tyranny that affects all public employees from the top down, but which affects those in the lower pay

grades more. Since its inception, UE 150 has been fighting this tyranny, and our members have been fighting since before that as the Housekeepers Association.

This struggle has been well-publicized. UE has tried the usual channels of communication numerous times.

The disruption of public events is an exercise of free speech. It might be impolite, it might be rude, but it is a minimal inconvenience compared to the daily oppression public employees endure under 95-98.

Now that you know why the ceremony was disrupted, I challenge you to cease being part of the problem and become part of the solution. Tell University administrators they must be consistent in the application of the law - either meet with representatives of all labor organizations or with none. Write your N.C. legislators and request the repeal of 95-98. Advise them that the modern way to deal with labor organizations is through collective negotiation resulting in a contract.

Failing to speak out now will only make you a tacit cog in the machinery of oppression, and tacit cogs also are subject to disruption.

Reach Steve Hutton with questions and comments at shutton@email.unc.edu.