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Seasonal Spirit

Kudos to Dr. Ming Wang for setting a good example for both the medical community and the general public.

As the holiday season arrives, everyone is worried about fighting long lines to buy those last-minute gifts for friends and families.

Much too often, however, we get entangled in the material side of the season. Everyone worries about getting his or her holiday shopping done and budgeting large family meals.

Last Tuesday, Dr. Ming Wang performed a cornea transplant for Francisco, a 16-year-old Chapel Hill resident.

The doctor literally gave young Francisco the gift of sight, displaying charity in its finest form.

Francisco, who was blinded in both eyes at the age of 10, now has 20/70 vision in his right eye.

Dr. Wang's act of kindness should inspire medical professionals across the nation to be more charitable.

Care, local health care providers aren't lacking in charitable work.

"When it comes to certain high-cost treatments - such as transplants, for example - UNC Hospitals allocates a certain number of surgeries each year to be offered to disadvantaged patients free of charge or at a substantially reduced fee," he said.

And that should be the top priority of every health care provider across the nation.

In this holiday season, rather than obsessing over holiday shopping lists, people should take a few moments to think about Dr. Wang's kindness.

Much of the Chapel Hill community already has done this and deserves a big pat on the back as well.

What Dr. Wang did for young Francisco will be long remembered by the Chapel Hill community.

Hands Off

Legislators must not plug the state's budget gap with money from the national tobacco settlement.

A penny saved is a penny earned, or so the maxim goes. The N.C. General Assembly should take that saying to heart before dipping into the state's share of the national tobacco settlement.

With a \$300 million budget gap that threatens to get larger next year, legislators are scrambling to plug the hole.

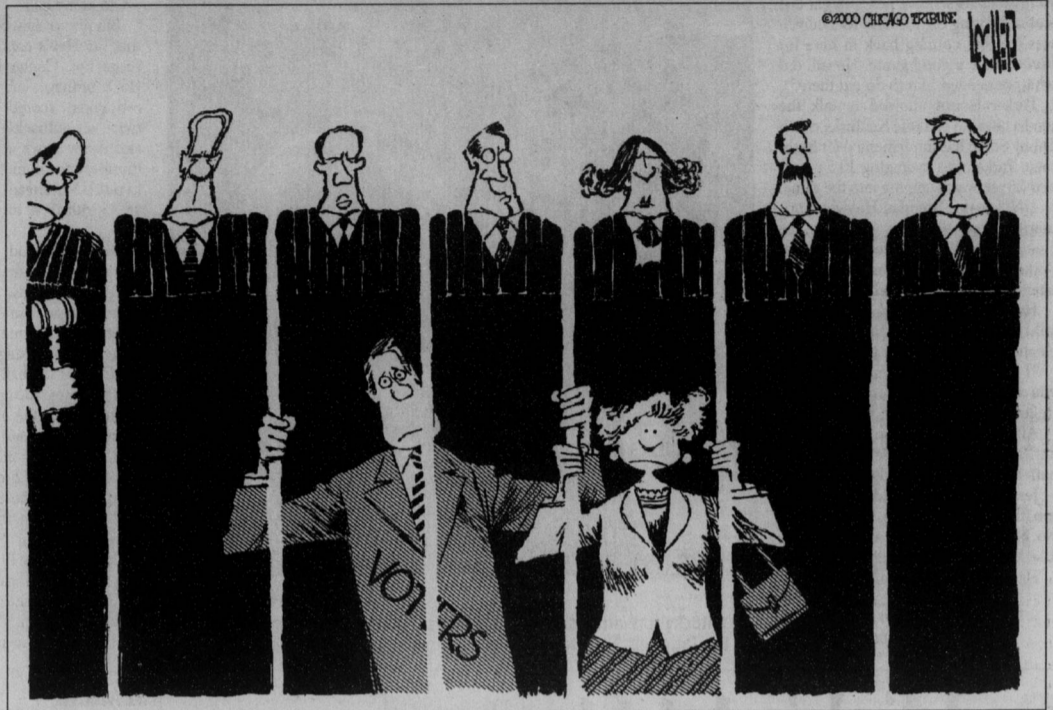
The only problem is, the money already has been allotted to three foundations. The largest of the three, called Golden Long-Term Economic Advancement Fund, is slated to receive one-half of the settlement to promote economic development in tobacco-dependent communities.

That thinking is short-sighted. With the

state in a financial crunch, there will be even less money to be spent on economic development, making Golden L.E.A.F.'s money all the more valuable.

Unquestionably, the state budget is in need of a fix. Hurricane Floyd and a series of lawsuits and court decisions have stretched it far beyond its limits.

To their credit, Governor-elect Mike Easley and Senate President Pro Tem Marc Basnight have vowed to oppose any attempts to raid the tobacco foundations to adjust the budget.



Did You Pass PHIL.22? Read On ...

Class, your performance this semester was poor.

My e-mail address is there for a reason. Don't be shy.

If you need to talk about anything, I am here.

A lot of you missed readings and didn't comprehend the material, but never came to me. So I must be proactive.

My writing is about generalities. I don't write for myself. I don't write about myself. I don't write to people; I write for people.

I write in the first or second person for intimacy, not for self-promotion or to carry out some vendetta.

I/you/we is a lot more personal than he/she/they.

The readings have been revised since this summer. I always had direction for this course and never gave you anything frivolous to read.

Many of you have taken the readings at face value, and my messages have escaped you.

I shouldn't have to lead bright, college-educated people by the hand.

Many assignments ended abruptly for you to add your personal twist to the story. This is an open text designed for critical interpretation.

I am amazed that you have analyzed Shakespeare, Chaucer, Milton, Dickens and Dostoevsky, but can't understand the work of an average Joe from Washington, D.C.

Maybe I gave you too much credit.

Understand the name: "Philosophy .22" is a course, science and weapon.

I began the semester calling myself a pimp. Pimping is about mind control. My first few columns were intended to shock, and critics got "pimped" early this semester.

The campus was anxious to see what I was going to do next.

That's when I slid in two meaningful articles about the trials of being black in this world.

I referred to Ralph Ellison's work at the end of both of these two columns.

As a black person, society doesn't see your intelligence, personality or goals - it only sees your skin. Your inner self is invisible - similar to the themes of .22.

Many students read my assignments each Monday, but only notice the outer shell. The majority never tried to dig beneath the surface and grasp my intentions.

I used two columns to talk about money,



KOFI BOFAH PHILOSOPHY .22

investments and people simultaneously. In my investment column, I favored long-term investments in Ciena, JDS Uniphase, Sun Microsystems and Nortel.

These networking corporations have a mission to speed and open lines of communication. They bring people together.

I have stressed the importance of collaboration since Day One.

Last week's story incorporated nearly everything I have been trying to do. Just look at the names: Goldie is a material girl; Iris Brown has the sixth sense to see through all with her brown irises.

Then there's Montego Gray. The color gray symbolizes a cover or a smoke screen. The full name Montego Gray is a play on Montego Bay, Jamaica.

The character is a fake - a man who thinks he is different and exotic, but he is just one of many.

There were too many blatant symbols in that writing that I choose not to waste space addressing them.

At the same time that I was putting out those messages, I was taking you through a progression.

We constantly face new beginnings in which we feel isolated. You might feel the world is against you (outlaw column). As one enters a new situation, there is always a sense of hope. This hope can translate to success or can be dashed by negative influences (Freshmen 101).

There will be circumstances beyond your control. You cannot quit because of setbacks stemming from the status quo. You have to work smarter and harder (ratio and race readings).

Maintain focus, and accolades are sure to follow (academics, investments, basketball, ode readings).

Again, at this stage there is negativity. Success might breed failure as jealousy and parasite-like individuals can take somebody from the top (fake people writing).

The choice is yours to fall from the pinnacle or maintain your position, and it is here that isolation reappears, and the cycle begins anew (Joe Washington).

To summarize:

- 1. Love yourself. 2. Stay real. 3. A man who plans is always behind schedule, as his mind works two steps ahead of the feasibility possible. 4. See beneath the surface. 5. Isolation is a normal feeling at times. 6. Accept nothing short of excellence. 7. Do not allow negativity to kill your dreams. 8. Keep your personal matters behind closed doors. 9. Confidence is a deadly firearm. 10. Don't speculate and spread rumors about issues you don't understand. 11. Always be ready to strike. 12. Stigmas and stereotypes are nearly impossible to lose. 13. Don't let a case of bad luck stop you. 14. If you have a necessity in abundance, give to those in need. 15. Don't allow the past to slow your future progress. 16. Keep a secret weapon handy. 17. Double standards are harsh realities of society. 18. Prioritize. 19. Network - people are your greatest asset. 20. Staying at the top is just as hard as getting there. 21. True innovation is always misunderstood. 22. Knowledge is the most lethal weapon known to man.

I might be disappointed, but I still love you all.

So here is what I'm going to do: I have an extra credit assignment to be completed by Fall 2002.

For the semester after my retirement (i.e., graduation from UNC), the student that can best prove to me that he or she needs some assistance will receive at least \$1,000 to be used toward his or her education.

I'm here to help. You got questions - talk to me. My info is on the Web. Class dismissed.

Kofi Bofah is a junior business administration major from Silver Spring, Md. You can reach him with your questions and comments at bofah26@email.unc.edu.

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READERS' FORUM

Students Can Help Shape UNC's Future At Tuesday Forum

TO THE EDITOR:

As a student, I am generally frustrated when campus expansion is mandated by the University, and as students, we just have to accept what is sent down from "on high."

That is why I am so glad to be apart of a forum that actively seeks students' opinions that can change the face of this campus for the next 30 years.

On Tuesday, University officials will hold a student forum from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Chase Dining Hall to discuss a proposed facility that would be located at the current Ramshead parking lot.

architects have been in the process of designing a parking garage where Ramshead parking lot is located, and the prospects are really quite amazing.

The building would include permit and metered parking as well as dining facilities, a Harris Teeter, a bookstore and athletic facilities.

I've looked at the proposals, and I'm excited about the possibilities. The architects have proposed a facility with an indoor track, weight facilities and three athletic courts for recreational and intramural purposes.

Not only will this facility help students on campus who always have to wait for courts and weight machines, but this also will help students who live off campus. Imagine being able to drive to a metered spot and, in one

or two hours, having the ability to shop for books, eat a meal, buy groceries and work out or play some hoops.

As a commuter, I can honestly say that I would love to be able to do all of those things at one campus location.

The forum will give students a chance to view a model for the building, and students will have a chance to express their ideas to - and ask questions of - the architects who have worked hard to design the building.

Bryan Hart Junior Business and Journalism and Mass Communication

Hart is vice president of the Carolina Athletic Association.



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