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The Daily Tar Heel

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Not in My Inbox

The wave of mass e-mail from student politicos has shown the need for a concrete policy on the part of the University.

"You've got mail." Yeah, and so does everyone else on campus, thanks to mass e-mails from candidates running for student body offices.

That's why the University needs to set a policy regarding who can send e-mail to the entire campus.

With student elections in full swing, some candidates have used e-mail to send out campaign information, subjecting students to the onslaught of election propaganda - as if walking through the Pit wasn't enough.

Board of Elections rules allow mass e-mail this year, as long as the candidate's name and the office he or she is running for is in the subject line.

While emergencies such as last year's blizzard or the threat of a hurricane are grounds for mass e-mails from University officials, students should be able to choose what types of e-mail they want to receive.

A committee is being formed consisting of Marian Moore, vice chancellor for information technology, campus administrators and Student Body President Brad Matthews to create guidelines for the use of campuswide e-mails.

Right now, there is no set policy regarding mass e-mails.

That needs to change - the guidelines concerning mass e-mail need to be set in stone.

The creation of the committee is a positive first step. Now they should emphasize alternative ways for students, groups and candidates during election season to get their information out to everyone.

Sending e-mails to the entire campus should only be done by University officials in emergency situations.

The committee is considering a proposal that would classify e-mail into two categories: informational and emergency. Students could then choose which e-mails they would like from the two categories.

This proposal seems to be the best solution to the problem.

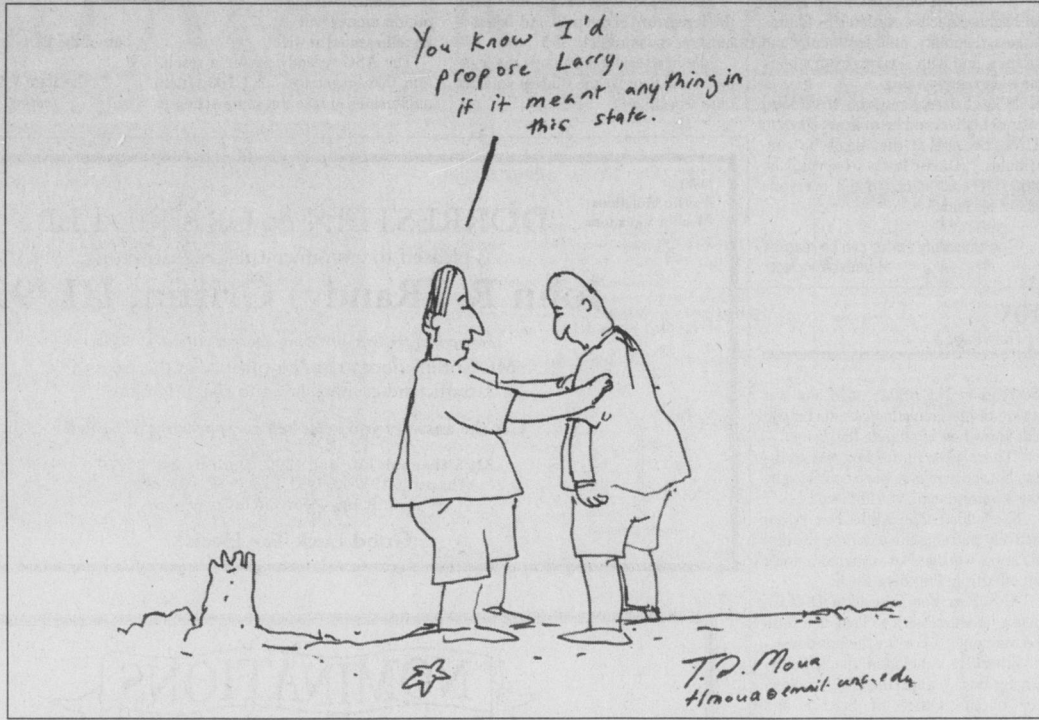
Students annoyed by messages from student body president candidates about how they are going to save the campus or from the Carolina Athletic Association about ticket distribution times can choose to receive only emergency e-mails.

Those who wish to receive that information can do so.

Giving students this choice will be the easiest way to placate everyone.

While it is true that you can just delete e-mail you don't want, it would be better if some of this unwelcome mass e-mail didn't make its way into our inboxes at all.

Just because "you've got mail" doesn't mean everyone else should too.



Return of the Rocking Horse People

All we are rocking horse people, spinning the merry-go-round in the waiting music and the lights we've made for ourselves.

We rush ever forward in the progress of a circle. We never change places - there are no places to exchange.

It's the same old world. It's a line around the corner. Round each corner lies the tail of a new line.

You and I are waiting there. You and I spend a lot of time waiting.

You'll find us at the car wash, at the bus stop, at the checkout counter of the Home Depot.

A line is an offer we can't refuse. No one makes us stand in it, but we wait anyway because what it is we want at the end of the line (or the beginning, depending on how we look at it) is worth the wait.

At the bank we wait for money. We fill out forms with our names and numbers, wait a while, give the forms to a teller who fills out her own names and numbers and types things, and gives us money or a receipt or both - and maybe a smile, a "Have a nice day."

We wait pensively in a chair in the waiting room of the doctor's office, sometimes hearing of our fate, others just coming up for a shot, for a bottle of pills, or for a small piece of paper that we take to the pharmacy and exchange for the pills, after waiting in line behind all the others with their needs, and after waiting, of course, for the filing of the bottle.

We wait to hear if we got into school. If we did, then we wait for school to begin and end, and for our grades and for checks.

We spend so much time waiting, we've come so far from the root of the thing that we ignore the essential question: What are we waiting for?

The thing at the root of the wait is, at least

PAUL THARP CUISINE BOURGEOISE

in the doctor's office, clear. We wish to preserve our health, or to amend or prevent ill health.

Preserving health includes maintaining a diet and finding shelter from the unfriendly cold and rain of our environment.

In the past we foraged and killed for food and took cover as we found it. Nowadays we're more abstract. Money buys all of the things we need to survive on earth.

We wait in line at the bank to get the money to buy food, shelter - all of the necessary items of existence.

Waiting is a survival skill of the modern "we."

We go to school so we can get a degree and hopefully get a job and earn small pieces of paper that we exchange at the bank for smaller pieces of paper that buy things.

The more money we can make, the more extravagant the food and shelter become.

Meantime a check gets us by. To make the money that buys the food, we must be able to transport ourselves efficiently from A to B. Cars move faster than legs, but to secure the privilege of driving them we must first obtain a license, and to obtain a license we must wait in line.

After that, in our cars, we wait in traffic for all the others who waited for their own licenses and move similarly.

All the fundamental processes of living, abstract as they've become, include a wait.

Yet there is more to life than its necessities. Beyond food and shelter and travel for the purpose of earnings, there is a road we know well, that we travel upon for no reason but the pure enjoyment of it.

We make money to spend money, or we

make it jointly to spend and save, though what is saved is passed along and spent another time, or invested for the purpose of compounding before spending and saving again.

We have fun with money, but we wait for it.

We wait in a line at the amusement park or in the stadium, or outside of the stadium or the park for a ticket to get inside, or in a line to get a wristband to wait in another line to get a ticket to get inside and be, hopefully, amused by the tricks the players perform for us.

Even love is a thing for which we wait. We wait not only for the thing to come along, for the amorphous "Her" to appear from among the shadows of our dreams.

After, we wait at the airport as She ambles up the causeway, as the attendant is rummaging through our pockets, running her detectors along the contour of our limbs.

We look to the first embrace, to the friendship we've missed all the time we have been waiting.

When it comes it seems worth it. It's almost better that way. We never take a first touch for granted.

Waiting is the price we pay for living together.

The advancement of one depends on the advancement of all, just as one's digression speaks of all our folly.

We're bound to the fulfillment of our needs and our desires, to the needs and desires of those around us, and to the system we've made that renders those things attainable.

No cuts! When one of us moves too quickly, or in the wrong direction, we'll pull back again with the crowd, or be tugged by it, gradually, forward in the line.

Paul Tharp is a first-year law student. Reach him at ptharp@email.unc.edu.

Tweaking the Process

Two bills recently proposed in the N.C. General Assembly should improve the workings of our state's election system.

During the first week of the 144th General Assembly, state lawmakers proposed two bills that promise to alter both the format and procedure of future state and national elections.

And the overhaul is long overdue. The first, Senate Bill 10, which was introduced by Sen. Wib Gulley, D-Durham, would make it easier for third-party candidates to appear on presidential election ballots.

The second, introduced by Sen. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland, calls for the governor and lieutenant governor to run on the same ticket instead of separately.

State lawmakers should support both these measures.

North Carolina is a state with strong barriers against third-party candidates. State law requires candidates from political parties that did not receive 10 percent of the vote in the previous election to gather the number of signatures equal to 2 percent of all votes cast in the previous gubernatorial election.

Because of this high standard, North Carolina was one of only four states where Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader did not appear on the ballot. The new bill calls for the 2 percent standard to be dropped to 1.5 percent.

This bill is essential if North Carolina is to

achieve a diverse political ticket. Opponents of the bill argue that third-party candidates take votes away from main party candidates. While this might be true in some cases, expanding the ballot to third-party candidates is a fundamental democratic right. The people of the state deserve to vote for candidates who represent their beliefs. The two main parties should not have a monopoly on votes.

Uniting the governor and lieutenant governor on the same ticket also strengthens North Carolina's political process.

The proposed bill would strengthen the role of the lieutenant governor, giving a candidate for governor the choice of a trusted running mate.

Inevitably, the governor and lieutenant governor would work more closely together on state issues.

This measure also would help avoid possible two-party conflicts. In the last 30 years in North Carolina, there were two instances where the state had a governor from one party and a lieutenant governor from the other - resulting in friction and little legislative coordination between the two.

If North Carolina wants to ensure a smooth running political process, the passage of these election reform bills is essential.

Learn Milestones in Black History

Jan. 30 ... Feb. 1! At last it's here, Black History Month. It's the beginning of a 28-day span of black-pride groups protesting about why they have the shortest month of the year and throwing useless facts in our faces about who invented what, like we really care or will even remember. Am I right?

Every year it's always the same thing. Let's learn about George Washington Carver! As if the peanut man wasn't covered last year. Besides black history isn't totally absent from history books. I learned about all the important black people: Martin, Harriet, Frederick and Rosa, so why sit through another month of crash courses in black accomplishments?

For years, blacks have fought for a nationwide recognition of their contributions to this "great" land beyond what the schools selectively choose to acknowledge. We learn all about Ben and how he discovered electricity, but did your teacher ever tell you what brilliant physics mind actually made it possible to transmit messages via electricity?

Ancient Africans invented the process of papermaking, but have they ever been given their credit?

Then there is the credit for inventions such as the rocket catapult, refrigerator and helicopter, inventions for which credit was stolen from African Americans and given to Sir Master Sir.

Do you own a cell phone? Iron your clothes? Cut your grass? Enjoy air condition-

SUNDARKIA NEWMAN POINT OF VIEW

ing? Ever flipped a light switch, locked a door, brushed your hair, worn shoes, worn a hat, used the toilet? It baffles me to think of how American society would function without the contributions of so-called "monkeys."

George Washington Carver is the only "colored" given any credit and he only gets peanuts. What about soap, plastics, glue, nitroglycerine, rubber and the millions of other products he made from peanuts and the products of products made from peanuts?

The black mothers and fathers of history did more for the freedom of their people than George Washington did for the freedom of his colony.

During the centuries following the "re-founding" of this land, blacks were forced with guns, dogs and lynching to abide by laws that clearly violated human rights.

Does the 1790 First Naturalization Law sound familiar? Probably not.

It declared that the United States was a white nation, justifying hate toward blacks.

In 1829, the Georgia Literacy Law threatened fines and imprisonment as penalties for teaching African Americans to read. In 1836 the District of Columbia passed a law prohibiting black businessmen from profit-mak-

ing activities. Even if they were free, blacks could not work for income independent of the white man.

This country would not have half the integrity it has today if it were not for the ancestors of the black faces you see every day.

So the next time you dig up the audacity to question the importance of black history ask yourself this: Did I know any of the above? Neither did anyone else.

But they should and you should too.

Sundarkia Newman is a senior and a representative of the Black Student Movement. Reach her at slim98@email.unc.edu.

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Columns should be between 700 and 800 words long and usually run on the Viewpoints page of Monday's paper. Submit your column by noon Wednesday in order for it to be eligible to run the following Monday. At the end of your piece, include your name, year, major, hometown and e-mail address. Columns should be signed by no more than two people.

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