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The Daily Tar Heel

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Pooling Resources

Chapel Hill can't afford the \$8 million facility some residents want. They'll have to stick to a budget or depend on other governments.

If Chapel Hill residents want to make a splash in a new community pool, they better hope the Carrboro Board of Aldermen and other area boards are willing to foot some of the bill.

The Chapel Hill Town Council has decided to seek financial help from the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, the county and other local governments in building the town's new Homestead Park aquatic center. The board came to this decision after reviewing petitions signed by area residents and hearing appeals from people in support of two types of pools.

If Chapel Hill built a facility with a cool lap pool for swimmers or a warm therapeutic pool for families and the disabled — which is what residents indicate they want — it would cost around \$8 million.

But only \$2.5 million in funding is available from the town. This forces the town to look to other area sources for funding. Spending an extra \$5.5 million for something many would consider a luxury is not an option the town has in its budget. The town now should focus on trimming the project back. And also it must ensure every government that contributes gets equal service out of the pool.

Those in support of the indoor lap pool say a more modern facility is needed to

accommodate spillover from crowded town facilities such as the Chapel Hill Community Center pool and the YMCA. There is also concern for the condition of existing pools.

Supporters of the warm water pool contend that a new therapeutic pool is needed since the closest one is located in Durham at the Lenox Baker Children's hospital.

While both types of pools have their merits, both sides must realize that compromises will have to be made and they probably will not get exactly what they want. Officials from both Chapel Hill and Carrboro agree that Chapel Hill residents will not be the only ones using the pool, citing the names of people from outside Chapel Hill on the petitions. Carrboro does not have a public pool.

If the Carrboro Board of Aldermen provided partial funding for the construction of the pool, the town's residents would certainly benefit, but it must be realistic with its funds. The same is true with the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education.

It is noble for the Chapel Hill Town Council to try to provide a state-of-the-art facility that fits the needs of all town residents. But without outside help, the board must be realistic and plan to build a more affordable facility or shelve the matter until more funds are available.

Price of Being Right

A CNN-commissioned study revealed its election coverage mistakes. Network officials must follow through with the proposed changes.

There were a lot of losers in Election 2000. Al Gore lost the race (though some would argue the opposite). The Supreme Court lost a large chunk of its air of nonpartisanship. The nation itself, a bastion of democracy, lost face.

But there was another big loser: the television news media — and at least one network is working to salvage something positive from that loss.

CNN recently released the findings of an independent panel it commissioned to look into its Election 2000 coverage — and the report didn't pull any punches. The panel concluded that the coverage on election night was "a debacle." It offered several solutions. CNN has pledged to enact them.

It should follow through on that promise — and the other major networks should follow suit. Some of the recommendations are no-brainers. CNN will not call a state for a candidate before all polls are closed in the state, as was done in Florida. It will not project a winner if there is less than a 1 percent margin, even if all outstanding ballots have been accounted for. And it will fund a sample key precinct vote reporting system so that it will have a second source of data to check against the projections it receives from the Voter News Service, an organization created and jointly funded by ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC and The Associated Press that provides

Election Day polling and voting data that the networks use to project winners.

While these changes are definite improvements, the real reforming must deal with VNS itself. CNN and other networks funded a separate report by the Raleigh-based Research Triangle Institute on the operations of VNS. RTI concluded that VNS' operations were flawed and that its specific role in future elections needed serious examination.

That's an understatement. VNS is a virtual monopoly. There are no other umbrella organizations that collect polling data and project national elections.

The major networks and the AP banded together and created VNS in 1990 to save money. They knew the price tag of tallying national election results would be high.

Media companies do not need to cut corners. Their pockets are deep enough to scrap the VNS and handle elections on their own.

But if they continue to use VNS, a serious overhaul is needed. RTI's report calls for additional research in VNS' statistical methods and a technical upgrade. CNN has said that they would only stick with VNS if these changes were carried out and pledged to provide the extra funding necessary. It's now up to the other networks to follow CNN's lead.

Stop cutting costs. It only cuts into the media's credibility.

Senior Class Candidate Platforms



Josh Baylin and Eugene Kim

Josh Baylin and Eugene Kim

In case you haven't figured it out yet (by our pink jeeps or our clad-less gallivanting selves), we are committed to making a statement about the Senior Class of 2002 and having fun at the same time!

Senior Gift Idea

A water fountain in commemoration of the late Chancellor Michael T. Hooker to be built in the area between Davis Library and Lenoir Hall. This fountain will honor not only Chancellor Hooker's memory but also his initiative to improve the "intellectual climate" of the UNC campus. This fountain has already been approved by the Campus Master Plan Committee.

Service

Geeks in the Streets — we want to implement a public service project that is both sensitive to community needs and accommodating of seniors and their busy schedules. Working with the N.C. Center for Public Service and local businesses (Red Hat, BellSouth, Time-Warner), the Geeks in the Streets will work to install high-speed Internet access lines into selected local family shelters as well as teach basic computer and Internet skills to those that need them.

Community (social activities)

Senior cookouts on Polk Place with live music from local bands, providing a chance for the senior class of 2002 to socialize in the spirit of the ancient Greeks.

Bar nights

Senior Week

The TrIditarod — inspired by the infamous dog-sled race held annually in Alaska, the TrIditarod will pit seniors from UNC, Duke University & N.C. State University against each other in friendly athletic competition.

Marshal Selection

A judicious selection process that will reflect the diversity of the senior class of 2002.

Communication

Regular announcements in the Daily Tar Heel
A monthly newsletter
A Web site devoted to seniors, similar to the great Web site produced by the Freshman Focus Council

A commitment to open dialogue

Career Services

Sponsor a wider range of job fairs, including nonprofit organizations and international career opportunities

Work with Career Services in supporting and publicizing their current job-placement programs

Continue the successful tradition of the Senior Punch Card

Feel free to contact us about our ideas or yours; we have nothing to hide, after all.

For more information, visit <http://www.unc.edu/~jbaylin>.

Neera Makwana and Shawn Brooks

Long ago, the steep tradition and unity was written here at UNC. Now it comes time for this unity and tradition to take a broader face. We pledge to do this as your senior class offi-



Neera Makwana and Shawn Brooks

cers in the form of a focused, three-tier plan. We do not have outspoken fake promises, nor are we going to promise anything that we know are impossible to accomplish in a single school year. What we have is a plan designed for you to make your senior year the best.

Strengthen the rich tradition.

The tradition has been set; we just have to continue in that tradition. We plan to improve previous senior class events, while at the same time leaving our mark.

Senior Class Gift. Provide an open forum for discussion of what our gift to the University will be. We will seek to have the entire class' ideas in on the gift.

Graduation. Plan and aid administrators in the search for a dynamic commencement speaker. Create a more memorable graduation.

Sankofa. Recognize the University's history and tradition, make plans to push for a monument to prominent UNC people.

Unify the senior class.

As a class, we need to spend more time together outside the classroom. A majority of the things you learn in college are outside of the classroom. We plan to learn while having fun at the same time.

Senior Nights. Well-publicized senior nights at diversified local bars and nightclubs.

Senior Week. Fun-filled senior weeks in both spring and fall semesters.

Homecoming 2001. Collaborate with the Carolina Athletic Association to improve and enhance previous Homecoming events, including a larger scale concert and more senior oriented events.

Senior Class Ball. Create a special evening to remember and reminisce and bring to a close all the good times here at Carolina.

Senior Class Service Project. Create a fun and exciting service project for the University.

Game Tickets. Talks are already in process with CAA to improve seating for seniors.

Provide essential services. There are some unique services that are needed to be offered or need to be continually offered for seniors.

Career Services. More networking, résumé building, internship, and career fairs.

Senior marshals. We will select a diversified group of senior marshals to help generate and execute services for seniors.

Study Abroad Programs. Information sessions outlining and explaining aspects of studying abroad. It is never too late to study abroad.

We want this as much as you do. Vote Neera and Shawn for Senior Class Officers!

Ben Singer and Ursula Dimmling

We are committed to serving the wants and needs of the senior class. In fact, you have even created our platform! This is the first ever student-created senior class platform. Therefore, the following ideas have come from surveys distributed to hundreds of rising

seniors and represent some of the exciting activities we will implement when elected.

Top 10 Most Popular Ideas:

10. Senior Hill. It is high time the seniors secured their own, new set of risers for basketball games.

9. Heels of Fame. This is going to be the Hollywood "Walk of Fame" of the East Coast. We want each senior class to have the opportunity to dedicate "heel" prints to noteworthy UNC graduates. Just imagine Michael Jordan and Stuart Scott returning home to Chapel Hill next year to set their prints along Franklin Street.

8. Senior to Senior. This is our opportunity to reach out to older adults, whether it is through taking them to buy groceries or raking the leaves outside their houses. These simple acts of kindness would be even more useful if we took them outside of Chapel Hill and into some of the less privileged areas of the Triangle.

7. Parking. Something must be done about reserving more parking spots for graduating seniors — we deserve it! We are ready to apply that pressure. In the meantime, a senior of the week will be drawn at random and given a parking spot for that week right on campus!

6. The Senior Watch. This newsletter via e-mail will keep seniors up to date on safety issues as well as exciting opportunities around campus. Helpful reminders about issues from the new date-rape drug, GHB, to bracelet distribution days would be included.

5. University Career Services. Everyone has heard of it, but we want to make what it has to offer more accessible and its events more publicized. This involves pushing for more seminars, career fairs and job-placement counseling.

4. Campus Lighting. Certain areas (such as the Arboretum and East Franklin Street) have been in the dark too long! As seniors it is our responsibility to leave the campus a safer place for future classes.

3. Duke vs. UNC Senior Games. We should all get a chance to take on Duke before we graduate.

2. Nights Out. Food and drink specials at your favorite Franklin Street establishments.

1. Senior Textbook Discount. We have paid full price for three years already. We think we deserve a break.

You have also come up with some fabulous senior gift ideas. When elected, we will compile a list of these ideas and let you decide how the class of 2002 wants to be remembered. Some gift ideas include:

A statue commemorating Chancellor Hooker

The always-popular jumbotron for Kenan Stadium

An annual scholarship for deserving disadvantaged scholars with notable community service involvement.

We are still open to suggestions, so if you would like to submit your ideas or would simply like more information about what we stand for, visit us at <http://www.unc.edu/~bsinger>.

We look forward to making yours and our senior year unforgettable!

READERS' FORUM

Columnist's Comment Offensive, Insensitive To All African Students

TO THE EDITOR:

An African proverb says, "One must never pull a lion by the tail, whether it is dead or alive." Dan Satter has done just that. The Organization of African Students Interest and Solidarity and its African students might be of inconsequential importance to the livelihood of this school. Nevertheless, we are here, and you must learn to deal with that.

In the Jan. 31 issue of The Daily Tar Heel, Satter wrote a column in which he was insulting the Duke basketball team. I thought this was a good article only in reference to the rivalry. However, there was a place where he crossed the line and was no longer channeling his insults to Duke University, but to Africans as well.

He wrote, "Dunleavy's Casper-the-Ghost tan and skinnier-than-a-Somalian-frame slim build deceives opponents into thinking biology classes use him to study bone structure." Even though there is no word such as "Somalian," it is clear that he is making reference to the many Somali people who are not only of a slim build by nature but are also in that predicament

because of starvation, poverty, drought and famine. There are many other references that Satter could have used to get the same message across without using a stereotype that is derogatory to Somalis and Africans. I don't think the use of coconut tree, needle, toothpick, skeleton, broomstick or even string bean to describe Dunleavy's skinniness would have taken away from the essence of his article. It is heart-wrenching, and as I write this, it brings tears to my eyes, to know that someone thinks this is humorous, that this should be used simultaneously with a reference to a rivalry in the game of basketball. How insensitive and inconsiderate of the fact that UNC is a diverse school. Do you think there are no Somalis on this campus? Perhaps the tears of your laughter blind you so that you do not see the people around you who weep.

I understand that this country is built on a First Amendment basis and everyone is entitled to his or her opinion. But may I remind you that the DTH is our newspaper? It is meant to give us the opportunity to explore our creativity and should not be used negligently to throw insults around. As an African, I am highly offended that even the editor did not see this as a red flag. I am certain that it has not become acceptable in this country to demean other people because of how God created them or

because of their suffering. If it is, fine. But let it be limited only to those who wish to partake in the laughing at foolishness, perhaps they would not take offense. Please exclude Africans from such nonsense because it would not be tolerated. O.A.S.I.S. for one will not tolerate it in the DTH, or any other publication.

Adaure Achumba
Senior
Journalism and Mass Communication
Publicity Secretary, O.A.S.I.S.

Student Elections Have Value and Are Important In a Democratic Society

TO THE EDITOR:

An Ann Landers reader once wrote that she had spent the night with her boyfriend. Did I do wrong? she queried. "You probably did," responded Landers.

After reading Ashley Holmes' editorial notebook ("When Will It End?" Feb. 6) deploring elections for student body president as a "circus" and an office of "little" value, I wondered whether I did wrong.

My Censorship class of 98 students made the decision to invite student body president candidates to speak to the class.

Ninety-eight students is larger than most of the forums where student body president candidates have spoken.

The exchange among candidates and students was invigorating and informative. Several students were so impressed with the intellect, sincerity, dedication and knowledgeable grasp of campus issues that they urged the winning candidate to find a way to incorporate some of the candidates in a student body president "Council of Advisers" or a student body president cabinet.

If one pursues Ashley Holmes' disaffection to its inexorable conclusion, we should give up on electing U.S. presidents. Only a minority of eligible voters vote, and that percentage has been declining.

Some of the presidential campaigns have been depressingly boring and national circuses. This past election was such an electoral farce that the Supreme Court donated it to George Bush.

But we don't surrender our right to vote, nor do we give up on democracy. Unless one prefers the alternative in China, Cuba, North Korea, Liberia, Libya and Myanmar.

Student body presidencies are early preludes to productive leadership in life. They begin honing skills on how to serve, lead, speak publicly, and as the Melians told the Athenians, how to work with superiors and collaborate with equals.



The Daily Tar Heel welcomes 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 guaranteed. 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.

Burning for a Candidate?

Then tell everyone. The Daily Tar Heel accepts endorsement letters for student elections. Letters should be no longer than 350 words 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 guaranteed. E-mail letters to editdesk@unc.edu. The letters will run Monday and Tuesday.

For any questions or a good time contact editorial page editor Jonathan Chaney at jchaney@email.unc.edu.