



ASHLEY STEPHENSON

## Drinking Policy Murky, Ignores Real Problems

Students have always relished their first tastes of freedom in a Budweiser.

Finally out from under the watchful eye of mom and dad, UNC freshmen have embraced the promise of UNC, where Purple Jesus is born in multigallon trash cans and the wine flows like, well, wine.

Many learn the fast lesson that even though parental discipline is miles away, the University police are right around the corner to pick up where the precious 'rents left off. Those meant to serve and protect you now take the form of demons who deny and destroy your beer.

Two students early last week got pinched. Word on the street was that freshmen Jacki "Schlitz" Fritz and Michael "Duff" Dorfman attended a party in a Hinton James Residence Hall room. And yes, there was alcohol present, and no, Fritz and Dorfman didn't touch a drop. Nevertheless, the 5-0 slapped them both with citations.

The two freshmen are calling UNC's alcohol policy unfair and the guidelines murky.

And I have to second that emotion. Item one is that if you haven't been drinking and the beer ain't yours, you shouldn't get in trouble. Fritz asked to take a breathalyzer, and the officer refused. New rules should allow students to prove their innocence and get off the hook.

Higher-ups have certainly not let these youngsters know that UNC's alcohol policy means they can't be in the same room with beer if they're underage, even if they've been chugging Sprite like it's going out of style.

Nay, officials need to clear up these misconceptions so students can figure out how to beat the system or stay out of hot water.

UNC administrators have always had a tough time figuring out how to handle the inevitable drinking that takes place on campus.

Buzzwords like "binge drinking" have been shoved in our faces. Honchos have told us they know we'll drink but don't condone it — and they'll bust our asses if they catch us. Fingers have been pointed at the Greek community and the "big sports" emphasis at UNC. They will tell you all these factors have been eroding the intellectual climate.

Maybe they're right. But University bigwigs have been handling UNC's alcohol situation all wrong.

The events that shaped UNC's attack on alcohol unfolded in the early morning hours of Mother's Day 1996, when a fire ripped through the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity house, killing five students.

Four of the five students killed had blood alcohol levels higher than .08, North Carolina's legal limit. Some people have contended that if they had been sober, they might have escaped the blaze.

In the wake of the tragedy and the years following it, UNC unleashed a slew of anti-drinking campaigns. First they told students "Don't Get Wasted." More recently, it's been the delightful news that "2 out of 3 blow a .00 BAC."

The result of such nonsense, which ignores the notion that students formed their opinions about drinking long before enrolling at UNC, has been the confusing slogan, "Don't Drink and Drink Responsibly."

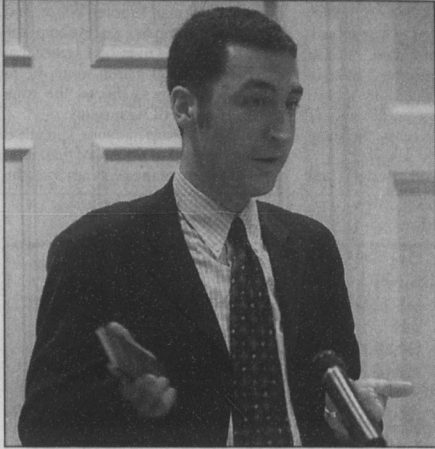
The Department of Public Safety has been in cahoots with such anti-drinking efforts, and the men in blue have been part of the crackdown. Sadly, non-drinkers like Fritz and Dorfman have been caught in the melee.

Too bad they aren't the ones the University should be worrying about.

I'm not asking UNC to condone underage drinking, but I am asking them to prioritize. If University police and administrators want to really target the harmful effects of alcohol, they should crack down on the 21-year-olds trying to drive their drunk asses home, not on the 18-year-olds nursing their Beasts. Much more harm can be done behind the wheel than on the fourth floor of Morrison Residence Hall.

To Fritz and Dorfman, my deepest regrets. If I see either one of you kids, I'll look both ways — then buy you a beer.

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Cem Ozdemir, a member of the lower house of Germany's parliament, speaks Thursday.

# German Official Talks Equality

Cem Ozdemir, the first Turkish-born member of the German legislature, discussed the hurdles many foreigners must face in Germany.

By ROB LEICHER  
Staff Writer

About 40 people delayed the start of their long weekend Thursday afternoon to listen to a member of the Bundestag — the lower house of Germany's parliament — discuss German society and identity.

"What does it mean to be a German?" asked Cem Ozdemir, who said he had experienced discrimination as a result of his Turkish background, which made him the first Bundestag

member of Turkish descent.

"Even though I speak German, I am different because I have a Turkish passport," he said.

Although Ozdemir was born in Germany, he said he is considered a Turkish citizen under now-changed German laws because his parents are Turkish. He only became a German citizen when he became eligible for a diplomatic passport as a member of the Bundestag.

Under current German law, immigrants can become citizens after eight years of residency, but they must forfeit their citizenship to their former country. Many immigrants do not apply for citizenship because of this rule, Ozdemir said. "For them, their old passport is like remembering their childhood," he said.

But children of immigrants can retain dual citizenship until their 23rd birthday, which is helping to reduce the discrimination against Turks

and other immigrants, he said.

Many Germans do not want to accept immigrants into society, Ozdemir said. They use the differences in skin color, names and language as means of separating the people.

Instead of getting citizenship and respect based solely on the fact that they live in Germany, Ozdemir said he feels that immigrants should have to earn it by showing they want to become integrated in German society. Language is a potential uniting factor for immigrants and Germans alike.

"We should force everybody that comes to Germany to learn German and understand the country," he said.

One main reason Turks and other immigrants are not raising as well as inhabitants in Germany

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## UNC Alumna Films Father's 5 Wives



DTH/BRENT CLARK

"Five Wives" producer Jason Lyon acts in a reunion episode of STV's "General College."

By RUSS LANE  
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

A collection of old press clippings accompanies the press information for "Five Wives, Three Secretaries and Me," a film airing on The Movie Channel this month.

But the clippings weren't just positive reviews — instead, the clips showed glances of the public life of a high society Texas family and its patriarch, Thomas Blake Jr., known as "Blakey" to his family.

The clips evoke a kind of mystery. What lies beneath the advertisement featuring one of Blake's wives? Who was the self-made Texan who was invited to a global strategy session in 1962? What is the truth behind a family whose social exploits are often fodder for gossip columns in The Houston Chronicle? Apparently, the truth behind the Blake family eluded its only daughter, Tessa Blake, and her friend, Jason Lyon, as well.

A project begun in 1994 and finished in 1999, "Five Wives" was the brainchild of UNC alumni Blake and Lyon. The duo turned the cameras on the Blake family, collecting more than 50 hours of footage in hope of finding insight into the Texan clan. The documentary seems to succeed, but not without banging its head on the "Southern code of silence" referenced throughout the film.

Lyon said that although the film explores Texas' high society and the lives of the various women referenced in the title, it hinges on Blake's relationship with her father. "He is from the old-school Southern establishment that doesn't talk about anything and it doesn't really acknowledge having feelings, and she's from a kind of new generation that talks about everything," he said.

Although the pair graduated nearly a decade ago, they still involve themselves in local culture. Several Chapel Hill references are sprinkled throughout "Five Wives." In addition, Blake and Lyon — who met during their undergraduate days at UNC — shot a reunion episode in March of STV's "General College," a collegiate soap opera in which Blake acted and Lyon wrote, directed and produced in the early 90s.

The two parted ways after graduating but reunited by chance on a New York street and began the project shortly thereafter. Lyon said he was thrilled for the opportunity to work on the project, since it allowed him to meet people he considered to be like cartoon characters as described by Blake.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ASSET PICTURES

Thomas Blake Jr. (seated) was the subject of "Five Wives, Three Secretaries and Me," a documentary directed by his daughter, UNC alumna Tessa Blake (standing).

"It was sort of exciting for me to go and meet the real people," he said. "But in meeting the real people, I had my own impressions of them, my own reactions, so early on ... we spent a while talking about her understanding of the people or the way she painted people, versus the way I perceived them."

Blake said collaborating with Lyon was vital, considering the film's subject. She said Lyon's input helped her create an honest but responsible family portrait.

"You walk that line as a personal documentary filmmaker between honesty and privacy," she said. "You don't want to be exposing people irresponsibly — and I certainly didn't want to make 'The Jerry Springer Show' — so you have to be careful about that stuff and weigh your need for honesty against everyone else's need for privacy, or even your own."

Blake said balancing privacy and honesty paid off. Not only did most of her family consider the finished product a fair representation, but Blake also felt liberated from the Texan socialite trappings that contradicted her more progressive lifestyle in New York, where she directed avant-garde theater and dated a black man.

"When we finally screened the film, there it was — my point of view," she said. "There's no way to hide from it, there was no way dress it up, there was no way to pretend I was saying what (my father) was saying or what the socialites were saying, and so now ... I feel like, 'You can like me or you don't like me, but you get who I am.'"

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## Expansion Concerns Residents

Amendments to a 1986 Orange County land use plan could affect those living near a local landfill.

By ISAAC GROVES  
Staff Writer

Some Orange County residents expressed worries about Chapel Hill's expansion into their neighborhoods at a joint meeting Wednesday between three local governments.

At the public hearing, the Chapel Hill Town Council introduced five amendments to an area land use plan that the Town Council, Orange County Board of Commissioners and the Carboro Board of Aldermen created in 1986 to control the area's rapid growth.



School board member Nick Didow

The amendments would give local officials the option to use five pieces of land between Eubanks and Homestead roads near the Orange County Regional Landfill for alternate purposes.

Amendments to the plan require the approval of all three jurisdictions.

"This plan, for 15 years, has been an enormously powerful tool," said Chapel Hill Planning Department Director Roger Waldon, who spoke for the three planning departments and presented five changes illustrating what can be done with the five pieces of public land near the landfill.

But some Orange County residents who live near the town landfill, located just northwest of the Chapel Hill limits, expressed concern that the planning

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## Hispanic Population Seeks Clout

N.C. Latino advocacy group El Pueblo is lobbying state legislators for an increase in Hispanic rights and access.

By MICHAEL HANDY  
Staff Writer

The N.C. Hispanic population grew by more than 300,000 over the last 10 years, yet only one Hispanic currently holds a seat in the N.C. General Assembly.

Despite the increase in the Hispanic population and its influence in state affairs, Hispanic leaders feel their voice is still largely unheard in state government.

Elena Askey, a Hispanic who works in the office of Rep. Debbie Clary, R-Gaston, said she sees growing Hispanic influence in North Carolina.

Askey said many high positions in the governor's office are now held by Hispanics and the state Senate recently hired a special Hispanic adviser.

But she also said more representation is still needed. "I wish the House would establish something like (the Senate did)," Askey said. "I believe we are lacking in that department."

Rep. Danny McComas, R-New Hanover, is the lone Hispanic holding a

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## N.C. House to Revisit Electoral College Bill

By TALLEY SERGENT  
Staff Writer

Four months ago, during what might have been the most controversial presidential election ever, state Republicans and Democrats were divided on the Electoral College process.

And today the debate continues.

The N.C. House of Representatives will review amendments for House Bill 33, titled Presidential Electors by District, before May 1, said bill sponsor Rep. Wayne Goodwin, D-Richmond.

The proposed changes, if passed, will divide electoral votes by congressional districts. "(The bill) ensures the intent and wishes of voters are reflected by how the electors vote," Goodwin said.

N.C. electors are selected based on which presidential candidate wins the most votes in the state.

"There's a sense of unfairness with the winner-take-all (system)," said Rep. Jennifer Weiss, D-Wake. "It disenfranchises the voters in the districts."

The bill was approved by the N.C. House Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform Committee Feb. 28.

Weiss, co-sponsor of the bill, said the vote was close and went along party lines, supported by Democrats but not Republicans.

But the bill, which was slated to go to the House floor March 6, was sent back to the House Committee on Rules, Calendar and Operations and has not been rescheduled.

Goodwin said the bill is not dead, but the N.C. legislature has more "pressing" matters to deal with, most notably the \$800 million budget shortfall.

N.C. Democrats might be pushing for a change in the system, but political experts

say any drastic changes are unlikely.

Larry Sabato, a University of Virginia American politics professor, said he does not foresee any change in the electoral process because of the heavily debated 2000 presidential election. "Changing (the Electoral College) is purely academic," Sabato said. "It's not going to happen."

Sabato said he doubted candidates would even campaign in North Carolina if it changed its electoral process because candidates will spend time in a state like Virginia where they can secure all the electoral votes.

But Sabato also said that a change in the electoral system in North Carolina could make presidential elections in the state more competitive.

But Republicans back the current system, which led to President George W. Bush's election even though Bush lost

the popular vote to Democratic candidate Al Gore during the 2000 election.

Bill Cobey, chairman of the N.C. Republican Party, tabbed the electoral reform bill as the "sore-loser bill."

"The system has been good to (Republicans) as it has been to the Democrats," Cobey said. "It's a concession by the Democrats that Republicans will win the presidential election (in North Carolina) every year."

But Sabato offered amends for the electoral process. "There is only one constitutional amendment that has a chance — the abolition of electors," Sabato said. "I bet on nothing happening though. Just because people talk doesn't mean anything is going to happen."

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