

Opinion

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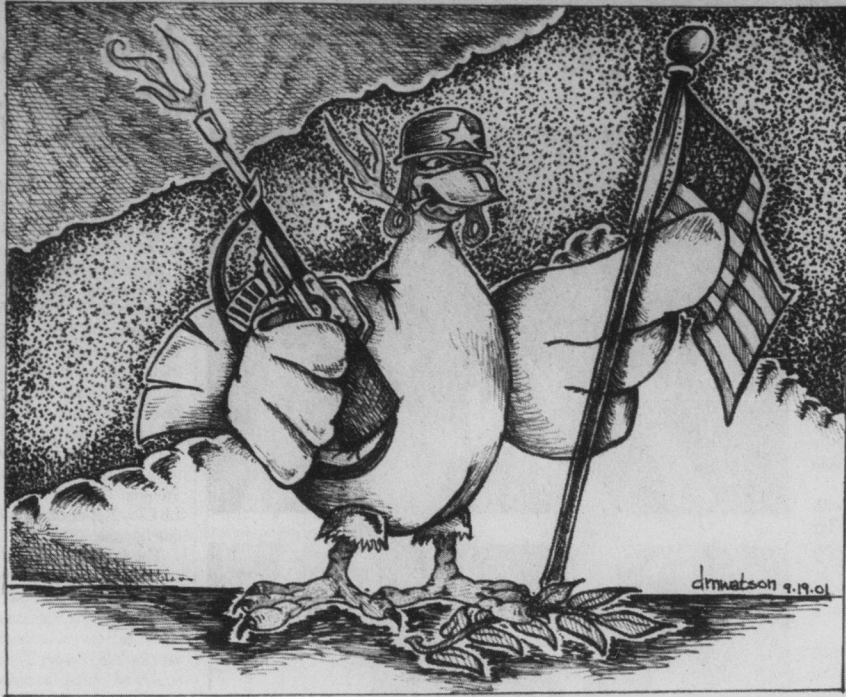
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Board Editorials

Love and Theft

People wanting to help the victims of last week's attacks should watch out for unscrupulous "charities"

The overwhelmingly charitable response of the American people following the events of Sept. 11 represents the true giving spirit of the country. The city of New York has already reported huge donations of food and clothing resulting in a sizable surplus of these items.

With numerous people giving blood, food, clothing and water, the nature of donations has now changed toward monetary gifts. These donations are needed to address the specific needs of survivors, those who lost relatives in the attacks and rescue workers.

Those who give money, however, should be aware that some individuals hoping to turn a profit from a tragic occasion have already taken advantage of some generous Americans.

After Sept. 11, everyone wanted to do something to help the victims of the terrorist attacks. But concerned citizens should remember to not let emotions get the better of common sense and intuition.

It's easy to be duped by phone calls from an unknown organization or an organization with a similar name to a reputable charitable group.

Individuals should call the police if approached by suspect people through e-mail, telephone, or even door-to-door ventures. The local police and the N.C. Attorney General's Office will then ensure that others don't get taken advantage of by con artists preying on the giving spirit of Americans.

Everyone should be wary of e-mail and other Internet solicitations, especially those that direct potential givers to someone's personal Web site to make a donation.

With all of these considerations in mind, here is a list of Web sites that have a direct link to give financial aid to various reputable philanthropic organizations helping everyone affected by the tragic events of last week.

<http://www.helping.org> - This web site lists numerous, legitimate organizations

that are involved in the relief effort. Each link has specific instructions on how to donate to a particular relief fund.

<http://www.libertyunites.org> - This Web site also provides numerous links to various charities where direct donations can be made to any specific charity.

<http://www.redcross.org> - This Web site directs users to a local American Red Cross chapter where donations of blood and money can be received.

Donating money to online charities, when done correctly, is safe, secure and is easily accomplished by simply punching in a name and a credit card number.

People from all across the nation, including Chapel Hill, have already demonstrated their compassion for all victims of the terrorist attacks through their donations to local and nationwide charities.

They simply need to ensure that their donations will be given to a charity that will end up helping the needy and not the greedy.

Where the Heart Is

The WOW program is designed to help people buy their own homes — but it needs to widen its focus

A man's home is his castle, but some people own more castles than others.

This week N.C. Reps. Eva Clayton and David Price unveiled the With Ownership, Wealth initiative in the hopes of increasing minority home ownership.

The WOW program was formally launched by the Congressional Black Caucus last April, but this week's ceremony brought it to North Carolinians who still don't own their own homes.

Home ownership is a basic fact of life that many people take for granted. But blacks as a whole own far fewer houses than whites.

The reasons for this disparity are numerous and difficult to understand. Despite the strides made by the civil rights movement, and despite the fact that the national black home ownership rate grew four times faster than the white rate in the last decade, the gap between the two groups remains wide.

Regardless of the problem's source, a

solution has been too long in coming. WOW is the first program of its kind to target a problem that many Americans rarely think about.

WOW also takes a refreshingly sensible approach to a thorny problem. Rather than provide new funds — which are difficult to come by as the economy continues to slow down — WOW seeks to utilize existing resources to erase some of the barriers to home ownership.

It is also heartening to see that some particularly powerful backers have joined forces with various bureaucracies to get the program off the ground. GE Capital Mortgage Insurance Corp., United Guaranty and Fannie Mae are all involved with the WOW program. This confluence of business and government could accomplish something that neither could do by itself.

A large part of WOW's mission is informational. Seminars, forums and home

ownership fairs are planned as part of a widespread outreach effort.

But even more promising is the prospect of action. WOW's architects want to make partnerships with financial institutions offer flexible mortgage packages and financial counseling to lower-income individuals and families.

If there is any detectable shortcoming in this otherwise laudable program, it is that its focus is perhaps too narrow.

Although blacks are the most obvious victims of the home ownership disparity, other minorities and less wealthy people in general also find themselves on the wrong side of the gap.

Rather than exclusively target blacks, WOW and its leaders should direct their efforts at aiding all those who lag behind in home-ownership rates.

Everyone deserves a chance to own his or her own home. After all, it's where the heart is.

Wanted: High-Tech Hookers For the Future

Open up The Daily Tar Heel classifieds on any given day, and there's an offer:

"Seeking healthy females (ages 18 to 33) willing to donate eggs to infertile women. Call or e-mail for information. Please include name and address. \$2000 for complete participation. Anonymity is preserved."

Let's take a look at this seemingly harmless plea for help. Seeking healthy females. Think you're healthy? Well, if you want to be an egg donor, healthy has little to do with how much you exercise or how many Luna bars you eat. Healthy means having wanted genes — fair, blond, blue-eyed, 5 feet 10 inches tall, with no hereditary diseases in your family for four generations. Many female donors fit into these categories — look for an in-vitro Aryan generation running around in a few years.

Ads at Ivy League schools ask for egg producers who scored 1300 or better on their SATs. Guess that explains why couples are seeking egg producers here instead of at N.C. State.



RACHEL HOCKFIELD
OVER MY HEAD

Parents also want nice kids, so they search out altruistic women who want to help. Ironic, don't you think? How much kindness can you expect from kids whose mothers sold them to the highest bidders?

Willing to donate eggs to infertile women. Willingness is an understatement. Consider the monthlong process of sucking future embryos out: psychological analysis, hormonal drugs, invasive procedures and unlimited risks.

Before the little suckers are extracted, expect questions like, "What will you do when your child knocks on your door, all grown up?" Former eggs showing up on your doorstep in 20 years might be somewhat disturbing.

Medically, egg extraction is similar to an alien abduction. A donor creates a harvesting environment by first taking drugs with menopausal effects. After three weeks of daily injections of the drugs Pergonal and Metrodin, the ovaries expand to baseball size, creating a dozen eggs. Then the eggs are sucked out through a freakin' huge needle.

The risks of egg donation are uncertain. Some women may develop cervical cancer or infertility themselves.

Call or e-mail for information. Please include name and address. Don't let a local phone number fool you. Instead of matching a donor with a family, some ads are part of a scheme to add women's names to databases. There are more than 200 egg donation agencies in the United States that advertise profusely in order to build up these databases. Recent ads offering \$50,000 dollars were actually fraudulent advertisements for donor banks, not needy customers. These ads influence women into giving up genetic maps of themselves — for a price.

Let's face it, women's eggs are hot commodities, and there is a market to buy. Men have been selling sperm since the 1960s, and now women have the chance to catch up — that's gender equality.

\$2,000 for complete participation. Easy money, that's what it all comes down to. Yet men and women are recompensed at very different rates. A man donating sperm receives an average of \$50 for about one hour of work. At that rate, women who take one month to make a donation should receive \$36,000. As it stands, a woman's hourly rate is about \$2.78.

The difference in payment can be blamed on a society that values men over women. But, as the price of prefertilized children increases — to upward of tens of thousands of dollars — you have to wonder who wants to raise kids whose biological mothers sold them to total strangers.

Anonymity is preserved. Of course it is — a future kid can't discern who his or her real mother is. "Is it the woman whose baseball-sized ovary I popped out of?" "Is it the surrogate who carried me for nine months?" "Or is it the woman I have called Mama all my life?"

These are confusing questions, and women might not want their biological offspring knowing who they are for reasons of guilt, greed or genuine concern for the child's welfare.

Think back to what your mother always said: "When it seems too good to be true, it probably is." A classified ad offering women a financial solution by selling their eggs is this century's high-tech prostitution. Is it really worth it to finance your future on your children's backs? Or do you want the chance to advise your own children as to the rights and wrongs of the world, as your mother did?

Rachel Hockfield earned \$8.34 in the time it took to write this column, but she won't see any of it. Reach her at rachel@email.unc.edu.

READERS' FORUM

Ticket Distribution Does Not Improve Student Safety

TO THE EDITOR:

I am an avid Carolina fan, and do my best to attend as many sporting events as I can here. However, I'm not too fond of the fact that I rely on the CAA for coordination of some of these events and the processes by which I am able to attend these events.

I am referring to this weekend's FSU game, and the fact that I must go obtain tickets that will be "distributed randomly," says Mr. Reid Chaney, CAA President. Maybe he means "distributed randomly" in the same sense that basketball tickets were "distributed randomly" last year for several big games, those random people being members and friends of the CAA's upper echelon who received the best student tickets.

The CAA's assumption that entrance to the stadium will be hectic is probably very true; however, I fail to see the logic behind Mr. Chaney's statement that "students are safer" with tickets, as opposed to the ONE

Card entrance process. Maybe our tickets will prevent us from being mauled, which happened to me too often last year while using my ONE Card for access.

In short, I find it hard to believe that distributing tickets for a free football game will increase my safety or chances of getting in. My attendance of Carolina athletics should not depend on a group of officials proven to be crooked, or maybe I should "get to know the right people" so I can get great seats in the Dean Dome come basketball time.

Greg Whitley
Sophomore
Political Science

Microsoft Is User-Friendly, Does Not Have a Monopoly

TO THE EDITOR:

I have a couple things to say in response to Josh Baylin's Microsoft-bashing article. Firstly, get your facts straight, or lack thereof. Yes, Microsoft is moving to phase out the MP3 format. However, they are doing this in

favor of a new music compression format that effectively halves the size of music files. None of which will have any effect on music sharing. Saying that Microsoft's software is bloated and inefficient is also unfounded; with the release of Windows XP Microsoft will have created the most stable, secure and user-friendly operating system to date. As for the P.O.S. CCI computers, IBM is far from a monopoly.

On a more theoretical note, the Sherman Anti-Trust Act should never have been passed. The reason it exists is that the government actually helped to create railroad monopolies. If from the very beginning they had let the free market run its course everything would have been just fine. As for the alleged Microsoft monopoly: Microsoft is one of the major reasons that computers are at the stage they are today. It is because of their innovation that the technology industry has flourished. There are always other alternatives for those who do not opt for Microsoft's flaming superiority.

Corbin Graves
Freshman
Business and Political Science



BAROMETER



Turf Wars

Chapel Hill residents are still up in arms over the University's plans to buy part of the Mason Farm Road neighborhood. The two parties plan to finally settle the matter with a game of rock, paper, scissors.



Mo' Money

Student Congress recently found \$18,000 in funds it thought had been lost. Congress can now get back to the business of not doing anything remotely useful.



Pay Up

As the state budget inches toward completion, it appears that North Carolinians might be paying more taxes. Because, you know, that tuition increase just didn't leave our wallets light enough.



What a Mice Guy

A University professor won an "American Nobel" for his research on mouse genomes. So when can we sick a 50-foot killer mutant mouse on Duke?

TAR HEEL QUOTABLES

"I would move off campus to not go to South (Campus)."

JOYNER RESIDENCE HALL DWELLER KIKI JOHNSON

Hey, most of us would move to a cardboard box on Franklin Street to not go to South Campus.

"... the legislators have learned more about the lottery and its adverse impacts."

LOTTERY OPPONENT CHUCK NEELY

Commenting on a possible state lottery. Just because poor people are going to get poorer, that's not adverse, is it?

"N.C. State is a large portion of the city, and we have a big voice."

NCSU STUDENT THOMAS CROOM

On his bid for a Raleigh City Council seat. Finally, the needs of tractor-driving turf-grass managers will be addressed.

"Whether we bring our enemies to justice or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done."

PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

"Nuff said."