

Opinion



Tao Te Ching: Putting World In Perspective

Lao Tzu said, "There is nothing better than to know that you don't know. Not knowing, yet thinking you know - This is sickness." Well ... I don't know.

With the world literally becoming more disjointed than that kid's thumb in elementary school, some have turned to less conventional coping methods - I turn to the Tao Te Ching.

Lao Tzu, the wise sage credited for writing the Tao Te Ching, offers insight into a way of being. Through his maxims one can put conflict in perspective without every fully understanding it - such is the way of the Tao.

If you want to grab the world and run it/I can see that you will not succeed./The world is a spiritual vessel, which can't be controlled./Manipulators mess things up./Grabbers lose it.

This appears to speak both to the Western coalition and to the complex network of terrorism throughout the world - given America's need for a target, this network is symbolized by Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda.

If one reads Lao Tzu, he can see that neither side will succeed in its quest to rule the world. The world is more complicated than our simple social institutions or theirs. I'd consider both sides manipulators and grabbers in their own special way. The West influences the world through capitalism and democracy and also pilfers resources from across the world to secure its dynasty. Al-Qaeda and the Taliban manipulate young, eager and impoverished people and try to grab what they can to stay afloat.

Handle things before they arise./Manage affairs before they are in a mess.

This sounds like something your mother would tell you, but it's true.

One certainly cannot hold the U.S. government entirely responsible for the events of Sept. 11, but it let a few things spin out of control.

Subsequently, instead of expediting the tenuous Middle East peace process, the U.S. government now finds itself more involved with the affairs of the Middle East and countries farther east (like India and Pakistan) than it wants to be.

The great state should be like a river basin./The mixing place of the world.

With all the talk of America's world intolerance and ignorance (even on this writer's part), we are still the "great state" Lao Tzu refers to. The diversity present in our urban centers compares to nowhere else in the world. The events of Sept. 11 will change the United States in ways currently unforeseen.

I hope we will continue to encourage tolerance, cooperation and compassion while delicately walking the thin line of voracious nationalism.

One can assert that black-white race relations are destined for a positive change, as the burden of American society shifts to those perceived as responsible for tangible damage (Arab Americans). We alienate one form of racism for another.

When the government is laid back/The people are relaxed./When the government is nitpicking/The people have anxiety.

With that in mind, however, we've seen our government act irresponsibly several times over the past month, resulting in considerable anxiety. Out of fear, the government lied about the whereabouts of President Bush on the day of the attacks and has yet to apologize. The government has also been somewhat evasive concerning the incidents of anthrax - "Let us in and we will relax." Ari Fleisher said "Americans need to watch what they say, watch what they do." This is not exactly easing the average American's sense of security and degree of confidence in government.

I know these are tough times, but relax and heed the word of the Tao.

Those for whom victory is sweet/Are those who enjoy killing./If you enjoy killing, you cannot gain the trust of the people.

Herein lies the reason both Ariel Sharon and Osama bin Laden are not legitimate brokers for their respective causes.

Each has a lengthy history of bloodshed and short-sighted thinking. The United States needs to be aware of both of them. Neither has been capable of gaining the full trust of their own people and or those who disagree with them.

The one who really knows is not broadly learned./The extensively learned do not really know.

I would hardly call myself a sage, but I am doing my best to learn what I can. The more I learn about the world, the more I realize I know nothing. Lao Tzu - you bastard!

Josh Baylin will be sitting at the highest point in Chapel Hill contemplating but never deciding. E-mail him at jbaylin@email.unc.edu if you would like. The translation of the Tao Te Ching used is by Charles Muller and can be found at <http://www.spiritwalk.org/taotechingmuller.htm>.



JOSH BAYLIN
HELL UP
IN HARLEM

Board Editorials

Cutting Back, Again

Gov. Mike Easley is asking the UNC system to watch its money, but cuts will affect the rate of growth

Last Wednesday, the UNC system suffered from a big scare. UNC-system President Molly Broad announced that Gov. Mike Easley had said the system might have to return \$72 million dollars from its budget. UNC-Chapel Hill's part would have been \$16 million.

But Friday, Easley sent out a press release stating that he had asked system leaders to generate savings, not make specific cuts.

Easley announced at University Day that state revenue might be \$700 million off projections, alluding to the critical financial situation of the state.

As if the state hasn't asked for enough from the system or the taxpayers, the UNC system might be faced with cuts that lead to cancelling classes and other impacts on daily operations.

The state needs to realize that it is hard to expect the system to deal with enrollment increase demands, repairs and renovations and the bond projects from the ref-

erendum last November while at the same time attempt to scrape savings.

The state has asked the UNC system to help save money. But regardless of whether the state demands that UNC cut its budget or watch its money, the effects are the same - something has to give, and inevitably the school will suffer in some way.

The governor is going to target UNC-system cuts away from the classroom.

But no matter what area is affected, a wide variety of resources is needed to deal with growth, and every cut will be felt.

However, one aspect of Easley's announcement last Wednesday is for certain. The construction freeze installed earlier in the year will continue, meaning that the UNC system will lose close to \$57 million in funding for repairs and renovations.

The freeze was maintained partly because of the economy. The budget deficit is also aggravated by the economic slowdown.

All of this could be null and void if the

economy picks up.

However, when the economy is down, the state should not be looking at the school budgets to bear the brunt, knowing that projects are ongoing and enrollment is at an all-time high.

This also doesn't change the fact that cuts in the fund for repairs and renovations might put some campus construction projects even more behind - at a time when burdening enrollment increases are pushing the University infrastructure to its limits.

Budget cuts might also affect the progress and rate of the projects associated with the \$3.1 billion bond referendum for capital improvements.

If the state expects the UNC system to maintain growth and its mandated enrollment increases, it must understand that cuts from any area are going to stunt that progress. The state needs to get its projections right and not just expect schools or taxpayers to pick up the tab.

In the Zone

UNC Safe Zone shows the progress of the University community toward making the area welcoming

The lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community on campus is gaining allies, as well as momentum.

Students, faculty and campus organizations are coming out and coming together in their support of LGBT students, as seen by the widespread participation in the kick-off for UNC Safe Zone in the Pit last Thursday.

This joint effort shows that the University is steadily and progressively becoming a more welcoming campus for students of all sexual preferences.

A attitude of tolerance will certainly have many benefits - prospective applicants to UNC will recognize an increasingly more welcoming campus and the decrease of the "closeted" nature of the gay community on campus.

UNC Safe Zone - a network of allies for the LGBT community - provides training sessions for anyone interested in becoming an LGBT ally.

Those who complete the course will place a Safe Zone sign at their home or work to show their support for the LGBT community.

These signs will show LGBT students that a home or office is a safe place to discuss their feelings openly without fear of being chastised.

Several campus groups, student leaders and University administrators participated in the Safe Zone event. Provost Robert Shelton encouraged students to sign the Safe Zone pledge vowing to make the University a safe and welcoming place to everyone. Student Body President Justin Young recited the pledge aloud to the audience gathered in the Pit, and Student Body Vice President Rudy Kleysteuber encouraged students to overcome indifference by signing the pledge.

This collaboration of administrators and students shows that the LGBT cause doesn't have to be a fight against the University

- it can be a cooperation that yields mutual benefits for both parties.

LGBT organizers have gone beyond political activism and begun programs geared toward social interaction.

The Carolina LGBT Film Society and the Carolina LGBT Coalition were founded under the guidance of LGBT Administrative Assistant Fred Hashagen.

The need for social programs within the community has been around for years. The leadership of Hashagen has recognized the need and acted on it.

While the LGBT community is making strides, it is still faced with discrimination and hate - as seen in the offensive slurs painted on the cube blocks next to the Pit during the weekend.

The LGBT needs a Safe Zone program precisely for these reasons. It is up to the student body to welcome everyone and eliminate the need for a "safe zone" completely.

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893 • 108 Years of Editorial Freedom
www.dailytarheel.com

Katie Hunter
Editor

Office Hours Friday 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Kim Minugh
MANAGING EDITOR

Sefton Ippock
VISUAL COORDINATOR

Jermaine Caldwell
SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

Kate Hartig
EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR

Lizzie Breyer
UNIVERSITY EDITOR

Kellie Dixon
CITY EDITOR

Alex Kaplun
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR

Rachel Carter
SPORTS EDITOR

James Giza
SPORTSATURDAY EDITOR

Faith Ray
FEATURES EDITOR

Russ Lane
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Terri Rupy
COPY DESK EDITOR

Kara Arndt
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR

Beth Buchholz
DESIGN EDITOR

Cobi Edelson
GRAPHICS EDITOR

Catherine Liao
ONLINE EDITOR

Josh Myerov
OMBUDSMAN

Concerns or comments about our coverage? Contact the ombudsman at jmyerov@email.unc.edu or by phone at 919-1311

READERS' FORUM

Town Council Candidate Ed Harrison Has an Edge On Transportation Issues

TO THE EDITOR:

As the race for seats on the Chapel Hill Town Council heats up, several issues are worth highlighting. Environmental protection, alternative transportation and careful development are intertwined and important to any community. Living in Chapel Hill and the county of Durham, Ed Harrison has a regional understanding of transportation challenges and an intimate view of proposed development in Durham which may impact Chapel Hill.

He has a graduate degree in environmental management and is a member of the Soil and Water Conservation District Board in Durham County, an elected office. He is an activist, a cyclist and naturalist, and offers specific solutions to the issues at hand. One of his most compelling comments is, "If we don't succeed at making Chapel Hill even friendlier to walkers, cyclists and transit users, we risk public health and deny independence to our seniors and youth!" Who cannot relate to that?

Gail Alberti
Chapel Hill

Resident Urges Others To Support the Bonds In November Election

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to encourage all voters to seriously consider supporting the bonds.

I am especially interested in the bond that supports expanding our local recreation facilities. As a mother and someone who works with children it is always clear that sports and organized recreational facilities help to keep our children out of trouble. Two of my children have been involved in high school swim teams. Last year the swim teams at both high schools were unable to get the swimming pools at the start of the season. They had to wait at least two weeks before they could begin their training because the pool at the Community Center was not available. I am not sure how many people use the pool to swim or take lessons, but there were over 100 teenagers on the two teams that were unable to train due to lack of space. In an town with our resources, this is inexcusable. As a lap swimmer myself, I can also attest to the fact that it is difficult at times to get lap time at the one existing indoor facility. The lap swimmers include adults of all ages who swim for fitness or for rehabilitation reasons. These lanes get

crowded, and those of us who are slower get frustrated. In addition, there are facilities being proposed for handicapped and elderly aquatic exercisers in a warm-water pool. Obviously this is a special population. Currently the only facility for children who need warm water is in Durham and does not allow for family swim time. As I hope you can see there are many different parts of our community who can benefit from the new pool. Please approve the bonds so that this can happen. Most importantly vote and don't let others make the decision for you.

Edwina A. Zagami
Chapel Hill

Resident Offers Support For Harrison, Verkerk In Town Council Election

TO THE EDITOR:

I encourage all residents who support bicycling and walking to vote for Dorothy Verkerk and Ed Harrison for Chapel Hill Town Council. Harrison was one of a grand total of nine residents to oppose the N.C. Highway Trust Fund at its only public hearing. In the statewide environmental picture, he was the first land use issues chairman for any organization (Sierra Club) in 1987, then

the first transportation chairman (1989), followed by the first wetlands chairman (1991). He has been perhaps the leading citizen liaison between Chapel Hill and Durham elected officials for about the last decade. Verkerk has been the driving force in promoting children's ability to walk to school. As chair of the Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board, she has demonstrated creative leadership and a keen understanding of the issues. Her position as an UNC faculty gives her first hand experience with town-gown relations. I am confident that the positions espoused by these fine candidates, and their thoughtful wisdom in all matters of town government, will be beneficial for the citizens of Chapel Hill.

Wayne Pein
Chapel Hill

Student Agrees With Horowitz: University Is One-Party School

TO THE EDITOR:

While I appreciate The Daily Tar Heel acknowledging that there are some conservatives at UNC, I am extremely disturbed with the tone of the Oct. 10 article entitled "Conservatives Call UNC Campus

Liberal." The article portrayed conservatives as radical by quoting a UNC professor and organizer of the recent teach-ins who attacked conservative talk radio, calling them "hate radio shows." This statement piques my curiosity primarily because I was at the last teach-in and witnessed several speakers come forth and bash our president and our country. Conservative talk radio is less aggressive in their attack on liberals, than the teach-ins have been in their attack on America. Furthermore, I stand in complete agreement with David Horowitz in saying that UNC is a one-party school, and fully support his "war to make it a two-party school."

However, this can only happen if the DTH and other campus organizations are open-minded enough to allow conservative ideas to be heard. It seems as though every event on campus is geared toward liberal students at UNC. Instead of having speakers such as Leora Martin and Mark Shields at UNC, why don't we diversify our forums and allow speakers such as Leuch Faircloth, Elizabeth Dole and J.C. Watts to come speak? Until we do so, Carolina will continue to be an institution of closed minds.

Allie Perry
Sophomore
Political Science and English

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 vulgar language. Publication is not guaranteed. Bring letters to the DTH office at Suite 104, Carolina Union, mail room to P.O. Box 2207, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 or e-mail them to editdth@unc.edu.