

# Opinion

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## Board Editorials

### No Parking Here

The gradual elimination of resident parking calls for reliable and efficient transportation alternatives

The Development Plan strikes again. On-campus parking for residents might become a thing of the past, as growth will affect the problematic parking issue at the University.

While it is a convenient luxury, and often thought of as a privilege for those who have lived on campus for several years, the proposal to eliminate on-campus resident parking is unavoidable because of campus growth.

At the Transportation and Parking Advisory Committee meeting last Wednesday, the decision was made for officials to go ahead and implement the provost's suggestion to eliminate resident parking. Assistant Provost Linda Carl was quoted Friday saying that there was "no option" — that this indeed will be a reality.

The plan, however, will not affect hardship, student commuter or married student housing parking.

Presently, there are 480 spaces available for on-campus residents. Within the next

four years, half of those will be cut, beginning the gradual elimination of all student resident parking. But residents will be able to park in the expanded PR lot, so students will have some options.

In the meantime, until additional parking facilities are constructed, it is important that fare-free busing is implemented with efficiency and becomes a dependable alternative transportation source for students.

This option must also be a reliable transportation option for employees, whose campus parking options will be similarly affected. However, the Development Plan, which details campus growth for the next eight years, will create more parking spaces on campus, including decks or surface lots at Ramshead, near Swain Hall, on Manning Drive and near the Bell Tower.

Dealing with the Development Plan is not going to be easy for the University community.

While it is going to be difficult, the University community will have to bear

with the plan's changes and construction inconveniences, including parking.

In the meantime, while officials say resident parking will be eliminated, there are going to have to be some exceptions to the rule.

Hardship parking will need to be somewhat extended to on-campus residents with legitimate circumstances. The expansion of PR lots might not be a reasonable option for some students with extenuating circumstances.

The Development Plan is addressing parking problems. It allows for many additional parking options that eliminate the University's parking crunch.

Campus growth is not going to be an easy process. However, University officials need to make sure that the process remains as smooth as possible.

In the meantime, it's important that alternative transportation resources are available and reliable for students, employees and faculty.

## Hope In Dope: Lighting the Economy Up

Both our national security and our economy are at risk. We need sound solutions — here comes one. Legalize marijuana.

No, I'm not trying to start a revolution or create a new breed of super hippie protester types — they suck. I will not make traditional worn-out arguments for the legalization of marijuana which have been futile. Instead ...



**JOSH BAYLIN**  
HELL UP  
IN HARLEM

### National Security

The New York Times reported Sunday that since Sept. 11, a shift in demands has had an adverse effect on the nation's police forces.

In short, police departments that could barely keep up before are now over-extended and becoming less and less effective.

The report goes further, saying that the burden will increase as the Federal Bureau of Investigation shifts its focus away from its traditional responsibilities like bank robbery and drug trafficking to its efforts against terrorism.

Let's look at the alternative. George W. Bush has clearly sent out the message that he will do whatever it takes to protect our homeland and eradicate a known threat.

He is doing the right thing. But, if the United States legalizes marijuana, it further acknowledges a need to shift its focus from enforcing (in a discriminatory manner I may add) petty drug laws to protecting its citizens from unimaginable acts.

If that requires loosening the tight grip the United States holds on the illegal drug market — than so be it.

Notice I say the illegal drug market, as it seems clear that the Food and Drug Administration has no grip on the ruthless pharmaceutical industry.

The drug OxyContin, a legal, potent painkiller was recently found to have played a role in the deaths 282 people in the last 19 months (including one here at UNC) according to a federal study.

Say what you will about marijuana — it ain't OxyContin. I told you I would not talk about the traditional arguments but please allow me to digress.

It's clear that most governmental institutions forced to deal with minor drug offenses are overburdened — policing forces, jails, the judicial system.

We have the opportunity to lighten the load when it needs to be lightened — this is the ripe moment.

### It's the Economy, Stoner

We all know, especially my fellow seniors, just how much of a downturn our economy has taken.

Before Sept. 11, the United States was approaching a recession. After combining funding for relief and rebuilding efforts, industry bailouts and countless other expenses, I think you get where I'm going. But I'm not going to say the R-word.

Problem solved — our new cash crop.

The one thing that marijuana certainly promotes is consumption — and consumption stimulates the economy.

Within days of legalizing marijuana (which in and of itself would generate millions for the United States government assuming its sale was government controlled), I'd want to own stock in Frito-Lay, Nestlé and a controlling interest in Gumbly's.

Sure you may scoff at this, but aside from typical in-house munchie food, restaurants will be packed full of stoners with credit cards. Borrowing money saves economies right? Thank you Mr. Greenspan.

On top of that you'd probably see a substantial increase in so-called luxury items that are necessary for a nation of stoners — Nintendos, PlayStations, satellite TVs and even more cordless phones for those that are "hard core" immobile. Cha-ching!

It's even possible a new American conscious could develop. Maybe we'd be like the Beats again and do the whole creative thing — new music, art, literature. That all sells.

And with the Pentagon's recent invitation to Americans for creative homeland security suggestions, I'm sure Poopoo and Ray-ray would come up with something after rolling down a doobie.

C'mon, they once figured out how to make a potato gun that ran on the power of a blender.

With solutions like that, maybe we could thwart terrorism with the wisdom of Poo-poo and Ray-ray. Hell, our pragmatic, thoughtful stuff hasn't worked!

Josh Baylin just listened to Pink Floyd's *Dark Side of the Moon* with the lights off. E-mail him at jbaylin@email.unc.edu.

## Registration Time

The government needs to enforce the registration of pathogens maintained by academics or private labs

One would think that the United States, a country that even before Sept. 11 was no stranger to terrorist threats, would have the most scrupulous records of the handlers of biological agents and their locales.

Yet The Washington Post reported Sunday that the federal government has "no central inventory of dangerous disease cultures maintained by academics or private labs."

There are no laws or ethical standards requiring researchers to track their stocks or report losses and thefts, and informal exchanges of pathogens can go unreported. Does the fault lie solely with the government?

Not at all — a 1999 bill supported by the Clinton administration and many congressional Republicans would have regulated the movement of pathogens. Unfortunately the bill was killed in a conference committee due to staunch opposition from universities.

The requests of universities to continue dealing with harmful biological agents without meticulous bookkeeping were painfully shortsighted. With the number of sites contaminated by anthrax and cases of infection constantly on the rise, there is no room for sloppiness or naivete on the part of universities or the government.

The federal government must implement and oversee a detailed pathogen registry — with or without the nod of universities. This registry must account for future exchanges of pathogens as well as for every person presently handling cultures that could be used as biological weapons.

Before 1996, nearly anyone could obtain harmful microbes by filling out a simple form and writing the request under a convincing letterhead. The 1996 Anti-Terrorism Act requires anyone intending to send or receive the most dangerous microbes to register with the Centers for Disease Control and demonstrate the scientific or medical

purpose that the microbe will fill.

This law, however, did not criminalize the possession of dangerous pathogens by nonscientists nor did it contain measures to hold universities and private labs accountable for inventory and movement of the pathogens. Before the law was enacted, several U.S. labs sold anthrax and other potential pathogens to countries now believed to be sponsors of terrorism — and fully under the auspices of the U.S. government.

While it is beyond comprehension why such deals were made, there is little to be done to recover the sold microbes.

Tracking handlers of biological agents and future exchanges is essential. A pathogen registry must be put into action with the full cooperation of the U.S. government, universities and private labs.

Until such action is taken, there is little to hinder the next terrorist from obtaining another, and perhaps more deadly, biological agent.

## READERS' FORUM

### Red Cross Blood Drive To Take Place in Union Today and Wednesday

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to the immense tragedy that struck the United States on Sept. 11, our country has sprung into action, reminding many of the United States of the 1940s during World War II. Citizens all over our proud and strong nation are doing whatever they can to help, from sending care packages to our brave soldiers overseas to keeping high our country's patriotism.

You too can do your part. Today and Wednesday, there will be a Red Cross blood drive in the Student Union.

If enough time has elapsed between your last donation and now, come on out and donate again. If you have never donated, there is no time like the present.

Although plasma can be kept for up to six weeks, donated blood is only good for 42 days, making continual donation a high priority. So come do your part as an American and donate blood.

**Amanda Thurston**  
Senior  
Communications, Management & Society

### Mayoral Candidate Kevin Foy Is Chapel Hill's Best Choice for Environment

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing to express my support for Kevin Foy for mayor of Chapel Hill.

Foy has demonstrated superb leadership ability.

I think it is important for voters to appreciate the kinds of contributions he has made to our community.

Foy has been a strong advocate for the environment of Chapel Hill and its surroundings.

Among other things, he served on this year's bond task force and as a result the bond will be on November's ballot that includes \$10 million to purchase land and \$10 million for parkland development.

Foy also serves on the committee to ensure that the 170-acre Greene Tract, jointly owned by Chapel Hill, Carrboro and Orange County, remains open space for the whole community. As development proceeds, this will be an important legacy for future generations. In fact, it has potential to be a kind of Central Park for Chapel Hill.

Foy has also supported better public transportation, another important environ-

mental issue.

Foy led the task force on fare-free buses. Through a series of negotiations, the task force developed a plan to provide free bus service to the entire town.

As a result, beginning in January the buses in Chapel Hill will be free.

This effort involved work and cooperation to carry out: adoption of the plan by both towns, agreement by UNC students to increase student fees and contributions from UNC. Not only will this plan help students get back and forth to school, it will also expand demand, enabling the town to increase the frequency of buses. Better transportation provides an alternative to single-occupancy vehicles and reduces the need to widen roads and build more parking spaces. This reduces the amount of impervious surface and water run-off, leading to less water pollution and air pollution.

I have always appreciated Foy's thoughtfulness and honesty. He is the kind of leader who takes the time to understand the details of issues and builds consensus.

He has a compelling vision for Chapel Hill and the drive and skills to make the vision a reality. I hope you will join me in voting for him Nov. 6.

**Tiffany Kiernan**  
Chapel Hill

### APPLES Programs Offer Unique Experiences For Students to Get Involved

TO THE EDITOR:

For the past two years I have been a part of an extremely unique program on campus sponsored by the APPLES Service-Learning Organization.

As both a participant and a student leader, I have taken part in two Alternative Spring Break trips — one to eastern North Carolina to aid in flood relief and one to the Outer Banks to work on various projects with Habitat for Humanity, a local Alzheimer's center and The Nature Conservancy.

Both trips gave me the chance to reach out of the campus bubble and to become aware and active in dealing with issues in other North Carolina communities. They also introduced me to two incredible groups of people who shared in my experience.

While many universities around the country sponsor Alternative Spring Break programs, most trips require extensive fund raising.

Yet, due to the success of the APPLES program, UNC students have the opportunity to attend one of three Alternative

Spring Break trips for free.

In addition, students also earn one hour of pass/fail credit by meeting with their groups once a week during the spring semester in preparation for the trip.

This year APPLES will send groups of students to the Outer Banks, Wilmington, and Cherokee.

APPLES is still looking for interested people to apply for this program. Applications are available at the Union Desk and at the APPLES office in Union Suite 108, and they are due this Friday.

Take advantage of something unique to our school. You won't find many other opportunities like this.

**Meredith Gaylord**  
Junior  
Communication Studies

### Editor's Note

Interested in writing a guest column or op-ed piece for the Viewpoints page that runs each Monday? Let us know!

Submissions must be between 700 and 750 words, and be submitted for consideration no later than the Thursday before the Monday of intended publication.

E-mail submissions or questions to Kate Hartig, editorial page editor, at editdesk@unc.edu.



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.