

# Opinion



## Board Editorials

### Working for the Clampdown

Chapel Hill must learn how to respond appropriately to its annual Halloween celebration

Halloween on Franklin Street, a Chapel Hill tradition for many years, might go the way of Brent Road if the town continues to demand a police presence that is completely out of proportion to the event.

More than 300 law enforcement officers from several different counties descended on the downtown area and established a traffic blockade around a 1 1/2 mile radius from Franklin Street. Makeshift checkpoints were set up on the street itself as officers inspected partygoers and confiscated such contraband items as walking canes, water pistols and plastic swords.

If town officials hoped that this unprecedented law enforcement presence would put a damper on the party, they were correct. But the sheer breadth of the police response was expensive, unnecessary and perhaps even counterproductive.

This annual celebration has certainly produced its share of headaches for the town. Thousands of students and other revelers crowd Franklin Street each year, dis-

rupting traffic, leaving a mess and occasionally picking fights among themselves. The entire event is an unsanctioned disruption of normality that the town has tolerated with good grace until this point.

The enormous number of often intoxicated people requires a healthy police presence to maintain the public safety for all partygoers, and that is why many law enforcement officers have been present at every Halloween for years. But this year the streets were choked with officers from across the state, many of whom seemed to have little to do.

Moreover, the cost of this tiny army was estimated Tuesday at more than \$100,000 — \$25,000 more than it cost the town to manage Halloween last year.

Even more inexplicable than the swollen number of police officers was the incredibly wide cordon set up around Franklin Street. Halloweens of years past created small traffic jams in the immediate area, but this year's checkpoints affected traffic

throughout an enormous part of the town. The inconvenience experienced by motorists who had no intention of venturing anywhere near Franklin Street would seem to outweigh whatever goal officials had in mind.

Finally, the police presence might even have created additional dangers. With traffic backed up in so many places, what would have happened in the event that a fire truck, ambulance or other emergency vehicle needed to quickly get from one side of town to another?

Instead of trying to squelch the celebration, perhaps town officials could explore ways to actually make it pay. Charging visitors to park in temporary parking lots could offset quite a bit of the costs.

In any event, the town shouldn't feel that it has to clamp down so harshly on fun-loving partyers.

Having fun and maintaining a safe environment don't have to be mutually exclusive.

### Panic Is On the Way

The government needs to let the public know exactly what kind of terrorist threats it might be facing

A little information can be a dangerous thing, but a lot of information can be a wonderful thing.

On Monday, the director of the FBI issued a warning to Americans to be on the "highest alert" for possible terrorist attacks on the United States. On Thursday, California Gov. Gray Davis announced that law enforcement officials suspected terrorists of targeting four California bridges, including the Golden Gate Bridge.

The difference between these two warnings is the difference between a safer public and a hysterical one.

Monday's warning was the second one in as many months which described a vague, undefined terrorist threat that might strike anywhere in the nation. Yet even as top governmental officials asked Americans to be on "highest alert," they urged citizens to carry on with their lives.

The contradiction inherent in these two statements was probably not lost on law

enforcement officials, who have been forced to walk an agonizingly fine line since Sept. 11.

On one hand, the government wants its citizenry to be alert for any suspicious activity that might be connected to a future terrorist attack.

On the other, no one wants to provoke panic in a populace already rattled by the events of recent months.

Certainly, it is always better to warn the American public of potential danger than to keep them in the dark.

But officials need to do a better job of explaining what exactly being "on highest alert" entails.

Because there is only so much that the general public can watch for, the FBI, the newly created Office of Homeland Security or even local authorities have to do a better job of explaining exactly how the public reaches this stage of alertness.

Thursday's warning, for example,

described the threat in explicit detail. Davis named four suspected targets — San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge and Bay Bridge, San Diego's Coronado Bridge and the Vincent Thomas Bridge at the Port of Los Angeles. He also said that authorities anticipate an attack between today and Nov. 9.

With Americans now informed of exactly what kind of threat faces them, they perhaps have a better idea of what kind of activity they should be on alert for.

Telling citizens they need to be "on highest alert" will only contribute to a sense of paranoia and panic if officials do not give people specific, probable terrorist scenarios across the country.

It's difficult for the American people to behave in a calm and rational fashion when the government issues vague threats of impending terror.

It should remember: Knowledge is power.

## The Daily Tar Heel

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**Katie Hunter**  
Editor

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

**Kim Minugh**  
MANAGING EDITOR

**Sefton Ipock**  
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SPECIAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

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## Board of Education Endorsements

The race for three seats on the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education will come to a close Tuesday, Election Day. Out of the five candidates, The Daily Tar Heel editorial board endorses the following three candidates:

### Nick Didow

Nick Didow, an incumbent candidate, has the experience and vision important to the balance of the Board of Education. Didow plans to keep endorsing student achievement by implementing the Minority Student Achievement Plan, recognizing academic success of every child and developing solid partnerships with parents by character and citizenship education.

Didow is committed to dealing with overcrowding and growth issues as well as renovating older buildings. He also will continue to work for improvements in exceptional education.

His platform also specifies a commitment to recruiting, supporting and retaining outstanding teachers, staff and district leadership. Didow is also committed to working with Orange County Schools and the Orange County Commissioners in a way that will yield

results for all students and staff.

### Valerie Foushee

Foushee, also an incumbent candidate, should be re-elected to her seat to continue the progress she has made on the board during the last four years. She has served as the board's chairwoman. In her platform, she notes that the issues are the same as four years ago — providing adequate capacity in the schools, renovating older facilities, closing the achievement gap between minority and majority students and recruiting and retaining teachers and administrators — all of which she will continue to support and address the changing concerns.

Foushee also plans to continue working toward improving minority achievement. Foushee's leadership and commitment to the school system's excellence make her a qualified candidate and justify her re-election to the board.

### Lisa Stuckey

Stuckey, a first-time candidate to the school board, brings hands-on experience with teachers and parents, having been the PTA president at two

local schools and held positions on school governance committees. She is committed to dealing with overcrowding and growth concerns. She looks to work on getting two new elementary schools and an additional high school when the need becomes imminent. Stuckey understands the need for school renovations and improvements as well as maintenance of the system's facilities.

Parental involvement is also a priority of Stuckey's, as well as a good relationship with the local government to ensure better use of limited funds and resources. She would also like to see that the two work together for joint park/playground facilities and programs. Also, like Didow and Foushee, Stuckey supports enhancement of minority achievement, important to the success of every child.

The DTH editor, the editorial page editor, the assistant editorial page editor and the editorial board endorse candidates in all races. They base their decision on a questionnaire and a platform submitted by each candidate.



## BAROMETER



### For the Love of \$

Two UNC-Greensboro students were arrested last week and charged with prostitution. It's illegal to whore yourself out on a college campus, unless it's to Nike.



### Jumping Ship

Despite the resignation of the senior class vice president, senior class officials vowed to continue their work, like screwing up Commencement speaker selection.



### It's Snore-ific!

Cam Hill announced that he was dropping out of the Chapel Hill mayoral race Tuesday morning, thereby removing the last gasp of personality from local elections.



### Going Postal

Officials said that reports of suspicious letters on campus have all been false alarms. So now there's no excuse for not opening your cell phone bill.

## TAR HEEL QUOTABLES

"There's nothing normal about (football) at all. It starts with the shape of the football itself."

**FOOTBALL COACH JOHN BUNTING**  
Football coach or Zen master? You be the judge.

"We believe we are the majority, and you can hear from every car honking as they go by that we truly are."

**JUNIOR BRIAN LIVECCHI**

Commenting on his opposition to anti-war activists. Yes, it's always nice to be in the majority of car-honking jackasses.

"(Our) goal is that every student can say, 'Yes, Carolina's got something for me.'"

**RHA PRESIDENT DAVID COOPER**

On RHA's Halloween Bash. The University already has something for every student: another tuition increase.

"We are developing a series of tools that will let us replace human decision-making with electronic decision-making."

**RICHARD ROCKS**

Of Boeing Co., on a UNC-designed software application. Coming soon to South Building: The Moesertron6000.

## Going Once, Going Twice, Sold to Qatar

Heard of Qatar? If you haven't, it's probably a good time to brush up on Qatar trivia, because the small, Middle Eastern country has offered to buy a piece of UNC — and our administration is all too happy to oblige.

Here's what's on the auction block: a Kenan-Flagler Business School diploma bearing the name of UNC-Chapel Hill.

Our only bidder is the Qatar Foundation, a group headed by Her Highness Sheikha Mouz Bint Nasser Al-Misnad, the second of three wives of the ruling emir of Qatar. The foundation approached UNC one year ago with the idea of creating a satellite campus of the business school in the small emirate's capital of Doha.

The bidding begins at an undisclosed price. But Qatar's timing couldn't be more perfect, given that Chancellor James Moeser just launched a \$1 billion campaign to fill the University's coffers. Provost Robert Shelton told The News & Observer, "Maybe they can meet our campaign goal with one check."

### Going once ...

Cornell University has already received \$750 million to run a satellite campus of its medical school in Qatar. Cornell also received an undisclosed amount for managing the program. All of the sudden, UNC administration is gung-ho about Qatar — while most students can't even pronounce the country's name.

### Going twice ...

Qatar wants to modernize. In 1998, the country approached the University of Virginia about creating an undergraduate campus in Qatar. After two years, UVa declined, citing problems with accreditation.

### Going three times ...

That's where we come in. Qatar has offered an undisclosed sum to UNC to develop an undergraduate business program intended for native Qataris. On the bright side, it will include women. This is significant, considering that Qatar lies in the middle of a culture that denies women basic liberties. But in Qatar, the women can actually drive cars.

Our university will grant Qataris the same degree we receive here in Chapel Hill, but our fellow Qatarheels won't even have to set foot on American soil, let alone in North Carolina.

Current students, meanwhile, might not even have access to the Qatari campus. As Moeser said in a Wednesday meeting with the Chancellor's Advisory Committee, "It's not for UNC students." Some of the finest faculty that we wait semesters to take classes from and who are paid with our tax dollars and tuition money might be temporarily unavailable — vacationing in Qatar.

Qatar has a population of 700,000, roughly the same as Wake County, although it's smaller than the state of Connecticut.

That's where the similarities to America end. Qatar is an autocratic regime run by the vast al-Thani family. The country's rulers have promised to hold free elections for the first time since 1970, but that hasn't taken place yet. While we call our home the land of the free, critics of the Qatar regime are jailed, citizens have limited civil liberties, and there is no freedom of assembly.

The little Gulf state also lives in a rough neighborhood. Plopping an American school espousing Western ideals in bin Laden's backyard sounds like a bright idea. UNC has two options here: We can bail on the program because the risks of terrorism outweigh the goals. Or, the University can proceed with this venture in the middle of America's War on Terror and attempt to instill some Western values into the people of Qatar.

Whatever the school decides, students will have no voice in the decision. That is ethically inexcusable. No student representative has been allowed to go on the two post-trips the Sheikha has arranged to woo faculty into endorsing the program. Heck, there's not even a Web site on the UNC page that says a thing about it. A complete mystery, considering that the last time administration missed a chance to create a Web site was 1991.

Perhaps it's because students have learned that money (Nike) is more important than integrity (Wachovia), safety (Aramark) and most of all students (IBM). Students have been intentionally left out of the Qatar program discussion because we follow our gut instincts, not our checkbooks.

### ... Sold.

Rachel Hockfield thinks it would have been easier to just sell the University off brick-by-brick. Send all bids to rachel@email.unc.edu.



**RACHEL HOCKFIELD**  
OVER MY HEAD