

# Opinion

The Daily Tar Heel  
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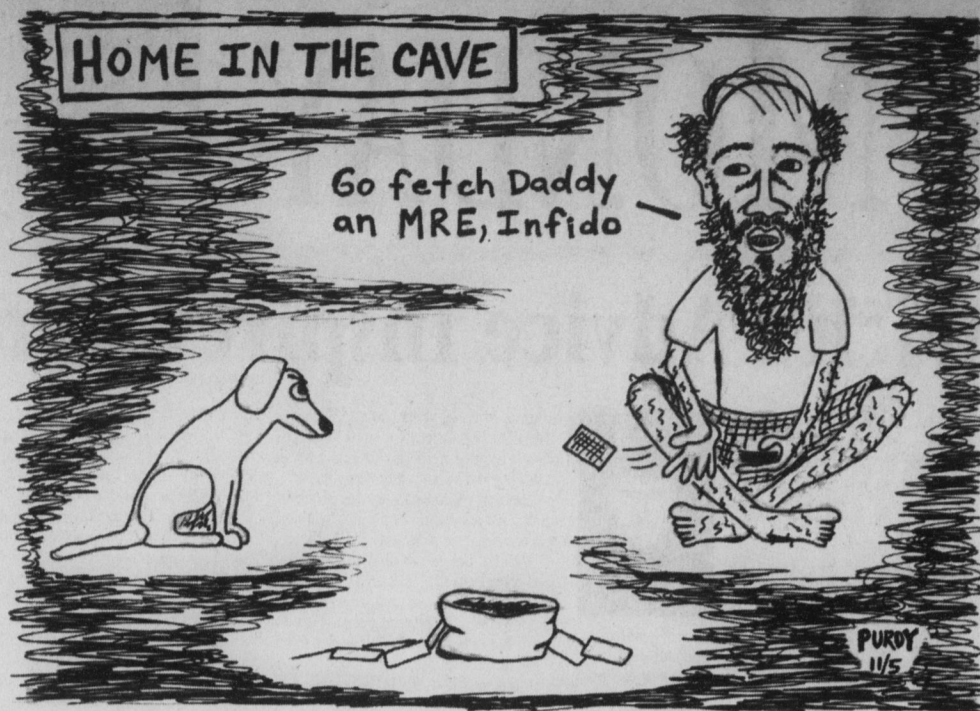
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## Separate, Not Equal: D.C. Needs a Voice

Tomorrow you will have the opportunity to influence local leadership or fall asleep in your Laz-E-Boy watching Nick-at-Nite, ambivalent to who will take the reigns of power before morning. Isn't it great to have such a range of freedom?

Personally, I vote. Sure, apathy might gain me an extra hour of sleep, but by not voting I would forfeit my right to bitch and complain about elected officials.

But what about citizens denied the voting rights most Americans take for granted? It's one thing not to vote because you got distracted after spilling the bong water; it's another to be denied the full extent of this right by the government.

So who are these second-class citizens facing Uncle Sam's erect middle finger? The citizens of the District of Columbia.

D.C. citizens pay the second highest per capita federal income tax, perform the same duties as all other American citizens and yet have no representation in Congress.

Oh, my mistake. They do have a nonvoting member in the House of Representatives. Banned from voting, however, she is like a lobbyist without a checkbook.

A recent bill introduced by this delegate, Eleanor Holmes Norton, and sponsored by Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn., known as the No Taxation Without Representation Act of 2001 is the latest attempt to apply the 14th Amendment to D.C. voters. In short, the bill proposes that D.C. citizens be exempted from paying federal income taxes until granted full voting rights. But how do their rights differ from ours?

Washington, D.C., is governed by a city council and mayor. Congress, however, according to Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, acts in place of a state legislature and oversees the council's rulings. On a brighter, more democratic note, for the last 40 years D.C. citizens have held three electoral votes in the presidential election.

So what can be done? Despite Lieberman's good intentions, his bill, if passed, would negatively affect the capital. A better way to look at the bill is as a call to amend the U.S. Constitution.

First off, 42 percent of D.C. cannot be locally taxed because it is federal property, which leaves D.C. looking for a wider tax base. If the city eliminates the \$2 billion it pays in federal income taxes, I doubt Uncle Sam would continue to return the \$24 billion to the city that it does today.

Secondly, would you rather have money or the right to vote? If asked this question, most Americans, I'm convinced, would take the money and run. Voting seems noble and all, but a glance at past voter turnout suggests most Americans could be bribed into shutting up.

Lastly, the D.C. College Access Act of 1999 grants all district residents up to \$10,000 to help them pay out-of-state tuition. Frankly, this alone makes this bitter out-of-stater less sympathetic to the bill's objective.

But D.C. citizens deserve representation in Congress. Does this mean they should become a state? Of course not.

I love it when D.C. statehood advocates cite that Wyoming has less eligible voters than their fair city. As though Wyoming's worthlessness justifies D.C.'s right to statehood. If this were the case, every locality more populated than that giant, vacant rectangle of a state could apply for statehood.

If D.C. becomes a state, I propose the union of North and South Dakota into one giant, all-purpose Dakota. This would preserve the "niftiness" (according to the childhood song) of our states as well as Old Glory's pattern.

The best solution, however, would be a constitutional amendment that treats D.C. citizens as Maryland voters for federal elections to Congress and frees the capital from congressional oversight.

Consequently a new House member would represent the district, and D.C. voters would help elect Maryland senators. This is much more logical than granting the capital two senators, which would prescribe a disproportionate amount of power to the capital.

We are the only democratic nation prohibiting full voting rights to citizens in its capital. It's a bad sign when we must look to Slovenians and South Africans to see how democracies ought to be run.

So get out and vote! We're lucky to be able to take this right for granted.

Michael Carlton is removing his absentee ballot from his mailbox with forceps and carefully placing it in his makeshift anthrax decontamination unit (microwave). Send untainted e-mails to carlton@email.unc.edu.



MICHAEL CARLTON  
MOJOVIAN V.D.

## Board Editorials

### Town Council Endorsements

The Daily Tar Heel endorses the following four candidates for the Chapel Hill Town Council

#### D.R. Bryan

Chapel Hill is expanding rapidly, and the Town Council must manage development. To do so requires expertise, and D.R. Bryan has the

needed experience. As president of Bryan Properties, Inc., a land development and real estate firm, Bryan has spent the last 10 years helping Chapel Hill grow.

Preserving a sense of community while allowing growth is a priority for Bryan, and he promises to address the interests of businesses, residents and environmentalists.

Bryan supports progressive, thoughtful growth, and his contributions to mixed-use developments like the Southern Village reveal his dedication to addressing diverse interests. They also reveal his ability to make and implement long-term plans, an essential skill for all Town Council members.

Bryan proposes tangible plans for achieving his goals. Attracting more businesses to the downtown area, improving sidewalks and bike routes, participating in the Triangle regional transit system and adding more greenways and open space are just a few ways Bryan intends to improve Chapel Hill for its residents.

Holding an elected position would be a new experience for Bryan, but his goals mesh well with the existing goals of the council. With so many strong attributes, Bryan promises to be a valuable asset to the council.

#### Ed Harrison

Challenger Ed Harrison will bring a strong working knowledge of environmental planning to the Chapel Hill Town Council. His time

spent on various transportation and environmental committees throughout the Triangle lends credence to his platform goals of improving water quality, transportation and the function of Chapel Hill's local government.

Harrison describes his politics as fiscally conservative yet environmentally responsible - qualities which officials will find useful while dealing with a swiftly growing town in a slumping economy. He suggests creating a permanent advisory board to focus on the town's environmental problems, a committee that the town could find useful.

A Chapel Hill resident since 1990, Harrison understands Triangle politics and concerns. His tenure as co-chairman of the Citizen's Advisory Committee for U.S. 15-501 and his current position on the Soil and Water Board in Durham County has provided him with a experiential foundation from which he can build a vision of Chapel Hill's future.

If elected, Harrison promises to aggressively examine all facets of public transportation in Chapel Hill, from pedestrian safety to a regional rail system.

Harrison also has spent time as a volunteer environmental lobbyist at the state legislative level, which demonstrates not only his working knowledge of the N.C. General Assembly but also his personal investment in environmental issues. Harrison's professional and political backgrounds show that he understands how to create plausible solutions for the area's transportation and environmental problems, an understanding that will add much to the Town Council.

#### Mark Kleinschmidt

Despite the youthful character of Chapel Hill, young people are often underrepresented in the town's government.

As the youngest candidate running for Town Council, 31-year-old Mark Kleinschmidt will lend a valuable perspective as the council grapples with development concerns and UNC's expansion. Kleinschmidt is sensitive to student issues and could serve as a liaison between the town and the university.

Kleinschmidt served as UNC Student Congress speaker two years ago and is therefore familiar with the University's needs and its administration. As the town of Chapel Hill and UNC seek to find common ground, Kleinschmidt's unique experience will make him an effective negotiator.

Many of his goals directly benefit both students and other Chapel Hill residents. By working to develop and enhance downtown, increase affordable housing and improve public transit, Kleinschmidt promises to produce results for the entire community.

He has specific goals, such as establishing a living wage for town employees and putting affordable housing in land trusts to keep costs from inflating in the future. Kleinschmidt wants to assure that all people who work and study in Chapel Hill can also live in Chapel Hill and

take advantage of its amenities.

Kleinschmidt is also committed to preserve the things about Chapel Hill that make it a distinctive, attractive place to live: good air quality, abundant green spaces and the diversity of its residents.

Kleinschmidt's goals are both admirable and achievable, and he will be a quality addition to the council.

#### Edith Wiggins

Incumbent Edith Wiggins' excellent track record on the Town Council is strong evidence to keep her in office.

Wiggins, a board member since 1998, also has served on the Orange County Board of Education. She has a deep knowledge of local government and the respect of her peers and constituents.

Wiggins tends to keep her counsel during board meetings, but when she speaks out, her words are thoughtful and well-chosen. In a simple sentence or two, Wiggins demonstrates her impressive understanding of town issues and politics.

Wiggins understands the town's relationship with the University and will strive to maintain clear communication between the two entities. She is also committed to a clear fiscal responsibility, something which few of her opponents outlined in their platforms. Wiggins is in favor of resource reallocation, not higher taxes.

Her platform builds on her previous accomplishments, which clearly demonstrate what she is capable of. During her tenure, the council has addressed improved water quality, energy-efficient town resources and regional transportation, weighty issues that will affect the town and region for years to come.

She is also committed to the newly revised Development Ordinance, which calls for minimized impervious surfaces, managing waste reduction and cutting down on the use of fossil fuels.

These are goals that require a consistent and continuous voice to support them, and Wiggins' reelection could help ensure that those goals are met.

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 the candidate. Endorsements for mayoral races will run Tuesday.



## Access Denied: Why You Have No Class

The hour approached. You took one last look at your list of desired classes. You had already spoken to your academic adviser and designed the perfect, cushy semester. All you had left to do was sign up for the classes. It shouldn't have been that hard, right? But then how in the world did you end up with 8 a.m. Monday/Wednesday/Friday classes, a 7 p.m. recitation and a three-hour lecture on the history of the fig leaf?! The evil registration fairy strikes again! Just like it did for this guy...

*I tried to register this weekend for my classes and couldn't get anything I wanted! I wanted to try a cool physical education class, stay away from 8 o'clocks and take a couple of classes for my major. But the PE classes were closed, I ended up with an 8 a.m. anyway because the 10 a.m. I wanted filled up, and my major classes were all closed before I even got up! Any advice for next semester? - R.V.*



ADAM SHUPE  
F1

friends curse the UNC system. Here's how I did it:

First of all, do the research. Do not get up 30 minutes before registration time to look for some open classes. Spend time beforehand looking through the online directory and talking to your adviser. Your tuition money pays for them to advise you, so take advantage.

Now, before you try to sign up for bowling and archery, you must realize that there are some classes that are almost impossible to get into unless you are a graduating senior. Bowling is basically reserved for seniors who don't like to sweat. So unless you want to wait a while, go with something marginally more active, like badminton.

Unfortunately, this principle also applies to some introductory major courses. I was flatly denied access to JOMC 53 and 88 this semester.

Apparently, as one adviser oh-so-nicely informed me, there are upperclassmen who have still not completed these classes. If you ran into these same problems, then all I can tell you is to hang tight, finish up those perspective requirements and wait for

the intro classes to open up.

Also, remember that your whole class is signing up simultaneously.

So come up with some alternatives in case that class with only two open seats fills up too quickly.

Be ready with another class to make up for those lost hours.

Finally, and most importantly, get away from Chapel Hill. As we all know, the server has a tendency (it does it every time) to crash on the poor masses.

The trick is to get off of the UNC server, preferably on an outside cable modem. From there, you can grab those classes just as quickly and without a server crash.

And if none of that works to alleviate your registration problems, then there isn't much else I can tell you.

Just stay away from biology, chemistry and economics, don't take any math classes at 8 a.m., and always take classes with friends if possible.

They can help do the crossword.

Adam Shupe is looking forward to History of the Fig Leaf, Underwater Basket Weaving, and Mating Habits of the Goat. Send your baaaaad registration stories to him at shupe@email.unc.edu.

## READERS' FORUM

### 'What Can I Do Now?' Other Causes Still Need Funds and Support

#### TO THE EDITOR:

For the past month, we have all been wondering how to help in the wake of the Sept. 11 tragedy. Many of us have donated our money and time to the relief efforts, and we all noticed something: It made us feel good. It felt good to know that we could help, that we could somehow lessen the effects of the trauma by aiding others.

Now that September and October have come and gone, the Red Cross has peaked \$1 billion in donated funds, and we've been left wondering, "What can I do now?"

On Friday, The Daily Tar Heel ran an editorial cartoon that portrayed the Sept. 11 relief charities as the "big fish in the pond," with other worthy causes suffering due to lack of donations.

This week, the Campus Y would like to extend a challenge to everyone at Carolina: Don't let that good feeling pass.

Continue, throughout November and December and every other month of the year, to give your time and money to

those who need it, especially those organizations who are in difficult positions now.

Remember the groups that you have always supported, whether they're working for better child labor laws, HIV/AIDS research, or the improvement of race relations. And to the organizations, it's time to start fund raising again.

We must not let our causes suffer by feeling guilty about asking for help.

Take advantage of this newly-discovered philanthropic streak that has swept America.

Put the able minds, bodies, and wallets to good use.

We must never forget the events that have occurred over the past two months, but we must begin to move on and continue with our lives.

And when we do this, let us remember how good it felt, just for a minute, to know that we helped someone and remember that there are thousands of community organizations that can help us feel that way every day of the year.

Liza Potter  
Junior  
English  
Co-President, Campus Y