

# Board Editorials

## Guarding University Interests

The UNC-system Board of Governors should not restrict the ability of UNC-Chapel Hill or N.C. State University to reach out to the N.C. General Assembly.

Earlier this month, a UNC-system Board of Governors committee decided to limit the amount of time that campus-to-legislature liaisons – bureaucrats for lobbyists – can spend working the halls in the N.C. General Assembly.

The BOG committee thus made it all the more difficult to promote the interests of both the UNC system and its predominant universities.

At first glance, the decision seems logical. If all 16 UNC-system campuses send their own lobbyists to the General Assembly, the specific appeals would prompt legislators to question both the unity of the UNC system and how campus administrators are spending their budgets. Additionally, issues affecting the entire system might get bogged down because legislators would have to sort out differing arguments from each campus lobbyist.

But the BOG only will step on its own toes in its duty to provide a quality education if there is not some campus-specific representation in the General Assembly for the UNC system's flagship universities – UNC-Chapel Hill and N.C. State University.

Although UNC-CH and N.C. State share interests with the other system schools, the two doctoral institutions have concerns that are light years apart from schools like UNC-Pembroke, Appalachian State University and Western Carolina University.

For instance, both UNC-CH and N.C. State administrators and lobbyists fought actively this year to prevent the legislature from seizing overhead receipts – money allotted as part of federal-funded research grants to cover institutional expenses such as utilities.

But the other system schools, which receive next to nothing from overhead receipts, are focused

more on attracting students.

Different universities clearly have different interests at different times, and the BOG reasonably cannot expect only one full-time lobbyist to cover all the bases.

By limiting the ability of UNC-CH and N.C. State to lobby state leaders, the BOG forces Mark Fleming, the system's official lobbyist and a former N.C. State legislative liaison, to devote more time on specific campus interests and less time working for the issues that affect the entire UNC system.

If lobbyists like Fleming are expected to shoulder the dual burden of promoting the interests of the entire UNC system and petitioning for important campus-specific issues then, somewhere along the line, either the entire system or one of its flagship universities is going to be slighted.

The BOG cannot limit the representation of UNC-CH or N.C. State if it is looking out for the best interests of the entire UNC system. Much of the system's reputation comes from UNC-CH's national prestige and N.C. State's outreach to the state.

The BOG, therefore, would advance the entire UNC system by allowing UNC-CH lobbyists to push full time on campus-specific issues, such as the proposed UNC cancer center. The project, which will benefit the entire state by creating jobs and promoting health, was shot down this year by the N.C. House – demonstrating the necessity for an active and focused campus lobbying effort.

The overall best way to petition for the concerns of every UNC-system school is to allow the system's flagship universities to represent their own interests in the General Assembly. This allows system liaisons to concentrate on issues facing the whole UNC system and gives individual campuses needed flexibility.

# The Daily Tar Heel

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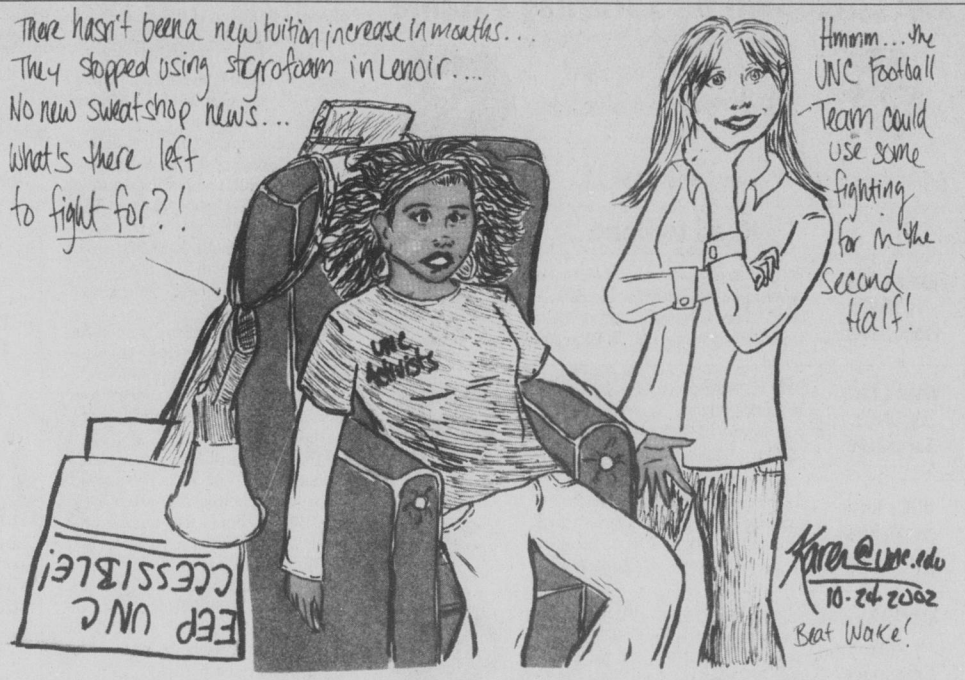
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## One Overpaid Secretary

The UNC-system Association of Student Governments should re-tailor the vice president of administration to make it a volunteer rather than salaried position.

Student leaders, after failing to get their way by going in the front door, are trying the back way.

The UNC-system Board of Governors in its September meeting rejected an attempt by the system's student leaders to hire a full-time professional administrator.

But members of the UNC-system Association of Student Governments decided to get around the earlier decision by voting Saturday to create a new position – vice president of administration.

ASG President Jonathan Ducote said the new vice president will be charged with performing the mundane operational tasks that prevent him from doing his intended job.

"I'm being bogged down with paperwork and can't do what I've been elected to do," Ducote was quoted as saying in The Daily Tar Heel.

Although Ducote needs some help so he can do his job more easily, creating the new position is not the best way to proceed.

ASG delegates hoped the student administrative position would alleviate BOG members' concerns that a professional administrator would usurp student direction of the organization.

But the piecemeal compromise falls short in many respects.

The new student administrator will receive a salary of \$20,000 – half the amount originally allotted for the professional employee – to deal with paperwork and other basic operational tasks.

Such a high salary – paid for by a statewide student fee increase – is disproportionate to the duties defined in the administrator's job description.

The \$20,000 salary is even more excessive when compared to Ducote's own \$5,000 stipend.

UNC-system students should not have to pay so

the ASG can hire an overpaid paper-pusher.

The hefty salary and a requirement that the new vice president take no more than eight credit hours likely will attract candidates more interested in money and their résumés than in furthering student interests.

This misuse of UNC-system students' money is not permissible. The position should be filled by a volunteer from within the organization.

Considering the hefty load of paperwork, perhaps multiple volunteers could be used to complete the required tasks.

But the new vice president should not be paid four times the stipend of the president to do the same work Ducote has been doing all year.

The student administrator also will be expected to lead the search for a permanent, full-time administrator to take over within a year.

This requirement clearly falls outside the boundaries of the position's detailed clerical obligations.

The search for someone to manage the administrative side of ASG must be headed by Ducote himself and other rank-and-file ASG delegates rather than a glorified clerk.

If the student administrative post entails more than the mundane paperwork referred to by Ducote, the ASG should be more upfront with BOG members and the students statewide about the position.

Ducote also must run the new post by the BOG to win its endorsement.

If members of the ASG attempt to sidestep the necessary BOG approval, they will damage the working relationship between students and system officials, endangering the position of all UNC-system students.

## Affirmative Action Doesn't Rob Whites, Just Gives Opportunities

Affirmative action does not hinder white people – especially the middle class whites who seem to despise it most. Still, this is a recurring theme, and even people outside the wealthy white population believe it. If you haven't heard, two students have appealed to the Supreme Court claiming that they were passed over for admission to the University of Michigan Law School in favor of black students. The case has been going on since 1997.

First of all, how long are these two going to whine about the "injustice" done to them? For a while now, minorities have been told to accept past and current injustices. Get over it, get off your butt and get a job have become the motivational messages for minorities to achieve the "American dream." So to those who have the "white man's burden" mentality and anti-affirmative-action cries, take your own advice and please just let it go.

The two students aren't brilliant. Both were involved in few extracurricular activities and had 3.3 grade point averages. It's not too impressive considering most people admitted into the University of Michigan have higher GPAs and more involvement. If you're going to claim you were robbed, at least present an exceptional résumé to prove you have a right to make that claim.

Through it all, the University of Michigan continues to uphold that a diverse student population is beneficial. Good for it.

Some white people have a story about the scholarship, job or position they didn't get "because a less-qualified black person got it." That's usually not the case, but if it happens to turn out that way, so what? A minority's rejection likely worked in that same white person's favor at some point.

And I don't hear anyone complaining about the students who get into UNC based on the family alumni clause. I promise you won't find many minorities who can list their grandfathers as alumni on their admissions applications. Should white affirmative action be eliminated too?

Most minorities are taught that getting passed over for a white person is likely and that you just have to work twice as hard to achieve. Many whites are taught that it's normal for them to get a job rather than a minority and realize early it rarely happens in reverse. We all have become accustomed to these unwritten rules, so outrage is inevitable when they are challenged.

The biggest argument against affirmative action is that it is outdated and that everything is fair game in present-day America. Please give me a break – or don't, because God forbid I actually ask for one in 2002.

Minorities are disproportionately imprisoned, live in projects more than suburbs, have higher mortality rates and have more members in prison than in college.

And let's not forget that most white men after graduation from a mediocre school likely will get a better salary than the few minorities who actually graduate from good ones. When all these statistics are eliminated and things are truly equal, I will gladly reject affirmative action and every other social program.

But race-based programs are not only needed; they're common sense. Affirmative action does not threaten people who are against it but only the status quo that works in their favor – only minutely though.

Before I'm accused of exaggerating, I am aware that not every white person is wealthy or against affirmative action or that people who oppose it don't have reasons besides selfishness.

But for those who have nothing to lose at affirmative action's hands, it all comes down to one simple principle: The world is not enough, and apparently neither are the power, money or prestige that they hold. If you happen to fall under the double "W" – white and wealthy – take more time to count your blessings and your money and less time defending why others don't deserve to at least strive for what likely was handed down to you.

Reach Tiffanie Drayton at drayton@email.unc.edu.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above editorials are the opinions of solely The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board, which were reached after open debate. The board consists of eight board members, the assistant editorial page editor, the editorial page editor and the DTH editor. The 2002-03 DTH editor decided not to vote on the board and not to write board editorials.

## READERS' FORUM

### Hussein's VX Nerve Gas, Anthrax Pose Immediate Risk to Citizens, Justifies U.S. Military Intervention

TO THE EDITOR:

Terrorism – has it ever been a more potent fear? The capabilities of Iraq are extreme, and something must be done to prevent mass murder.

After Sept. 11, 2001, national security was shattered. America has finally begun to think about prevention. The only way to prevent future attacks is to find and destroy all large-scale warfare weapons. Iraq must be searched, no matter what.

The United States is not a teacher asking students, "Who wants war?" then waiting for a hand-raised count.

In order to prevent future attacks on our nation, we must search Iraq for deadly weapons – this is prevention.

So why does Iraq have 3.9 tons of VX nerve gas?

This chemical is so deadly that one drop to the skin can cause spasms so severe that you could snap your own spine.

One teaspoon released into the atmosphere can kill every living organism within an eight-block radius.

Iraq hoards more than 1.6 million teaspoons of VX. This is only one of the many weapons that they hold.

Is this not threatening enough for the United States to say that we need to go in and find Saddam Hussein?

So, Hussein refuses to let the United Nations search Iraq for these weapons.

Without military enforcement, Iraq will not allow a search in their country.

The United States is a strong nation and by initiating military action, our strength will prevail and prove that we can

defeat terrorism.

Anthrax, according to CNN.com, a single gram of anthrax – roughly 1/30 oz. – contains 1 trillion spores, or enough for 100 million fatal doses if it's properly dispersed.

Produced in Iraq before the Gulf War, the United Nations was never able to account for it all.

So, what does Iraq plan on doing with it all?

Is that enough reason to fight Iraq?

I believe so.

Rachel Chan  
Business  
Freshman

### Article Unfairly Implies That High School Athletes Focus on Studying Less Frequently Than Their Peers

TO THE EDITOR:

I enjoyed your (Oct. 22) article on how the children of admission directors choose colleges.

However, your article contrasted my college search, which includes my participation in intercollegiate athletics, with others who would appear to be more academically focused.

This does me and other student-athletes a disservice.

Beyond baseball, my academic qualifications are consistent with those of students who attend highly selective institutions.

Matt Lucido  
Chapel Hill



The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments. 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.

## BAROMETER



### Not in My Backyard

The Chapel Hill Town Council voted to halt duplex construction. The council suggested students look at moving into the homeless shelter in the meantime.



### Get on the Bus

Fare-free busing has contributed to a 39 percent increase in bus ridership. With the success of the fare-free program, students are lobbying officials to expand it to include Franklin Street bars.

## TAR HEEL QUOTABLES

"He was in a position where he couldn't extend his thumb out."

### ATHLETIC TRAINER DAN HOOKER

On quarterback Darian Durant's injury in the Saturday game. Not only is Durant out for the regular season, he also had to cancel his plans to hitchhike across the country.

"This is our reality. Everybody wants to kill us. We know this."

### VOLLEYBALL PLAYER MALAIKA UNDERWOOD

On playing away games. Why don't you spend more time on the game instead of watching "Conspiracy Theory."



### What Distribution?

Fewer students than expected picked up a bracelet Tuesday. Basketball just can't compete with the student State of the University Address.



### That Fabulous Fair

This year's State Fair includes delicacies such as fried twinkies, fried pickles and fried candy. Health officials have declared a statewide dietary emergency until the fair closes.

"I've never seen anything as big. He's so fun. I wish I had a pet like him."

### 10-YEAR-OLD FAIRGOER CHRIS SCHIOT

On the 1,100-pound pig at the State Fair. Just tell your parents it followed you home and that you'll take real good care of it – not like those dead goldfish you never fed.

"I just wanted to touch the pooch."

### SUSPICIOUS PERSON ON JONES FERRY ROAD

Explaining why he was on private property. Given the stress of modern life and classes, wouldn't we all be happier if we took a little time to touch the pooch?