

## Board Editorials

## Early Bird Voting

Students should visit the early voting site at the Morehead Planetarium, which is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, before it closes.

One-stop voting, first used in the 2000 election, is a worthwhile program aimed at boosting election turnout by allowing voters to cast their ballot up to three weeks before Election Day.

But the program, highly popular only three years ago, has fallen on hard times at UNC.

Orange County and University officials worked together to create and to fund a site at the Morehead Planetarium that would be accessible for members of the University community.

But voter turnout has been surprisingly slow at the site. Elections officials had hoped that roughly 70 percent of the student body would have voted by last Friday, but the total turnout is less than 5 percent.

Some of the poor turnout can be attributed to what sadly has turned out to be a largely dull campaign season. The U.S. Senate race between Democrat Erskine Bowles and Republican Elizabeth Dole, which should fire up voters statewide, lacks the passion and excitement of past races.

Bowles and Dole both largely have overlooked college-aged voters and have spent more time discussing prescription drug plans for the elderly than issues directly affecting college-aged voters.

Part of the blame for low voter turnout also rests with local officials who have failed to publicize the site adequately apart from putting up a sign outside and sending an e-mail several weeks ago. University officials and student leaders need to launch a last-minute push to get people to vote at the Planetarium before the site closes Saturday and look at ways to boost usage in the future.

But the overwhelming majority of the blame naturally rests on the shoulders of students who can't find enough time to cast their ballot early and then will be too busy to do it on Election Day.

If you've already made up your mind, then drop by the site this week, cast your ballot and play a hand in shaping the state's future. Otherwise, be sure to mark Election Day, Nov. 5, on your calendar.

## Gone But Not Forgotten

UNC alumnus Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn., was a tireless advocate for often-ignored groups and a man of conviction whose death leaves a hole in the U.S. Senate.

Much has been said in the last few days about the passing of Minnesota's senior senator, Paul Wellstone.

Politicians from both sides of the aisle have lined up to pay tribute to Wellstone, who died in a plane crash Friday while en route to a campaign stop.

Politicians have recognized this UNC alumnus's conviction in his beliefs. Wellstone's likability is often mentioned, as is his commitment to standing up for the little guy.

His time on the Senate Agriculture Committee is notable for his push on legislation designed to regulate large agribusinesses.

He would joke about how strange it was for a nice Jewish boy to visit Minnesota hog farms.

But it is his principled approach to issues that has stood out in the sea of eulogies. Both in 1991 and this year, he was one of a handful of senators to vote against bills authorizing the use of military force against Iraq.

Indeed, his insistence on approaching interna-

tional conflict with diplomacy and understanding was a major theme of his time in office.

His efforts on the Foreign Relations Committee focused not on military intervention but on social activism. For years, Wellstone criticized presidents of both parties for insufficient attention to human rights in countries from China to Colombia.

Wellstone would follow the Democratic Party line only when it concurred with his own beliefs. Conversely, on issues where he agreed with them, he would join Republicans.

For example, Wellstone joined with religious conservatives two years ago to pass legislation that sought to eradicate the international trafficking of women into prostitution. Ultimately, what he believed in, he acted upon.

What those paying tribute to him should learn from this tragedy is that to eulogize Wellstone best, they should emulate him.

His example of action based on intellectual principle rather than partisan ideology is one that we should all be honored to follow.



Paul Wellstone

## A Profitable Day at the Races

The Greek organizations that took part in Derby Days worked hard to show UNC's traditional commitment to public service but should expand their efforts.

Thanks to the hard work of the Sigma Chi fraternity, UNC sororities and many other supporters, this year's Derby Days managed to raise \$42,000.

The money will be divided proportionately between two worthwhile causes: the N.C. Children's Miracle Network and the N.C. Children's Hospital. Derby Days is a weeklong fund-raiser done by every Sigma Chi chapter in the United States and Canada.

During the week, Sigma Chi members team with sororities on their respective campuses to raise money for children's charities.

The efforts at UNC highlight the public service ethos so central to campus life and tradition. Additionally, they weaken the tired stereotype that students in Greek organizations only care about drinking, partying and stylish clothes.

Sigma Chi did a fine job this year of sparking

increased participation by teaming up with several UNC sororities that also sponsored their own individual fund-raisers in conjunction with Derby Days. For example, Alpha Chi Omega held a fund-raising raffle, and Delta Delta Delta and Zeta Tau Alpha raised more than \$2,000 each with a cook-out and date auction respectively.

Many students and faculty from all aspects of the campus participated in these individual fund-raisers, as well as in many of the other Derby Days events.

But Sigma Chi should explore expanding its efforts to reach out to the campus community next year by co-hosting events with groups such as the Residence Hall Association and student government. More visible efforts only will boost the program's success.

When Derby Days rolls around again next year, be sure to come out and give what you can to help sick children in the state.

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



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.

## Columnist Mistakenly Assumes the Gulf War Affected D.C. Shootings

TO THE EDITOR:

This is in response to Joseph Rauch's Oct. 28 (column) "D.C. Shooter Is a Disturbed Gulf War Vet, Not a Terrorist."

Mr. Rauch, I am glad to see that someone is willing to tell the media not to jump to conclusions. Perhaps maybe you should include yourself as a recipient of that message. I was surprised to learn that you had not personally interviewed the suspect in custody. After all, how else would you know that this man's acts were caused by some experience in the Gulf War? But, I guess that is obvious to someone who is a senior in journalism; who really needs advanced degrees in psychology or a license in psychiatry to make competent analysis of a suspect's motives anyway?

Mr. Rauch, you are the worst type of self-serving journalist, as you try to cloak yourself in morality, while doing that which you condemn.

As a veteran I am offended by your insinuations that everyone was affected negatively by the Gulf War. Obviously you have never served a day in your life, and I am willing to bet you would not serve, mainly because of cowardice. But that is a right that

was given to you by veterans and is kept safe by soldiers, sailors, marines and airman. Mr. Rauch, you are nothing but a hypocrite.

Robert Williams  
Undeclared  
Computer Science

## University Community Should Vote as Tribute To Wellstone's Memory

TO THE EDITOR:

On Friday, UNC lost one of its own with the passing of Sen. Paul Wellstone, D-Minn. Wellstone graduated from UNC with a B.A. in 1965 and with a Ph.D. in 1969. During his years at UNC, Wellstone was an All-ACC wrestler, and it was at UNC that many say he began his career as fighter for all people.

There is no doubt that Wellstone was the most liberal member of the U.S. Senate, yet he remained one of the most respected members among his colleagues. A dogged fighter for the issues in which he believed, Wellstone never bowed to the powers of partisan politics to compromise his positions. Wellstone, however, was more than a passionate advocate. He was a genuine person.

Two years ago, I was fortunate to briefly meet Sen. Wellstone on the Senate subway. Accustomed to frequently seeing senators

on the subway, I was amazed when Sen. Wellstone struck up a conversation with me.

Immediately upon hearing that I had previously attended UNC and planned to attend UNC law school, Sen. Wellstone sang the praises of the University and the law school.

For a brief moment, we were simply two Tar Heel graduates having a conversation as if we had been friends for years.

Sen. Wellstone did not need to speak to me, but he chose to because he strongly believed in treating people equally. Regardless of who you were, Sen. Wellstone tried to get everyone involved.

As a tribute to Sen. Wellstone, I encourage all UNC students, faculty and staff, regardless of your party affiliation, to go out and vote. Let's send a message to Sen. Wellstone that his passion for political involvement and advocacy lives on at his alma mater.

Hunter Pruette  
Professional Student  
Law School

## True Equality Requires System Based on Merit, Not Racial Preferences

TO THE EDITOR:

Tiffanie Drayton's (column) on affirma-

centers in all areas of the state that would provide health care to all, regardless of their ability to pay.

Bowles also has used scare tactics against seniors to distort his opponent's record by claiming to be the only candidate who will protect Social Security. He has erroneously claimed that Dole's plan will decrease the guaranteed benefit for senior citizens by privatizing the program.

In reality, Dole's plan would do no such thing. Instead, it would allow younger workers like us to invest a portion of what we pay into Social Security in the private sector while leaving the benefits of current retirees untouched.

Bowles complains the Dole's Social Security plan would cost too much money. At campaign stops, Dole frequently holds up a blank sheet of paper to illustrate Bowles' plan for Social Security. According to the Concord Coalition, a nonpartisan grassroots organization that advances ways to keep Social Security secure for all generations, the do-nothing Bowles plan would cut the guaranteed benefit for the average 20-year-old (read: college student) by 29 percent. One would think that Bowles would know that since he once served on the organization's board of directors.

Dole is the only candidate whose vision for saving Social Security is broad

enough to help both seniors and younger generations.

She also favors protecting the environment by enacting a permanent ban on oil drilling off the Outer Banks, funding aggressive clean energy research and demanding that polluters pay to clean up environmental accidents. These are programs that stand to make significant strides in keeping the environment clean while not stymying business and job growth.

She is also the candidate who has a legitimate plan that will bring jobs to the state by lowering the tax burden, expanding North Carolina's ability to trade in foreign markets and encourage businesses to report their financial status fairly and accurately.

Bowles wants to keep the United States from being able to market goods abroad by opposing fast-track trade negotiations and says he will keep N.C. textile jobs at home.

But I honestly have to wonder how successful Bowles would be at that since he couldn't even convince his own wife Crandall, the CEO of textile giant Springs Industries, to latch on to his plan. She closed an N.C. plant last December, sending nearly 300 jobs to Mexico.

It is clear from looking at the facts that Elizabeth Dole is the only candidate in this year's U.S. Senate race who will look out for the interests of UNC students and the rest of North Carolina.

Reach Michael McKnight at  
mmcknight@email.unc.edu.

## All Systems That Judge People Based on Race Unfairly Discriminate

TO THE EDITOR:

Affirmative action is discrimination. It is judging people based on their race rather than their qualifications. Affirmative action encourages the rationale that minorities are unable to compete with the majority so they are given a special standard to compete at. Why would a minority be in support of a law that degrades their abilities?

I am a Caucasian male, but I am also a minority. Do not stereotype me by my color or my gender. My heritage is German, Czech and Scottish. I guess this makes me a triple-minority because of my diverse background. The fact remains we are all minorities; we all have a different background. Each nationality has had some form of discrimination. As a minority, I am against affirmative action.

I would like to sum up my view with the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

Jordan Miller  
Freshman  
Undeclared

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## The Daily Tar Heel

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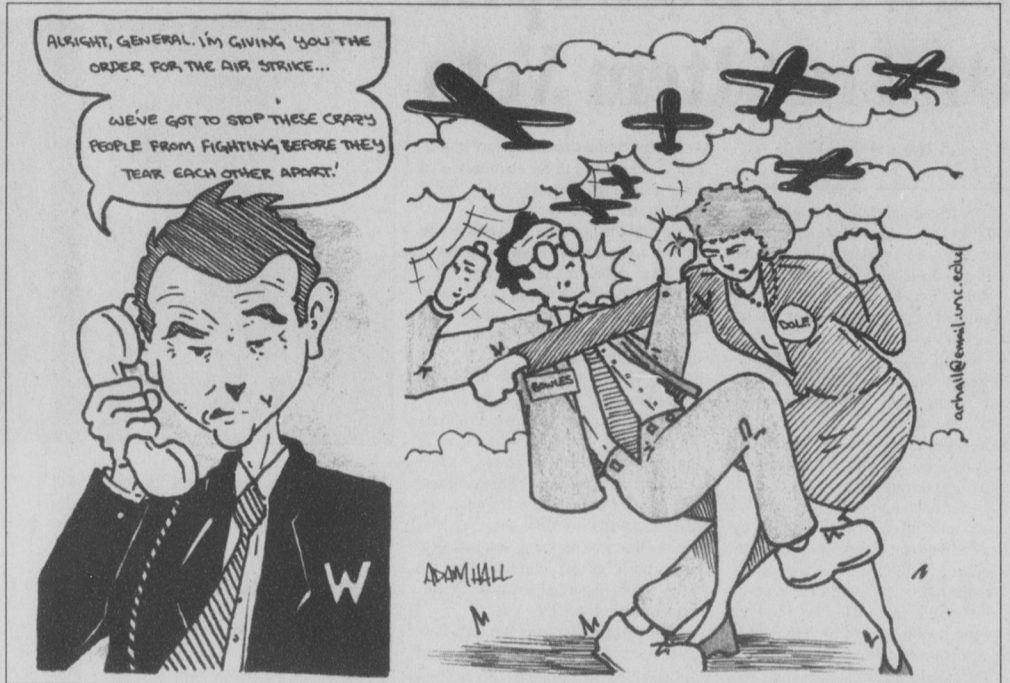
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## Bowles' Campaign Plans Fall Short for Meeting N.C. Needs

After reading Thursday's edition of The Daily Tar Heel, I was surprised to learn just how much U.S. Senate candidate Erskine Bowles has in common with the average UNC student.

Apparently Erskine is the only candidate who will help our grandparents because he favors legislation that would supposedly help prescription drugs come to the market more quickly to make medicine more available to senior citizens.

Too bad this program would cut into the profits of drug manufacturers and discourage them from taking the major risks necessary to develop newer and better medications.

Although Bowles' proposal could marginally increase the availability of prescription drugs to seniors, it would end up costing the rest of us, including UNC students, billions in additional taxes.

His opponent, Republican candidate Elizabeth Dole, has a better plan that will help the elderly and the rest of us who have to foot the bill. Her plan strikes at the heart of what has caused the prices of health care and prescription drugs to be so high in the first place: trial lawyers.

Dole favors medical malpractice reform that would limit the amount of punitive damages that could be sought against health-care providers. She also wants to expand community health-care

centers in all areas of the state that would provide health care to all, regardless of their ability to pay.

Bowles also has used scare tactics against seniors to distort his opponent's record by claiming to be the only candidate who will protect Social Security. He has erroneously claimed that Dole's plan will decrease the guaranteed benefit for senior citizens by privatizing the program.

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