

## BOARD EDITORIALS

## UNC — BY THE HOUR

A proposed campus-based car rental service offers a creative solution for transportation woes, but the idea demands further consideration.

University officials should put the brakes on a recent proposal unveiled by the Advisory Committee on Transportation.

ACT announced plans Wednesday to look into partnering with the Boston-based Zipcars to create a campus-based rental car service for students, faculty and staff.

Officials said the program, which could be up and running as soon as this fall, could help to ease ongoing transportation woes faced by members of the University community.

If the plan is approved, UNC would join several other campuses, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in using the Zipcars service.

ACT Chairman Derek Poarch, director of the Department of Public Safety, said the rental car program would target students, faculty and staff who use public transit services, including park and ride lots.

Poarch said that many people who use the park and ride lots often only need to be on campus for short periods of time and that the rental cars would be an easy and more time-efficient way to get to the University than current transportation methods.

Poarch said the rental cars also could reduce the amount of traffic on roads in and around campus.

ACT's consideration of the proposal to create a rental car service shows that the committee is willing to find creative ways to solve the ever-persistent transportation challenges on campus.

However, although the plan is certainly a departure from traditional solutions to remedy transportation problems, several questions about the plan warrant consideration before the proposal proceeds further.

Debbie Freed, transportation demand manager, said four Volkswagen Beetles with Zipcars and UNC logos would be used initially to get the program off the ground. These cars would receive designated

parking spaces on North and South campuses, and people will be able to sign up to use them via a special Web site.

Freed said that although details of the plan are still be ironed out, University officials are considering charging an initial membership fee of \$35 to join the rental car program and could be charged an hourly rate for the time that they use the service.

Insurance coverage for individuals while they are driving the cars is included in the start up fee.

The service would be available only to people who are 21 years of age and older because of Zipcars' insurance carrier requirements.

The limited number of cars available and the restrictions placed on who can rent the cars could hamper the ability of the service to be taken advantage of by as many people as possible.

For example, the majority of undergrads at the University — most of whom do not have cars on campus and would probably need the service the most — would be prevented from renting cars because they are not yet 21 years old.

The proposal also begs the question of who would get first priority in using the service — students, faculty or staff?

These groups have often been pitted against each other in past transportation discussions, especially parking, and the rental car service could further complicate the issue.

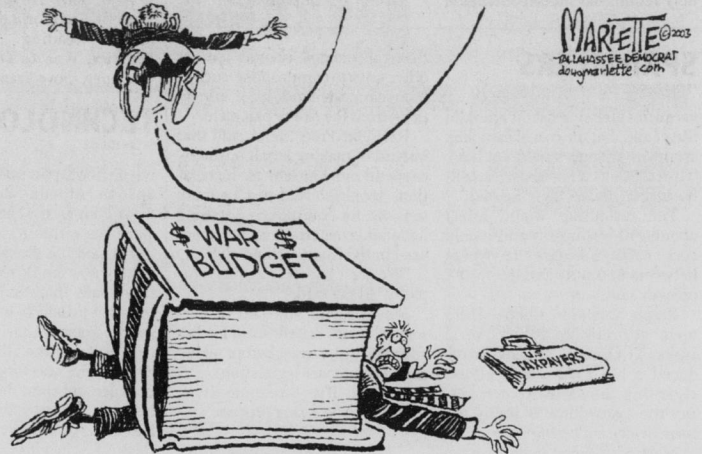
Other issues, including whether or not there will be time or mileage limits on the rentals and who will be in charge of running the program, raise important questions that must be answered before plans to bring the service to the campus proceed.

While it is certainly assuring to see University officials use creativity in finding ways to solve campus problems, the proposal to implement a campus car rental services — as it stands now — might be a little too "creative" for their own good.

## ON THE DAY'S NEWS

"Any government big enough to give you everything you want is big enough to take everything you've got."

GERALD R. FORD, 38TH U.S. PRESIDENT



SHOCK AND AWE

## COMMENTARY

## Activists should focus push on rebuilding postwar Iraq

My roommate and I have a set of free weights in our room and often discuss politics over toe raises or bicep curls. She's just as liberal as I am, and three years of feeding off each other's leftist indignation has made us both more extreme in our views.

Last Wednesday, when the bombs started to fall in Iraq, we lifted weights out of sheer frustration. My anger had to be directed somewhere, so I picked up my 10-pounders and curled until my muscles shook.

The next day, we were just finishing dinner on Franklin Street when the raucous anti-war protesters marched by, so we leaped out of our seats and joined them. There's a magical kind of energy in protests, an infectious populism, a concerted and focused passion, a sense that your right to vocal and united opposition really does represent democracy at its best.

We broke off from the group to go home and, having stopped to chat with friends on the corner of Franklin, were subjected to a drive-by verbal attack from four or five girls sticking themselves out of a monstrously big SUV, screaming that we must bomb Saddam Hussein before subjecting us to a number of rather colorful insults.

Well, that was odd. But no stranger than the guy in the huge truck, blasting "Bombs Over Baghdad" and flying the American flag, delighting in the prospect of dropping thousands of missiles on an effectively defenseless nation.

I came home and, while lifting weights like a maniac, thought about a lot of things, especially the perversion of the symbolism of the American flag, which has come to represent only blanket approval of



RACHEL GURVICH  
INFORMED DISSENT

the administration's actions.

If someone doesn't agree with raining 3,000 missiles on Iraq in two days and decides to take to the streets, that doesn't make them any less loyal to the ideals that the United States was founded on.

The next morning, I had the bad sense to turn on the television. The media coverage of the war is perfectly atrocious. Perhaps some sportscasters bound for the NCAA Tournament mistakenly ended up in Kuwait and Qatar.

Moreover, allegations that the media is somehow skewed to the left are unfounded and absurd — protesters were regularly depicted as delinquent, destructive anarchists, and far more attention was paid to the counter-demonstrations held across the nation.

These gatherings of war supporters were looked upon far more favorably, with reporters interviewing children whose parents were in the Gulf or veterans of prior conflicts talking about how much they support the president and the troops.

And most of those of us who are against the war do support our troops. We recognize the incredible risk they are taking and the immensity of their sacrifice for their country. We want them to be safe, and we hope they come back soon.

But we do not support their reason for being in Iraq because we

do not support the Bush administration's disingenuous, unilateral, self-interested foreign policy. Every time a soldier is killed for following orders, we are even more upset than many Americans because we're not sure they had to be there in the first place.

I'm sure you've all heard the arguments against this war. My purpose here is not to rehash those — but if you'd like to know my reasoning behind this, feel free to contact me and I'll refresh your memory. The peace movement must now refocus its effort on what will happen in the aftermath of the war.

The only way our government can now regain the world's trust is by taking the rebuilding of the Iraqi nation and political regime very seriously. Not like we did in Afghanistan, where the administration's budget for the next fiscal year did not include one cent toward the rebuilding of that country. Not like we did in Latin America throughout the Cold War, when we were willing to install and support any sort of totalitarian regime at the expense of democracy as long as it wasn't socialist.

We can't just let Halliburton make out like bandits with Iraqi oil or install some puppet leader sympathetic to our interests. We need to listen to the needs of Iraqis and provide massive quantities of humanitarian assistance to the families that have been struggling with the effects both of U.S. sanctions and air strikes.

I desperately hope the administration proves me wrong on this one. But something tells me I'm going to be pretty damn buff before this is all over.

Contact Rachel Gurvich at [gurvich@email.unc.edu](mailto:gurvich@email.unc.edu).

## POOR MATH

The state House should sign off on Gov. Mike Easley's plan to extend tax increases and not force N.C. agencies to further cut their budgets.

It's easy to tell when spring's in the air. Trees are turning green, flowers are blooming, and state legislators are sharpening their budget-cutting ax. N.C. House members are talking about eliminating a tax increase in Gov. Mike Easley's budget by cutting additional money from already-strained state agencies.

Easley's budget calls for extending two temporary tax increases originally slated to run out at the end of this fiscal year until 2005.

By extending an increase to the state's sales tax and the state income tax for wealthiest residents in the state, Easley's plan would generate an additional \$460 million for the 2003-04 fiscal year — preserving financially strapped institutions.

If legislators shoot down Easley's proposal, they would have to make up the extra funding by cutting the money from state agencies — including \$56 million from the UNC system.

Factoring in additional cuts made by Easley, the system stands to lose \$138 million — roughly 8 percent of its budget.

Such a proposal is completely unacceptable. Although Easley's budget is far from perfect, the governor on the whole did a solid job striking a balance between increasing available funding by extending the tax increases and cutting state spending.

Easley's approach is the best overall way to handle a budget deficit responsibly by trying to preserve state programs while not shifting too much of a burden to state residents and businesses.

But the House plan would throw that responsibility completely out of the window by forcing state agencies to slash their spending to the bone.

By their very nature, budget cuts force state agencies to offer fewer services and harm the ability of the state to help residents.

Given job losses throughout North Carolina, representatives should be making a concerted effort to provide state agencies with more funding because dismal economic times increase the number of people who depend on the government for help.

State agencies perform the vital duties of assisting with unemployment benefits, helping with job searches and — most importantly — providing education and job training.

N.C. leaders have long bragged about having a well-trained work force to help lure high-paying jobs in the technology sector to the state.

But that boast will fall short if leaders keep cutting education to make up for the state's budget deficit.

Jeff Davies, UNC-system vice president for finance, told The Daily Tar Heel that the House plan would be difficult for the system to handle given the past three years of budget cuts.

"If this is approved, this places our budget in a really compromised position," Davies said.

Budget cuts already have forced UNC-system schools, including UNC-Chapel Hill, to cut positions, offer fewer classes and increase the size of classes.

Legislators, operating under the assumption that cuts can be made without drastically hurting the system's instructional mission, must realize that additional budget cuts would harm students systemwide.

Taxes are never a popular choice for politicians thinking about the upcoming election.

But N.C. legislators were elected with the inherent responsibility of acting in the best interests of the state instead of their political careers.

That means signing off on Easley's proposal to extend the tax increases so the people of North Carolina won't end up paying an even heavier bill in the near future.

**EDITORS' 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

## OASIS invites campus to join in Africa Week events

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to invite the University community to join us in celebrating Africa Week. The Organization of African Students' Interests and Solidarity has planned a series of events to celebrate and showcase African culture.

On Tuesday, there will be a screening of the film "Cry Freedom" (featuring Denzel Washington).

This event is co-sponsored by CUAB and will be introduced by history Professor Lisa Lindsay. This will take place at 8:30 p.m. in 111 Carroll Hall.

On Wednesday, join us at 6 p.m. in Carmichael Ballroom for the African Dance Workshop. Two instructors will lead the workshop, and there will be live African drums!

On Thursday, Dr. Bereket Selassie will lead a discussion on African self-determination in the 21st century. This will be held at 6 p.m. in 105 Gardner Hall.

On Friday, our keynote speaker is Dr. Yosef Ben-Jochannan, world-renowned Egyptologist. Dr. Ben-Jochannan is an expert on the African origins of the ancient civilization of Egypt and is widely published. He will speak in 209 Manning Hall, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Our weeklong celebrations will

end with our annual cultural show — Africa Night — on Saturday. The theme this year is Generation Next!

There will be African dances, plays, poetry and a fashion show. This cultural extravaganza will be held in Hanes Art Center, with dinner (\$3) being served at 5:30 p.m., and the show (\$5) starting at 7 p.m.

Tickets are on sale in the Union Box Office and at our table in the Pit.

We will be in the Pit all week, so please look out for our table and also stop by the Undergraduate Library to see our art exhibit. Please join us in experiencing the diversity and vibrancy that is African culture!

Tanya Rogo  
Senior  
Biology

## Americans should support troops and not protest war

TO THE EDITOR:

The anti-war movement on campus breathed new life on Thursday.

I am embarrassed for them. While there is a time for public protest, it ceases once we as a nation commit our men and women to fight and die for a cause.

Whether you personally agree with the decision to attack Iraq or

not, the simple fact is that you, by your vote or lack thereof, have elected a group of men and women to run this country and make these vital decisions for you. They have been made.

Unfortunately, we will now begin to lose our brothers, sisters, fathers, mothers, families and friends to this pursuit of justice and security.

These strident protests will not stop the war.

In all reality, they will do nothing more than demoralize our troops and their families.

We as a nation must stand and support these men and women and the country they are serving. Tonight when you go home, alive, free, educated and empowered, enjoying all that this great nation and the blood of those who have died for it have provided you, be proud and be thankful.

Always remember, being an American is a privilege, not an embarrassment.

If it ever becomes such, put your money where your mouth is and leave.

Sheila St. Pierre  
Senior  
Communication Studies

## Shameful to celebrate war when lives are on the line

TO THE EDITOR:

I had the unfortunate experi-

ence of watching the start of the current war in Iraq from the bar at Ham's restaurant on Franklin Street on Wednesday night. I come from a family of military veterans and second-generation immigrants who are about as peace-loving and patriotic as they can be.

As I stood at the bar watching President Bush speak and seeing the updates of the action in Iraq scroll across the bottom of the screen, the reaction in the bar and unfortunately, I'm sure, in many places across our great country, turned my stomach.

I watched and listened in disgust as the troglodytic bartender and his equally vacant female companion across the bar sat and listened in rapt joy to the announcement that a war was starting.

They actually cheered at the prospect of sending the sons and daughters of America to die in the desert. That reaction is akin to standing outside Mission Control in Houston with pompons and a knit skirt and sweater, cheering as the news that the shuttle had exploded on reentry was announced.

How exciting! Noble people dying senseless deaths — ain't it grand?

Celebration in response to the start of a war is the lowest form of human degradation. I urge everyone who cheered the start of the war, assuming some of them can read, to think about what they are

actually cheering for. You are cheering for citizens of this country, much more brave and true to the flag than you, marching to their possible deaths.

Your cheers will ring in their parents' and children's ears as their insides melt from the mustard gas and as their skin bubbles from the heat of the oil field fires.

No matter how noble or ignominious the reasons for a war might be, to celebrate anything other than its end is to desecrate humanity as a whole. Shame on you.

Don't cheer for war, pray for the children of this country who are sent to fight it, and thank your God, whoever he or she may be, that people better and braver than you are willing to defend your right to dishonor their memory.

Sam McDaniel  
Chapel Hill

The length rule was waived.

**TO SUBMIT A LETTER:** 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](mailto:editdesk@unc.edu).

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