

BOARD EDITORIALS

ONE CAN AT A TIME

The Beat Hunger, Beat Duke food drive offers the UNC community a great chance to serve the needy and compete against a longtime rival.

The Carlyle Cup isn't the only thing up for grabs this year in the ages-old rivalry between UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University.

On Wednesday, leaders from UNC-CH and Duke kicked off a canned food and monetary drive to benefit the Food Bank of North Carolina and the Inter-Faith Council.

Many of the cans collected will go to helping residents in the northeastern portion of the state who were affected by Hurricane Isabel.

The drive will end Nov. 21, one day before the UNC football team takes on Duke in its season finale. The winner of the drive will be announced during halftime of the game.

UNC's campaign, appropriately titled "Beat Hunger, Beat Duke," is a good way for members of the University community to become involved and lend their support to an important cause: helping those in need.

To drum up support for the drive, leaders from both campuses have placed wagers on whose university will win.

Last year's contest pitted UNC-CH against N.C.

State University, and Chancellor James Moeser was forced to wear that awful brick-red State paraphernalia for a day.

Student Body President Matt Tepper could suffer a similar fate this year should the University lose. Let's not allow history to repeat itself.

Members of the Campus Y, student government, the Carolina Center for Public Service, the Residence Hall Association and several other student organizations should be commended for their hard work in organizing the campaign.

However, the success of the drive largely depends on student participation.

Chances are, you have one or two (or more) canned foods lying in your room or apartment right now. Why not donate it to the drive?

Donations may be dropped off in several locations across campus, including inside residence halls.

Lending support to the drive will help to show that students, staff and faculty at the University truly care about helping and serving the community.

Plus, the bragging rights a win would bring aren't too bad either.

BACK TO THE TABLE

Local educators, politicians and parents must refocus their efforts on deciding a possible merger of Orange County's two school districts.

The lack of support behind a district tax for Orange County Schools is likely yet another sign that the long-running debate on spending disparities between that school system and Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools will end without a tangible resolution.

However one feels about the specifics of this plan, which members of the Orange County Board of Education failed to approve Monday, the lack of progress should spur local officials to shift their focus from the highly politicized debate to providing the best education for all local students.

The plan would have increased property taxes for residents of Orange County living outside of Chapel Hill and Carrboro in order to supplement funding for the county schools.

Residents in Chapel Hill and Carrboro already pay a special tax for the area's school district, which some have argued leads to a great discrepancy in funding for the two districts.

It was presented as an alternative to merging the two districts, a plan advocated by County Commissioner Moses Carey and opposed by many

vocal parents in Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

The district tax idea was an interesting alternative in the merger talks. However, with the proposal out of consideration, only the large move of merging the districts remains an option.

All signs point to the merger seeing the same fate as the district tax.

Speculation aside, it is most important for all local leaders with jurisdiction in the matter to tackle the disparity issue immediately.

Especially when dealing with matters of primary and secondary education, officials must recognize that not everyone can be pleased with the ultimate decision.

Dragging out the decision-making process will only make residents angrier.

It is in the best interest of everyone for the matter to be resolved quickly.

After all, every minute they spend debating this political issue, they have less time to discuss how to improve legitimately the education of Orange County students — both in Chapel Hill and Carrboro and out.

A WORTHY CAUSE

Members of the University community should work together to fight a current shortage of blood platelet donations at UNC Hospitals.

Members of the University community now have a great opportunity to give back to a noble cause by rolling up their sleeves — literally.

Officials at the UNC Hospitals Platelet and Plasma Donor Program recently announced that they are experiencing a shortage in platelet donations this year.

Hospital officials say that are in need of more than 15 platelet donations every day to serve patients. Before the shortage officials normally counted on 10 to 12 donations daily.

Although drives for platelet donations often do not receive the same publicity as blood drives held on campus, the need for these donations is just as important.

Platelets help to control and regulate blood clotting and are extremely important in treating some types of cancer, sickle cell anemia and a host of other ailments.

Each platelet usually has a shelf-life of only five days making it crucial for hospitals to receive a

steady stream of donations.

The requirements for giving platelets have some similarities to donating blood, but there are several differences as well.

For starters, it takes roughly two hours to donate platelets. You also must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good health and have not gotten a tattoo during the past 12 months.

In addition, it is suggested that you don't take aspirin for 72 hours before your appointment.

You can donate platelets up to 24 times per year.

For more information or to set up an appointment to donate platelets on campus, call 966-2370 or send an e-mail to platelet@unch.unc.edu.

You can also visit UNC Hospitals' Web site at <http://www.unchealthcare.org>.

University students, staff and faculty should be encouraged to contact UNC Hospitals to volunteer to donate their plasma.

If you don't meet any of the requirements to give, then recruit one or two people to give to the cause. Every drop helps.

EDITORS' NOTE: The above editorials are the opinions of solely The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board and were reached after open debate. The board consists of eight board members, the editorial page editor and the DTH editor. The 2003-04 DTH editor decided not to vote on the board and not to write board editorials.

NOTABLE QUOTABLES

"It wasn't an ordinary goal. ... I jumped off the bench and almost herniated myself."

ANSON DORRANCE,
WOMEN'S SOCCER COACH ON THE TEAM'S SECOND GOAL DURING WEDNESDAY'S GAME AGAINST N.C. STATE.

"Things went from bad to worse to even worse. What's a worse word than worse? Disaster? It went from bad to worse to disaster?"

JOHN BUNTING,
FOOTBALL COACH ON THE TEAM'S LOSS SATURDAY TO MARYLAND.

"Everyone just comes out, dresses up, has a good time. That ain't no jibba jabba."

LAMONT GREENE,
BAR MANAGER AT W.B. YEATS IRISH PUB ON LAST FRIDAY'S HALLOWEEN CELEBRATION ON FRANKLIN STREET.

READERS' FORUM

Partial-birth abortion ban a major setback for women

TO THE EDITOR:

On Wednesday, the U.S. Supreme Court ruling Roe v. Wade suffered another crippling blow.

President Bush signed into law the so-called "partial-birth" abortion ban in an effort to impose his personal beliefs on all American women and their doctors. This marks the first time a president criminalizes a safe medical practice.

With this bill, doctors, nurses, and women will commit a federal crime for deciding to perform a medically safe procedure.

Alarming, the statute to save a woman's life is conspicuously absent, a measure the Supreme Court has judged unconstitutional.

This bill will invariably endanger the lives and reproductive health of women. It severely limits their safe options in a high risk pregnancy that will risk her life and/or fertility. Today, Bush has taken us back to the intolerable era of illegal abortion.

Do not be fooled by this bill's inflammatory rhetoric. "Partial-birth" is not even a recognized medical term, but rather anti-choice propaganda aimed at sensationalizing this procedure and turning women and doctors into criminals.

With this bill, Bush and his political allies brazenly assume to make personal medical decisions for women. They further place pol-

itics ahead of the lives of women. By signing this act, our government places our personal privacy that is central in a democratic society in precarious uncertainty. This inherent right must be recognized and permanently protected.

Since 1973 we have seen restrictions on reproductive rights. Each one is aimed at carving away at a woman's right to control her body. Beware; this is one more dangerous step toward completely stripping away a women's right to make individual choices about when, how and why to become a parent.

Join other pro-choice Americans as we March for Choice in April 2004 to demand our rights. Visit <http://www.march4choice.org> for more details and contact Emily Johnson at emijo@email.unc.edu

Becky Kooistra
Co-chairwoman
Choice USA

Erica Robinson
Publicity
Voices for Planned Parenthood

Former candidate Bachman defends campaign ads

TO THE EDITOR:

As my integrity has been questioned, I must respond to Chapel Hill Town Council member-elect Cam Hill's brazen disregard for the facts in his letter to the editor in Tuesday's The Daily Tar Heel.

ON THE DAY'S NEWS

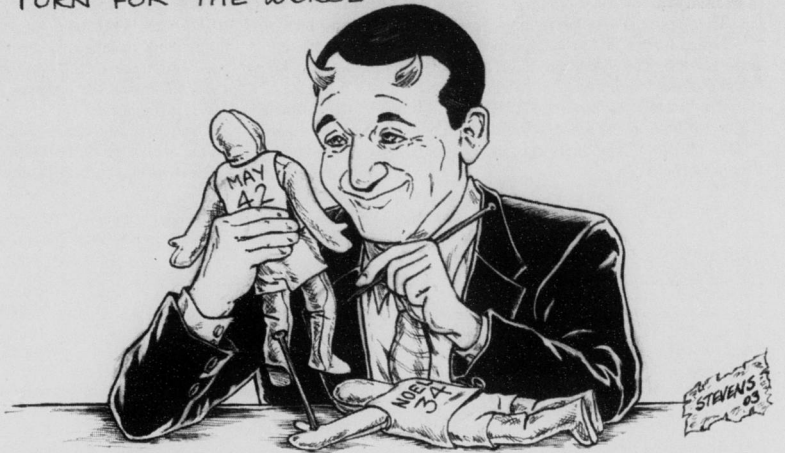
"I find life an exciting business and most exciting when it is lived for others."

HELEN KELLER, AUTHOR AND LECTURER

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Andrew Stevens, crazyaj@email.unc.edu

UNC'S BASKETBALL FORTUNES TAKE A MYSTERIOUS TURN FOR THE WORSE



STATE & NATIONAL

Phipps scandal leaving a black eye on state's politics

My only personal run-in with Meg Scott Phipps was almost three years ago, at the 2000 Election Candidate Forum at N.C. State University. At the time Phipps was campaigning for the post of N.C. Agricultural Commissioner, which she won in the November election that year.

The forum was one of the first stories I ever covered for a publication that wasn't my high school newspaper — the first political story, I think, that I ever wrote. I was nervous, didn't really know the issues that well and was still making the rookie mistake of interviewing politicians with stars in my eyes. I was in awe.

Phipps spoke before a room filled mostly with local community members — very few students save for a handful from N.C. State's political science club and a reporter and photographer from The Daily Tar Heel. Her speech was unremarkable and, without digging through my archives to find my notes, I couldn't begin to remember a word of it.

Phipps stuck around until the end of the forum, and she took the time to give me a few good sound bites. I was so proud of myself. I thought I'd hit a gold mine. I remember she smiled at me, thanked me for coming out and turned away to talk to one of the other forum participants.

Her father, former N.C. Governor Bob Scott, was there for support. I remember him being tall, unintimidating and wearing, I think, a blue sweater. He told me how proud he was of Meg and the work she'd done and how he thought she'd make a wonderful addition to the state's government.

Naivete on my part won out.



MIKE GORMAN
FOR THE PEOPLE

Political charm had worked its magic, and I voted for Phipps that year. I felt confident about it too, more confident than anything I'd done in my voting career to that point.

I, like so many other people, had the wool pulled over my eyes.

On Oct. 30 a jury convicted Phipps on four felony counts: lying under oath to the State Board of Elections, encouraging an aide to lie to the board, covering up her campaign's misdeeds and conspiring with an aide to hide her crimes from investigators.

State prosecutors convinced the jury that Phipps took tens of thousands of dollars in illegal contributions during the 2000 elections from vendors hoping to secure work at the N.C. State Fair, which the agricultural commissioner oversees.

She has yet to face 30 federal charges of extortion. Federal prosecutors have accused Phipps of using her position to extort money from carnival vendors.

In a very short period of time, Phipps has gone from being the proud standard-bearer of the next generation of the Scott family to, potentially, a scuzzy shakedown artist.

This kind of scandal doesn't happen very often in North Carolina. According to a report by The (Raleigh) News & Observer, this is the first time in our state's political history that a politician

"I, like so many other people had the wool pulled over my eyes."

has been convicted of a major crime while in office. If she's convicted of the federal charges she could face a maximum of 250 years in prison.

It's unlikely that will happen. Analysts are predicting that she might plead guilty to the federal counts in order to avoid further prison time.

I suppose I take cases like this very personally because for a long time I've been an unabashed defender of the integrity of politicians. During the time I covered the state politics beat, I got to spend a fair amount of time with a lot of our politicians and, on occasion, their friends and families.

What I've taken from the experience is the genuine belief that a lot of our politicians, especially our state politicians, really are in the game not because of a drive for money or power but from the honest desire to do something for the people of the state.

Every time someone makes a crack about how all politicians are corrupt, I've tried to argue them down.

Now I'm not so sure. This scandal hits very close to home for me and, I hope, the thousands who voted for Phipps.

So thanks, Meg. Thanks for taking my expectations down a notch or two.

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