

BOARD EDITORIALS

# FAULTY PROPOSAL

Efforts to amend the Larson-Daum Campaign Reform Act to allow candidates more liberty in spending are a step in the wrong direction.

UNC has a proud tradition of strong and effective student government on campus. The physical realization of this great strength lies in our yearly competitive, grueling and well publicized student body elections.

These elections, specifically for the office of student body president, should lie within the grasp of any UNC student who has the desire, competence and earned trust of the voters.

The Larson-Daum Campaign Reform Act of 2002, which provides \$400 of campaign money to candidates who can garner 800 signatures, prevents personal wealth from playing a role in elections and, in the words of current Student Body President Matt Tepper, the first elected under the new system, "levels the playing field."

Unfortunately, bills recently proposed by members of Student Congress could deal a damaging blow to these efforts and could allow personal wealth and financial circumstance to play a larger role than experience, dedication or voter confidence.

One proposal, offered by Congress members Alak Shah and P.J. Lusk, would allow candidates to fund their campaigns partially using student fee money and allow them to raise the remainder of the money through personal fund raising. The proposal also would double the spending limit for campaigns and reduce the number of signatures required to get on the ballot.

Allowing candidates to spend their own money is a wrong move and would put those students who cannot afford to compete monetarily at an unfair disadvantage.

If a privately funded, affluent candidate ran against a publicly funded opponent, he literally could run twice the campaign.

McKnight, who could offer another proposal to reform the election rules, told The Daily Tar Heel that he doesn't believe the student body benefits

from paying for numerous campaigns.

This argument is wrong. The campus is served better by having a wide variety of platforms and candidates to choose from than by having the field narrowed to only those students who can afford to spend hundreds of their own dollars on an election.

If student body president hopefuls are able to gather signatures and organize a rigorous campaign, then the use of student fee money is money well spent.

The current requirement that any student wanting to earn a spot on the election ballot gather 800 signatures generally narrows the field of candidates down, so fears of almost a dozen students possibly receiving public funding might not be realistic.

Recently, the DTH Editorial Board applauded a decision by Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean to forego public financing because doing so will help him to compete with President Bush in the 2004 race.

However, national politics and campus elections are two very separate fields.

For starters, although a few hundred dollars is literally pocket change at the national level, it could make or break a campus campaign.

In addition, no candidate has ever expressed a strong interest to break the campus spending rules and move away from public financing.

Although there is always talk that some candidates might bend the rules a little bit every now and then, on the whole having student fee money pay for campaigns could provide a little more oversight because students will want to know that their money is well spent.

Student Congress members must vote down any efforts to reject the Larson-Daum Act and keep access to the SBP's office where it belongs — in the hands of any hardworking student who earns it.

ON THE DAY'S NEWS

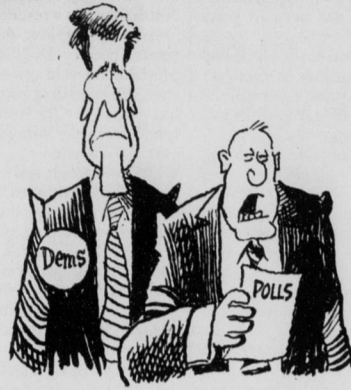
"Most schemes of political improvement are very laughable things."

SAMUEL JOHNSON, ENGLISH CRITIC

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Doug Marlette, Tribune Media Services

MARLETTE 2003  
TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT  
DOUGMARLETTE.COM



"WE FINALLY FOLIND SOMEBODY WHO CAN STOP DEAN!"

COMMENTARY

## Creativity in teaching could bring more practical lessons

Ahh, the nobility of a teacher. The nobility of the profession. The pomp and circumstance of passing on knowledge to a new generation. Give a man a fish and he'll eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime.



BILLY BALL  
FOR KIDS WHO CAN'T READ GOOD

That depends on whether you really want to just eat fish for the rest of your life.

It's really hard to find things that are more important than teaching kids how to read, write and add. Education prepares us for good things like counting and talking. But what about the other things in this world?

The film "School of Rock" is one of the biggest surprises I've had this year. I certainly didn't expect to get something that I could take home from a comedy that depends on the lunatic Jack Black to make it a worthwhile product. I got both of those things out of this movie.

In the film, Black plays a failing rock star who takes a temporary job as a substitute teacher to fill the void in his income that rock music isn't filling.

Instead of teaching the kids standard things such as reading, writing and arithmetic, Black teaches them how to be a functioning rock band.

In the heartwarming process, Black learns responsibility at the same time as the kids learn about loyalty and determination and standing up for yourself.

Awwww.

Now, I'm certainly not arguing that making all classes into rock music seminars is going to fix every problem with education we have in this country, but the heart is a start. Alternative methods of education might be the future of education.

In my time in elementary, middle and high school, I learned that we really weren't meant to be taught more than a strict curriculum.

I had a middle school teacher who directly defied the school board and showed us the film "Schindler's List." That film is one of the most brutally honest depictions of the Holocaust ever put to film, and its Jewish director, Steven Spielberg, set out to do just that. It's a horrifying film to watch, but it's history, and it must be taught.

She sent home permission slips to parents. She prepared everyone for just how graphic the film would be. But the movie was still too realistic for the aging and decrepit school board to acknowledge.

In the end, my teacher was forced to quit, or she would have been fired.

In the time that I watched that film, I learned something about one of the darkest periods in human history. And I also learned something about standing up for what you believe, but not from the film.

I had another teacher named Myrtle ("the Turtle") who wasted her time and mine by teaching us that no, we can't go to the bathroom, but yes, we may go to the bathroom. Thank you. I'll remember that in the future.

The Moody Blues, a '60s

*"Alternative methods of education might be the future of education."*

British rock act, taught us what is really for "our children's children's children" to know in their song "Candle of Life." "So love everybody," the Blues say. "And make them your friends."

I'm sure there's more to it than that. I don't really know, but I guess so. So for now, I'll just take the Blues' word for it.

How about teaching me to, um, pay bills and get a job and manage my income and go after what I always wanted and to think for myself? All of those important things.

Some of the most valuable things I have learned haven't come from any curriculum. And some of the most valuable things I don't know clearly haven't come from any curriculum.

Let's go out on a limb and take some chances. An alternative method of education might imply teaching us what is practical. It's teaching kids to do something with the ABCs and the arithmetic.

And for all the things that we really don't need to function and function well, they can take a back seat and be for only the extremely nerdy and the extremely ambitious. Calculus, my ever-vigilant eye is fixed upon you and your limiting ways.

If you didn't catch the pun there, good for you.

Contact Billy Ball at [wbball@email.unc.edu](mailto:wbball@email.unc.edu).

# ROOM FOR GROWTH

University officials made a good move in releasing preliminary plans of Carolina North but leaders must be open to receiving public feedback.

Carolina North was, for all intents and purposes, the talk of the town during this month's Chapel Hill Town Council elections.

Almost every candidate demanded more openness and information from the University in planning the development for the 963-acre Horace Williams tract, a space that abuts several residential areas.

So it was probably a good move for UNC officials to release preliminary plans for the site Thursday.

The plan calls for a seven-phase construction schedule, lasting roughly 50 years. Carolina North is set to contain six million square feet of office space, two million square feet of residential space and 300,000 square feet of retail space, said Tony Waldrop, UNC's vice chancellor for research and economic development.

Perhaps the biggest surprise is that the preliminary proposal only calls for developing 25 percent of the land — a request several candidates made during the election and one that some town residents expected University officials to ignore.

Waldrop, when asked, said he couldn't guarantee that the remainder of the land would be protected as undisturbed green space.

Although it is understandable why campus officials might not be able to predict how much of the land ultimately will be used 50 years into the future, their inability to offer some sort of guarantee to the town about how much of the land could be protected shows why many town activists have reacted to past UNC proposals with skepticism.

Another issue in contention is the proposal to add 20,000 parking spaces to the development.

What is perfectly clear is that the plans released last week are not the final proposals we will see and probably are far from them.

Waldrop consistently emphasized the temporary nature of the drawings, noting that conditions will

change before building begins, which will not be until at least 2005, when the Horace Williams Airport is slated to close. He even cautioned that the plans could change before they are presented to the public officially Dec. 2.

One must hope that the apparent flexibility of the plans comes from the fact that UNC administrators are determined to maintaining open dialogue with town residents and are willing to make changes to the plans depending on the concerns Chapel Hill residents are sure to voice.

As beneficial as that sounds, it would be just as destructive if the flexibility were the result of campus officials' desire to have free reign in the development of the site in the future instead of setting a firm framework now. Even if this is not the case, UNC leaders must make sure residents always are informed of the next move and are able to contribute their opinions before the plans are finalized.

After all, the University administration has seemed unafraid to disregard long-term plans for campus construction in the past.

One must look back only to August, when UNC was able to convince the Town Council to modify the campus' Development Plan to allow for the construction of an 800-space parking deck in Jackson Circle and a chiller plant and 500-space parking deck outside of Cobb Residence Hall.

Understandably, residents are concerned that UNC releases these forward-planning drafts simply to assuage town fears, only to go back on the plans shortly thereafter.

When dealing with a part of the town that is so closely tied to residents not affiliated with UNC, things must be different for Carolina North.

This month's elections show a town that is fed up with UNC's tactics. The last thing campus officials should do is give residents another reason to be mad.

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 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.

READERS' FORUM

### Freezing of funds for Stein speech an egregious act

TO THE EDITOR:

The actions of student government, in regards to Ben Stein's speech, are an absolute outrage. They show a lack of professionalism and a power-craven mentality. It also hints at a prejudice against conservatives.

First off, Tripp Costas and the College Republicans did nothing wrong. The seats that were reserved were for donors and community leaders. Almost \$11,000 of Stein's \$15,000 speaking fee was raised by outside groups. Their members should have the ability to hear Ben Stein. Other reserved seats were taken by professors and people such as N.C. Sen. Hugh Webster, R-Alamance. And in the end, most of the seating was open to students anyway.

Secondly, and more importantly, it is extremely unprofessional to freeze a person's payment due to the actions of a group. The Finance Committee authorized \$4,000 for the speech. Stein came and did a superb job and the committee wants to wait to pay him. That is preposterous and it is not how business is done. In the real world this would be called a breach of contract and the treasurer would be prosecuted.

But of course, this is not the real world. This is Chapel Hill, where people try use petty positions to

wreak havoc upon their enemies. I think this is a stunt instigated by people who have something against Tripp Costas and/or College Republicans. Even if they don't have the ability to recognize the service Tripp has done for the school in bringing Stein to campus, I hope they have the decency to rectify such an egregious act.

Brian Sopp  
Freshman  
Political Science

### Donations of any size can have big impact on campus

TO THE EDITOR:

Recently, Carolina's Annual Fund Phonathon called sophomores and juniors to ask for gifts to UNC. I want to share the results with you and the campus community. In four days of calling, 417 students donated more than \$3,000.

Students showed their dedication to various areas such as the Chancellor's University Fund, the Division of Student Affairs, the Department of Biology, the Campus Y and the Black Student Movement, which were the five most popular designations.

Given the large sum donated, it might surprise you that the average gift was less than \$10. If you don't think donations in that range can make a difference, it's worth noting that for one student for one year:

- Books can be covered if 80 stu-

dents give \$10.  
• A ThinkPad R40 computer can be covered if 100 students give \$20.  
• In-state tuition and fees can be covered if 200 students give \$25.

It's easy to see that a donation you can afford will make a difference. I encourage every student to support an area of campus life that matters to you. To make a gift or for more information, visit the Good to Know Campaign Web site at <http://carolinafirst.unc.edu/goodtoknow>.

And thank you, student donors! Your gifts are helping other students. You are making a difference on campus.

Aimee Wilson  
Senior  
Journalism and Mass  
Communication

### Downloading, sharing files is wrong, robs musicians

TO THE EDITOR:

Downloading and sharing music files over the Internet started as an innocent spark. After all, posting short selections and samples from music albums is a great way to promote various artists, right?

Unfortunately, the spark eventually turned into a dim glow when the samples of songs evolved to entire songs from albums, and the glow soon became a raging blaze when entire albums were available to download from the Internet

without pay.

Although some believe that music piracy causes no harm to anyone and is only an act of promoting one's albums, I believe that music piracy is an act of stealing.

The big deal with downloading and sharing music files is that people are downloading song files from other sharers and copying these songs onto a blank CD instead of purchasing the album.

When albums are being illegally copied instead of purchased, artists are being cheated and short-handed from the loss of both money and the countless hours put into making the album.

We are taking away from the wages of artists when we simply copy their music onto a CD without financially supporting them.

"People pirating other people's work is theft. There's an awful lot of bands that can't take the loss, you know. That's actually how they make their living, you know." These words by Elvis Costello in the Sept. 29 issue of "Time" sum up the problems of copying and sharing music that is not our own.

Next time you turn one of those blank CDs into a music album filled with songs that you have downloaded, read to yourself the Honor Pledge and ask yourself if you are doing the right thing.

Stockton Perry  
Freshman  
Biology

### Town Council member-elect thanks voters for support

TO THE EDITOR:

To everyone who supported my successful campaign for a seat on the Chapel Hill Town Council, a heartfelt thanks. The campaigning itself was energizing and rewarding. It was gratifying to find that so many of you share my vision of a thriving, environmentally sustainable, economically inclusive Chapel Hill. I will work hard to reward your trust in me. And I'll count on your help and advice in the days ahead. I also want to thank all those who voted and worked on this year's campaign whether I was your candidate of choice or not. Rest assured that my office door and my mind will remain open to your concerns.

Sally Greene  
Member-elect  
Chapel Hill Town Council

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 them to [editdesk@unc.edu](mailto:editdesk@unc.edu).

Established 1893  
110 years of editorial freedom  
**The Daily Tar Heel**  
[www.dailytarheel.com](http://www.dailytarheel.com)

- ELYSE ASHBURN**  
EDITOR, 962-4086  
OFFICE HOURS 2:15-3:15 PM MON., WED.
- DANIEL THIGPEN**  
MANAGING EDITOR, 962-0750
- JENNIFER SAMUELS**  
PROJECTS MANAGING EDITOR, 962-0750
- APRIL BETHEA**  
EDITORIAL PAGE EDITOR, 962-0750
- BROOK R. CORWIN**  
UNIVERSITY EDITOR, 962-0372
- KATHRYN GRIM**  
CITY EDITOR, 962-4209
- CLEVE R. WOOTSON JR.**  
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR, 962-4103
- BRIAN MACPHERSON**  
SPORTS EDITOR, 962-4710
- MICHELLE JARBOE**  
FEATURES EDITOR, 962-4214
- NICK PARKER**  
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR, 962-4214
- ALEX OBRAGON**  
COPY EDITOR, 962-4103
- BRIAN CASSELLA**  
PHOTO EDITOR, 962-0750
- MICHELLE KUTTNER**  
DESIGN EDITOR, 962-0750
- MICHAELA IDHAMMAR**  
GRAPHICS EDITOR, 962-0750
- KRISTEN OLIVER**  
ONLINE EDITOR, 962-0750
- BEN COUCH**  
SPORTS/SATURDAY EDITOR, 962-4710
- JOHN FRANK**  
PROJECTS TEAM LEADER, 962-0246
- ERIC GAUTSCHI**  
OMBUDSMAN  
If you have any concerns or comments about our coverage, please contact Ombudsman Eric Gautschi at [gautschi@email.unc.edu](mailto:gautschi@email.unc.edu) or 918-1311.