

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Council to nix SafeLight

BY CHRIS GLAZNER  
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

After more than two hours of debate, the Chapel Hill Town Council voted Wednesday night to terminate the town's contract with the company that operates its red light camera program.

The 5-4 vote in favor of council member Mark Kleinschmidt's petition to cancel the contract ended several months of heated debate about the cameras' ability to reduce traffic accidents.

Kleinschmidt said he had concerns about allowing a private company to enforce violations

traditionally handled by police.

"I have great difficulties with the mechanization and privatization of police functions," he said.

Council member Cam Hill, who voted in favor of removal, said he shared worries about the motives of Affiliated Computer Services, the company that runs the SafeLight program.

"Their job is to make money," he said. "Safe driving would be bad for business."

ACS, which invested about \$400,000 in the cameras, collects 96 percent of the \$50 fines issued to red light runners at certain

intersections around town. In terminating its contract, the town does not expect to lose money.

About a dozen people spoke to the council before the vote, most of them in favor of the cameras.

Supporters argued that stopping accidents trumped other concerns about the program.

"Our town staff is truly in charge of the citations," said council member Edith Wiggins, who voted to keep the contract. "We have not lost discretionary power to mechanization."

The vote came on the heels of a public relations blitz by camera

supporters in the past week, which included a press conference as well as a forum with representatives of ACS.

The cameras were approved in late 2002, but last November's elections shifted the balance on the council.

Hill and Sally Greene replaced Flicka Bateman and Pat Evans, who had both voted for the cameras.

"Cameras should be a last resort, and they weren't," said Greene, who argued in favor of other methods of reducing red light running.

Her comments echoed points made by Will Raymond, a local activist who has led resistance to the cameras.

Addressing the council, Raymond presented a lengthy list of alternative policies, along with evidence that the cameras do not reduce violations.

By the end of the meeting, council members affirmed their commitment to improve traffic safety, and many expressed interest in alternative measures.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

## Fate of Olympic sports in question

Calif. bill could alter all athletic funding

BY DANIEL BLANK  
ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Most mornings when the rest of the campus is asleep, Dan Vick swims laps in Koury Natatorium.

After two hours in the pool, the senior swimmer goes to class and then returns for a few more hours of practice. He also has to find time to finish his homework.

"Being a student-athlete, you have regular class concerns plus you have practices and competitions, so you really don't have time for a job," Vick said.

It is this sentiment that brought about the creation of California Senate Bill 193, or the Student Athletes' Bill of Rights, as it is more commonly known.

Proponents of the bill argue that student-athletes, because of their larger-than-usual time commitment, should be entitled to stipends that cover costs of attending college that an athletic scholarship does not.

NCAA rules prohibit stipends for student-athletes, and if the bill passes, it would force the California schools to revoke their membership unless the NCAA alters its restrictions.

If the NCAA were to change its rules, the sudden passage of the legislation on the other side of the country would have a profound impact at UNC.

Of the many questions that have arisen from the bill's introduction, the biggest is just who would receive these payments.

"Who knows? They don't know, they don't care," said Betsy Stephenson, UCLA associate athletics director, of the legislators who drafted the bill.

Most participants in Olympic sports such as swimming agree that revenue athletes should be first in line to receive payments but also say these athletes shouldn't be the only ones in line.

"Well, those sports are making money, but I think student-athletes are student-athletes," said North Carolina volleyball coach Joe Sagula. "They all put in the same amount of time, they deal with the same sacrifices."

If the bill is interpreted the way Stephenson and other California athletic directors view it, then only athletes in revenue sports, football and men's and women's basketball, would receive stipends. This in itself would create tremendous Title IX headaches for athletic departments across the country, particularly UNC's.

"I don't know if you could (give stipends to) 98 males and just 14 or 15 females," said Dick Baddour, UNC director of athletics. "Given the population we have on our campus, it puts male sports at serious risk."

Some in the administration are not even sure if Title IX would apply to stipends.

"I don't have the wildest idea," said Larry Gallo, UNC senior associate director of athletics. "I don't even know if Title IX would encompass that arena. ... If I pay 50 men athletes, do I have to pay 50 women athletes?"

But Michael Mistretta, a legislative aide to the bill's author, Calif. Sen. Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles, said the language of the bill calls for all athletes to benefit.

If it is taken this way, even more questions would be raised.

The biggest of them all, locally, would be if UNC, which fields 28 varsity teams, could maintain its program in its current form if it had to supply an extra \$2,000 to \$3,000 to every athlete on scholarship.

"It would jeopardize the broad-based program we have," Baddour said. "I'm not sure we'd be able to sustain the program at the current level."

This could mean cutting programs, and wrestling coach C.D. Mock said he knows full well that his sport is often

## Atkins dieters weigh pros, cons of trend

BY MEGHAN GAMBLING  
STAFF WRITER

When 22-year-old Jessica Parico gets up in the morning, her typical breakfast includes an omelet layered thick with cheese, ham and salami. And she is losing weight.

Parico's high-fat, high-protein meal is the premise of the Atkins diet, which has gained popularity over the past few years and now is practiced by an estimated 25 million Americans, according to the Atkins Nutritionals Web site.

Not only has she lost weight since she began the diet, but Parico also has flexed her Atkins muscle while serving as the Carolina Dining Services' marketing program manager.

Little has been done to bring Top of Lenoir up to speed with the low-carbohydrate craze, but Mainstreet Lenoir has seen some changes.

In addition to Subway's new thinly-sliced tortilla wraps that contain only eight grams of carbohydrates, the Ram Cafe has served items including carb-free cheesecake and grilled salmon caesar salad, Parico said.

As more and more Americans embrace the diet, many restaurants and food chains have jumped on the Atkins bandwagon.

Dan O'Malley, manager of Ruby Tuesday in Northgate Mall in Durham, said the restaurant chain was the first to come up with a low carbohydrate menu. "We wanted to set trends," he said.

But at Spanky's on Franklin Street, co-manager Kenny Carlson said that despite the influx of Atkins dieters, the restaurant has done little to

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## BSM supports West for SBP

BY IRIS PADGETT  
STAFF WRITER

Lily West won the Black Student Movement's endorsement for 2004-05 student body president Wednesday at the BSM's annual forum, the first elections forum of the year.

"It means a lot to me to get (BSM's) endorsement because I've worked with them in the past and they're a very active group," West said of what is regarded as one of the most coveted and influential endorsements.

Promoting diversity on campus and expanding unity among people of different races and cultures dominated discussions among the eight candidates and BSM members.

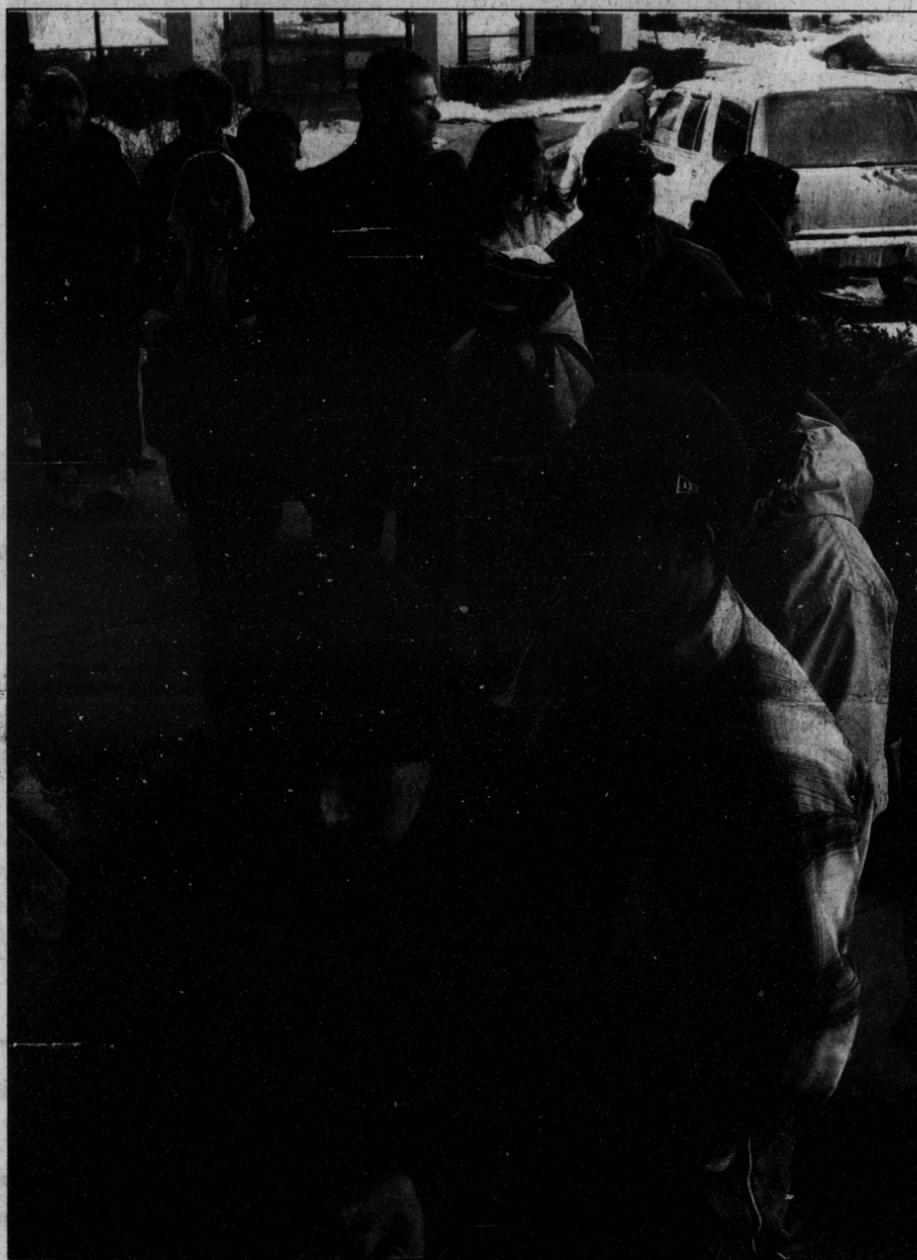
Members of the BSM said they were looking for a candidate who would represent the needs of minorities and support truth in decision-making and communicating with students.

"A lot of the things that she stands for on her platform we feel will be beneficial to the UNC

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The Black Student Movement endorsed Lily West (left) for UNC's next student body president after the group's election forum Wednesday.



Raul Jacinto (front) of Carrboro waited in line for more than four hours with many other Hispanics outside the Department of Motor Vehicles in Carrboro on Wednesday morning in order to obtain new licenses before the Feb. 2 deadline.

## Immigrants facing new license obstacles

DHS to limit driver's license access to U.S. residents as of Feb. 2

BY EMILY VASQUEZ  
STAFF WRITER

In the past week, Carrboro resident Maria Elléria has tried to get her driver's license four times.

By 8 a.m. Wednesday, on her fifth visit to the Department of Motor Vehicles offices at Carrboro Plaza, Elléria couldn't take the below-freezing temperatures anymore.

Shivering, she left her husband in the long line and headed back to their car to warm up.

Elléria, like many Hispanics in the state, is rushing to beat a Feb. 2 deadline.

On that date, new DMV procedures designed according to recommendations from the Department of Homeland Security, will require that driver's license applicants prove they are legal U.S. residents.

Christened Operation Stop Fraud and made public Dec. 30, the program will require applicants to present a federal- or state-issued identification or an international passport validated by the federal government in order to receive a driver's license.

Bill Jones, spokesman for the N.C. Department of Transportation, said a driver's license is more than just a permit to drive. "A driver's license is used for identification purposes," Jones said. "People who look at those licenses need to be sure they are who they say they are."

To ensure that drivers' licenses are awarded based on legitimate documentation, IDs from other countries, except Canada, will be rejected.

Hispanics, who now extensively populate the Triangle, previously relied on documents such as the Matricula

Consular, an ID card issued by the Mexican government.

Damián Ariza Cortes, who arrived at the DMV at 5 a.m. Wednesday, said he resents the new restrictions.

"We are not from Iraq," Cortes said. "This will not keep Hispanics from driving, and it will not stop terrorists."

Cortes, who works as a painter in Chapel Hill, said he has lost a week's wages while trying to obtain a driver's license for his wife. The Carrboro DMV office was closed Monday and Tuesday because of snow. Cortes came anyway, hoping it would open later in the day.

Cortes, like many waiting in line Wednesday, said DMV employees have not always treated him and his wife with respect.

"It's an abuse of authority," he said.

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### DIVERSIONS

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Check out tips to keep warm and fight boredom during winter weather **PAGE 5**

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The "Novarg" e-mail virus, which crippled computers nationwide is dying out **PAGE 2**

### SPORTS

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The Tar Heels pull out a home win against N.C. State in a close matchup **PAGE 9**

### WEATHER

**TODAY** Sunny, H 47, L 28  
**FRIDAY** Partly cloudy, H 51, L 26  
**SATURDAY** Sunny, H 48, L 22

