

BOARD EDITORIALS

THANKS, COACH

UNC men's basketball coach Roy Williams should be commended for donating to and publicly representing the new Carolina Covenant.

The coach of UNC's men's basketball team has given the campus community a new reason to be proud that "we got Roy."

Roy Williams, along with his wife Wanda and their children Scott and Kimberly, has lent full support to the new Carolina Covenant program.

The gift from the Williams family counts toward the University's Carolina First campaign, the multi-year private fund-raising effort with a goal of \$1.8 billion to support UNC's vision of becoming the nation's leading public university.

It's one thing if Chancellor James Moeser endorses a project, but it's quite another thing if Williams is involved. Excluding politicians and former coach Dean Smith, the wildly successful coach is arguably the highest profile figure in the state.

Williams is giving more than just money. He recently appeared in a television advertisement, first aired during Tuesday's game between UNC and the Georgia Institute of Technology, which explained what the Carolina Covenant is all about. The spot ends with Williams saying, "(The Covenant) is a promise that Carolina is proud to make, because

everyone deserves a shot."

For Williams to give his money and his time speaks to his charitable ways and his sincere belief in the Covenant.

He phoned Moeser shortly after the program was revealed in the fall, stating how proud he was of the University's leadership and how willing he would be to contribute.

Williams wanted to be a part of the program because "it reminded him of his own upbringing, and that it is a wonderful thing," Moeser said.

Next fall, the Covenant will allow academically qualified students at or below 150 percent of the federal poverty line to graduate debt-free, if they work 10 to 12 hours per week in a work-study program.

No one entreated Williams to give the Covenant his stamp of approval, as it is an innovative initiative that stands on its own.

But he saw an opportunity through which he and his family could support something central to the University, and he took advantage.

He should be commended for having a significant impact off the basketball court.

PROTECT THE BEACH

President Bush's recent budget proposal eliminates funding for beach preservation, putting undue pressure on local governments for funds.

President Bush's exclusion of shoreline nourishment funding in his proposed budget is unfair and potentially devastating to coastal communities and the state of North Carolina.

In the budget proposal sent to the U.S. Congress last week, the White House has called upon local governments to cover the upkeep costs of beach renourishment programs, which involve dredging or otherwise transporting sand for erosion control.

Currently, the federal government covers 65 percent of the costs associated with these expensive programs. The cost of upkeep in Dare County alone is estimated to be \$1.6 billion over the next fifty years.

If federal funding is removed, the state of North Carolina and local coastal governments are likely to be left with two options: abandon the beaches or find a new revenue source.

Either choice would hurt the entire state. Local governments would be hard-pressed to find any source other than much higher property taxes, which could stifle development and the tourism industry that has become vital to the N.C. economy. If the state

attempted to shoulder some of the costs, some form of greater statewide taxation should be expected.

Any financial burden delegated from the federal government to state or local governments can cause greater indiscriminate taxation.

This action is indicative of the financial situation of the past few years, where states and localities are being squeezed to a greater extent, thus hurting a greater number of taxpayers.

This budget, if passed in its current form, would be painful to North Carolina and all of its citizens, in one form or another. The members of the state's congressional delegation should stand together and fight the exclusion of beach renourishment funding.

While there is some merit to the argument that beach communities enjoy a disproportionate amount of federal appropriations, these areas require more environmental spending and have come to expect such funding.

To remove this source of money immediately and completely is unexpected and unfair to government entities with far shallower pockets.

NO INTERFERENCE

A Colorado legislator's proposal to prevent academic discrimination is merely a front for inexcusable government oversight of academia.

Colorado lawmakers are considering a bill that would protect students' political rights at institutions of higher learning.

The Republican author of the bill claims that it will prevent ideological intimidation in the classroom.

While the bill's actual provisions appear fairly narrow, limited to providing prominent listings of student's rights in places such as textbook covers, it addresses only one specific form of discrimination and, in the process, poses a risk to academic freedom in the classroom.

The subject of academic bias re-emerges on UNC's campus with almost predictable regularity. Because of this institution's long history as an incubator for progressive causes and training ground for future leaders in the model of Frank Porter Graham, UNC often bears the label of a "liberal university."

According to voter registration records, the social science departments at UNC are overwhelmingly Democratic. But our faculty does not necessarily — and should not — force personal ideology on students. While the job of a professor is to challenge a student's beliefs and force them to scrutinize their

own arguments, such discourse does not approach the level of bullying or discrimination.

No student should fear intimidation in the classroom for any reason, not just political ideology.

Schools do not require a legislative directive in order for their professors to act in a proper and scholarly manner. Doing so presents the disturbing scenario of lawmakers determining what can and cannot constitute rigorous exploration and dissection of ideas and predispositions.

After some lawmakers opposed UNC's selection of a book examining the Qur'an as "indoctrination," the University community sent a resounding message that outside of assuring basic freedom of thought and expression in the classroom, the job of shaping curriculum belongs to faculty and faculty alone.

Colorado's own university system strongly opposes the legislation. Protection of political views falls under the protection of existing standards and practices to prevent discrimination of any kind by faculty at state schools.

This legislation is redundant, inappropriate and unnecessary for Colorado, UNC or anywhere else.

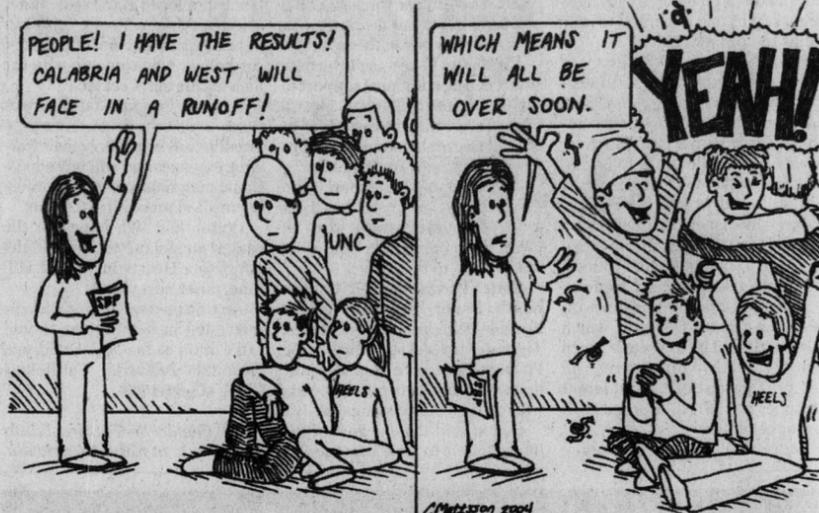
ON THE DAY'S NEWS

"Little boys who don't always tell the truth will probably grow up and become weather forecasters."

ANONYMOUS

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Chris Mattsson, mattson@email.unc.edu



COMMENTARY

UNC officials should not have to register as lobbyists

My Grandpops was an eccentric, cranky, old, yet immensely lovable and cuddly, Irish World War II veteran.

I fondly recall the little life lessons he tried to teach me, many of which my parents worked hard to eradicate. Such as cherish your guns as you do your wife, and keep both well-oiled. Or air quality be damned (he and my wonderful Grandma lived in Los Angeles), vehicles should be big, burly and get crappy gas mileage.

Mom and dad, luckily and rightly, kept my fickle little mind in check and steered me down a more appropriate path to eventual enlightenment. Even my Grandpa, feisty old war hawk that he was, eventually caved to the tree-huggers and bought, of all things, a French-made Renault. But my folks let a few of ol' Papa's kernels of wisdom remain.

Like when he told me to forever remain skeptical of authority (family elders excepted, of course) and never trust people who value power above individuals to advance their own agenda. Unless you're capping off Nazis for the Queen and Crown, but I digress.

Lately, by observing the actions of some of my fellow townfolk, it seems that they too share my curmudgeon-influenced power wariness. And they've thrown it on the Chapel Hill Town Council's plate.

At the year's first council meeting, the Coalition of Neighbors Near Campus, a group critical of the impact UNC's expansion has had on the community, petitioned the council to adopt a law requiring all "paid lobbyists" to register with the town and to disclose all meetings between lobbyists and public officials.

Yeah, that sounds fine. Lobbyists are the vehicles used



NICK EBERLEIN
THE VILLAGE MEGALOMANIAC

by private special interest groups to churn the cycle of corruption so prevalent in American politics.

But, I stress the word "private" because UNC officials — unless we've become Dook — aren't working for a private enterprise.

The coalition's initial petition presented Jan. 12 singled out personal meetings between council members and campus administrators and asks local government to "recognize that those UNC officials participating in this effort are acting as paid lobbyists."

Well, as much as I can fathom, people like Vice Chancellor Nancy Suttentfield or campus head cheese Da Meez have slightly different duties than trying to swindle our council members 24-7.

Suttentfield and Moeser, like any of our nine elected town officials, are public figures trying to perform the public's business. Their jobs are to maintain the integrity of the University and uphold its public mission.

I haven't read their contracts, but I don't think they contain bonuses for effectively swaying the sentiments of the council. I do know that they are held accountable by the publicly elected state legislature, however.

Therein lies the problem with this petition. The one-on-one meetings held outside of Town Hall are merely public officials shooting the bull about public concerns. Both sides might view an

issue differently, but both are there to serve the people and, in the end, must answer to the people.

By the petition's logic, it would seem that anyone's a lobbyist. If Carrboro Town Manager Steven Stewart wanted to talk with some folks in Chapel Hill about expanding bus routes into Carrboro, it would follow that he must be encumbered by registering himself as a "lobbyist" and disclosing each detail of his activity since he receives a salary for what he does. That's ridiculous.

As I mentioned earlier, CNC is reacting to what they perceive as a power grab in this town. Moeser's blessing for a provision in a 2001 N.C. Senate budget bill that would have bugged Chapel Hill out of its zoning authority is reasonable grounds for suspicion. After all, take a ride down Mason Farm Road and see what expansion along the campus' periphery has done to an old, local neighborhood. It's ugly, man.

But town-gown struggles are nothing new, and acrimonious relations in the past have been improved and mediated through good old straight talking.

No matter which side of the fence you sit on regarding town and UNC relations, people must realize that neither side is part of a nefarious, secret cabal bent on the others' destruction; they just don't agree on everything.

Throwing this monkey wrench into tenuous negotiations in which the two groups have noble, if opposing goals, does nothing to add transparency to negotiations and only breeds more of the distrust that fostered the petition in the first place.

Contact Nick Eberlein
at slimkid@email.unc.edu.

QUOTABLES

"I think we'd all be happy if it were raining men."

ASHLEY O'STEEN,
UNC SOPHOMORE, ON A SONG STUCK IN
HER HEAD AND THAT OF HER FRIEND.

"He had a chance to show everybody his jumping ability on that breakaway ... and he showed he didn't have any."

ROY WILLIAMS,
UNC MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH, JOKINGLY
REFERRING TO GUARD MELVIN SCOTT'S
LAY-UP AGAINST WAKE FOREST.

"I didn't predict the controversy in the first year. I was wrong about that. I didn't predict the controversy in the second year, and I was wrong about that. And I am not going to make any predictions, I am not very good at predictions."

JAMES MOESER,
UNC CHANCELLOR, ON THE POSSIBILITY
OF CONTROVERSY FOR THIS YEAR'S
SUMMER READING SELECTION.

READERS' FORUM

Calabria wants lobbying that works for students

TO THE EDITOR:

I take great offense to The Daily Tar Heel's characterization that student body president candidate Matt Calabria simply wants to revive the Carolina Lobby Corps in order to fight tuition increases in the Feb. 10 "Student Elections Guide."

If one were to read Mr. Calabria's platform more closely, one would notice that he plans to create the UNC Lobby Corps — an organization that while similar in name, would have a very different purpose than the Carolina Lobby Corps.

The UNC Lobby Corps, led by a team of five students and two alumni, will seek to integrate students into the University's efforts to secure more long-term funding — from both public and private sources.

In addition to conventional lobbying efforts, the UNC Lobby Corps will issue candidate report cards, initiate letter-writing campaigns to private donors, and deliver money and manpower to candidates for the N.C. General Assembly that support higher education through the creation of a campus-based political action committee.

But the UNC Lobby Corps' efforts will not stop there. The organization will possess a constant presence at all levels of University governance — on campus with the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees, next with the UNC-system Board of

Governors, and finally with the legislature — to ensure that students develop the relationships necessary to block future tuition increases.

In short, as students we need to make sure that we put legislators into office who plan to work for us and increase the current level of funding for higher education in the state of North Carolina.

The mission of the UNC Lobby Corps will be to achieve that goal.

While I don't know the details of Lily West's platform to fight tuition increases and represent the interests of students statewide, I hope it involves more than just the resuscitation of a now defunct organization — the Carolina Lobby Corps.

Bernard Holloway
Freshman
Political Science

CAA Cabinet applications are now available

TO THE EDITOR:

Applications for positions on the 2004-05 Carolina Athletic Association Cabinet are now available at the CAA office, room 3508F in the Student Union.

Come by and get an application off the folder on the office door at your convenience. They are due by at 3 p.m. Feb. 25. This is your chance to become involved in running the student branch of the UNC Athletic Association.

Positions available include the Homecoming chairmanship and vice chairmanship, Carolina Fever chairmanship and vice chairmanship, Ticket Distribution co-chairmen and many more. We hope for your interest in helping us run CAA in the upcoming year!

William Keith
CAA president-elect

Lindsay Strunk
CAA vice president

DTH at fault for diminished stature of Student Congress

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in response to the editorial entitled "A Belated Effort" from Thursday's paper. The Daily Tar Heel has said Student Congress has lost its "esteem and respect" and places the blame squarely on Congress. Yet, before the DTH begins to point fingers it ought to take a hard look at itself.

I was recently a candidate for Student Congress from the South Campus district. During the campaign I read the DTH every day in order to stay up to date on current events and issues facing Student Congress. Over the course of about a month I was only able to find a handful of articles related to Congress. Yet, I knew that every week members of Congress were meeting to conduct student busi-

ness, whether it was in full session or in committee. Student Congress was making news all along — the DTH simply wasn't reporting it.

Also, the morning after Election Day I woke up and quickly grabbed a copy of the DTH. I was anxious to find out who my colleagues would be in Congress next year. The paper reported no news of the congressional races; not even a tally of the votes in each district.

So I pose this question: How does the DTH expect students to "demand" anything of their elected representatives if the leading news organization on campus won't even publish election results?

The DTH has an important role to fulfill in the campus political dialogue. In terms of Student Congress, I feel it has yet to do so.

Luke Farley
Freshman
Peace, War and Defense

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.

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