

EDITORIALS

PROCEED WITH CARE

Local residents should not automatically reject the idea of a Wal-Mart in Chatham County, but developers should listen to various concerns.

Kirk Bradley probably wasn't sitting in a field in Chatham County, hearing a voice whisper, "If you build it, they will come."

When his company decided to develop a plan for a shopping center outside of Chapel Hill, the idea probably came to him in a less schizophrenic and clichéd way, but Bradley, the CEO of Lee-Moore Oil Company, probably wasn't banking on a movie-like struggle to build a Wal-Mart.

The company has filed papers with the N.C. Department of Transportation to build a large shopping center off of U.S. 15-501 between Chapel Hill and Pittsboro, causing some Orange County and Chapel Hill-Carrboro leaders to become uneasy and drawing complaints from local residents.

Despite the concerns, a shopping center could be a positive addition to the area. The division between Pittsboro and Chapel Hill is being bridged slowly, but surely, especially after the popularity of Southern Village and the growth of the Chapel Hill town limit.

Many Chapel Hill residents are moving south, and many of the people who work in Chapel Hill are commuting from the Pittsboro area, especially given the challenges of affordable housing in Chapel Hill. These people could benefit from a shopping plaza to

make life more convenient.

The complaints from residents are mixed. Some are expected, such as Wal-Mart destroying the character of downtown. The Wal-Mart in Hillsborough has not destroyed the character of that town, and the one on the Durham-Chapel Hill border has not hit Franklin Street as much as The Streets at Southpoint in Durham did.

Other concerns include scrutiny of the low-price retailer's treatment of workers, but even the University, the lifeblood of this area, has had problems with that for generations. Plus, all of these issues are coming up across the nation with Wal-Mart.

However, Lee-Moore and any other developers need to take other concerns seriously. The company needs to be sure that 15-501, which has been under construction for years, can handle the traffic such a center would bring. Also, they should be sure to reject traditional Wal-Mart design models and opt for tasteful architecture that complements the historic nature of this area.

The debate surrounding this shopping center and Wal-Mart, in particular, is just brewing. In fact, most students will not be here to see the resolution. However, it has the potential to enhance the experience for both students and residents.

WE STILL TRUST ROY

UNC fans should support Coach Roy Williams despite media reports that have unfairly portrayed his tenure at the University of Kansas.

Many Duke fans and jaded Jayhawks were happy with the news last week. Popular opinion was taking a stab at the man, myth and legend — Roy Williams.

On July 15, the University of Kansas announced the findings of its athletic department's most recent internal review, which negatively mentioned men's basketball coach Roy Williams, who was at Kansas for 14 years before coming to UNC in 2003.

Williams allegedly gave three athletic boosters the green light to reward former players with graduation gifts in 2001, 2002 and 2003. As a result of this news, national hysteria has turned its attention to Roy Williams. Media coverage has painted him as a sneaky, corrupt coach, and those who believe such hype should be just as ashamed as the people reporting it.

The news story should have been that the University of Kansas announced it was imposing probation on itself due to errors in the football and women's basketball programs that included unauthorized test preparation for athletes and violations in recruiting practices.

The basketball infractions were far less important in comparison, and they probably would not have made major news tickers at all if Roy and the boys

hadn't won the national championship.

Williams admits that mistakes were made, and if you read his statements and the report itself, you'll see they were just that. He didn't know the rule was "once a student-athlete, always a student athlete." The real blame lies with Kansas' compliance office, which should have mentioned this to Williams.

Also, the report lists a violation that occurred before Williams even went to Kansas in 1988. You can't blame the man for something that happened before he even got there.

But if the honor of Roy isn't defended by the facts, his actions after the fact are remarkable. He admitted his mistakes, put them in perspective and even mentioned minor infractions that the media has avoided, including the fact that one recruit got overpaid 14 cents for travel reimbursement.

UNC Chancellor James Moeser and Athletic Director Dick Baddour have stuck behind Roy during this controversy, and all students and fans of Tar Heel basketball should join them in doing the same.

We shouldn't let jealousy destroy how we think of our storied program and its humble, but successful, coach. At least he's not on television selling credit cards and mediocre cars.

SETTING A NEW BAR

Guest columnist feels that N.C. lawmakers should continue restricting lobbyist spending to ensure that the legislative process remains fair.

Money doesn't necessarily buy votes in North Carolina, and there are very few legislators who will change their votes based solely on donations and lobbying spending. However, organizations with money behind them have an undeniable advantage in the media and in drawing the attention of legislators.

For example, there are 193,000 students in the UNC system, but, according to news reports, there are about 100 donors to Citizens for Higher Education, a small group of UNC alumni with large bank accounts. Yet the big-spending organization has clearly gained the attention of many N.C. legislators — donating over \$360,000 in the last election cycle and attaching their platform to the state budget.

Until recently, North Carolina has been slow in regulating spending by lobbyists. Direct expenditures on campaign contributions and issue-related lobbying must be reported, while unlimited "goodwill" spending goes unreported. Its use is extensive and applies to most dinners and entertainment to build relationships and support with legislators. And there's a reason why membership in the N.C. Professional Lobbyists Association comes with a half-off guest discount at the Raleigh Country Club.

Although lobbyists have expressed various posi-

GINNY FRANKS
GUEST COLUMNIST

tions on this issue, according to Christie Barbee with the state lobbyists group, the over-arching message from is "Tell us what the rules are and we will comply. Just make the rules apply across the board."

Setting a standard gives everyone the same rule-book to play by. Requiring the reporting of gifts and lobbying expenditures and setting definite boundaries is the best way to restore voter faith in the legislative process. It also improves the public perception of the advocacy profession and provides a level playing field for all organizations and lobbyists.

Legislators, lobbyists, the public and the legislative process benefit the most when the process is fair, accountable and transparent. In making major changes to goodwill spending, and adding a "cooling off" period for former legislators becoming legislative consultants, N.C. lawmakers have shown a willingness to bring the state up to the standard set by others and expected by North Carolinians.

Money may not buy votes in North Carolina, but just as important is that money doesn't even seem to buy votes.

EDITORS' NOTE: The above editorials, with the exception of the guest column, are the opinions of solely The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board, which were reached after open debate. The board consists of three board members, the editorial page editor and the DTH editor. The 2005 summer DTH editor decided not to vote on the board and not to write board editorials.

READERS' FORUM

Action for workers' rights has not stopped during the summer

TO THE EDITOR:

Our campus could not function without the workers in Lenoir Dining Hall, the Ram's Head Center and the other campus dining facilities. Therefore, we as students have the responsibility to make sure that workers are fairly treated and can work in a place without fear of harassment, discrimination or intimidation.

Aramark Corp., the company that manages dining hall employees, has a long history of worker mistreatment, which is why employees and students have been pushing for the establishment of a union to enable them to negotiate for improved working conditions.

Work relations in the dining halls have not improved this summer. Workers are overworked and underpaid. Also, it has been reported that workers who have been temporarily laid off for the summer are not getting proper unemployment compensation due to administrative error.

A union would give workers a voice, and the workers deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

Together, we can make a difference. Students can talk to workers about their concerns, educate the campus, and par-

ticipate in solidarity actions.

If you are interested in joining the campaign to end the mistreatment of the dining hall workers, you can join Student Action with Workers.

Meetings are held this summer each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. in the Campus Y, and you can visit our Web site for more information at www.uncsolidarity.org.

Faith Everett
Junior
African and Afro-American Studies

Issue of slavery more complex than popular history depicts it

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to respond to Jon Albrecht's comments in the July 7 Readers' Forum. Mr. Albrecht asked that people know the facts before suggesting North Carolina joined the Confederacy to fight for freedom. He should consider that there is more to the issue than he may be aware.

The preservation of slavery was not the only issue being contended on the battlefield. If it were, we might expect that the U.S. would have immediately abolished slavery in the four slave-holding states that remained in the Union.

Northern states and cities might have welcomed blacks from the South rather than forbid them from settling there — as was done in numerous locations. Before the war, President Lincoln himself proffered to protect slavery. Can we say the U.S. fought to abolish slavery when the U.S. Constitution sanctioned it until after the war?

Yes, slavery was an abomination, North and South; I did not intimate otherwise. But given numerous inconsistencies with today's "slavery only" school of thought, to suggest North Carolina fought for freedom against oppressive government is not making a "watered-down" claim. Nor does such a claim make light of the sufferings of slaves, North or South.

David Robinette
Employee
Microbiology and Immunology Dept.

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 vulgarities. 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.

ON THE DAY'S NEWS

"Closing time — every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."

SEMISONIC, AMERICAN ROCK GROUP

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Philip McFee, pip@email.unc.edu



COMMENTARY

Six things I wanted to write on but never got around to

In seven months as a columnist for The Daily Tar Heel, I have tried to share bits of my admittedly complex views on the intellectual, moral and social life of the University and nation.

However, 17 columns have only allowed me to scratch the surface of what I've wanted to share with you, so in this, my last appearance as a columnist in the DTH, I present the things I was dying to write about but never got around to:

■ Deciding not to run for student body president was the best decision I've made. Student politics is nothing but a den of bipolar politics, fragile people who nurse their self-esteem through megalomaniac actions. Most of the so-called student leaders could care less about improving the University or the community; it's all about them, their popularity with administrators and their resumés.

Those who are genuinely passionate and talented encounter difficulty finding a niche on campus. They don't usually have the low morals to win elections, and they have too much backbone to get "yes man" appointments.

So, these humble servants toil in the background, completing groundbreaking projects with little to no recognition.

This is why I want to salute the most overlooked but true leaders of UNC during my time here — former Student Body Vice President Rebekah Burford; Anup Dashputre, founder of the Safe Ride Program — which has saved countless lives in Chapel Hill; and Emran Huda, my former Spanish 3 classmate who took time from his studies to serve our country in Iraq.

They don't get the accolades, but the poor saps who are planning runs for student body president should take note from these folks, as opposed to the so-called leaders in office.

■ Being firm is one thing, but being mean is a bad way to be a leader, no matter what. I had to learn that the hard way, and I'm still apologizing.

■ Love is completely irrational, and trying to make sense of it is



DERWIN DUBOSE
FROM THE DIRT ROAD

foolish. True, it can elude you for years, but those who are patient realize it can change your life.

But since love is crazy, you have to be prepared for the rough parts. She may tell you she's too busy when she's actually with a junior varsity athlete. She might not respond to your three-page letter or 10-minute, love-confessing oration in Players.

Although you've treated her like a queen, she might not ever see you outside of the purgatory that is the "friend zone." And if all else fails, you may be simply not good enough for her friends and family.

Regardless, you can't become jaded, cynical or crotchety. You can't let fear of failure cripple you.

A wonderful opportunity could be staring at you with the most beautiful smile you've seen in ages. This could very well be the one that ends happily, ladies and gents, but it's already failed if you don't forget the past and go for it.

■ No matter what a liberal tells you, Barack Obama will not be the first black president. In fact, there will never be an African American commander in chief in our lifetimes.

Face it; the black community has tons of work to do if we are going to ever gain true political leverage. We can start by telling the Rev. Al Sharpton and the Rev. Jesse Jackson to stop embarrassing us.

Instead of pushing the "blame white" rhetoric, calling for reparations or boycotting, we need to accept the harsh reality that it is up to blacks to fix most of the problems within our community.

How powerful could blacks be if we could harness the Sharpton-Jackson hot air to create nationwide programs that deal with the fact that a quarter of blacks have no health insurance?

What if we supported more black-owned businesses and lobbied for a living wage and more attractive options for affordable housing?

What if we asked our kids to pull up their pants, use correct English and realize that Condoleezza Rice and Colin Powell are bigger heroes than Jay-Z, 50 Cent and even Raymond Felton?

What if we actively tried to find an alternative to affirmative action, which probably hurts us more than it helps?

Call me a black conservative, but I believe we can't expect to have immense political success until we clean our own closet.

■ The friendships you make in college will change your life forever. I thank God for people like Josh Patterson and Susan Hallman, my personal editorial board, who have helped me reach my full potential.

■ Columnists are people too. I've gotten officially dissed by a sorority, received at least 50 nasty e-mails, had random profanity hurled at me during parties and dragged into Honor Court by a bitter former student body president candidate just because I've expressed my opinions.

I admit my thoughts may have seemed crazy throughout the months. I'm a political moderate with a hot temper, so you never know what I'm going to say next. Hell, that's even true in real life — ask my roommates.

But regardless, don't be too harsh on us folks. We're people just like you — with the same hopes, fears, problems and feelings.

We just want to share our opinions with you each week because writing is our passion. If you don't like it, we understand. After all, the point of the editorial page is discourse. If someone didn't disagree with us on the important issues, what's the point of this newspaper, this University or higher education, for that matter?

I might as well drive back to that closed-minded, backwater dirt road in Alabama. Grandma says the lumber mill is hiring.

Contact Derwin Dubose at derwin.dubose@gmail.com.

The Daily Tar Heel

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