

LAST WORD

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explain the exact course of events as it happened, but have failed judging by some of the portrayals in the media and the misconceptions many still carry in relation to the entire brouhaha.

To avoid a competition for good press, we issued our final statement on the details of the situation Friday. (It's posted on my blog on the Web site — <http://apps.daily-tarheel.com/blogs/editor.php>.)

This column is a more loosely worded version of that.

Bandes was not dismissed because of the content of her column or because it sparked an outrage that could be quantified as the largest in our history. (Our Web site hits on Friday beat the day after last April's national championship as the most we've ever had.)

She was not dismissed because someone on staff may hold different ideological views than her own.

She was not dismissed because of the content of any previous columns; because of prior employer relations; or to avoid being sued.

Bandes was let go because she violated the two things we value most as a newspaper.

Her column was gathered inaccurately and, because of poor quote

selection and placement in the body of the article, her column was an inaccurate reflection of her sources — an act against which we have a zero-tolerance policy. The misrepresentation caused her sources to receive death threats, and it cast their views in a false light. It deserved immediate and severe action.

Some would argue the content was in poor taste. But the issue in dismissing her was that the brand of journalism employed in writing the column was in poor taste.

Since the dismissal, some have called me an opponent of the First Amendment and a censor but to use the phrase I seem to have repeated 24 hours a day since the column ran: 'Nothing could be further from the truth.'

I stand behind the decision to run Bandes' column on the principle that our columnists are free to publish their own commentary so long as it is accurate and fair.

Were the column to have been about the racial profiling of another group or a similarly incendiary topic, people have asked me, would we have run it?

The answer is yes — as long as it was accurate, fair and relevant.

I do not have to agree with the content of columns to run them. We establish standards for column writing and topic selection during

the hiring process. Basically: free reign but remember the audience.

I concern myself with whether columns, like everything else, are fairly reported and accurate.

Bandes failed on both of these accounts.

She used quotes out of context and linked them — in the most direct way via the word 'that' — with her own commentary which the sources had not agreed to and do not agree with.

She misrepresented the goal of her column in gathering it. Is it OK to change the angle of a story once you've begun to report something? Yes, we do it all the time. In this situation we found that the column was gathered in a deceptive way.

But not all the blame rests with Bandes.

Coletta did ask her in editing the column if the now controversial sections that link her thoughts with her sources were "fair."

The only other option would have been to call her sources.

Micromanaging our staffers but assuring that red flags check out is a tight line to walk.

I come down on the side of trust — that we have to trust our staffers to bring us the correct information in the fairest way. It doesn't always happen but I have to send that message, until that trust is violated.

And that's why last Wednesday Coletta and I skipped all classes and spoke with Bandes' sources and Bandes, investigating the claims that the piece was inaccurate.

We found that it was and the decision was then made that she would be dismissed. She chose to be dismissed instead of resigning — a choice that would have allowed her one last column.

Thus it happened, and now we move on. We move on with the experience of becoming the focus of a national media craze. We move on after losing many readers and being disowned by many alumni.

We move on with the knowledge that when we mess up, we have to 'fess up. We move on with more tools to prevent this sort of thing from happening again.

We hope you stay with us.

Contact Ryan Tuck at rtuck@email.unc.edu.

TEXTBOOKS

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and I didn't make the final decisions until later in the summer," she said.

George Rabinowitz, a professor of political science, also was late in ordering.

"I try to survey what's out there," he said. "I often wind up with stuff I've used before, but I spend most of the summer looking for other options."

While students benefit from having the best available textbooks, they also pay the price for the search.

Craig Oates, a sophomore biology major, echoed the sentiments of several students who said finding the perfect book was not worth the inflated price.

"The professor can teach just as well as the book can," he said. "You don't really need a top-of-the-line textbook to go with it."

For those professors who wish to keep seeking out better books, Rabinowitz has words of wisdom.

He said he takes advantage of new edition release years to look at other books. The students would need to buy a new book either way that year, so that is the best time to search.

Textbook companies are another contributor to high book costs, Hanner said.

Packaging books with workbooks, lab manuals, CD-ROMs and frequently issuing new editions contribute to high book prices.

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

DRIVE

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hopes to continue its relief efforts. "We are exploring possible ways to stay involved in the relief effort, but we're just not sure yet."

Julia Shalen, co-chairwoman of Student Government's public service and advocacy committee, said the relief effort was successful and that she is pleased to see so many organizations come together.

Representatives from the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity, College Republicans, Young Democrats and various athletes aided in Carolina Katrina Relief.

"This is a good example of a lot of different organizations being able to come together," Shalen said.

She added that all the programs for raising money have been a learning process for how to coordinate effective programs on short notice.

"We've tried to put together the best events possible with the amount of time," Shalen said. "Anything would go better if we had more time to prepare for."

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SHELTER

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shelter have a long-term plan.

She said many of the people at the shelter now are deciding what to do, and the staff will help them as needed. "We're assigning case managers to deal with them personally," Martin said.

Social workers and case managers will make sure shelter residents have filed for all available benefits and have found housing before leaving, according to a Friday press release.

While some people were able to obtain their own housing, there are a few options for those can't.

Martin said people have donated extra homes or apartments for people to use temporarily.

They also are working to help people who plan to return to the Gulf Coast area find ways to sign shorter leases on apartments or houses.

And, if necessary, the Red Cross will be able to house people in area hotels.

Brown said the goal is to get people back on the road to self-sufficiency and living on their own again.

"No one will be put out on the street, let me assure you of that," she said. "People will be taken care of."

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ENDORSEMENTS

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good," she said. "The community at large can't always keep up with everything."

Ryan said that in Carrboro, the endorsements of the Independent Weekly and the Sierra Club — which saw all their selections succeed in 2003 — will pack the most punch on Election Day.

"A lot of people in Carrboro have the Indy in their hand," she said. "Those groups are two big players (here)."

Endorsed candidates will benefit from group affiliates eager to canvass the area in hopes of picking up more votes as well as name recognition.

"It can be very effective to have people campaigning for you," Kleinschmidt said. "I could start today and not stop until Election Day and still not talk to every voter."

But the value an endorsement carries must also be weighed with tangible advertisements — signs and brochures.

"To some, endorsements are invisible... but you have to work for them. You have to have a track record," Raymond, a member of Chapel Hill's Technology Board, said.

Though candidates go after as many endorsements as possible, Kleinschmidt said shifting principles to appease a group can kill a campaign's credibility.

"It's tempting for novice politicians to do that," he said. "(But) I hope, for their sake and for the sake of Chapel Hill, they don't do that."

The student body vote, viewed by some candidates as a sleeping giant, could take a cue from University-based activist groups such as SPCH, led by former Student Body President candidate Tom Jensen.

"I think the key thing (behind the SPCH endorsement) is that it provides candidates with volunteers," Jensen said. "You really need a big force out knocking on doors."

Two years ago the group backed the successful campaigns of both Strom and Greene.

But do student groups' endorsements have clout?

"People say, 'That candidate must be really good to draw the attention of students,'" Jensen said.

Kleinschmidt said the group, as an early major endorsement, sets the bar for many other groups.

"Although they look at things through a student's lens, they have a broad appeal," he said.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Ronald T. Blocher

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ACROSS

- 1 Equivalent exchange
- 5 Ominous
- 9 Suspicious
- 14 Mah-jongg piece
- 15 Trademark DOS
- 16 Publication
- 17 Org. of court players
- 18 Distribute
- 19 Trample
- 20 Enchanting jewelry?
- 23 Geometric fig.
- 24 U.S. dance grp.
- 25 Change place cards
- 28 At the location
- 30 Peer Gynt's mother
- 32 Fish eggs
- 33 Narrate
- 35 Polish
- 37 Cultural jewelry?
- 40 Chestnut-and-white horses
- 41 Temperance crusader
- 42 2002 British Open winner
- 43 Showoff performer
- 44 Pushed gently
- 48 Winged insect
- 51 Omelet item
- 52 Harem room
- 53 Deadly jewelry?
- 57 In the midst of
- 59 Kind of dancer
- 60 Bit of a frolic
- 61 Cosmetic item

- 62 Film spool
- 63 Perry's creator
- 64 Bearer
- 65 Besides
- 66 Hip ending?

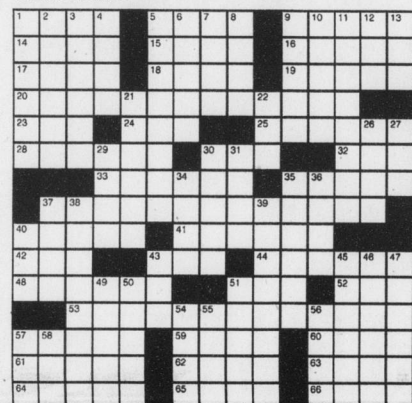
DOWN

- 1 Wall covering
- 2 Dusty Springfield hit, "___ and Hopin'"
- 3 Clerical tables
- 4 Anjou or Bosc
- 5 Thickhead
- 6 Like a couch potato
- 7 Dove or Rudner
- 8 Corp. big shot
- 9 Strong, cotton thread
- 10 Adlai's running mate
- 11 Arcane
- 12 Sailor's drink
- 13 Informal assent
- 21 British moms
- 22 Afore

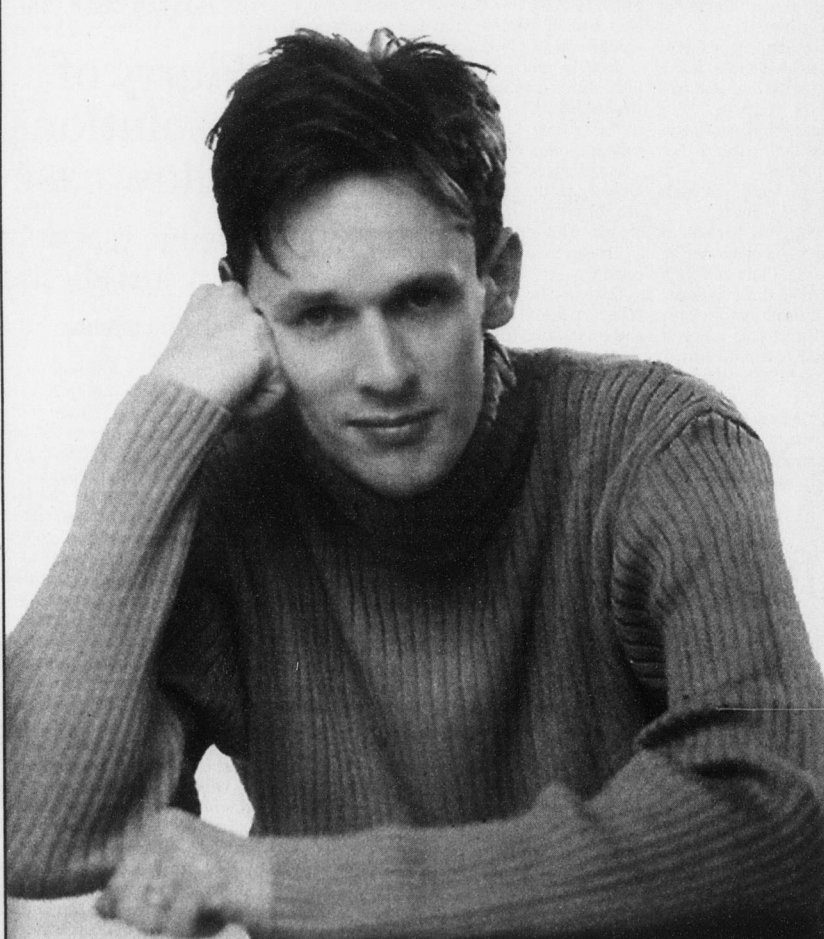
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- 26 First-class
- 27 Start of a hole
- 29 Persia, today
- 30 Peppard series, with "The"
- 31 Offshoot group
- 34 Tolstoy novel, "___ Karenina"
- 35 Shed, as skin
- 36 Cluster of bananas
- 37 Warsaw native
- 38 Removed gently
- 39 Old or Nat followers
- 40 Dixie soldier

- 43 Skirt border
- 45 Mini-racer
- 46 Channel swimmer
- 47 Gertrude
- 48 Closer to black
- 49 Barest hint
- 50 Type of beer
- 51 Perimeters
- 54 Grimm character
- 55 Christmastime song
- 56 Bullfight bravos
- 57 Knack
- 58 Bossy comment?



nothing detracts from the beauty of his tone
 and his enormous range of vocal expression...
 his capacity for stillness makes the quiet moments...breathhtaking

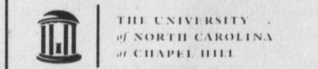


An intense performer with a penetrating stage presence, British tenor Ian Bostridge has rapidly become one of classical music's finest singers, making several notable recordings ranging from German Lieder (influenced by Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau) to French songs, Britten and Vaughan Williams. The evening's performance features an all-Schubert program and Bostridge is joined on piano by Julius Drake.

IAN BOSTRIDGE & JULIUS DRAKE

Tuesday, September 20
 8pm Memorial Hall
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Experience
 THE TRANSFORMATION



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Ragen's visit and lecture are made possible by a grant from the Charles H. Reuson Foundation in honor of Eli N. Evans, '58.