

BOARD EDITORIALS

A WI-FI WONDERLAND

Wireless internet access along Franklin Street would be a boon to both the University and town communities — and also good for businesses.

DEDC, or the Downtown Economic Development Corporation, rebranded itself as the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership on Monday. While we're sure that the board wanted to disassociate itself from a certain Middle Eastern body of water, there are other, more pressing issues that we would like the corporation — sorry, partnership — to look at. Such as bringing wireless internet access to Franklin Street, for instance.

The partnership has talked a lot about setting up wireless in the past year but has done little to nothing so far. It's not because there's opposition to the plan — Student Body President Seth Dearmin told us, "Everybody wants this to happen." The University, the town and local business owners all stand to gain. If students can do their work and check their e-mail at local businesses, they'll spend more time — and money — on Franklin Street. A lot of students are excited about the initiative, and we can't understand why the partnership isn't pushing harder.

Luckily, we're not alone in this opinion. Board of Trustee member Roger Perry and Mayor Kevin Foy, both CHDP members, called on the board to put up

or shut up on the issue. Perry called on the partnership to "organize this thing, provide the seed money for this thing or quit talking about it."

Carrboro doesn't have as many resources as Chapel Hill, and yet it's already providing limited free wireless access, making its sister town's paralysis more glaring.

The partnership isn't alone. UNC's Information Technology Services doesn't seem to think it's much of a priority, either. Dearmin, who made wireless access on Franklin Street one of his campaign planks, said that "there's been no real cohesion between the two groups." ITS is more concerned with expanding wireless on campus and doesn't see itself getting around to Franklin Street for "one to two years."

That's ridiculous, and it could be done by the time classes start next fall if someone would take the initiative and answer Perry's call to action.

As for Dearmin himself, he admitted to us that he hasn't been pushing very hard, either — but that he and the other players "are gonna catch up and talk."

We hope so. But we also hope that the next meeting of the CHDP results in something more tangible than more talk.

JUMPING THE GUN

UNC Board of Trustees members need to consider more carefully a new resolution that would grant significant new power to the chancellor.

Yesterday, the University's Board of Trustees held a meeting wherein it passed a resolution — unanimously — to give Chancellor James Moeser the power to count out-of-state students on full scholarships as in-state for tuition purposes. Although the N.C. General Assembly OK'd that setup earlier this summer, it is just a bad idea.

The resolution allows Moeser to officially recognize entities as those providing full scholarships. Students given full rides by those various institutions would then be counted as in-state for tuition purposes — allowing for more Pogues, Robertsons, Moreheads and any other flavor of full-scholarship student because of the lower costs incurred. In addition, the trustees require that the raw number of in-state students not decrease.

But the idea is a dangerous one. For starters, investing so much power into an individual might not be the wisest approach. While Moeser might have a vision of a fairly distributed status to allow in more gifted students, who knows what the chancellor after him might do? Future chancellors might deign to give cheaper in-state scholarships only to athletes, to music students or to any other arbitrary group of stu-

dents that they would favor over others on campus.

Secondly, the revenue gap caused by lower tuitions for students receiving full scholarships would not take care of itself. But North Carolina law says it has to be revenue neutral, so our enrollment growth would have to be disrupted in order not to lose money or in-state students.

Though it was a good call for the board to add a provision requiring that the number of North Carolinians at UNC not decline, a small safeguard cannot save what is an inherently flawed program. If the new initiative were applied capriciously or helped to distract the University, it would still have a negative effect overall no matter how many native students were in attendance.

The BOT's heart is in the right place, but the trustees need to go back to the drawing board and come back to the table with a carefully considered plan. Entrusting power to an individual is a recipe for inefficiency or disaster, and a plan to keep the policy revenue neutral should be discussed before implementing the policy. It has the potential to box in the University to a growth scheme that might or might not be the most desirable.

A NEEDED JOURNEY

America's space program has stagnated for long enough — it's time for NASA to give Americans a reason to be excited about space again.

Maintaining optimism in the face of current events has been difficult as of late. The situation in Iraq is less than optimal, hurricanes are reminding humanity of the limitations of technology, and our student body president is playing the quiet game on tuition. Amongst all this angst, it is getting harder to get any sense of progress. But NASA is preparing to inspire us in the way we need — it announced it is developing a plan to return to the moon by 2018.

The return to the moon is part of the challenge of eventually being able to send an expedition to Mars — a mission that President Bush set out for NASA last year. These are the first real details of a plan to get anyone to Mars. Essentially, returning to the moon is the first step in reaching the red planet — another age-old dream.

No matter what naysayers will tell you, it is exciting that we live in a time where such plans can be envisioned and come to fruition in less than two decades.

It has been more than 30 years since NASA has seen astronauts on the moon — a long absence given its significance. As we enjoy all our technological

convenience and indulge in the comforts of cynicism, perhaps we have forgotten how impressive it is to leave this planet and go to another celestial body.

Actually, it's supercool. We sent people across hundreds of thousands of miles and explored the moon. And now we could take the next step and cross millions of miles to drive around Mars.

The benefits of finding new resources on the moon and on Mars are great. And NASA in its push to explore has brought great technologies back home — Velcro, global positioning satellites and Teflon are among the examples. The economic benefits are well established. Such extraordinary undertakings will surely yield some new innovations.

Going to the moon and then to Mars is not about reaping economic rewards. Exploring our surroundings and pushing toward new frontiers is in our nature. Americans have always been pioneering and creative as a nation. There is no better way to increase our national prestige and demonstrate what humanity can do than to restart our space program.

Now is a time for inspiration, a time to focus on our accomplishments and what we can do. Now is a time to reach for the stars.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above editorials are the opinions solely of The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board and were reached after open debate. The board consists of four board members, the associate opinion editor, the opinion editor and the DTH editor. The 2005-06 DTH editor decided not to vote on the board and not to write board editorials.

✓+ The area's annual Car Free Day CHECK PLUS

While not always practical for day-to-day living needs, Car Free Day helps to raise awareness that cars can create a lot of headaches — something anyone who has visited a gas station recently can attest to first hand.

✓ Sticking it to the chancellor, again CHECK

The "Stick it to the Moese" event in the Pit this week is a student government tradition that has the potential to work. But students need to take advantage of the chance to make their concerns heard if they want to see action.

✓- Hard benches and "giving kiosks" CHECK MINUS

The town of Chapel Hill's idea of using uncomfortable benches and so-called "giving kiosks" to replace panhandlers is a ridiculous one. If the town wants change, it needs to come up with good ideas — not just different ones.

READERS' FORUM

DTH list on textbook orders wasn't fair to all instructors

TO THE EDITOR:

Every now and then The Daily Tar Heel has an impulse to perform services to the students in disguise, only to end up disserving them along with those mentioned in the articles. My name was listed in Thursday's editorial section. The DTH claims that textbook prices in Student Stores have soared recently because the professors are late in submitting the textbook orders. They urge students to confront these professors on their tardiness. The DTH goes on to name names, yet they do not hesitate to consider whether these names should actually be listed. My "good excuse" for the tardiness is that I did not know what my Fall assignment was until July — but who cares? It is a "disrespectful trend" nonetheless.

The editorial does a disservice to the students by not pointing out the real culprit while shifting the blame on the professors.

Student Stores' profit margin on textbooks is very high. Yes, of course the profit goes to the scholarship funds. Nevertheless, the students should ask themselves whether they would rather contribute to the common scholarship funds or if they would like to save money on books.

The September deadline is

unreasonable. Maybe The Daily Tar Heel can do an exposé on the registrar's office next week that reveals the egregiousness of their late registration deadline and its impact on the cost of textbooks.

In all seriousness, however, journalists should bring the readers information from all sources and points of view before passing on the blame and playing the name game.

Syed Saad
Graduate Student
Economics

Harsher deadline policies could save students money

TO THE EDITOR:

I have a solution to the late textbook-selection problem. The administration should simply change the rules to forbid faculty from ordering textbooks after the buyback period. Exceptions could be made for new courses or sections added during the summer. If the professor doesn't submit their textbooks selections on time, they will be forced to use the same textbook used the previous year, and Student Stores can buy back books accordingly.

Sure, they may not get to use the "perfect" book, but they can order early for the next semester. I bet once professors realize there are

FROM THE DAY'S NEWS

"... Human nature is whenever you change things, there's opposition to it."

JIM ALTY, UNC DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES SERVICES, ON PROPOSED TEAM CLEANING POLICY

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Philip McFee, pip@email.unc.edu

HOLDING ON UNIVERSITY CIRCUS! ONE-WEEK SUSPENSION FOR ...



COMMENTARY

Students should give new culinary experiences a shot

If you were trying to go out to dinner Saturday night on Franklin Street, chances are you were confronted with insane traffic, nowhere to park and large pre-gaming crowds — in short, a regular carnival of delays and irritations seemingly designed specifically to make evening outings more difficult.

There are many advantages to living in a college town, but sometimes we just need to get away from the campus area. It's also a great way to expand one's knowledge of local restaurants.

Saturday, we ended up at the Occaneechee Farm Steak House in Hillsborough, about a 10- to 15-minute drive from the campus area. The exterior is a sprawling, inviting brown house, complete with a front porch. It's the dressed-down, down-home way to get your steak fix.

The menu runs the gamut from steaks to chicken to burgers. There's also a buffet option and live jazz music every Saturday night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Occaneechee also features a full bar for your cocktail pleasure.

With a leisurely, casual atmosphere and friendly service, Occaneechee offers a nice change of pace from Franklin — Hillsborough is definitely an exotic dining atmosphere for any student who wants to get away.

Take Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard to I-40 West, take exit 261 and turn right onto Churton Street. The steakhouse is on the left near the Hardee's — an easy landmark for those unfamiliar with Hillsborough's rather simple topography.

Sometimes going off the beaten path is about seeing a place in a new light. Firebirds over at The Streets of Southpoint isn't one of those obscure, little-known places, but senior Jeremy Spivey points out that while it's good for a meal, it's also one of the most



AMY ROSSI
LIFE OF SPICE

underrated places around to enjoy quality drinks.

Other times, students just need a change of pace. Several people I spoke with liked the options offered along U.S. 15-501. Senior James Brice says Owen's 501 Diner often includes a broad section of the nearby community.

John Crabill, my boss and an Orange County resident, has a few recommendations for those who are looking to travel beyond that protective campus bubble.

There are lots of places to get sushi around campus, but Oishii — on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard in the Timberlyne Shopping Center — offers around 40 different kinds of delicious rolls as well as a very friendly and helpful staff. Oishii is distinct enough to make a good evening out, and casual enough to make it a good spur-of-the-moment pick for indecisive friends.

In the mood to be surprised? Just ask for something special.

Crabill told me about going into Oishii during the NCAA Tournament and asking for "March Madness rolls." The sushi chef whipped something up that elicited such raves from the group that, as they were leaving, another person ordered those same rolls.

It just goes to show that trying new things once in a while can be rewarding. Even the odd bad choice can be outweighed by the excitement of a new discovery that soon can turn into an old favorite.

Continue down N.C. 86 and you'll find Allen and Son, a tiny

barbecue place nestled in the winding, tree-lined road between Chapel Hill and Hillsborough. There's another Allen and Son on 15-501 toward Pittsboro and apparently a heated debate is afoot about which is best.

Aside from serving great North Carolina barbecue, Allen and Son has an expansive array of delicious desserts that make an excellent conclusion to any meal. Just be aware that the restaurant is closed Sunday and Monday.

Another way to travel away from the typical and into the extraordinary is to try a new culinary experience.

Dim sum is definitely a different way to enjoy a meal, and the dishes often extend beyond standard Chinese food fare.

My roommate over the summer took me to Hong Kong Chinese Restaurant on Guess Road in Durham for an early lunch on a Sunday. Cart after cart passed us, each crammed with plates holding just enough for a taste.

You take a look and decide yes or no. Servers rarely have time to stop and explain what exactly each dish is. While it can be comforting to know exactly what you are eating, part of the dim sum experience is its fast pace and more adventuresome cuisine choices from which to pick.

Though going on an afternoon drive for the sake of seeking out new foods and frontiers is a little difficult right now — rising gasoline prices can put the squeeze on food and travel budgets — it's always great to have a new place to go when you want to celebrate a birthday, the night of a big football game or just to show off a different part of this area to a visitor.

Contact Amy Rossi, a senior majoring in communication studies, at amrossi@email.unc.edu.

Speak Out

We welcome letters to the editor and aim to publish as many as possible. In writing, please follow these simple guidelines: Keep letters under 300 words. Type them. Date them. Sign them; make sure they're signed by no more than two people. If you're a student, include your year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff: Give us your department and phone number. The DTH edits for space, clarity, accuracy and vulgarity. Bring letters to our office at Suite 2409 in the Student Union, e-mail them to editdesk@unc.edu, or send them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27515. All letters also will appear in our blogs section.

The Daily Tar Heel

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