

BOARD EDITORIALS

HAPPY 212TH, UNC

Students, faculty and staff should make arrangements to attend today's University Day festivities, which start at 11 a.m. in Memorial Hall.

On this day 212 years ago, some of North Carolina's most prominent public leaders gathered on mud-soaked ground to lay the cornerstone for a building most everyone reading this editorial knows quite well.

The building, of course, was — and is — Old East, the oldest public university structure in the United States.

Two years later, UNC opened its doors to students, and North Carolina's first great public experiment was well on its way toward becoming the venerable institution it is today.

To honor that history, students, faculty and staff should do everything they can to make it out to today's University Day festivities. They're the reason classes are canceled between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and while those extra hours of sleep might be tempting, it's not too hard to roll out of bed during the middle of the morning to give a little shout-out to the place that's providing your education.

This is a storied place. Some of the Tar Heel state's most vaunted public servants — visionaries such as University founder William Davie and UNC-system

founder Bill Friday — passed through this place and spent their entire lives making sure the students here today have a place to come for an inexpensive, quality education.

They built a University that crackles with the audacity of youth, that sings with knowledge, that made the school color sky blue so everyone else could understand its limitless boundaries.

As former UNC President Frank Porter Graham said, "There is music in the air of the place."

There are problems at the University. Some of our neighbors say we don't care about their concerns; some of our supporters want us to turn a blind eye to the rest of the state's universities; some of our students feel the pinch of rising costs.

These are all legitimate concerns. Like any good university, we must find a way to solve them.

That still doesn't diminish the weight of the last two-plus centuries, however. They are worth honoring, and taking two hours every year to do so won't kill anyone.

The actual festivities start at 11 a.m. in Memorial Hall. Be there to hail to the brightest star of all — Carolina.

WE CAN DO BETTER

The trio of options for this year's senior class gift lacks the creative touch other graduating classes have demonstrated in past years.

The senior class officers unveiled Monday the top three choices for the gift that the class of 2006 will bestow upon the University.

Unfortunately, the announcement — one of the most important that Senior Class President Bobby Whisnant and Vice President Jenny Peddycord will make during their tenure — was disappointing. The three options show a lack of creativity and originality.

The first idea, a welcome sign in McCorkle Place, would ruin the tranquil feel of the area. It also seems superfluous, as the stone wall that for years and years has symbolically defined campus boundaries makes it pretty obvious you're on UNC's turf.

A gift like the Unsung Founders Memorial, recently put on McCorkle Place, is a good example of how to thoughtfully pay homage to the University while leaving a mark on its outer boundaries. It helps celebrate an important — and overlooked — part of UNC's past. This year's suggestion for the upper quad doesn't do that, and as such, it comes off as tacky.

The second choice — an endowment to help train advisers — is good in theory. But we're skeptical about its ability to actually help the thousands of students

who often feel frustrated by the system. Advising at UNC needs an overhaul; simply throwing money at the problem is akin to treating the symptom, not the disease.

The third and final option — a mural somewhere on campus — strikes us as unoriginal and vague. The campus already has plenty of murals, statues and gardens; while the right project in the right artist's hands could be a great boon, it's just as likely that such a project could fall flat on its face.

This isn't, by the way, just a matter of criticizing for criticism's sake. It's indicative of a larger problem: Most students just don't seem to care. So they didn't give Peddycord and Whisnant good ideas. So we're stuck with a few lame ones.

In the future, let's go for something bold. A middle finger by Morehead Planetarium pointed toward Duke, for example. Or a relocation of the Arc de Triomphe to the Carolina Inn.

Well, maybe not. But some of you out there have good ideas. E-mail them to Whisnant at whisnabl@email.unc.edu, and hopefully, we can pass them down to future leaders.

PEER AT THE FUTURE

The UNC system's work on changing the list of UNC-Chapel Hill's peer institutions includes some good ideas and many well-placed priorities.

It's not quite the most glamorous issue to appear in the news in the last few weeks. But the UNC system's push to create lists of peer universities for all its campuses will have a serious impact on life here in Chapel Hill.

The folks in charge use those lists to help them determine appropriate rates for tuition and faculty salaries, among other key numbers that help shape the University's future.

It's good, then, that the people remaking the list for UNC seem to have their priorities straight.

For example, the core of the list — flagship public universities such as the University of Virginia, the University of California-Berkeley and the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor — remains intact. As it should; UNC looks at that list of public schools when it thinks about tuition policy, and it makes sense that we compare apples to apples in setting costs for the more than 24,000 students here.

The proposed changes, which include removing Southern private schools such as Emory, Vanderbilt and Duke in favor of a more national list, including New York University and the University of Southern California, also ring true. If UNC is truly to become a

leading national institution, its list of peers needs to have a similar focus. The old list, dominated as it is by private Southern universities, is too vulnerable to any educational quirks that the region boasts.

Finally, Provost Robert Shelton has an intriguing idea: The formation of a list of "aspirational peers," which would include elite schools such as Princeton, Yale and Stanford universities.

It's not a bad idea. Obviously, UNC never will be Stanford — nor should it. But giving the University such a high benchmark means we'll never shoot low when we ought to be shooting high; it gives the little Southern school that could the motivation not to rest on its laurels.

Of course, none of these changes will come to anything if they don't gel with what's best for UNC: Keeping tuition low and faculty salaries high. It'd be easy for the UNC-system Board of Governors or individual campus trustees to justify cost hikes by saying "our peers do this"; in fact, that's something trustees here in Chapel Hill have made into an art.

But it seems that if we're to revise our list of peer schools, we ought to have our priorities straight. And that, at least, we're doing well.

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.

READERS' FORUM

Guerrero was needlessly disrespected by protester

TO THE EDITOR:
After attending the Patrick Guerrero lecture Monday, I was deeply frustrated by the lack of respect given to the speaker. While I do not think we should all agree with Mr. Guerrero on his political views, I do believe his lecture adds to a healthier marketplace of ideas — one I know the local LGBT community wants to promote. Throwing pies and pulling fire alarms to disrupt an event do not constitute mature ways of protesting a speaker.

As a gay UNC student, I was hoping to be exposed to new perspectives on sexuality and politics in America. However, were it not for the resolve of Mr. Guerrero, shared by the rest of the audience, a few bad apples could have ruined such an event.

Too often individuals on both sides of the political spectrum demand respect to have their own views heard.

Why then do some choose to be hypocritical, stifling opportunity for others to promote their views? UNC students can do a better job to provide a more grown-up welcome to future guests.

Thomas Cluderay
Editor
Blue & White

Campus community should embrace dialogue, not pies

TO THE EDITOR:
On Monday evening, I attended a speech by the president of Log Cabin Republicans, Patrick Guerrero. I had high expectations going into the event.

While Guerrero's sincere words fulfilled these expectations, the actions of my peers did not. I was dismayed to see fellow supporters of gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender rights attempt to thwart his speech.

An attendee threw a pie at Guerrero and ran for the door; moments later, a fire alarm was pulled forcing us to take the speech onto the front steps of Carroll Hall.

These actions were immature but more importantly show how far some GLBT individuals are from accepting political diversity within their own community.

Incidents like these leave me questioning how the GLBT community will ever get policy changes made in America. Guerrero is using a bipartisan approach to politics and reaching across party lines. Maybe the GLBT community should do the same.

Fabienne Santacroce
Junior
Political Science

UNC should try not to hold major events over breaks

TO THE EDITOR:
I have a bone to pick with the University's administration. Both this year and last year, big campus events have been scheduled during Fall Break. Last year they scheduled Fall Break during Late Night with Roy, and this year Fall Break falls on the weekend of the Virginia football game.

The NCAA rarely surprises schools with when the first day of basketball practice will be.

I'd also like to remind the administration that they raised the athletic fee by \$100 last year and thank them for the way they show their appreciation.

Honestly, you'd think that with all the money we pay them, the administration could at least consider the students wants when planning a schedule. What's next? Will we have the Duke game during Spring Break next year?

Nathan Barber
Junior
Business

Students will be happy with an uncommon performance

TO THE EDITOR:
As a result of some hardworking students and staff, Common is per-

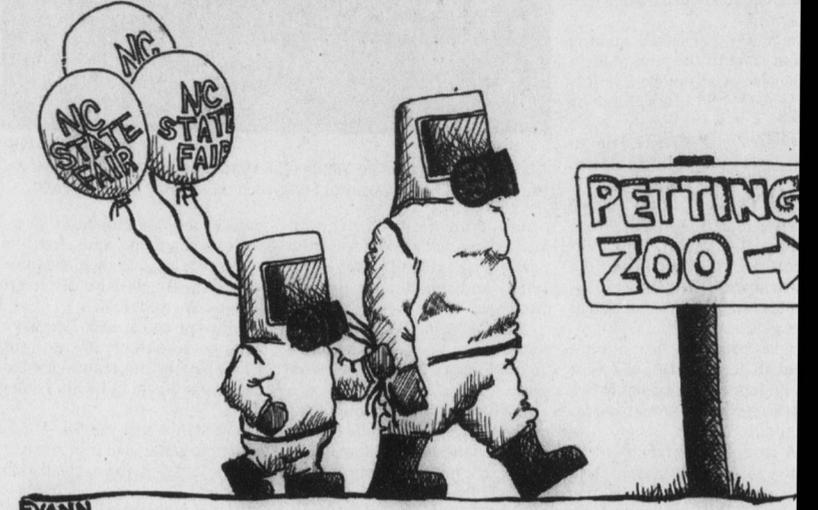
FROM THE DAY'S NEWS

"Twenty years ago, she was a Roman Catholic and she was a Democrat. She's now an evangelical Christian and a Republican"

TIM RUSSERT, NEWSMAN, CONCERNING PRESIDENT BUSH'S CLAIM THAT HARRIET MIERS' VIEWS ARE UNLIKELY TO CHANGE

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Evann Strathern, evann@email.unc.edu



COMMENTARY

In this kooky college town student votes are necessary

Call me a sucker for silly sentimentalism, but I really wish UNC had kept playing those commercials during football games — the ones that profess Charles Kuralt's admiration for the University.

I'm sure you know it: "What is it that binds us to this place as to no other? It is not the well or the bell or the stone walls. Or the crisp October nights or the memory of dogwoods blooming. ... Our love for this place is based on the fact that it is, as it was meant to be, the University of the people."

When I move away from here, I will certainly leave a piece of my heart with the University of North Carolina and its mission.

I'd like to see UNC continue to offer students from across the state the opportunity to get a quality education, regardless of their background.

I'd like for the University to sustain an educational environment that's on the cutting edge of scientific and technological innovation.

And the last thing I want is for some holier-than-thou malcontents to stifle the University's success.

Although I trust that University administrators will probably find a way to get along with anyone who's elected to the Town Council, I would rather see a council that is receptive to the University's needs in serving North Carolina.

Carolina North, the University's proposed research satellite campus, is getting residents up in arms and ready to fight against the growth and traffic that will come along with it. They don't want University expansion, and they're making their stand.

That's why I beseech students to get off their asses, register and vote. Friday is the last day for



JEFF KIM
NO LONGER A VILLAGE

students to register to vote or to change the location of their registration to Orange County.

Students should make their presence felt in local politics because they have a stake in the continued growth and prestige of their university. If they fulfill their civic duty, they could determine how the town and the University will get along for the next several years.

It's really easy — hell, I'll even tell you who to vote for if you want. I'll say right off the bat that Mark Kleinschmidt, Ed Harrison and Laurin Easthom look like the most responsible candidates thus far.

All three of them have said that they would work cooperatively with the University and have demonstrated the poise to do it. (More on that in a future column).

If you would rather take a look for yourself, I'd compel you to search for candidates' profiles on The Daily Tar Heel's Web site. A list of all of the candidates for local races also can be found on the Orange County Board of Elections' Web site.

Getting a grip on what local leaders are thinking is also pretty simple. Many of the players in local politics post on OrangePolitics.org, a local Web site dedicated to local affairs. Regulars include many of the candidates for local races; Gerry Cohen, a former council member and the director of bill drafting for the N.C. General Assembly; and Chris Coletta, the DTH opinion editor.

Once you've armed yourself with that knowledge, the next step is to register — and the vote.

As I said earlier, Friday is the deadline to send in your voter registration form, which is available at <http://www.state.nc.us/pdf/form06.pdf>.

If that's too much effort, you can also Google "North Carolina Voter Registration Forms" to get directly to the form.

Forms are also available in the Davis Library lobby. They should be mailed to: Orange County Board of Elections, P.O. Box 1000, Hillsborough, N.C., 27278.

And don't think that you shouldn't register or vote because you'll move away soon.

If I get my way, I'll be as far from this kooky town as I can get by year now. But one year now, the University will still be here, and there will be students here who share student interests and student values.

At the very least, we always will have the value of our UNC degrees in common.

And if we want the presence of the University to be reflected through our diplomas, we should do what we can to serve its future.

That means protecting the future of Carolina North, and means ensuring that UNC has the flexibility to fulfill its goals.

So register by Friday. Vote early at Morehead Planetarium this month; if you don't, vote Nov. 8. Send the people in charge of Chapel Hill the sort of message they sent during the last election, with a group of candidates hosted by the University got dropped from the ballot.

It's really not too much to

Contact Jeff Kim, a senior economist, at jongdae@email.unc.edu

Speak Out
We welcome letters to the editor and aim to publish as many as possible. Please follow these simple guidelines: Keep letters under 300 words. Date them. Sign them; make sure they're signed by no more than three 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 clarity, accuracy and vulgarity. Bring letters to our office at Suite 2409 in Student Union, e-mail them to editdesk@unc.edu, or send them to P.O. Box 26170, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27515. All letters also will appear in our blogs section.

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