BOARD EDITORIALS

3 FOR ALDERMAN

Jacquelyn Gist, Randee Haven-O'Donnell and Katrina Ryan make up the trio that can best lead Carrboro through the next four years.

th Election Day fast approaching and half of the seats on Carrboro's Board of Aldermen up for grabs, the next few weeks could prove to be decisive in shaping the town's future.

The town, North Carolina's most quirky enclave of liberalism, has a lot at stake. It must maintain its long tradition of protecting the environment, including the Bolin Creek corridor. It needs to find a way to keep the town affordable for lower-class - and increasingly, middle-class - residents. It must continue to reach out to its growing Latino community. It needs to re-establish a downtown identity as developers look skyward. And as UNC's plans for a satellite campus push forward, Carrboro will be an important partner in helping to build a compromise that pleases as many as possible.

The six candidates running all bring good ideas to the table. But three of them are best equipped to address Carrboro's concerns in the coming years.

That's why the editorial board endorses Jacquelyn Gist, Randee Haven-O'Donnell and Katrina Ryan for the Board of Aldermen.

Jacquie Gist

With 16 years as an alderman under her belt, Gist has proven that she knows Carrboro and the issues that the town must address. Her experience will serve Carrboro well, especially as the board loses long-time members Diana McDuffee and Mayor Mike Nelson.

And she knows enough to realize that there are no easy solutions for groups such as the Inter-Faith Council, which recently drew backlash from the business community when it suggested that it might con-solidate its services for the homeless in downtown Carrboro. Her solution to the issue – balancing protection for the homeless with the needs of the business community – shows that her long tenure has attuned her to all of Carrboro's needs.

Gist also is pushing for an improved public transit system — meaning more routes at more times — and has said she'll look at Carrboro's budget to find the money. She also wants to ensure that UNC works with the town to make sure that the southwestern part of the tract – the portion that's in Carriboro – is beneficial for all involved; her track record shows she'll be able to do so. Gist isn't willing to rest on her laurels and deserves another four years

Katrina Ryan

For sheer business and political experience alone, Ryan could prove an important member of the board. But it's her fresh ideas on various topics that make her an exemplary candidate.

Ryan's work in the business community will give her a unique perspective on how to make Carrboro run as a business — streamlined, with high revenue and fewer (or at least reduced) expenditures. She also demonstrates a strong understanding of the area on the personnal to the hermitian the stream.

student concerns. Her proposal to reduce the term for town advisory boards to one year in order to make serving more amenable to students might not be practical, but her insistence that safety and crime are the No. 1 issues for students is dead-on, and she's pledged to look into bolstering the police force. And her insistence that UNC should look into "desirable" campus housing — though something she doesn't have much control over — is a wise one insofar as it could reduce the student influence on the affordable housing market.

Randee Haven-O'Donnell

Perhaps the most "Carrboro" of all the alderman challengers, Haven-O'Donnell boasts an impressive résumé that includes the town planning board, Friends of Bolin Creek and the Recreation and Parks Master Plan Committee. Her learning curve isn't as steep as it would be for other candidates.

And in a town that has made the environment one of its key concerns, Haven-O'Donnell's record is just about impeccable. Her insistence on protecting Bolin Creek and widening buffers around the area — if not purchasing the land outright — gels with the values of her community, and she's put her money where her mouth is through her work with the Friends.

We're not entirely sure how Haven-O'Donnell will work with the University, and that gives us pause. But given her record of getting things done in other arenas, she deserves the benefit of the doubt.

he rest of the pack

David Marshall shows practicality by pushing for tax credits for developers to get affordable housing built. And as an active member of the town, Marshall

- a native of Panama – would be a strong advocate for the Hispanic community. But he faces considerable time constraints as a father, a grad student at Duke University, a law student

at UNC and a reservist in the military. John Herrera, an incumbent, has proven a strong advocate for underprivileged and minority populations. But this campaign season — in which he failed to show up for many election forums and skipped out on the DTH endorsement project — calls into question his desire and ability to serve.

Catherine Devine has a long track record of service which is greatly appreciated by all. But she hasn't given any fresh ideas on any major issues.

ZAFFRON FOR MAYOR

The Carrboro mayoral race is a win-win proposition, but Alex Zaffron - however slightly - has set himself above opponent Mark Chilton.

t's turned into a bit of a joke: Whenever Carrboro aldermen-cum-mayoral candidates Mark Chilton and Alex Zaffron go anywhere, they're asked, "How are you guys different?" The truth, of course, is that on most of the major

issues facing the town — on business, on the recent forced annexation of out-of-towners, on the environment - there just isn't much of a difference to point out. Both have a long record of public service, Chilton beginning in Chapel Hill as a UNC student and Zaffron

as a long-time member of the Board of Aldermen. Either would be a successful mayor. But Zaffron's experience in Carrboro - and his strong push to continue the work of the current aldermen - give him the edge.

For better or worse, Zaffron — who has been on the board much longer than Chilton — will be identified with the work of the last decade-plus. We think it's for the better. Zaffron is unabashed about his push for taller buildings downtown in an effort to bolster the town's commercial tax base; he's taken heat for that decision, but it will make Carrboro a better place to do business and won't require too much of a sacrifice of its small-town

feel. Carrboro's residents already pay the highest

municipal taxes in the state, so anything that can ease that burden is a good idea. That's not to say Chilton fundamentally opposes the ideas. But Zaffron played a key role in putting them into play, and he's the man to see them out. Of course Zoffron also played a main main in dreft

Of course, Zaffron also played a major role in draft-ing policies that need to be updated — notably, some of the town's affordable housing rules and parts of its small area plan for the northwest part of the town. Chilton has pointed out Zaffron's involvement, but — to his credit — Zaffron has called for updates to just about all of those documents. He's willing to admit mistakes and seek ways to move Carrboro forward. On the issue of affordable housing, Chilton has

done much work with nonprofits. But substantively, he's not much different than Zaffron; both want to, as ite vornaular goes, expand the town's toolbox when it works with developers. The bottom line is this: Chilton is a fine candidate.

If you like him, vote for him. But if you like the look and feel of Carrboro now, with a vibrant downtown life that has become the hallmark of the town, then we think that you should vote for Zaffron.

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. Address concerns to Public Editor Elliott Dube at dubee@email.unc.edu.

""I'm doing OK. It takes more than a botched carjacking to keep me down."

CAM'RON, RAPPER, ON BEING SHOT IN HIS LAMBORGHINI ON SUNDAY

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Doug Marlette, Tribune Media Services

"OBJECTION OVERRULED!"

COMMENTARY

Drug war's focus on grass obscures addiction's power

Marijuana, apparently, loads unloaded guns. That's what the public service announcements would have you think, with dramatized cenes and stern voice-overs nearly culminating in a satire of them-selves. The 30-second plot lines are familiar by now: Teenagers get high in a father's office, one finds a gun and in his cloudy cannabis haze is somehow able to accidentally shoot the other.

Never mind, of course, that marijuana-related deaths are almost unheard of. And overlook the fact that while the "war on drugs" spews forth public service anguncements such as bitter drafted soldiers, the war's true casualties remain bleeding in the shadows, their addiction spawn-ier diverses.

ing disease. The Office of National Drug Control Policy has appropriated nearly \$38 million for the 2006 fiscal year not to treat recover-ing addicts or safeguard youth, but to "collect and analyze drug trafficking and related financial investigative information." The strategy appears to be one of nipping drugs in the hydroponic ud, with drug agents bustling like angry nannies into Central America and beyond. An international slap on the wrist, it eems, will cure the nation's

fondness for mind alteration. But while blameless voices waft from the White House, citing ruined lives and troubled youth, those lives are still lying in ruin and the worth house to find and the youth have yet to find solace or salvation.

The iron fist of current drug policy has adopted a zero-tolerance approach that wastes time and resources on the harmless, deflect-ing desperately needed attention from the already harmed.

Some of the nation's finest are rsecuting marijuana mules while heroin addicts drift beyond the narrow scope of bureaucratic



SARA BOATRIGHT KEEP 'EM ON THEIR TOES

concern, leaving fading trails of dirty needles. And when a single pinprick can deliver any number of death sentences, teenagers with bongs seem the least of our national worries. Still, the war on drugs has attacked image before importance, lumping marijuana and methamphetamines together into an incoherent, forbidden stew.

The first step toward an unscathed nation, however, is not to cover its scars but to prevent new wounds. The shields could be as simple as clean syringes.

North Carolina is among the states contemplating needle exchange programs, which, if approved in selected counties, ould allow injecting drug users to trade used syringes for clean ones. For opponents, the proposition is little more than a permission slip, a measure not only approving of drugs but making them easier to administer.

Yet for all the years that the drug war has been raging, the only certainty is that some addicts will remain addicts, despite hand-cuffs and handholds alike. If they must be drug users, the prevention of infectious diseases among

them is a logical first step. It also could be an effective step, as a 1997 survey demonstrated that HIV rates among injecting drug users in cities with needle exchange programs dropped nearly 6 percent per year. For an addict, the prevention of HIV and other diseases is not merely a precaution - it is a chance for redemption. A life left unlimited by deadly

infection is a life that might yet recover and revive, potentially gathering others in its ascent back toward normalcy. The possibility for such a chain reaction, or at minimum the containment of a pandemic, does not require millions of dollars' worth of "investigation." It begins, amply and sim-ply, with a box of fresh needles.

Similar hope lies buried in the red tape of recovery resources overworked nonprofits and harried volunteers often limping along

without a federal support system. The chances for effective heal-ing are often predetermined by a grim equation: Those with money can rehabilitate, those without it cannot.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration estimated outpatient drug treatment costs to be more than \$1,400 per course, a sum that low-income families

simply cannot afford. The only way to be guaranteed affordable treatment by the federal government is to go to prison, where both methadone and tax

dollars often disappear to no avail. Still, the "investigative" budget of the war on drugs outpaces that of disease prevention and areat the programs, and federal agents chase trafficking ghosts while addicts go on dying. There is no moral redemption in this, no targible institut offers to no tangible justice to offer to

America's drug-torn families. Those who see their children, their parents, their siblings and their spouses fallen beneath dirty needles and fractured federal systems cannot fathom the logic of chasing paltry marijuana dealers, nor should they. In its tunnel-vision obsession with the war on drugs, the American government has forgotten how to battle.

Contact Sara Boatright, a junior public relations major, at scb419@email.unc.edu.

The Daily Tar Heel

PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS STAFF

wartz, director/general manager gan Gilchrist, advertising directo Reichle, business manager, Elle hrow, business assistant: Amy

Assistant Editors: Ben Pittard and Tannet Slayden, arts & entertain-ment, Brianna Bishon, Meghan Davis and Jake Potter, ciry, Lindsay Naylor and Leile Watkins, cooy; Rachel Ferguson and Fred Lameck, design; Julia Hunding, features: Bobby Sweatt, graphics; Kurt Genty, multimedia; Clint Johnson, online; Chris Cameron, opinion; Ricky Leung and Alison Yin, Pintorgnahy, Derek Howles, Alica Jones and Ar Killeffer, Sports; Am Egabeburger, Ern Gibson and Ciri, Linhason, state & national; Karts & Entertainment: Becca Marts & Entertainment: Becca More, John Coggin, senior writers; Molard Formelle, Alan McHael and Jenny Ruby, university William Fornelle, Alan McHaelburg, Ern Gloonitz, Stanton Kidd, Beth Mechum, Marta Statowski, Bliar Raynor, Byan Reed, Rachel Richey, Or Shutuh, Mike Sullivan Sean Vontembke and Adam Wright.

er Gipple, Erin Mulfinger, y Mullins, Kate Polichnowski

stant Editors: Ben Pittard and

Ryan Cook, Lizzy Fitzgerald, Jorie Gripman, Mary Kincheloe, Emily McKnight, Jennie See, Katie Slusser, account executives: Advertising Production: Penny Persons, manager, Cindy Huntley, ad ng: Megan Katie Bynum,

EDITORIAL STAFF

Assistant Editors: Ben Pittad and Tamer, Biana Bioto, McGan And David Stan, Astron Karl, Analysis And Jake Potter, Cirk Lindsey, Mayor and Lindsey, Marking, Carlo Miller, Laua Olenia, San Karl, Analysis And Jake Potter, Cirk Lindsey, Mayor and Lindsey, Barden Torge, Barde Torgen, San Street, Analysis, Carlon Gard, King, Marking Carlo Miller, Carlin Miller, San Karl, Karl, Marking Carlo Miller, Laua Olenia, San Stander, Carlon Gard, Cirk Gard, Cirk Mark, Carlin Miller, Jano Marking, Carlo Miller, Laua Olenia, San Stander, Carlon Gard, Cirk Gard, Cirk Hand, Karl, Karl, Marking Carlon, Barte Kindbal, Adan Knedel, Law Dombrows, Nach Being, San Stander, Karlin McLean, Andry San Markan, San King, David San Yu, Padoraga Piter and King Sodak, Britary, Barte, San Stander, Karlin, Bartes, San Stander, Karlin, Karlin, Calle McLean, Mark Hanne, Carlin Miler, San Stander, Carlin, Karlin, Calle McLean, Mark Hanne, Jacore Sandor, Bartes, Sandon Parke, Feighan, Bartes, Barter, Sanana Bower, Jacore Sandor, Bartes, Sandon Parke, Sandor Bartes, Sandon Parke, Sandor Bartes, Sandon Bartes, Sandon Parke, Sandor Bartes, San

The editorials are approved by the majority of the editorial board, which comprises the editor editorial page editor, the associate editorial page editor and seven editorial writers. The Daily Tar Heel is published by the DTH Publishing Corp., a nonprofit North Carolina corporation, Monday-Friday, according to the University calendar. Callers with questions about billing or display advertising should call 962-1163 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Classified ads can be reached at 962-0252. Editorial questions should be directed to 962-0245.

> **OFFICE:** Suite 2409 Carolina Unior CAMPUS MAIL ADDRESS: CB# 5210, Carolina Union U.S. MAIL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3257



production coordinator; Beth O'Brien, assistant; Michelle Rial, assistant; Debbie Rosen, assistant.

Samuel Lau, Caitlin Legacki, Stephen Moore, Mason Moseley, Lindsey Naylor, Justin Ortiz, Seth Peavey, Laura Phelps, Kristen Pope, Kristin Pratt, Brett Sturm, Persis Swift, Alexander Hall Tilmanns, Sarah Wiest and John Wulsin. University: Kelly Cohs, Emily Steel or writters, Rachel Alien, Kathryn Bales, Kriste Baettie, Lauren Berny, Emily Bisker, Kelli Borbet, Colin Campbell, Don Campbell, Kerry Cannity, Georgia Cherny, Katie Citte, Shannon Connell, Megan Dean, Katherine Evans, Shari Feld, Laura Fred, Jessika Gibon, Kelly Giednaits, Nathan Hewitt, Robin Hilmantel, Katherine Hollacon, Kalbo Giednaits, Nathan Hewitt, Robin Hilmantel, Katherine Hollacon, Allison Nichols, Stephanen Reverton, Allison Nichols, Miller, Mac Molison, Jeborah Netha, Stephanie Newton, Allison Nichols, Nicole Norfleet, Katie O'Neal, Jenna Raman, Erica Rafferty, Brandon Reed Kathyn Rowland, Kate Sullivan and Erin Zureick. Editorial Production: Stacy Wynn, manager

manager. Printing: Triangle Web. Distribution: Triangle Circulation

TO THE EDITOR: Since yesterday's Daily Tar Heel endorsements vere released, I've received dozens of e-mails and calls from my supporters saying that I should respond by explaining why I'm more qualified than candidate X, Y or Z, or to lash out at the DTH editorial board. But that's not what I'm about — I'm not running for

READERS' FORUM

Town Council to oppose any person or organization. I'm running to bring a better quality of life to the 50,000 or so of us who call Chapel Hill home.

Baker's campaign transcends student issues

I'm running because environmental preservation, sound transportation policies, affordable housing, responsibility in the budget and a comprehensive plan for downtown development need a strong advocate

I'm running because town-gown relations could be greatly benefited from including the perspective of a qualified student council member, especially as we look forward to the plans for Carolina North.

I'm running because I think it's more important to take a principled stand than to follow the whims of the moment and throw to the wayside the very qualities that make our town unique.

I'm running because adding diversity to the coun-cil should include socio-economic status, age, background and stature as much as anything els

And I'm very grateful for all of the praise and assis-tance my campaign has received. I'd like to publicly thank Students for a Progressive Chapel Hill and Democracy for America for supporting my candidacy.

But although I appreciate any endorsement, I have faith that the people of Chapel Hill are independently minded enough to make their own decisions about their leadership, and I humbly ask that they consider me to represent them for the next four years.

> Jason Baker Chapel Hill Town Council Candidate

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

Established 1893 112 years of editorial freedom

RYAN C. TUCK EDITOR, 962-4086 RCTUCK@EMAIL.UNC.EDU OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY, THURSDAY 1-2 P.M. PIT SIT: FRIDAY, 12-1 P.M.

> JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ MANAGING EDITOR, 962-0750 JOSEPH_SCHWARTZ@UNC.EDU

REBECCA WILHELM DEPUTY M 2-0750 BECCA07@EMAIL.UNC.EDU

> **CHRIS COLETTA** OPINION EDITOR, 962-0750 EDITDESK@UNC.EDU

BRIAN HUDSON UNIVERSITY EDITOR, 962-0372 UDESK@UNC.EDU

TED STRONG CITYDESK@UNC.EDU

KAVITA PILLAI STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR, 962-4103 STNTDESK@UNC.EDU

DANIEL MALLOY SPORTS EDITOR, 962-4710 SPORTS@UNC.EDU

www.dailytarheel.com

TORRYE JONES FEATURES EDITOR, 962-4214 FEATURES@UNC.EDU

JIM WALSH ARTS & ENTERTA ARTSDESK@UNC.EDU OR, 962-4214

> SCOTT SPILLMAN CO-COPY EDITOR, 962-4103

CATHERINE WILLIAMS CO-COPY EDITOR, 962-4103

WHITNEY SHEFTE PHOTO EDITOR, 962-0750

JEN ALLIET CO-DESIGN EDITOR, 962-0750

DANIEL BEDEN CO-DESIGN EDITOR, 962-07

FEILDING CAGE GRAPHICS AND MULTIMEDIA EDITOR, 962-0246

CHRIS JOHNSON ONLINE EDITOR, 962-0750 ONLINE@UNC.EDU

KELLY OCHS WRITERS' COACH, 962-0372

EMILY STEEL WR 5' COACH, 962-0372

ELLIOTT DUBE PUBLIC EDITOR, 260-DUBEE@EMAIL.UNC.EDU