

BOARD EDITORIALS

# OFF ON A GOOD FOOT

UNC's proposed 99-year lease to Carrboro would help bring the town and the University closer together and signals a change of relations.

It's heartwarming to see the University and Carrboro town officials play nice. The Board of Trustees approved last week the lease of 1.6 acres of University land to the town of Carrboro so that it could build a new fire substation.

The agreement is advantageous for both parties, and it's nice to see such constructive interaction.

This tentative agreement will permit the town of Carrboro to lease the land for 99 years at a rate of \$1 per year to build the substation.

The future substation will provide fire protection for northern Carrboro neighborhoods, including those that will be annexed Jan. 31, and UNC's proposed satellite campus, Carolina North.

The land was going unused by the University, and Carrboro was anxiously seeking a location for the much-needed fire substation; the new lease simply is a practical use for the land.

It's encouraging to see University and town officials working together, particularly in regard to an area so close to the highly contested Carolina North site. Usually the mere mention of Carolina North stirs heated emotions in the eyes of local officials,

but in this matter, UNC and town representatives are collaborating and communicating positively.

The 99-year lease speaks volumes about the future of town-gown relations, which hopefully will continue to strengthen.

While UNC officials are feeling generous, some of their unused office space in downtown Chapel Hill could be leased to the town or to a tax-paying business. It's impractical to waste good office space, especially when there is a limited amount in the area.

A few more leases, albeit with an opt-out clause if necessary, will reinvigorate vacant spaces and benefit those that are in need of the space or land.

The partnership between the University and Carrboro established by the new lease will advance current relations and should make collaboration more productive in the future.

The University is to be commended for its aid in offering Carrboro inexpensive, long-term use of land for an important and necessary service.

That sort of cooperation should become the norm between Carrboro and Chapel Hill and the towns' largest constituent.

# POINTS FOR EFFORT

N.C. State students had the right idea in being creative, involved and mature in their protest of higher tuition — and we could learn from it.

Years of shrinking funds have left students and administrators at North Carolina's public universities fighting tuition increases. And after years of lobbying, UNC should take a cue from N.C. State University students who found a creative and mature way to negotiate this year.

Wolfpack students surrounded their Board of Trustees members Friday with a quarter-mile-long paper chain of student signatures. With those signatures — making up 5,500 links — students lobbied to reduce the proposed tuition increase. It was part of their student government's "Chained by Tuition" campaign.

Though the trustees didn't back down, the fight was not a failure. And students at UNC ought to admire their Raleigh counterparts and follow their lead.

UNC students don't necessarily need a paper chain. And tuition negotiations are different for every school — but how Tar Heel students currently lobby is either non-existent or juvenile.

Every year at UNC, tuition becomes a dicey topic. Yet as indignant as students often get about the prospect of rising tuition, few actively campaign to make a difference. Only reporters or members of student

government turn out to BOT meetings or let school officials and lawmakers know their position.

While members of student government are elected to represent students, especially on tuition matters, the effect is much stronger when the student body can collectively argue for their needs.

If students want to negotiate more reasonable terms, they have to prove they're willing to take action. State's students showed the kind of initiative needed here among Carolina students — though preferably we wouldn't start as late in the process and would prove more effective than State's efforts.

It isn't enough to show up at the last trustee meeting demanding lower tuition — talks started months ago. And showing up to UNC-system Board of Governors meetings in cowboy hats — as happened in 2004 — hardly warrants being taken seriously.

If you want to at least be heard, come to the table as a mature, rational adult. And start early — board members simply won't listen otherwise.

State students set an example of how it should be done. Even if officials didn't heed students' protests, the fact that everyone can act like adults means that the process wasn't a failure.

# GIVING OUR THANKS

During the Thanksgiving holiday, students should keep in mind how fortunate they are — and those that are not as blessed as the rest of us.

Thanksgiving is once again almost upon us. This Thursday we will gather with friends and family and eat copious amounts of food, furthering the nation's obesity epidemic.

After we go home Wednesday, some of us will be watching football while others will begin studying in preparation for finals. As we occupy ourselves with familial traditions, work or both, let us not forget what this holiday is about — giving thanks.

It is easy for all of us to take for granted everything we have. It is normal that we get sucked into our lives and focus on those things that frustrate us most.

Early morning classes — no fun. Tests — they suck. Term papers due after holiday breaks — they suck more. Having the Duke Blue Devils lead during the first half of a football game — that's just embarrassing.

Yet we should take a moment to remember how fortunate we are and appreciate it.

This Thursday most of us will be surrounded by those we care about most while feasting and having a good time.

No one has to travel too far from the dorms or search the stories on The New York Times Web site

for long to see that there are many who are not as fortunate as us.

Franklin Street has more than a few regulars who can testify to real problems. Trying to get enough money for food and finding a warm place to spend the night is infinitely more of a problem than having to cram for a biology final or write an economics paper. Sometimes it's easy for students to lose sight of how fortunate they are in the midst of political rallies for distant causes of social justice and the personal drama that naturally results from putting thousands of college students together for four years of self-discovery.

Around the globe, from the genocide-ravaged Sudan to the gutted suburbs of Paris to the ruins of New Orleans, we see that some people are not as fortunate as we are in our slice of Blue Heaven.

So this Thanksgiving remember all you have in your life, remember all you have worked for and all that you enjoy, and then give thanks.

And after you have eaten way too much and have enjoyed the company of those you love, take a second to remember all those who go without those blessings and how you might be able to make a difference.

**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 three 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](mailto:dubee@email.unc.edu).

READERS' FORUM

Try something new and let turkeys be thankful as well

TO THE EDITOR:

Friday's article on turkey farming highlights its inherently cruel nature. The article describes a "humane" turkey farm where turkeys have room to roam until they are slaughtered.

I agree that the sort of environment at Alison's Family Farm is better than at a major poultry manufacturer where birds are kept in deplorable conditions before their feet and claws are ripped off while still fully conscious.

However, being humane means being compassionate, and I would argue that raising a turkey for the sole purpose of killing it is anything but that.

While people are giving thanks on Thursday, I encourage them to make some changes to their traditional menu: Try a vegetarian alternative to turkey this year.

Many people will automatically dismiss the notion of a meat-free Thanksgiving as "hippie," but for those of you who say you would never sacrifice your beloved turkey, I say don't knock it till you try it.

Brands such as Tofurky, UnTurkey and Quorn make Tofu-based "turkeys" that are cheaper, healthier and far easier to prepare than regular turkey but have the same texture

and taste.

Most can even be stuffed, and it only takes some vegetable stock and flour to make a delicious gravy.

If you're not the cooking kind, RSVP to the Triangle Vegetarian Society's annual Thanksgiving feast by today.

Catered by Cafe Parizade in Durham, it is the country's largest vegetarian Thanksgiving. So why not make your holiday cruelty-free?

Then the turkeys will have reason to give thanks, too.

Liz Winter  
Senior  
Communications

UNC should be exploring more new registration plans

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to Monday's article, "Input sought on registration options," I am really glad to see that University officials and student government recognize the problems in registration and are taking initiative to change the registration process.

When I went to school at the University of Georgia, they assigned registration times to students based on total credit hours and GPA.

It was efficient and rewarded

students who did well in school.

Those who would take classes seriously and do well in them would be rewarded and able to get the classes they wanted and needed.

I hope that University officials would explore more options than just the three they gave students to vote for because I think there are more fair and efficient ways to register for classes than basing it just on random selection or total credit hours.

Katie Dinterman  
Junior  
Spanish/Nursing

In the 'good ol' days' UNC students had school spirit

TO THE EDITOR:

The reason Erskine Bowles, class of 1967, stood up and cheered during a crucial moment during a ball game ("Show some spirit," Nov. 9) probably was that he, like numerous UNC alumni, still carries the school spirit, which was fostered in an era when it was cultivated on campus with pre-game pep rallies, bonfires, parades and cheerleaders who knew how to work the fans and generate that special Carolina enthusiasm that is so lacking among today's undergraduates.

Back in the "good ol' days" we

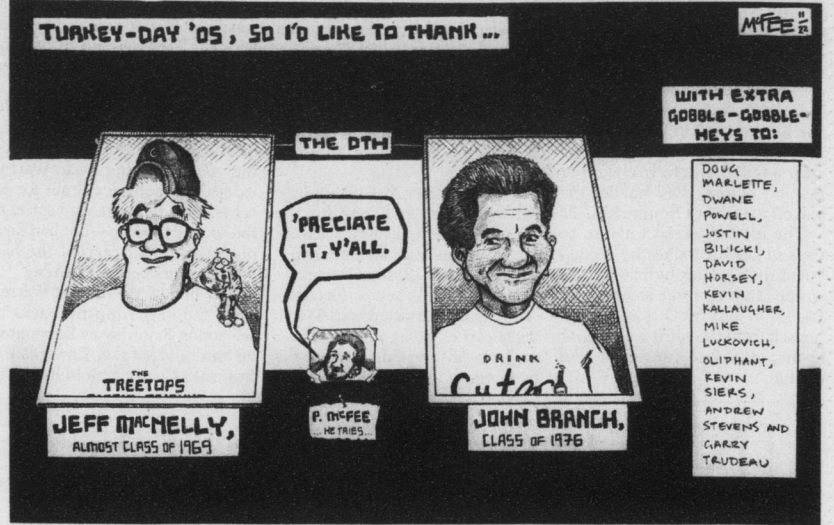
FROM THE DAY'S NEWS

"Some people would call us amateurs. I'd call us enthusiasts."

JUSTIN WARD, SOPHOMORE, ON DODGEBALL

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Philip McFee, [pip@email.unc.edu](mailto:pip@email.unc.edu)



COMMENTARY

# Parties focus on dividing and ignore their messages

The road to hell is paved with partisan bumper stickers.

W: The President. F The President. Enough hastily spackled declarations of ideology to keep [cafePress.com](http://cafePress.com) busy for decades.

And then there are the T-shirts, the books and the Web sites buzzing like locusts around the alternate apathy and arrogance of an unassuming public.

Ann Coulter wants you to know how to talk to a liberal. Michael Moore wants you to feel the Fahrenheit of 9/11. Neither is doing more than stomping and shouting around tangible issues, and both manage to be the center of attention while circumventing change.

Cowering somewhere behind the rhetorical hysteria is a far more diplomatic history, a now-cracked foundation of partisan politics that meant more than Birkenstocks and Sperrys. And though it's hard to hear beneath the cacophonous din of CNN and Fox News, there is the ever-present rustle of America's forefathers rolling in their graves.

The right to political identification was hard-won and remains invaluable, a shrill note of the uncensored voice that America often chooses to shout its views to the world with.

But a considerable problem arises when no one can define the words on their voter registration cards. And when the ignorance erupts, collecting in syrupy pools around Capitol Hill, the bumper stickers suddenly lose their humor.

There are conservatives who identify as such for the sake of familial legacy, and liberals who dabble in civil disobedience because it is par for the college course. There is a dusty chalk line, staining feet and clouding eyes, beyond which partisanship stopped being cerebral and start-



SARA BOATRIGHT  
KEEP 'EM ON THEIR TOES

ed being fashionable.

Yet still we haven't learned that pastel Polo shirts and knotted hemp bracelets hold little sway over effective policy-making.

While differences in opinion and position inevitably will result in an eventual clash, they are at the same time vital aspects of effective evolution. Opposing parties were never intended to direct so much energy toward the destruction of their dissenters that they abandoned civic stakeholders entirely.

In some semblance of a perfect world, the endlessly warring sides would serve as checks on one another, creating an impermeable filter of moderation between the donkeys and the elephants. From a wide angle, this is sometimes the case.

But on an everyday basis, on campus, in workplaces and on any given editorial page, partisan opponents are far more interested in blood than in bureaucracy.

The realities of political debate gather dust along with their origins as a landslide of collective ignorance gains momentum, sweeping the downhill slope of society so clean that only the oversimplifications remain.

Near the University this is apparent from the first flicker of a glance; hippies cluster at Weaver Street Market while the power cell of Republican alumni lumbers in for sporting events in a sleek fleet of luxury SUVs. The raw stereotypes of such an image are as offensive to their targets as they are to community bystand-

ers, the greater public languishing dazedly as backyard debaters hack out their points.

And the points by now have grown markedly dull, worn down by far too many years of senseless rhetorical stabblings. Because while the often self-appointed pundit elite sit within the smug comfort of their own sealed spheres, pounding out a party-driven mantra bound to save society, society itself is endlessly adrift.

The screaming has by now diffused into a dull roar, a soft groan of static that middle America has learned to ignore. Thus what once held the capacity for a mutually beneficial forum is now little more than a fraternity system, offering occasional bursts of scandal but for the most part lying latent and overlooked by the uninitiated majority.

The irony is as tragic as it is comic, as the Coulters and Moores of the world only add to the discordant noise that they purport to turn into music.

Perhaps the most harmful aspect of the charade is the fact that such grandstanding filters down, trickling tangled through the landslide until college students spend more time blogging than sincerely sweating for the greater good.

And for all our shimmering facades of sophistication, sweat may be the only thing to save us. Even the wittiest barb won't solve health care policy problems or eliminate poverty. Better now to roll up your sleeves, bare your arms to the sun and put your hands to the plow.

When your shoulders bend to the effort, no one will be able to read the political cartoon on your T-shirt.

Contact Sara Boatright, a junior public relations major, at [scb419@email.unc.edu](mailto:scb419@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](mailto: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.

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