

## BOARD EDITORIALS

# NEGLECTED PROMISE

The Chapel Hill Town Council needs to get on the ball and honor the pledges it made during the debate about renaming Airport Road.

**I**t was a dream. But maybe it's time we wake up and realize that some promises have gone unfulfilled.

With the recent anniversary of the renaming of Airport Road to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, it is as good a time as ever to look back at other steps the Chapel Hill Town Council vowed to make in its efforts to deal with racial tensions.

On Dec. 6, 2004, the council declared that in addition to renaming Airport Road, it might establish a room at the library honoring King and the civil rights movement in Chapel Hill. Also, the town pledged to look into a number of other events, such as a "Racial Justice Week," oral histories and an annual forum on the monumental Brown v. Board of Education case.

But the council has been lagging behind in delivering on any of those proposals it threw out in the heat of the renaming debate.

On Jan. 10, 2005, a continuing concerns committee was formed to tackle the above recommendations.

But a chairman wasn't appointed until mid-

February. And no additional members were appointed to the committee until the Nov. 21 council meeting.

Needless to say, there hasn't been any progress on the library front, nor have other promises come through.

With newly installed Chapel Hill Town Council member Bill Thorpe, who has vowed to bring these issues back to the table, perhaps there will be something tangible to show in the coming months.

Many would agree that race relations in Chapel Hill could use improvement. But empty promises and platitudes just aren't the answer.

The council should put its money where its mouth is and deliver a library section on civil rights history in Chapel Hill — there's plenty of material to put in such a section. It should also fill the continuing concerns committee so that there will be a body to address ongoing issues.

And if any student residents are interested in applying to be on the committee, they can do so by visiting the town's Web site at [www.ci.chapel-hill.nc.us/index.asp?NID=748](http://www.ci.chapel-hill.nc.us/index.asp?NID=748) and filling out an application.

# STOP THE INSANITY

Candidates for office at UNC should have some sense of dignity and maturity — something that was lacking in Tuesday's special elections.

**T**uesday saw another election to fill empty seats in Student Congress — and South Campus saw some listserv shenanigans that are an embarrassment to candidates, a future member of Congress and the notion of student self-governance.

South Campus students received several dozen e-mails, initially regarding the race for Congress.

But this eventually broke down into childish name-calling and dalliances into absurd comments such as "I love lamp."

While the editorial board enjoys lamps as well, we certainly don't think it is appropriate to send that out over the listserv, billed as an election notice, to all our colleagues on South Campus.

The exchanging of insults is the worst part, and whether it came from candidates themselves or from their supporters, it reflects poorly on them — and on the entire student body.

UNC has a long tradition of operating a student government that has a great deal of responsibility and that traditionally has exemplified maturity.

It is a badge that we should wear proudly, not something we should allow to be tarnished by campaigns that break down into sophomoric hijinx.

Leave such foolhardy electoral behavior to a school that wants to elect a pirate captain as student body president or the University of Durham — not the University of the people.

This board hopes we have all learned a lesson. Candidates for student government offices should be careful with sending campaign listserv messages and tell supporters not to embarrass themselves and their candidates with such tomfoolery.

It's no way to campaign for office and no way to act at UNC. And it cannot be to your advantage to fill the in-boxes of your would-be constituents with an abundance of spam.

To those who received the e-mails and perpetuated the downward cycle of silliness: Either stop being puerile or transfer far, far away to where you can not affect the listservs of this campus.

The most important thing to learn from the incidents is simply that we are all better than this. Candidates in other elections this year should strive to avoid the ridiculous lack of etiquette that was demonstrated Tuesday.

We are, after all, UNC students. The UNC tradition says nothing about perpetuating spam.

# IT'LL BE A GOOD YEAR

Tar Heels should take joy in both of our basketball programs and show up to women's games — or miss out on some amazing victories.

**T**his year's basketball season already has started on strong footing, but most UNC fans and students are erroneously and singularly focused on only the men's program.

It's time the women got their much deserved respect and acclamation for the start of what should be an incredible basketball season.

It's great that the men have performed beyond expectations, but the women, who were expected to be great, have turned out to be amazing.

The big news in UNC sports this week was the close — albeit impressive — victory of the men against ranked Kentucky, the only men's program with a better all-time win record than UNC.

But perhaps the more notable feat was the toppling of the University of Connecticut in Hartford by the Tar Heel women's basketball team.

The UConn women have a tradition of championship basketball but were no match for the Tar Heels, who, led by Ivory Latta, blazed past UConn 77-54.

The current English language does not contain words that accurately can describe what happened, so the editorial board must take it upon itself to create one. Connogging: beating a team by 20 points

or more in its own house.

This is the largest point margin that the UConn women have lost by at home in 20 seasons.

Many argue that women's sports are not nearly as exiting as men's, but tell that to Latta; and good luck.

When Latta left the court with the win secure, the Hartford crowd gave her a standing ovation. That, just in case you were wondering, is not a typical response on the road for any player.

"It's a great honor for them to clap for me like that," Latta later said.

The energy of the players has not been reciprocated by the fans, and it's time that students supported women's basketball.

When the UNC women play Duke in basketball, there is always a large crowd to cheer them on. It is possible to get amped about women's basketball — don't limit the energy to the Duke game.

The UConn romp, Ivory Latta and a soon-to-be top-five national ranking should draw students by the masses to watch the women's games. After all, the Carolina basketball programs — both of them — has plenty of other connoggings to deliver.

**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

## Tuesday editorial poorly written, made little sense

## TO THE EDITOR:

I'm not sure what the thesis of yesterday's editorial "Here and licensed" was.

It seemed that each paragraph introduced a new point. Whether it was condoning illegal immigration, calling federal laws "stupid" or deeming the proposed bill "mean-spirited," xenophobic and "un-American," the editorial talked little about the issue or solutions, and focused mainly on unsubstantiated bad-mouthing.

The editorial did make several true statements. There are illegal immigrants in this country. Many of them are not a threat to national security.

This is not de facto proof that illegal immigrants have a right to a driver's license. That they pay taxes, that they drive, that the bill will not inhibit illegal immigration does not nullify the bill in question.

The most interesting part of the editorial was: "The bill would require proof that applicants (for driver's licenses) are inhabiting the country legally."

America is a country of laws, and as such people wishing to exercise the freedoms granted by this country must adhere to those laws. Individuals choosing to break laws have freedoms revoked — either

economic freedom in the form of a fine, or physical freedom in the form of incarceration.

I don't understand why the editorial board believes illegal immigrants should be given additional freedoms for breaking the law. The only people denying illegal immigrants driver's licenses are those same people who chose to enter this country illegally.

If the editorial meant to done illegal immigration, shame on you. Your energy could be better focused on encouraging more legal entry — then this issue would be a nonissue.

*Adam Azman  
Graduate Student  
Chemistry Department*

## Without reading days there is not enough study time

## TO THE EDITOR:

Review sessions, all-nighters at the UL and bottomless cups of coffee — these are all staples of exam week.

In years past, students could sometimes count on the traditional reading day before exams.

This year, however, the University has done away with this essential free day. As you all are aware, students finish classes Friday and must take exams Saturday. So, a MW class that meets at 11 a.m.

will get out at noon and have the final only 24 hours later, at noon Saturday.

This is not enough time for students to review an entire semester's worth of material, in addition to the brand new material presented in Friday's class.

Moreover, there is no reading day until the following Wednesday — no matter what the University says, Sunday does not count. This means some students could finish exams without having a reading day at all to study for them.

While we appreciate the University's attempt to end the semester in a timely manner, they are doing a great disservice to students who deserve every opportunity to succeed on their finals.

*Gena Romano  
Senior  
Journalism/Spanish*

Jessica Bonnen  
Senior  
English/History

**Column fails to appreciate this year's sports victories**

**TO THE EDITOR:**

After reading David Moses column titled "Like the leaves, Tar Heel athletics fell this season," I was flabbergasted when trying to recreate the thought process that

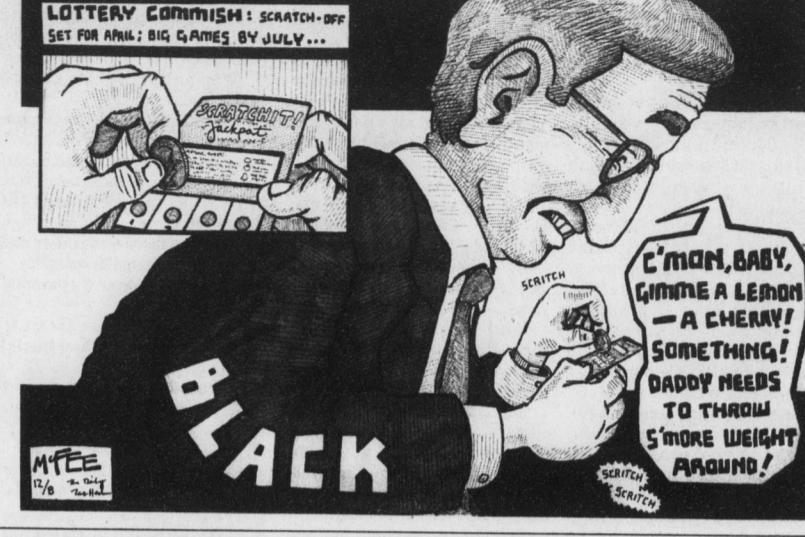
## Opinion

## FROM THE DAY'S NEWS

*"What good is my freedom if my people are still dying ... if 27 million are still in slavery?"*

**FRANCIS BOK, FORMER SUDANESE SLAVE**

## EDITORIAL CARTOON



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

## COMMENTARY

# From whence we've come, and where we could've gone

**T**here are a lot of things left to say, and only this space in which to say them.

I've talked about plenty of issues this semester: some of widespread importance, others that hit closer to home. The most important things I hope you take from all that:

■ There is never an excuse to hit your loved ones out of anger.

After I shared my secondhand experience with you all, I got many stories of firsthand dealings with physical and emotional abuse. I appreciate these people's confiding in me because this was the one point during the semester when I felt my words carried actual weight and importance.

■ This University is not the only one in North Carolina, nor should we ever act like it.

Neither UNC-Chapel Hill nor N.C. State University needs autonomy in tuition decisions, as the state legislature suggests. Those flagship universities should stick with the other 14 system schools and show support for the greater good of higher education in North Carolina.

■ Don't run for Student Body President if you're not going to fight for those you were elected to represent.

UNC-Chapel Hill SBP Seth Dearmin received a big fat F on Wednesday from The Daily Tar Heel's editorial board. I wish there had been a lower grade to give the guy who has done little to nothing when it comes to really fighting against tuition increases.

■ The UNC-system Association of Student Governments, in fact, does plenty to halt out-of-control tuition increases.

Unlike Dearmin and last year's student body president, Matt Calabria, the leaders of the ASG have busted their asses to fight against any tuition increase for students in the UNC system.



**EMMA BURGIN**

IT'S A GLAMOROUS LIFE

Many people, especially here at the DTH, are extremely critical of the ASG's efforts without having attended even one ASG meeting and seeing what they're about.

The organization isn't perfect in its lobbying efforts toward the N.C. General Assembly, but it has greatly influenced the UNC-system Board of Governors' tuition decisions during the past four years.

There are things I didn't get to say this semester. If I were going to continue to write columns, you might see the following from me:

■ I'm a Methodist, and if you keep up with these kinds of things, you know that my church recently ruled that homosexuals could not become pastors. The national church did say, however, that they could be a part of our congregations.

Honestly, all being Methodist has really meant to me is that I stand up for quite some time during church service and am served grape juice during communion. And while I grew up in a very supportive church community, I can see how someone with an alternative lifestyle could feel uncomfortable there. I come from a pretty normal family that fit in with all the other normal Methodist families in Greensboro.

When the Episcopal Church ordained the first openly gay bishop a couple of years ago, it was a great step forward. But I am disappointed that my own church is being quite wishy-washy on the subject. Banishing homosexuals to a second tier of church mem-

bership is almost as bad as not welcoming them into the religious community. I say if they believe in God, more power to them and welcome.

■ While we're on the subject of church, let's mix in some state. The separation of church and state is a touchy issue even today.

As recent as this summer, the U.S. Supreme Court voted to allow an antique monument of the Ten Commandments to remain outside the Texas state capital while ordering two county courthouses in Kentucky to remove similar displays.

I am fully in support of strengthening the separation of church and state. That's why I think it's such a travesty that our president won the 2004 election on the coattails of same-sex amendment votes in 11 states. It's a smart move to mobilize your base by putting this very volatile issue on the same ballot as your incumbent.

And Democrats failed to do the same. But that genius also carries a sad message for the care Americans show for their fellow man.

When does a man wanting to marry another man or a woman loving a woman ever affect you?

By all means, the church can say marriage is between a man and a woman.

But the state shouldn't touch that stance with a 10-foot pole. Too few states have taken the steps to support same-sex unions. We as a country need to re-examine our dedication to the separation of church and state.

There's much more to say, but sadly no more space to say it.

So I leave you with this:

It's a glamorous life! So live it up!

Contact Emma Burgin, a senior dramatic arts major, at [emmaline@email.unc.edu](mailto:emmaline@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.

## The Daily Tar Heel

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Established 1893  
112 years of editorial freedom

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