

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Ticket policy sparks debate

CAA's president seeks student input

BY CHRIS COLETTA  
SUMMER EDITOR

News that the distribution of men's basketball tickets is moving online has sparked strong reaction from many students — and caused the president of the Carolina Athletic Association, students' liaison to the athletics department, to solicit their input.

"Details of the online policy haven't been finalized yet," CAA President Rachel High wrote in a letter to the editor that has been published in today's Daily Tar Heel.

"Now is the time to voice your concerns. Rather than me telling the decision-makers how I think students feel about the policy, I'd like to be able to show them your exact words. I encourage students to e-mail me specific complaints, praises, concerns and/or suggestions you have regarding the new policy."

High wrote the letter in response to feedback she heard from UNC students and saw on the DTH Web site about the athletics department's proposed policy, which will replace the current system of Saturday-morning distributions at the Smith Center.

Students said putting tickets online would allow fair-weather fans to obtain them more easily. Under the current plan, they said, only people willing to show up on South Campus at 7 a.m. get prime positions in the stands.

Complaints also centered on a pair of logistical problems with the new system: its inability to let students choose whether they want riser seats behind the Tar Heel basket and its inability to give more than two students seats next to one another.

Typical of the comments on the DTH Web site — or, at least, of the comments that are printable — was an anonymous posting saying: "This sucks. I should have gone to Duke."

In an interview last week, High said that she shared students' concerns but that officials with the athletics department said there wasn't much they could do to change the system. She was out of town this week and wasn't available for comment.

James Allred, UNC student body president, said he didn't play much of a role in drafting the proposal. But he said the argument that it would take tickets away from Carolina's best fans isn't a good one because student tickets go uncollected for almost every home game.

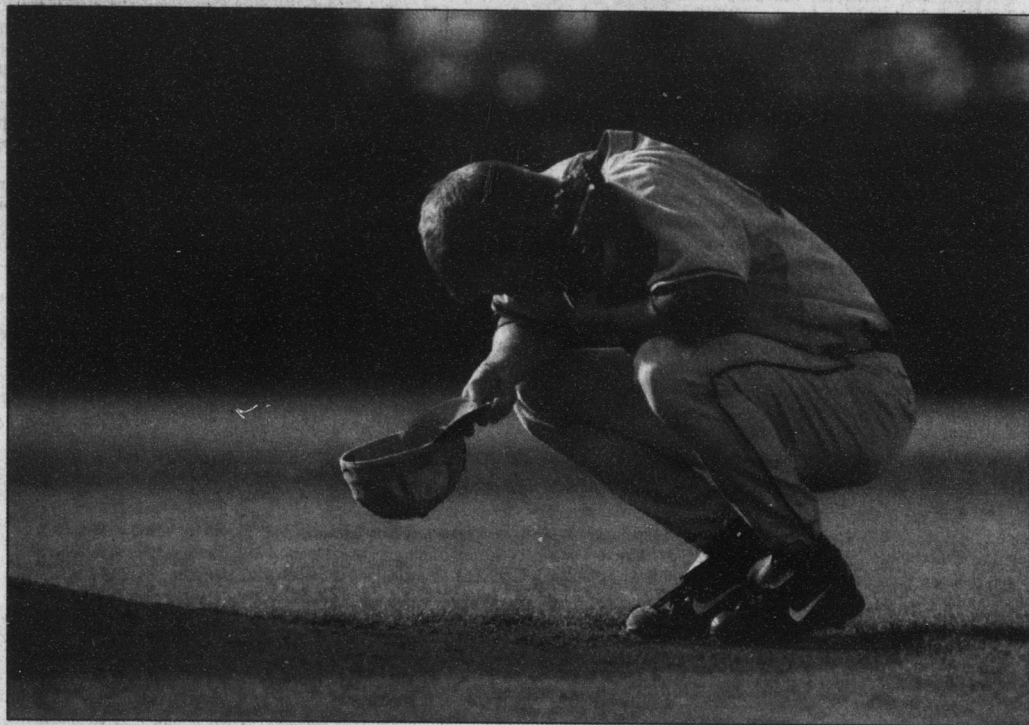
Records show that after distribution for last year's game against ACC foe Clemson, more than 1,000 seats remained uncollected.

Student tickets for UNC's game against Illinois — a rematch of the 2005 national title game that brought a top-10 team to Chapel Hill — suffered the same fate.

Online distribution is the athletics department's final shot at getting students to use all the tickets allotted to them, Allred said. Student tickets that go uncollected under the plan would be put on sale for the general public.

"I think it's very fair," Allred said. "I understand that some students have this notion that it's necessary for students to stand out in the cold and wait for tickets, but I don't think that's a good argument."

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UNC starting pitcher Daniel Bard kneels near the mound before the start of Game 3 of the NCAA College World Series on June 26. Bard pitched brilliantly but made two errors on one play, leading to one of Oregon State's three runs in the Beavers' final-game win.

## CAROLINA STRIKES OUT

MENTAL MISCUES, LACK OF OFFENSE END UNC'S DREAM

BY BRANDON STATON  
SPORTS EDITOR

OMAHA, Neb. — Two days prior, a national championship looked all but certain.

Then, like a scene from a recurring nightmare, the North Carolina baseball team watched its chance at history pass like a seeing-eye ground ball.

The Tar Heels fell a run short of Oregon State in a 3-2 loss Monday at Rosenblatt Stadium in Omaha, Neb. — and, in doing so, a win short of its first-ever national title.

"It's obviously a huge disappointment for us to get this close and not be able to win it," UNC coach Mike Fox said after the Tar Heels' loss in Game 3 of the College World Series finals.

"We're disappointed certainly with just the loss in itself — probably the way we lost. We had opportunities to get some big hits and push a run or two across, but just weren't able to do it."

The expressions on the players' faces after the game were enough to make a

grown man cry. They looked on with disbelief as their opponent celebrated the same title they were one win away from just minutes earlier.

Fifteen minutes later, after the celebrations had died down, the Tar Heels walked somberly out onto the field to shake hands with the champions.

To those outside the team, the loss will fall heavily on the shoulders of second baseman Bryan Steed.

But ask the guy who knows him as well as anybody, his coach, and he'll tell you that scrappy gamer's errant throw to first that allowed Oregon State's winning run to score in the bottom of the eighth just illustrates that sometimes, a team simply loses the game.

"Bryan Steed is one of the finest young men you will ever want to be around in your entire life," Fox said.

"We wouldn't be sitting up here if it wasn't for Bryan Steed. ... This is not ever about one player — it's never about one pitch."

"This is a team sport, and I love Bryan

Steed to death — so do his teammates."

Steed actually started off the fateful inning with one of the more impressive defensive displays of the game, moving to his left to snare a steaming line drive with the score tied 2-2.

But then UNC pitcher Daniel Bard walked Oregon State first baseman Bill Rowe, who later moved into scoring position on a single by center fielder Tyler Graham.

With left-handed right fielder John Wallace due up next, Fox decided it was time to counter with the best left-hander he had, ace Andrew Miller.

That all but forced OSU head coach Pat Casey to bring in a right-hander off his bench — and he did, sending pinch hitter Ryan Gipson to the plate.

Gipson bounced the fourth pitch he saw toward Steed at second, who fielded it cleanly — and threw it past first baseman Tim Federowicz, who usually plays catcher for the Tar Heels.

SEE BASEBALL, PAGE 4



BRANDON STATON  
STATIN' THE FACTS

Seeing how North Carolina had not produced a College World Series team in 17 years, I began the season covering the baseball team without giving much thought to the fact that they might actually navigate the long, grueling Road to Omaha.

But as the Tar Heels threw story after story into my lap, I started to feel what Chicago Cubs reporters must have been feeling for 88 years — "What if this is the year?"

With a team like this year's UNC squad, the cliché is impossible to avoid.

The Tar Heels, who a year before were torn among themselves, evolved into a team.

Yes, pieces of the puzzle will leave Chapel Hill after this season.

At this point, it's hard to imagine that Andrew Miller won't be a star in the major leagues.

And if Daniel Bard can harness his command like he did for 13 straight hit-

## No one around UNC will forget summer '06

ters against Oregon State in Game 3 of the national championship series, I'd be foolish not to think he could be right alongside the left-hander who has often overshadowed him.

But there's more to a team than superstars.

Maybe Jay Cox will shoot up through the minors, earn the right to play for the Colorado Rockies and send home runs so far they'll each have a stewardess on board.

Or I might just wake up one Sunday morning 15 years from now, turn on ESPN and see him trolling along some Louisiana river on a boat with an outboard motor, reeling in speckled trout by the cooler-load instead.

My guess is that Chad Flack could be sending pitches mile after country mile in a few short years in the same couple of parks that I've grown up watching my heroes.

But I could just as easily see him rolling down a country road blasting country music, his dog riding shotgun in some old pick-up truck, carrying the same smile he

always does.

Josh Horton can field slow rollers or hard grounders in the hole with an ease that some major leaguers wish they could replicate.

Add that to the way he effortlessly moves the bat through the zone in direct line with anything but a high fastball, and you've got the makings of another star on the rise.

Or maybe it's his little brother Logan, the Tar Heels' batboy who shares his older brother's love for the game, who's really got what's in store for us — and Josh readily admits that he'd trade places with him for a day if he could.

Perhaps Robert Woodard will go on to become the next Greg Maddux, screwing major league hitters into the ground with an endless array of hooks and benders.

Instead, maybe he'll become the next Mike Fox, showing a group of talented kids what they can do if they do it together — showing the ability to fight to win and the courage to accept a loss.

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## Shelton will say his final farewell

Provost assumes new post Saturday

BY WHITNEY KISLING  
STAFF WRITER

UNC has said goodbye to dozens of leaders in the past few years.

On Saturday, Tar Heels will wave final adieu to the top University academic official, Provost Robert Shelton.



Provost Robert Shelton led UNC through a period of tight state budgets.

Shelton was selected in January by the University of Arizona to become the Tucson-based university's next president.

He has a five-year career at UNC, beginning in early 2001 — typical for the provost position.

At the start of his appointment,

Shelton was one of three new hires — Chancellor James Moeser and Nancy Suttentfield, vice chancellor for finance and administration, came to UNC within six months of Shelton's arrival. Moeser hired Suttentfield and Shelton himself.

While Shelton did his research on the University and state before he arrived from the University of California's Davis campus — he read about 20 books on the subjects — he said he learned much more about UNC during his five years as provost.

He will be remembered for his oversight of an almost complete overhaul of academic leadership, his work with slim finances during an era of budget cuts and his concern for students as Moeser's right-hand man.

### Bringing in the team

Shelton's arrival was the beginning of a chain reaction that led to a series of new faces among high-level UNC administrators.

He found replacements for three vice chancellors and all but one dean — Linda Cronenwett, dean of the School of Nursing — during his five years.

"It was very time-consuming," Shelton said of the numerous searches used to evaluate candidates.

Shelton just finished filling the vacancies — law professor Jack Boger will take the last one as dean of the School of Law the day Shelton takes office in Arizona.

Shelton said that he gained experience by orchestrating the near-total overhaul of UNC's academic brass.

"In each search, I look back and can find things I would like to have done differently," he said. "Hopefully with each search I learned a little bit and did the next one a little better."

A major part of the dean selection process includes offering the desired candidate a package of resources.

During Shelton's tenure, UNC has seen repeated budget cuts, which Shelton said affected the potential packages he could use in bargaining.

"I was trying to put packages together that were attractive and convince them that they could make a real difference," he said.

As a result, the time periods for a few of the searches were extended — such as the law school deanship, which Duke University professor Erwin Chemerinsky declined, specifically citing a lack of resources

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**GOOD TIMES** The Sammys offer a familiar, summer-ready sound, ONLINE

**PARTY ON?** Lawmakers are again considering keg registration, PAGE 5

**TOWN-GOWN TALKS** Mason Farm residents are hoping for an NCD, PAGE 5

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### HE'S BACK

"Superman Returns" offers thrilling action scenes and stunning visuals, but not much in the way of character development.

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### HEATED DEBATE

N.C. State University's provost spoke in favor of offering in-state tuition rates to students who are undocumented but have applied for citizenship.



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### COMING HOME

A full page shows in pictures what it was like to be a Tar Heel in Omaha — and what it was like for the baseball team to come home.

weather

Partly Cloudy  
H 84, L 55

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