



**NATHAN NYANJOM**  
ALL WISDOM, NOTHING BUT THE TOOTH  
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## This year's resolution: make '08 the best yet

If you have to come back to school from a break, it might as well be to UNC for spring semester.

Throughout our academic lives, the first day of class means the joy of wearing your favorite shirt, the anticipation of what a teacher or professor will be like and the excitement of seeing what prospects for a relationship a class will offer.

Sure this is the same at any school, but at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill it means a little more — that this shirt might be Carolina blue, that this new teacher will be amazing and that one's fellow classmates

will be more charming and appealing than those at N.C. State or Duke.

The months of summer's recess leave us in a state of almost forgetting how to write and spell, but the abbreviated winter break leaves us more familiar with our inner students.

For some, today's arrival couldn't have come faster. For others, a few more weeks off were desired. Although the date of a spring semester's start can be debated, consider this: the majority of universities in the Northeast don't ask students to come back until late January or early February but then require their pupils to stay until almost mid-June.

I'll start class today, thank you. Every year adds new pages to the annals of history, and 2008 is sure to be no different. Elections in Russia and the United States will introduce two new players in world politics, and the summer Olympics in Beijing will similarly see China garner new attention on a large scale. "What's the animal of this Chinese year?" you're wondering? Great question. It's none other than the rat, and while Wikipedia describes them as "charming, passionate (and) charismatic," I think of them more as pigmy honey badgers.

"What's a honey badger?" you might ask. You don't want to know. In the days leading up to New Year's Eve or in the hangover that is New Year's Day, resolutions are often made. These plans and goals to live by in the following year usually feature the removal or cutting back of something — to lose weight, to eat less junk food, to spend less time watching TV and surfing the Internet.

Sure, these plans are great. But what usually happens? After an initial amazing month of January, gym membership declines to its normal level, Golden Corral sees its profits return and Facebook welcomes new addicts (I mean people) to its existence by beginning to include middle school students in its network. To be fair, it's not all our fault — the calendar and its holidays don't provide much help.

The quick arrival of Valentine's Day sees us eating Forrest Gump's favorite metaphor, St. Patrick's Day gives us an excuse to have as many pints as we want and by Easter or Passover, we could all use a feast — a "Thanksgiving in April," if you will. Our New Year's resolutions don't stand a chance. But they can. In addition to cutting back on things, indulge in new ones. Keep watching TV — just add that book you got for Christmas to the mix. Don't cold-turkey fast food, just eat less of it and get it for 'here' instead of wrapped in foil or Styrofoam 'to go.' By walking to class you'll work off that fourth meal, become fitter to jump national-championship bonfires and help conserve energy — a perfect storm of health.

I'm not trying to give a Commencement address — Chancellor James Moeser's "Welcome back" e-mail in a few days will do just that. Just know that as you wear that fresh, svelte shirt for the first day of classes today, this year of 2008 can be your best yet and easily will be if you just give it a little lovin'.

Go green. Go Carolina blue.

### EDITORIAL CARTOON By Don Wright, Palm Beach Post



## More than meets the eye

### UNC should work toward best value for all students

The University has landed atop Kiplinger's Personal Finance magazine's list of Best Value Colleges in America for the seventh year running, to the delight of everyone involved in the tuition-setting process.

This probably doesn't come as a shock to the student body, which gets bludgeoned with this claim every fall during the ritualistic tuition debate.

But what the Board of Trustees doesn't tell you is that the honor only applies to in-state students. If we're really going to tout that title for all its worth, then we should be making the effort for all students.

As we sat down for the new year and figured how many body parts we need to sell on the Chinese organ market to pay for next year's tuition and fees, we've decided it's time to call the crew at Kiplinger's and ask what makes UNC a steal.

First, the bad news: Although everyone from the BOT to Chancellor James Moeser has heralded UNC as the best value in the U.S., this is not the case for everyone in Tar Heel country.

While the Kiplinger poll does rank the University as the No. 1 deal for the in-state crowd, we've landed only fourth best for out-of-state students. Not exactly a travesty but a fact you certainly won't hear tossed around too much at BOT meetings.

According to Kiplinger's Web site, their methodology behind the poll consists of comparing two variables: academic quality and cost.

Academic quality is defined as a combination of SAT and ACT scores, student-faculty ratios and admission, graduation and retention rates. These account for about two-thirds of the final score a university receives from Kiplinger.

Cost considers total cost with housing, average debt after graduation and percentage of need met by university aid.

Likely contributing to UNC's rank is the Carolina Covenant, which covers 100 percent of need to low-income students.

But for out-of-staters, the University of Florida and the State University of New York at both Geneseo and Binghamton beat out the Carolina spirit in value. Of the three, only UF is ranked in the hallowed U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges, more than 20 spots behind our dear alma mater.

So, apparently we haven't been lied to; we are a steal.

But if the school wants to keep heralding itself as America's Best Value in Public Colleges, maybe it's time we tried to extend the title to our out-of-state comrades. After all, what's winning a title if we can't all party to it?

## Hard to say goodbye

### Changes in downtown illuminate underlying problem

Students returning from Winter Break were welcomed by a changed downtown Chapel Hill.

More businesses have closed and fewer have opened in their stead. The once vibrant Franklin Street continues its decline with the close of student favorite Buffalo Wild Wings and the temporary (we hope) close of the Chapel Hill staple, the Rathskeller.

Franklin Street clearly needs some kind of defibrillation to overcome the gradual deterioration that plagues it.

In the wake of these closings, the White Lounge, a local nightclub, expanded its business into the location formerly occupied by Visions Nite Club, which was closed this summer following a shooting on the property.

A new sports bar, Carolina Sky Bar, will take the space.

Remember when townies complained about Franklin Street being nothing but T-shirt shops and restaurants? Now it's little more than nightclubs and empty storefronts.

Buffalo Wild Wings, a

Minneapolis-based chain, closed in late December.

Antoine Puech, managing partner of Prestige and Associates, which owns the building that was home to the restaurant, told The Herald-Sun that the wing joint closed its Chapel Hill location for a couple reasons, one of which is Lot 5.

Lot 5, a mixed-use project that will boast residential and commercial spaces, will take the place of the current parking lot.

These concerns likely are not limited to Buffalo Wild Wings but to many surrounding businesses that will soon be plighted with the construction of the Lot 5 development.

The most unfortunate loss during break was the closing of the famous Rathskeller. The Rat, as it's more affectionately known, shut its doors because of nonpayment of taxes, according to the sign posted in the restaurant's window by the N.C. Department of Revenue.

Rathskeller owner Francis Henry has been struggling for months to revitalize the business, which, as noted on its

logo, has been a Chapel Hill tradition since 1948.

The restaurant faces not only tax concerns but structural issues, as the aging building which houses the Rathskeller has suffered some damages.

"If the building owners wanted to keep the Rathskeller open they could certainly assist in doing so," Henry said.

When new and interesting local businesses do want to open up downtown, like Sugarland, a sweets shop owned by Carrboro resident Katrina Ryan, owners face an uphill battle.

Permit requests and needed renovations to bring aging, previously grandfathered buildings up to code have stymied Ryan's progress to open her shop in the location formerly occupied by Julian's. Fortunately, Ryan hopes the store will open before the end of this month.

We'd like to see the town council and the Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership work to get a hold on the many problems raining down on our once idyllic downtown — before there's nothing left of it.

## Start off right

### Our New Year's resolutions for UNC and Chapel Hill

It's a little more than a week into 2008, and we have a bold prediction: You have already broken at least one of your New Year's resolutions.

Don't worry, you aren't alone. The actual reported numbers vary, but somewhere in the range of 90 percent of people don't actually follow through on their resolutions, and many fail in less than one month.

Despite those incredible odds, we decided to make some resolutions for some various important University and community officials and groups. We wish them better luck than most people in keeping them.

■ Student Body President Eve Carson: Use your amazing committee-making superpowers to make a committee for some-

thing that's desperately needed: a revision of the Student Code.

■ Association of Student Governments: Do something. Remind us that you exist.

■ UNC-system Board of Governors: Save us from exorbitant tuition hikes. Please, you're our last hope.

■ Chapel Hill Town Council: Finally realize that Franklin Street is not exactly the bustling paradise that you imagine it to be and that building a combination of retail stores, condominiums and a parking deck won't magically make it better.

■ Chapel Hill Downtown Partnership: Stage a coup and take over the revitalization of Franklin Street.

■ Town of Carrboro: Require all buildings to meet updated

fire codes. Then maybe they'll stop burning down.

■ Anyone lucky enough to get lottery tickets for basketball: Use them. Or else.

■ The N.C. voting-age population (Mecklenburg County in particular): Elect non-corrupt lawmakers who won't embezzle money, or at least vote them out of office when they do.

■ UNC football coach Butch Davis: Earn your raise next season. Our expectations aren't that high right now, we just want a bowl game.

■ UNC men's basketball team and coach Roy Williams: Make us proud come March.

For our part, we pledge to write more congratulatory editorials — provided the above resolutions are kept.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"It's definitely a great honor to get my jersey retired here after the best, Charlotte Smith. So I'm just happy."

IVORY LATTA, FORMER UNC POINT GUARD

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To read the full-length versions VISIT <http://dailytarheelpublic.wordpress.com> Post your own response to a letter, editorial or story online. VISIT [www.dailytarheel.com/feedback](http://www.dailytarheel.com/feedback)

### Priority registration levels academic playing field

TO THE EDITOR: The Faculty Council (recently passed) the priority registration proposal giving student-athletes the chance to register for classes before the normal student. This (was) long overdue.

Student-athletes typically practice 20 hours per week, the equivalent of a part-time job, yet being a part of a varsity athletics team requires everyone involved to meet a stringent practice schedule.

UNC athletics are known to compete at the highest level at every sport; certainly this reputation hasn't stemmed from mediocre attendance at practices.

Many athletes encounter difficulties while registering because oftentimes the one or few sections of a class that are available during the hours outside of practice times are full by the time registration begins.

Athletes are being put at a disadvantage when they cannot register for the only section of a class available within their confined schedule. This is one reason why so many athletes take summer school to graduate on time.

Students working part time or involved in other extracurricular activities are naturally more flexible because they don't have to commit to a fixed schedule every day of the week. That one class outside of their desired time frame can be taken, though their work schedule may need to be altered.

There is a good reason why every other school in the ACC has priority registration for student-athletes; they realize that athletes are being put at a disadvantage during registration due to the restrictions inherent in being a part of a varsity team. (Priority registration will improve) the welfare of all student-athletes representing and earning this institution the fine reputation it has within the NCAA.

David Solars  
Sophomore  
Chemistry

### Remember who you are, where you go to school

TO THE EDITOR: I have hardly been more embarrassed to be a Carolina fan than on Jan. 2 at the Kent State game.

In the first half, Kent State's point guard Al Fisher committed a (moderately) hard foul on Tyler Hansbrough. For the rest of the game, the Carolina student section would not leave him alone, booing every time he touched the ball.

Fisher handled the heckling with absolute class and played a fine game. Such fan behavior is commonplace at more classless schools, like one eight miles down U.S. 15-501, but has not and should not take place in Chapel Hill.

Despite the ways that the media might glorify them, the Cameron Craziest are not the model for crowd dynamics. No one is asking for "wine-and-cheese," just the opposite: We should show our love for Carolina basketball by being as loud as possible.

I'm just asking that you represent this great University proudly by cheering for the Tar Heels, and not against the other team.

Walker Brooks  
First-year  
School of Medicine

### N.C.'s primary vote counts, even if it's late ... very late

TO THE EDITOR:

Over the last week, I've been quite caught up in the political frenzy of primary season beginning. I've spent countless hours looking at [cnn.com](http://cnn.com), [nytimes.com](http://nytimes.com), newspapers and C-SPAN reading about the Iowa caucuses. More than once, I've thought, "Man, those folks are really right in the middle of the political process."

As a resident of North Carolina, it's pretty easy for me to say, "Well, you know, my primary vote doesn't really count, we're state number 42 (or something like that) in the primaries."

But, having seen all of the excitement in Iowa, what strikes me is that Iowa isn't special. Or, more specifically, Iowa is no more special than any other state.

So what if our state's primary comes late in the game? So what if Iowa and New Hampshire come first?

We've got well-educated, well-informed, politically passionate and aware people here, too!

So, darn it all, when we get the chance every four years to actually take part in picking the person who holds the highest office in the land, by golly, let's take it.

I'm going to proudly send in my absentee ballot this April or May or whenever our primary finally rolls around. We all should.

Not only is it, technically, a civic duty, but this year's race may be a close one, and every candidate is going to need every supporter they can get. Even those in states with late primaries.

Tim Matson  
Class of 2005

### Letter espoused racist and incorrect points of view

TO THE EDITOR: To compare undocumented immigrants to rapists and then to claim that the children of these people don't deserve to go to school is just sickening ("Keep illegal immigrants out of community colleges," Dec. 4, 2007).

The claim that "illegal immigrants do not pay taxes and are a drain on our economy" is wrong. UCLA's North American Integration and Development Center has found that undocumented immigrants contribute at least \$300 billion per year to the U.S. gross domestic product.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported, there will be five million more jobs in the U.S. than people to do them.

(Letter author Kevin M. Wise) claims illegal immigrants have "infiltrated our population." Overlooking the discriminatory phrasing, may I remind you that the U.S. was founded as a place of refuge and opportunity?

It is my sincere hope that Mr. Wise will get past his racist views and come to terms with the fact that the U.S. is a country made up of many different people and every single one of them has a right to be here.

Mary Lide Parker  
Sophomore  
Journalism

### The Daily Tar Heel

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of editorial freedom

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