

NATHAN NYANJOM ALL WISDOM, NOTHING BUT THE TOOTH Nathan Nyanjom is a senior biology major from Columbia, Md. E-MAIL: NYANJOM@EMAIL.UNC.EDU

America not ready for Ms. President

loday is Wednesday, Jan. 30. In two days we will have arrived in February, and that means different things for different

For Bill Murray and those living in Pennsylvania, it will be the eve of the most important day of the year - a day when a rodent the size of an obese squirrel will yield more power than meteorologists in deciding the weather of subsequent weeks. Let's hope the little guy doesn't see his shadow

For the rest of America, the onset of February means two things of 'Super' proportions: Tom Brady's downfall and the arrival of "Super Tuesday" — a day that sees 24 states hold

AT-LARGE their primary COLUMNIST elections for presidential nominations.

The Democratic party has seen many candidates drop, and with John Edwards' failure to win even his home state of South Carolina's primary, it's safe to say that only Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton will vie for the Democratic party's nomination. Although history will be made regardless, the question can be asked: Is America more ready for a black president or a female one?

While you might have a harder time solving this dilemma than Punxsutawney Phil does his, it really is a no-brainer - America is not ready for a female president.

Politics aside, let's take a second to look at our United States of

The figures of black and wom en's history are both celebrated, but one subject receives far greater treatment. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and his life work are taught in every elementary school in America and rightfully so - the civil rights movement that he galvanized allows any cool kid today to sit in the back of the school bus regardless of race.

Leaders of the women's rights movement also are taught to preteens but hardly to the same degree. While the name Susan B. Anthony might ring the average American's bell, the ones of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Betty Friedan certainly don't. We still have school on Anthony's birthday of Feb. 15th.

America's more comfortable with the idea of a president who is black than one who is female. Take the medium of television.

Fox's hit show "24" has seen its run of seven straight seasons stopped only by a strike, and while people don't watch it because it depicts the president as black, the idea has certainly become familiar to those who post up on couches Monday s at 9 p.m. "Commander in Chief" saw a female actress portray the president, but Geena Davis' completing one season.

While it did have to compete with the likes of "Without a Trace" and "ER," maybe America just wasn't up for watching a show with female president. Then again, it didn't have Jack Bauer.

Sure, the comments of Don Imus have shown America's fragility when it comes to racism, but while some will argue that African Americans can play the proverbial "race card," it's harder for women

to play their "gender card." It's great that fans of European occer teams face punishment for throwing bananas onto fields mocking an opposing team's black players - that's racist. But here in America, none of us will receive a scolding on Sunday, while we watch cheerleaders cheer. Tom Brady lose and commercials that are sure to feature scantily clad women. Who knows what GoDaddy.com is planning ... Maybe I'm all wrong.

Maybe that was Ame when women gained the right to vote with the 19th Amend

a full 70 years after blacks did. Maybe there is change in our future — when a highlight from the WNBA regularly makes the "SportsCenter" top 10. We only live in the present,

however, and today, America is not ready for Ms. President.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Wayne Stayskal, Tampa Tribune



Everyday low prices

Congress should restore low-cost contraceptives

ack in 2005 it seems Congress members forgot to bring their reading glasses to session.

During that time Congress

passed a deficit reduction bill, designed to curb out-of-control spending which, on the surface, sounds like an excellent idea.

But two years later, while we still haven't seen any of those promises, one thing we have felt is one of the bill's not-sorosy consequences

Through a small oversight, a loophole in the bill killed the incentives that pharmaceuticals were receiving for selling lowcost birth control in low-income areas and college campuses.

Corresponding bills in the House and Senate, however, look to fix that problem. This legislation is welcome news, if not highly overdue.

Since the incentives expired, contraceptive prices have risen up to 500 percent. Prices for NuvaRing at UNC Campus Health Services jumped from \$18 to \$44 a pop. If you think this isn't a big deal, ask someone who was already struggling to pay for it before the increase.

In fact, in 2006 teen pregnancy rose for the first time in 14 years. We're not trying to imply causation, but that statistic certainly shows there are a large number of sexually active young adults who would benefit from affordable contraception.

Late last year Rep. Joseph Crowley, D-N.Y., introduced the Prevention Through Affordable Access Act, a piece of legislation designed to fix the legal miscarriage that has caused the entire ruckus.

Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., presented an identical bill on the Senate floor. Thus far, neither has been met with any organized opposition.

But wait, does this mean your tax dollars are going to pay for that suitemate who keeps you up all night working in the Luv Dungeon? Actually, no.

The program costs Americans nothing. Instead of the incentives taking the form of subsidies, the program gives pharmaceuticals exemptions from certain Medicaid pricing rules, as long as they support certain charitable groups.

The two major charitable groups that this legislation zeros in on are college students and low-income communities, those for whom tight budgets are a fact of life.

At the same time, it's nice to see Obama take some time off from the dredges of the campaign trail to do his day job. We hope that both pieces

of legislation will be met with open arms in both houses and that the solution can take effect, too. And in the future, we ask that Congress try to read the fine print before they sign.

Positive-sum game

Grant shows importance of aiding losers from trade

any good econ major will tell you, trade is a positive-sum game all parties involved in trade are better off as a result.

Unfortunately the gains from trade are not applied uniformly. When it's cheaper to produce a product abroad, jobs tend to move overseas, and the home country imports more goods.

When the government steps in to help the individuals left disadvantaged by foreign trade, however, there's no real downside to the practice.

That's precisely what happened when North Carolina received a \$1.25 million National Emergency Grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

This provides a perfect exam ple of how free trade should work: Let it happen naturally, without protectionist measures, but reimburse the losers.

The federal grant will go to help pay for the health insurremiums of 1.800 N.C. workers who have lost their jobs because of trade.

Called the Health Coverage Tax Credit, eligible workers receive a federal tax credit that covers up to 65 percent of health insurance premiums for their families.

The grant comes as part of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Reform Act of 2002, which also provides a wealth of other benefits to dislocated workers. North Carolina has been the

recipient of a fair amount of those benefits - hardly surprising, given the state of the textile and tobacco industries.

In fact, for the 2008 fiscal year, North Carolina was allocated a whopping \$17,034,742 under the act — more than any other state in the Union.

The Tar Heel state also has, by far, the most workers certified under TAA. With about 72,000 displaced laborers qualifying for aid, North Carolina has almost 30,000 more residents receiving aid than the next state, California.

And while this isn't exactly rights, the good news is that these workers, despite having lost their jobs, are getting

Another plus of the program is that, red tape and bureaucracy aside, it's pretty easy to apply for aid certification.

It takes a minimum of three workers, or a single company or union official, to submit a

The benefits received range from re-employment services and relocation allowances to job training and the Health Coverage Tax Credit.

It only seems fair that those who take a sacrifice so the country as a whole can benefit from foreign trade receive restitution in the end

We highly doubt that the former textile worker will care too much about David Ricardo's theory of comparative advantage and expanding consumption possibility frontiers as he's looking for a new job. TAA also illustrates why pro-

tectionist measures like quotas and tariffs aren't necessary.

to spread the gains from trade more equally, it doesn't take economic inefficiency to protect American citizens

Stem the spread

Plan should slow increase in rate of HIV among Latinos

s the number of Latinos has increased in North Carolina, so too, unfortunately, has the number of Latinos with HIV and AIDS.

Past attempts by the state to combat the spread of these diseases among the N.C. Latino population have been largely unsuccessful, but an initiative introduced last week aims to fix the mistakes and omissions of the previous programs.

The new program will focus on increasing HIV/AIDS awareness among Latinos via announcements on Spanishlanguage stations and extensive HIV/AIDS testing in Latino communities and workplaces.

While these measures are certainly a good start, the initiative should also include means

of further educating Latino children about HIV and AIDS. Although Latinos are only 6

percent of the state's population, they account for 8 percent of all reported HIV cases and have infection rates significantly higher than the average rate for the rest of the population.

According to a 2006 study by John Kasarda and James Johnson, both professors in the Kenan-Flagler Business School, Hispanics accounted for 57 percent of the growth in total enrollment in N.C. public schools during the 2000-01 and 2004-05 school years.

That dramatic increase represents an opportunity to edu-cate Latino children about these diseases in a setting where they are already in learning mode. By partnering with schools, the initiative will have a better chance of long-run success. In light of how devastating

HIV/AIDS has been to the black community, this initiative takes on an even greater importance.

Effective measures were not taken to limit the spread of HIV/ AIDS among blacks in America and now almost half of all U.S. cases are among blacks even though they constitute less than 15 percent of the population. It is crucial that such a tragedy not be repeated again with Latinos.

As it is, this initiative stands good chance of stemming the tide of increasing HIV/AIDS cases among N.C. Latinos. By adding the education of Latino children into the mix, it stands an even better chance.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"In general, fashions that are popular have been, perhaps, a bit more revealing."

STEPHANIE KNOTT, CHCCS ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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UNC Facilities Services is working to become green

TO THE EDITOR:

A Jan. 18 column ("Carolina not going green, just spend-ing it,") mistakenly claims that there is a "void in sustainability on campus" and contends the University has failed to demonstrate wise fiscal stewardship.

In recent years, our sustainability initiatives have become an integral part of the institu-tional and academic culture of the University. Our sustainable policies, practices and curriculum have rightfully earned Carolina a national reputation as a sustainability leader.

The University takes pride in its efforts to reduce energy and water use. For example, by investing \$1 million in 2006, the campus saved \$263,799 annually, a 3.7 year payback for energy savings alone. Since 2003, the campus has

reduced water consumption per square foot by 15 percent and energy consumption by 8 percent. It should be noted that energy efficiency improvements have been achieved without recurring funding from the state legislature and have come from internal campus allocations.

State purchasing laws limit what vehicles facilities may purchase. While our service trucks and vans are highly visible, the grounds, building services and housekeeping departments also own growing fleets of electric vehicles. Flex-fuel vehicles, when available on state-term con-tracts, are purchased for all fleet additions or replacements. An ethanol fueling station to service these vehicles will be constructed

We are proud of our progress on sustainability and mindful that we can do more. With 16 million square feet of buildings and hun-dreds of vehicles, dramatic transformations will not occur overnight. The entire campus commu-nity must be proactively engaged in order for UNC to reduce its environmental footprint.

> Mike Freeman Acting Director Facilities Services

Make it more expensive to destroy your health

TO THE EDITOR:

People who smoke, or who have poorly managed diabetes from being obese, don't just die early. They die painfully. But with cigarettes and calories being so cheap, it has become too easy to be unhealthy. While some resources do exist, funding for chronic disease prevention remains sporadic and in short supply.

Tobacco companies spent

\$569 million on marketing in North Carolina in 2005. To make a dent in our smoking and obesity epidemics, we need big changes.

Raising the cigarette tax by 75

all prevent 125,000 North Carolinians from ever starting to smoke, especially students who have limited income. And make ing it easier for people to eat nutritious foods - for example by offering low-cost fruit and salad at work — will help people make the healthier choice

> Meg Molloy, Executive Director N.C. Prevention Partners

WRITING GUIDELINES: Please type: Handwritt letters will not be accept

SPEAK OUT

> Sign and date: No more that two people should sign letter: > Students: Include your year,

major and phone number. Faculty/staff: Include your department and phone num Edit: The DTH edits for spac clarity, accuracy and vulgari Limit letters to 250 words.

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Dismissing comparisons to apartheid is premature

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in response to Charles Dahan's column, 'Apartheid comparison overstate the reality" (Jan. 29). Dahan boldly states that "comparing the conflict in Israel to the struggle in South Africa is not only incorrect;

it is disgusting."
As a Peace Corps volunteer serving in South Africa for more than two years and as a Ph.D. student Africa recently, I've had the oppor-tunity to hear the opinions of South Africans from all walks of life on the Israel/Palestine conflict.

South Africans are divided on these issues. Many still remember Israel as a supporter of the Apartheid regime, offering training, weapons, intelligence and advice to the South African Army, while many South African Jews are fiercely loyal to Israel. Some of those who suffered

under Apartheid think of that institution as uniquely South African; others who were "violently oppressed and fully dominated" see something very famil-iar in the current Palestinian situation and have not forgotten that much of the world once labeled Nelson Mandela a terrorist.

I don't claim to be an expert on the appropriateness of the use of the term 'Apartheid' as an analytical tool to describe the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, which is exactly why I will be attending the panel offered on Thursday.

If South Africans find this a valid and challenging topic for debate, then why shouldn't we?

> Tamara Johnson Graduate Student Geography

Viva la taco stand — fight discrimination of vendors

TO THE EDITOR:

Recently some coward filed an anonymous complaint about the taco stands in Carrboro violating zoning codes by operating in park-ing lots. Consequently the (Board of Aldermen) has given businesses a week to make the taco stands

stop operating in their lots. Seriously, what kind of person files an anonymous complaint about this? At least have the guts make yourself known.

Perhaps they own a Mexican restaurant and are fearful of competition from authentic food, or maybe they just don't like tacos or Latinos. Regardless, they have problems.

All they have accomplished

is denying us all the greatness of meat and cheese melted between tortilla shell and denying us the diversity that makes Carrboro great. Thanks a lot, pal.

Seriously there must be an easy olution to change the zoning and allow the taco stands to operate. This is a slippery slope, take action now or forever suffer the consequences of a taco

> Dan Conrad Graduate Student

The Baily Tar Heel

Established 1893, 114 years of editorial freedom

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