Senate should spend less

time worried about sports

On the eve Super Bowl XLII the Boston Herald reported more videotaping by the New England Patriots, this time, prior to Super Bowl XXXVI against

The report by the Boston news-paper joins a slew of videotap-

ing allegations held against the Patriots. Sen. Arlen Specter plans

Roger Goodell soon to discuss this

"Spygate" issue. Who knows if an

This December, former Sen.

George Mitchell released a report that concluded a 20-month inves-

tigation on the use of steroids in

Major League Baseball.

According to his report, he

made it clear many professional baseball players had used ste-roids. What could a lengthy

investigation on the Patriots conclude? Does anyone really

What is wrong with these washed-up senators? Do they

have nothing better to do than investigate the integrity of pro-

fessional sports?
Although cheating in sports is

an important issue (I guess) does

it measure up to other issues this country is faced with? How

about a 20-month investigation of the Bush administration for

deceiving the American people

Unsurprisingly, I doubt it will happen. Only in America

do politicians worry more about

the ethics of sports than the eth-

ics of preemptive war (or has the media's ballyhoo about our

struggling economy caused you to forget we are still in war?).

steroids and continue debat-

ing whether or not the New

England Patriots (almost) unde-

feated season should be forever

Stop sexist language; don't

say the word 'man' again

TO THE EDITOR: I agree with Mr. Win Chesson's

olumn ("Patriarchal language at

UNC must be dropped," Feb. 4);

'sexist language" has got to go.
For far too long, it has created

a harmful mental environment -

pardon me, persontal environper-

worst malefactors — oops, I mean, personfactors — in this regard.

If only everyone was as ada-

Then, at last, UNC would have

Will Schultz

History

mant — sorry, adapersont — about this issue as Mr. Chesson!

a mandate — er, persondate — to finally make sexist language histo-

ry! I mean persontory, of course.

The Baily Tar Heel

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114 years of editorial freedom

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ont — for people of all genders.
Sadly, UNC has been one of the

Exercise & Sport Science

Casey Ellis

Junior

Never mind the thousands of young men fighting and dying for America's ego, let's figure out which baseball players used

and going to war with Iraq?

care - because I do not.

to meet with NFL commis

TO THE EDITOR:

the St. Louis Rams



CHARLES DAHAN

Charles Dahan is a political science graduate student from California. E-MAIL: CDAHAN@GMAIL.COM

Designing Franklin Street is a bad idea

Perhaps for all the talk of "development" on Franklin Street, the businesses that survive are merely those that respond to the demands of the residents of downtown Chapel Hill: horny, binge-drinking col-

lege students.
Cheap, heart-burn inducing restaurants and smoky hookup bars filled with the fake-ID crowds fulfill the few desires of 18- to 21-year-olds, while T-shirt shops satiate the demands of their proud parents.

Little else explains the inability of mainstream businesses to find success on Franklin Street. The Rathskeller's long and

successful run COMMUNITY COLUMNIST - cut short by

declining quality and poor financial management rather than a lack of demand for such an establishment — clearly demonstrates the demands of the local clientele. When thinking back to college, few students remember the pair of chinos they bought, whereas most fondly recall the boozy nights they spent in underground establishments of questionable repute.

While such pontification is comparable to claiming knowledge of the best play to call during the final few seconds against Maryland, the efforts of meddling individuals often result in actual consequences regarding the appearance of Chapel Hill. Political actors and organizations should not attempt to influence

 through positive assistance such as tax breaks or negative roadblocks such as zoning restrictions — the businesses that open on Franklin Street or the surrounding area.

From the perspective of the businesses, opening a venture on the main drag of a college town is clearly risky. Liabilities are nota-bly high, establishing loyal customers is literally impossible as the residents almost completely turn over every four years, and the fickle tastes of students are well known.

The Gap on Franklin Street dealt with issues no other branches of the company faced, specifically concerns about patrons occasionally jumping over burning copies of The Daily Tar Heel outside the front door at 1 a.m. While the popularity of stone-washed jeans might fade from year to year, in Chapel Hill light blue shirts misspelling Duke with a cruder term of similar

intonation never go out of style.

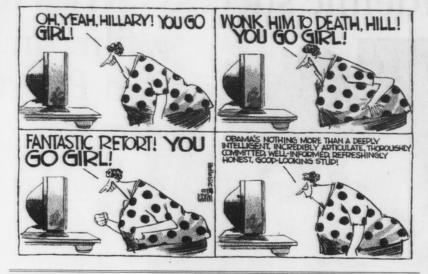
Attempts by the town government and local organizations to spur "development" are counter-productive. The idea that a community might be engineered is nonsensical, and the types of businesses that local officials usually encourage are simply not logical additions to Franklin Street.

While national brands - no matter how hip or contemporary might briefly boost the cosmo-politan image of Chapel Hill in the eyes of local elites, the barren storefronts that result create a cycle of failure that is counterproductive

Thankfully, North Carolina passed legislation limiting eminent domain to hinder a community from transferring existing businesses to alternative owners to maximize tax revenue. Yet methods of encouraging and discouraging commercial and residential enterprises, such as tax incentives and zoning restrictions. wielded by local politicians

and community organizations. When I leave Chapel Hill, I won't remember how I procured a certain pair of pants but will fondly recall fatty sandwiches at The Rat and cheese fries at Linda's. While I'll lament the absence of such establishments for current students, I won't be so bold as to force those positive memories upon others. If those businesses don't succeed and future generations of Chapel Hill denizens prefer memories of shopping for cargo pants and trucker hats, I can't imagine anyone qualified to stand in their way.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Don Wright, Palm Beach Post



Tying up the loophole

Congress and treasurer work together on a good bill

econciliation is something that Student Congress and the executive branch have struggled with lately.

That's why it is so encouraging that a deal was brokered between Congress and Student Body Treasurer Jordan Myers that closed a loophole in a financial law.

Congress Speaker Tyler Younts introduced a bill in mid-January that would have forced the treasurer to get the approval of Congress before making any financial allocations from the student government fund, since Congress is charged with distributing student fee money. However, the original form of

the bill would have made it difficult for the executive branch to function effectively by restricting its ability to pay for logistical costs, such as phone bills and printing fliers, particularly in the summer when Congress meets infrequently.

Enter the compromise. The original bill was split in two, and the restrictions on the treasurer were softened, meaning that he will retain the authority to spend money from the student government fund for the day-to-day expenditures of the executive branch.

The treasurer will also retain the ability to give student groups approval to used earmarked funds for something other than the explicit purpose

for which they were allocated. For example, in the event a group wanted to put money earmarked for bringing a speaker to campus toward putting on a different kind of event, the treasurer could approve that.

The treasurer will no longer be allowed to allocate money to student groups out of the student government fund without the approval of Congress. We are glad to see the com-

promise for two reasons.

First, the intent of the bill is a good one. If Congress has control over the allocation of funds to student groups but the treasurer is able to transfer money to groups without congressional approval, it in effect removes a significant amount of power from the hands of Congress.

Because the primary pur-pose of Congress is to allocate money to student groups, it doesn't make any sense to rob them of that power.

The extent of what Congress should have authority to do has been one point of contention with the executive, as it was during last year's vetoed congressional spending caps, so it is good that this possible source of further conflict has been resolved.

Second, we are glad to see Congress fixing a potential problem with the Student Code

before it becomes a major issue. The loophole came under scrutiny after Myers reimbursed Homecoming expenses without the approval of Congress, which had been talking about the possibility of withholding money

While the Homecoming money was not a major issue in itself, it drew attention to the discrepancy in the law.

We're glad that a deal could be made that helped to close the loophole before it caused any major problems.

Time for a new era?

UNC should issue ultimatum to apparel manufacturer

ometimes, it's best to take things slow.

At its meeting last week. UNC's committee on licensing did just that by recommending that the chancellor take more time before cutting ties with New Era, a licensed manufacturer of apparel for the University.

The proposal to cut ties stemmed from concerns over recent allegations of labor violations against the company, including racial discrimination and firing workers for attempting to unionize.

The company also has come under fire for its refusal to let members of the Worker Rights Consortium, a labor rights advocacy group representing 179 colleges and universities, including UNC, into the company's Mobile, Ala., plant.

While it's certainly an ominous sign that New Era is not allowing workers' rights inves-

hile some students

might see UNC as a

den of tree-hugging,

Bush-bashing professors hell-

bent on discouraging alternate

points of view, new evidence

appears to suggest otherwise.

According to a recent survey

conducted by the Committee

on Academic Responsibility, a

whopping 94 percent of UNC

students agreed that their instructors "maintain an atmo-

sphere that promotes intellec-

tual freedom and welcomes

diverse perspectives".

But although the study seems to disprove claims of classroom

bias on campus and is certainly

a good start for researching the

subject, more investigation is

needed before UNC can safely

draw that conclusion.

plant, the licensing committee made the correct decision by refusing to recommend the immediate cancellation of New Era's contract

It can be hard, especially as a university, to resist the temptation to acquiesce in the face of pressure from activist groups with a bee in their bonnet, but by doing so, UNC now is better ositioned to end any possible labor violations at the plant.

Its recommendation that the chancellor issue an ultimatum giving the company the chance to allow the labor rights investigators into the plant by the next licensing committee meeting in February could actually lead to better results for the workers.

The appropriate result of the ultimatum, if it is not met, would be a termination of UNC's contract with New Era.

But by continuing its contract with New Era for now, tigators into its manufacturing UNC retains its influence over

Freedom to speak

Survey on openness is good news, but work's not done

should not distract UNC from

addressing possible shortcom-

ings in openness existing with-in specific departments.

dents to identify their major,

thus clumping students from

varying majors into one group.

spective, it would be easy for

committee members to over-

Respondents as a whole might

have experienced little bias in

classrooms, but maybe political

science majors felt particularly

Interestingly, the survey found conservative students were not

more likely to report bias than

The political makeup proba-

embroiled in professor bias.

liberal or moderate students

look departmental trends.

Viewed from this broad per-

The survey didn't ask stu-

A positive overarching trend

the company's actions.

in the footsteps of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which canceled its contract with New Era last month, UNC would have lost its bargaining position with the company.

to listen to those who buy from them than those who don't.

tant to remember that there is often a trade-off between better labor standards and more jobs.

If the audit reveals employ-ees in the Mobile plant simply aren't paid well, it's probably a good idea for UNC not to cancel the contract and risk putting people out of jobs, particularly during this time of increasing economic uncertainty.

If the audit turns up anything much worse than that, however, it might indeed be time for a new era of manufacturers of UNC apparel.

bly closely resembles the campus at-large. Of 1,000 surveyed, 38.6

ercent described themselves as

However, just because con-

servatives in the study aren't

more likely to report bias

doesn't mean that it doesn't

exist. Based on qualitative data

supplied by respondents, not all classroom environments are

open to alternate viewpoints.

poll minority ethnic and political

groups on campus. How these

groups perceive classroom bias

the true openness of UNC.

Before handing out the party blowers and releasing the balloons, the committee has a little

bit more digging left to do.

on campus should demonstrate

UNC should seek and directly

liberal, 35 percent moderate and

20.4 percent conservative.

Had the committee followed

Companies are more likely

Furthermore, it's also impora call to action.

It has been more than 30 quite sometime now. Changing "freshman" to

"first-year" in official university documents is a simple change mitment to inclusivity and

As Win (Chesson) noted, we wouldn't hesitate to change the word if it were "freshwhite." Why should "freshman" be any

VRITING GUIDELINES:

Please type: Handwritten letters will not be accepted. Sign and date: No more tha two people should sign letter Students: Include your year, major and phone number.

➤ Drop-off: at our office at Suite 2409 in the Student Union. ➤ E-mail: to editdesk@unc.edu ➤ Send: to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27515.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"I think anytime you talk about those two I'm a little biased, but I think it's the greatest rivalry." **DICK VITALE, SPORTSCASTER, ON UNC-DUKE GAME**

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

Bias didn't affect covering the end of Edwards' bid

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to the cacophony of voices crying foul against the alleged "liberal media," too often I see news sources over-compensating to appease such

In a Feb. 1 letter to the editor, ("Rudy Giuliani dropping out of the race was news, too") I see a perfect display of one such

complaint.

This time, however, the attack was aimed at The Daily Tar Heel, for its disproportion-ate coverage of Edwards' end of his campaign as compared with former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

John Edwards not only grad-uated law school from Chapel Hill, he also represented this state in the U.S. Senate and has a major campaign office in Chapel Hill. The Daily Tar Heel has a

responsibility to cover news that pertains to Chapel Hill, the University of North Carolina, as well as this state, and I find nothing wrong with the coverage in the Jan. 31 issue. It is relevant, significant and hits close

to home Those who cry foul and attack the "liberal bias" allegedly abound in the major news networks are not defending balance and freedom of expression in journalism; they are merely attempting to undermine the media's ability to cover relevant events.

In a media climate where Dan Rather is pushed out for one mistake in several decades and Bill O'Reilly is praised for several factually inaccurate arguments per broadcast, I feel that these cries of injustice are entirely misdirected

> Ben Buck Freshman Political Science

Gender-neutral language is a step UNC needs to take

TO THE EDITOR:

I was pleased to see that the guest column in Monday's paper was about gendered language ("Patriarchal language at UNC must be dropped," Feb. 4).

I thought that the columnist's comments were insightful

nist's comments were insightful and inspiring.

I was, however, frustrated to find that Chancellor (James) Moeser did not take the Student Advisory Committee to the Chancellor's petition as

years since the American Psychological Association enacted a nonsexist language policy, and top universities have had policies in place for

equality.

different?

Hannah Allison Anthropology

SPEAK OUT

major and phone number.
Faculty/staff: Include your department and phone number.
Edit: The DTH edits for space death.

UBMISSION:

JESSICA SCISM SARAH WHITWORTH KATHRYN ARDIZZONE SARAH LETRENT

EDITOR'S NOTE: Columns, cartoons and letters do not necessarily reflect the opinion. The Daily Tar Heel or its staff. Editorials are the opinions solely of The Daily Tar Heel er rial board. The board consists of eight board members, the associate opinion editor, the opinion editor and the editor. The 2007-08 editor decided not to vote on the board.