



ERIN ZUREICK

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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Predicting Duke win was right decision

In the past several days, I've received several letters telling me to fire our sports editor and a senior sportswriter. I've been told that I should step down as editor of this paper. A Student Congress representative even came into our office to complain on behalf of his "constituents."

I've witnessed some of the most passionate responses from our readers in my almost four years here because The Daily Tar Heel picked Duke to beat UNC in Wednesday's matchup between the Tobacco Road rivals.

Hundreds of you have gone online and contributed to message boards, and I've received at least a dozen letters to the editor.

I'm here to tell you that the paper made the right call — and not just because of the outcome of the basketball game.

Some readers have commented that because we are a student newspaper, we should have some kind of slant in our coverage that favors the home team.

One of the most personally disturbing comments that I came across online was one questioning whether the DTH was upholding its journalistic integrity with its prediction.

Yes, the DTH is a student-run newspaper. But that does not mean that we do not hold ourselves to professional standards.

Not all of our staffers want to be journalists after graduation, but our newsroom serves as a learning lab for them to gain the skills they will need if they do decide to.

Many of our sportswriters hope to write professionally.

In that vein, they take their jobs very seriously. DTH sportswriters do not wear UNC apparel or colors when they attend games. They aren't permitted to be fans of the teams they cover. They can't join Carolina Fever.

I can't tell you how many times I've gone back to our sports desk to ask them if "we" won a game only to be corrected that, yes, "they" won the game.

That's professionalism.

Picking Duke to win wasn't a popular choice. Giving Coach K the advantage in that game over Roy Williams was even less so.

However, those decisions were made by people who have to put aside any personal affiliations they feel for UNC to give our readers a realistic analysis of the game.

Picking a Ty Lawson-less Tar Heel team to lose to Duke was hardly a stretch, as much as any die-hard fan hates to admit.

You wouldn't want a Hillary Clinton supporter writing laudatory things about her in an objective DTH news story. So why would you want a sports piece to discard studied analysis in favor of what's popular?

I'm not going to try to tell you that "this was just a game" because I know many of you feel much more strongly than that.

But while we respect and often honor school spirit, the DTH's role on campus must go beyond that attitude.

Admittedly, complicating the DTH's coverage was the fact that you picked up the paper Thursday after the loss to see our masthead in Duke blue and a Blue Devil on the opinion page, a result of a loss of our traditional bet with The Chronicle, Duke's campus paper.

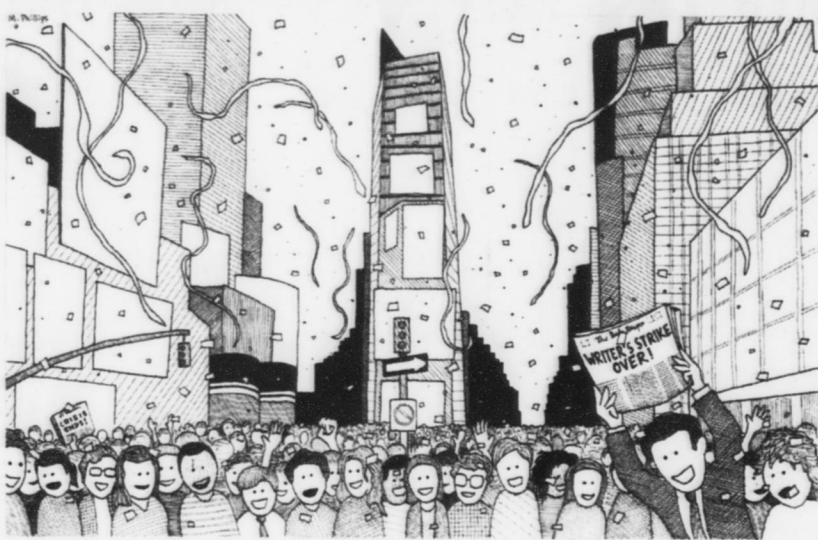
While I'm sure that served as a frustrating reminder of the team's loss for many of you, it was not intended to rub the defeat in anyone's face.

That wager is a traditional one made between the editors-in-chief of the two student newspapers and is completely separate of our sports desk's coverage.

It was my personal duty to deliver copies of our newspaper to Durham last week, not exactly a task that I relished.

And who knows? Maybe come March, The Chronicle will pay us a return visit with their papers carrying a Carolina blue masthead.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Mason Phillips, mphil@email.unc.edu



Service oriented

Coonin understands role of CAA, has vision for future

When it comes to the presidency of the Carolina Athletic Association, Andrew Coonin is your man.

Well, he's also your only man because he's running unopposed. Luckily this hasn't deterred him from putting together a platform with some laudable ideas.

Coonin seems to grasp the changing role of the CAA. Without tickets to distribute anymore, the organization has begun focusing more on promoting Olympic sports and organizing service projects.

Historically, Olympic sports teams have drawn the fewest student spectators (Carolina Fever excluded), but Coonin has a few ideas to remedy this.

The one we found most promising is the busing service to off-campus athletic events. Many campus events occur off the hallowed grounds of UNC.

The tennis team, for example, lets loose on the ACC at courts located down by the Friday Center. Providing bus access is a good idea to boost attendance for some of the University's less-publicized sports.

Coonin's platform is also strong on service. Exploring possibilities including blood drives, Habitat for Humanity work and the Hooker 5K, Coonin has shown a focus on connecting CAA to the community.

Coonin is also looking to break down what he sees as a campus divide between students and student athletes by giving students a better understanding of athletes' lives.

His "work out like an athlete" program is a big part of this. UNC team trainers would come to the student gyms and lead workout classes based on the training that the teams do.

This is a great idea for the general student body to get an

insight into what their athletic brethren suffer day in and day out in order to dominate the tracks, fields, mats, courts and diamonds on which they represent UNC.

Coonin's experience as vice president of the CAA is both an asset and a vice. While the institutional knowledge means he will hit the ground running, we'd like to see CAA open up to students outside of the organization and don't see Coonin doing much to further that cause, despite his assurances that he is going to expand the organization.

Old boys club charges aside, Coonin has a clear vision for the CAA and has set himself up well to accomplish his goals for the organization in the coming year.

Vote Andrew Coonin for CAA president. At the very least, we know he's the best candidate running.

Presidential qualities

Spurlock brings leadership and experience to GPSF

With a fresh vantage point and fervor to support her platform, The Daily Tar Heel editorial board believes, Cindy Spurlock will do a great job as president of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation.

Spurlock is already a representative of the GPSF, which gives her the institutional knowledge of the organization she needs to do the job effectively.

And instead of coming out of a professional school as recent GPSF presidents have, she is a doctorate student in communication studies. That gives her a broader perspective of the Graduate School as a whole.

Spurlock has pledged to stay more connected to undergraduates than GPSF leadership has historically been, keeping in close contact with whomever the student body president turns out to be. She even goes so far as to urge platform readers to educate themselves and others about the student body president candidates and to vote for one.

In addition, Spurlock is

extremely well-spoken, a quality that will be extremely valuable when speaking to the Board of Trustees about graduate student concerns.

She's also not afraid to do research, backing up her arguments with raw data and details on how other universities handle issues.

Particularly when it comes to tuition, Spurlock has done her homework. She is in tune with the tuition process and insisted that there are opportunities to keep tuition down that UNC isn't looking at.

Promising to stay aware of the entire UNC system instead of just Chapel Hill, Spurlock will be able to look at issues from a bigger picture.

For example, when it comes to alumni donations, Spurlock takes a new and forward-looking approach. Instead of just examining the numbers, she proposes looking both at how alumni donations affect our tuition rates and how our tuition rates affect what alumni donate.

She also placed a lot of focus on tuition remissions, a ben-

efit that lowers tuition costs for nonresident graduate students. Tuition remissions are a huge recruiting tactic at UNC that fall under the responsibility of the GPSF, and Spurlock is committed to improving the policy.

We are confident that she will be able to handle any issues that arise during her presidency.

She comes to the table already familiar with many of the issues facing graduate students, and she knows how to get things done, whether it's talking to the right people or finding the right information.

However, her pledge to "make green a new shade of Tar Heel blue" was outlined by a vague sustainability plan. And we would like to hear more about child care than that she is going to continue to support GPSF initiatives to provide it.

But overall, Spurlock is an intelligent and prepared candidate for president of the GPSF. She knows the issues facing UNC graduate students, and the organization will be fortunate to have her as its president.

Imperfect competition

Contested RHA race would make candidates stronger

UNC's Residence Hall Association is in perpetual need of a president who can increase the organization's presence around campus.

This year's candidate, Michael Miller, won't be a bad RHA president. However, we're not sure if he is necessarily the best person to make RHA more significant to students, and we wish the race was actually contested.

With multiple candidates vying for a position, they all would be forced to create and revise concrete strategies for the implementation of their ideas.

If one's plans lack direction in comparison to the other candidates, he risks losing votes. That competition forces candidates to specify plans, iron out details and prepare themselves to make

a difference immediately upon stepping into office.

When there's a one-horse race, as in the case of the perennially insignificant RHA elections, there is a tendency for the inevitable candidate to relax instead of research.

In a contested race, even if Miller was the favored candidate, he would have to develop more concrete plans for the implementation of his platform.

To his credit, Miller is at once internally critical of the RHA and passionately driven to involve its residents in service projects.

He has good ideas regarding community governments and service projects, but his process for carrying out these ideas isn't well elaborated in his platform.

One of Miller's platform points is to increase awareness of the existence of RHA among community residents in hopes of making it more effective.

We agree that this is necessary and feel that having another candidate to the race would also help to achieve that goal.

Additionally, with more research and a more concrete set of plans, Miller certainly would be a stronger candidate.

And while he still has the time to work on his platform before he takes office, right now we aren't convinced he's the best person for RHA.

But because the race is uncontested, we hope Miller takes this opportunity to further develop his plans so he can be an asset to RHA in the coming year.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"We thought that now would be a good time to act, especially with midterms around the corner."

LEAH DUNN, UL DIRECTOR, ON OFFERING FREE BLUE BOOKS

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

Undocumented students deserve in-state tuition

TO THE EDITOR:

"Help wanted" (Feb. 6) is right on in support of financial aid for "illegal immigrants" but falls short of impartiality by declaring that undocumented students should not be offered in-state tuition.

In-state tuition is not withheld from children of documented citizens who pay minimal taxes to the state and thus should not be withheld from children of undocumented immigrants.

The decision not to offer in-state tuition for the children of undocumented immigrants has no economic rationale. Students should not be punished on the bases of a decision their parents make to avoid documentation.

These students are caught in the middle when they immigrate to the United States, too young to go against their parents' will and, already being born, unprotected by the 14th Amendment.

When did it become popular or morally justifiable to deny the access of education to students based on the decisions of their parents?

The University of North Carolina, in particular, claims to be a university of the people. How can this be so if some are denied the opportunities others enjoy?

Benjamin Sines
Freshman
Biology

500th victory should have received more attention

TO THE EDITOR:

We would like to say that we are appalled at the lack of proper acknowledgement of Sylvia Hatchell's 500th career victory at UNC. This record, which only two other ACC women's basketball coaches have obtained, is one of highest honor.

After Thursday's victory, we were expecting to see the main headline of the Friday DTH to be about coach Hatchell's victory. However, after obtaining our paper, we were shocked to find that the main articles were about the summer reading book and campus religious organizations, plus three other articles.

We were looking for evidence of the milestone victory, and finally found it — a tiny picture at the bottom of the front page, with a short blurb informing us that readers who want to learn of the win must turn to page 7!

In the future, the DTH needs to learn its priorities and give proper acknowledgement where acknowledgement is due.

Karen Lauzau
Freshman
Physics

Erin Miller
Freshman
Elementary Education

CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, Friday's editorial "Vote for what will help you" mistakenly stated that the APPLS fee increase will be voted on in a student-wide referendum. The fee increase will be sent directly to the UNC Board of Governors for approval. The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

SPEAK OUT

WRITING GUIDELINES:

- Please type: Handwritten letters will not be accepted.
- Sign and date: No more than two people should sign letters.
- Students: Include your year, major and phone number.
- Faculty/staff: Include your department and phone number.
- Edit: The DTH edits for space, clarity, accuracy and vulgarity. Limit letters to 250 words.

SUBMISSION:

- 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.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Columns, cartoons and letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel or its staff. Editorials are the opinions solely of The Daily Tar Heel editorial 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.

Smoking ban is for the protection of nonsmokers

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to respond to the people who think the new University rule prohibiting smoking within 100 feet of buildings is "retarded" ("Smoking ban's effects unclear," Feb 8).

First, there's no such thing as a "right to smoke." Smoking is a behavior, not a condition of birth, and it isn't constitutionally protected. Courts often find in favor of nonsmokers in civil disputes.

Secondly, laws like this aren't intended to punish smokers, or make them quit. Their intent is to protect nonsmokers from breathing in the many toxic chemicals in cigarette smoke.

Though it is well known that tobacco use is dangerous, it still kills more than 440,000 smokers and 53,000 nonsmokers in the United States every year.

The 2006 Surgeon General's report is not ambiguous about the fact that there is no safe exposure level to secondhand smoke.

True, tobacco is not illegal, and adults should be able to exercise their choice regarding whether or not to use tobacco. Rules like the 100-foot ban are meant to protect nonsmokers. And if smokers would like to stop smoking as a result, they will gain more than just convenience.

Karen Lauzau
Freshman
Physics

Vote for the safety and security fee increase Feb. 12

TO THE EDITOR:

This Tuesday, we encourage all students to vote in favor of the safety and security fee increase.

The safety and security fee originated in 1991 "to provide added safety for the campus seven days a week between the hours of midnight and 3 a.m." Since that time, the fund's reach has expanded to benefit student groups, victims of sexual assault and other campus safety initiatives.

In 2008-09, 14 percent of the safety and security fee will support student groups' efforts to address sexual harassment and assault, and 36 percent will sustain the Victim's Assistance Fund.

Currently, the Victim's Assistance Fund is plagued by a deficit due to increased numbers of victim expenditures and the rising costs of medical expenses. In the last fiscal year, the fund aided 26 victims of sexual assault.

Safety programs that benefit you and your friends will be threatened without increased funds. Your minimal sacrifice of 50 cents a year can help prevent this. As Carolina women, we urge you to continue to speak for the safety of your fellow Tar Heels with your vote on Feb. 12.

Emily Joy Rothchild
Co-chairwoman
Women's Affairs Committee

Briana Buckner
Co-chairwoman
Women's Affairs Committee

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,
114 years
of editorial freedom

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