



**SAM PERKINS**  
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID

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## Heed the voices that boil your blood

UNC is liberal. No one will challenge that. However, especially during election season, UNC becomes about as receptive to conservatives as a Southern Baptist church would be to Elton John.

I came to UNC as a liberal person, but my disappointment has been in the difficulty to find diverse thought in a marketplace of ideas where anything nonliberal is tucked away in the back. But the contrast is something we need.

After four years here, all my views have been reworked but with little thanks to the efforts of the University. UNC desperately needs to encourage both sides of the spectrum, and that means bringing in some voices not everyone might want to hear.

A year before I came to UNC, I spent a summer working for Habitat for Humanity, picking up supplies and donations in an old 27-foot truck with a busted radio capable of picking up only one station. And on that one station, I was exposed to the omnipotent brilliance of Rush Limbaugh.

Just kidding; I think Limbaugh is an idiot. But a lot of people don't. A lot of people listen to him and form their opinions off thoughts like his. It was insightful to hear how he and those who call in think about issues. Listening to his show became a thought-provoking experience, valuable in that it forced me to reconsider my own views, but, above all else, let me in on how the other side (the Right) thinks and thereby allowed me to refine how I develop my counterarguments to views opposing my own.

UNC botched a similar, prime opportunity a year and a half ago when John Ashcroft visited campus. Aside from the embarrassing display of hospitality (or lack thereof), inconsiderate students ruined an opportunity to really absorb and understand the mind-set of such a powerful man in government who many felt had done the nation and world wrong. They were depriving themselves of the opportunity to intellectually engage the man firsthand.

Last year, my global issues class compiled a panel of a dozen students, including myself, who supported the war in Iraq ... in front of a lecture hall of at least a couple of hundred who despised people like us.

For about an hour, students brought every question (and comment) they could to discredit us and try to make us see the ignorance of our views.

My view is that President Bush botched the war and started it in the first place to benefit his corporate cronies. But it's the human rights atrocities that get to me, and I am glad that at least there is a chance of justice there now.

Such are my views on the war. I don't know if I changed anyone's mind, but I was at least able to explain and expose people to a relatively suppressed view on a campus vehemently in opposition to the war. For those who remained unchanged in their views, at least they reconsidered their own views and ultimately better know and understand the opposition they're attacking.

Besides, who would want to hear a panel of people agree with everything the audience thinks for an hour straight? It's one reason there's such a fascination (yes, we all have it, whether or not we stop and engage) with the Pit Preacher. Of course practically no one agrees with him, and it's not like he's in a position of authority. But it's still interesting to listen to the polar opposites of our own views to help us refine and improve our thought.

I'm not saying UNC should invite Neo-Nazis or bring back the KKK's David Duke just to diversify the speaker landscape. People like Ashcroft add so much perspective, and with many Bush administration members out of real jobs in less than a year, there ought to be some very interesting speakers available, and it wouldn't hurt us to hear what they have to say.

### EDITORIAL CARTOON By Alex Lee, lobin@email.unc.edu



## Live in your own reality

### SDS draft protest was misguided and unproductive

The last year that the U.S. military draft was in effect, Roe v. Wade overturned state bans on abortion, the Watergate scandal raged on and the Sears Tower was completed in Chicago.

Since then, six presidents have taken office and the U.S. has changed drastically, from bell-bottom to Apple Bottom jeans and from "Bad, Bad Leroy Brown" to "Soulja Boy."

Yet, for some reason Students for a Democratic Society decided to speak out about the discontinued practice Thursday, almost 35 years later, with a 1970s-style protest of its own.

The charade, intended to galvanize students in support of withdrawing all troops from Iraq, suffered from a lack of tact and was far too over the top to be taken seriously.

SDS members created their own "draft cards" under the guise of the "UNC Draft Board," collected them from the crowds and tore them up.

The entire display was performed with biting sarcasm, completely overshadowing the

two speakers and showing a total lack of respect for both current and past soldiers.

As in its previous protests, including marching on a military recruitment center and sitting in on the office of Rep. David Price, D-N.C., because he voted to continue funding the war, SDS failed to target the appropriate group and did so in an ineffective manner.

It's OK to disagree with the war in Iraq. It's a bit of a mess, without a doubt. But regardless of whether or not anyone agreed with the premise of going to war in the first place, the fact remains that we're there now.

That fact isn't going to change, and further debate on the issue must be framed accordingly to be at all useful.

The draft has absolutely nothing to do with the current war. The U.S. hasn't had a draft since Vietnam. Protesting the draft, therefore, is a useless demonstration of ignorance.

Calling for the immediate removal of troops from Iraq is also foolish. It arguably might have been better if the U.S. had

never intervened to begin with, but pulling the troops out now will only send Iraq into greater chaos with greater loss of life.

Instead of simply complaining or arguing for solutions that defy reality, SDS needs to take a close look at the facts.

If the group actually proposed viable solutions or even just initiated dialogue that better reflected the situation at hand, it might actually create change in the right direction.

As it stands, however, SDS comes off as a group slightly off its rocker pushing an unrealistic, heavily ideological agenda.

It's impossible to get anything useful done with that kind of reputation.

If SDS truly wanted to engage students on the topics of the war in Iraq and military recruiting, it should do so with facts and figures and by presenting both sides of the issue fairly, so students can decide for themselves what to think.

And if they have time between printing fake draft cards and making posters, they could also check what decade they're in.

## Still not a good idea

### Principal shouldn't have held separate assemblies

A heated confrontation between a black girl and a Latino girl at Dillard Drive Middle School in Raleigh, which included intimidation through threats with gang symbols, led to a dramatic response by principal Teresa Abron.

She held two assemblies, one for black students and one for Latinos, to address the school's standards for students and its policy against gang activity.

The white students didn't attend either because they weren't part of the problem.

Judging from the delicacy of the racism issue in America, segregating the middle school students was not the best decision on Abron's part.

A slew of upset parents gathered at a school board meeting Tuesday to protest the segregated assemblies, complaining that bad examples were set for their children, some of whom felt put down by the assemblies.

We understand that Abron had the safety of the students in mind when she decided to separate the assemblies, but unless a combined assembly would have resulted in a mass conflict, it probably would have been better to focus the assembly toward the whole school at once.

It should take much more than two seventh-grade girls arguing and flashing gang symbols to explicitly separate the entire school by race.

Keeping the students together would have been a sign to the students that they need to get along — they're stuck at that school together, and they're just going to have to learn to live with each other regardless.

Plus, middle schoolers are still at an impressionable age and are constantly looking to adults around them to establish their values and morals.

If they see authority figures separating everyone by race to

solve conflicts between races, students have little impetus to integrate on their own.

And at a school where race relations already are apparently a problem, separating the students will only perpetuate the growing cycle of conflict.

The community uproar that occurred should be a reminder to everyone that civil rights in our country are still a relatively new and very potent issue.

Racism hurts all parties involved, and we aren't even a full generation out of the Civil Rights Movement.

Yet no matter how gaping the wounds of racism still are, Brown v. Board of Education overturned the "separate but equal" doctrine 54 years ago, and the spirit of that ruling should have been followed.

After all, how are people ever supposed to reconcile with each other when the reaction to conflict is further separation?

## Farewell, Fidel

### End of Castro's reign opens door for change with Cuba

Miami wasn't exactly erupting with fireworks Tuesday following the news that Fidel Castro won't seek re-election — we use that term very loosely — as Cuba's president.

The odds are strong that nothing about Cuba's current political situation will change as long as the elder Castro remains alive and working behind the scenes although his brother Raúl, since acquiring power, has shown some desire for reform.

His resignation, however, gives the U.S. a unique opportunity to mend a monstrous fence by finally removing the embargo and the travel ban.

While we're not justifying anything Castro has ever done, he's rightfully resentful of the

U.S., alluded to in his latest letter as "an adversary which had done everything possible to get rid of me."

Little does he know, the CIA's top-secret plan to slowly kill him over 50 years with an intestinal disease has finally come to fruition.

In all seriousness, however, the Cuban embargo and travel ban have been grossly ineffective at trying to undermine Castro's authority.

Instituted in 1960 to counter the nationalization of U.S. assets in Cuba, in 48 years the embargo has not only failed to unseat Castro but in fact managed to impair Cubans and Americans.

Meanwhile, the rest of the world is taking advantage of trading opportunities with the

island sitting 90 miles off the coast of Florida, puffing on fine Cuban cigars while U.S. businesses and farmers in the Southeast watch as they miss out on a valuable market.

The travel ban, tightened by the Bush administration in 2004, also is more of a punishment to individuals wanting to visit Cuba than a productive political measure.

UNC's study abroad program in Havana, limited to 14 people as it is, is one of the few that exists in the country because of these restrictions.

The days of the Cold War are over, and Castro no longer poses even a miniscule threat. It's time for the U.S. to step up, be the bigger party and put an end to this nonsense.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"The ability to be able to dance is a sign of solidarity. ... (This) is something I couldn't pass up."

ERIC JOHNSON, DANCE MARATHON PARTICIPANT

### 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)

### U.S. should adopt stricter gun control laws for safety

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to Wednesday's letter to the editor ("Prohibition of concealed carry hurts campus safety," Feb. 20), it is dangerously irresponsible to suggest that a tragedy similar to those at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University could be prevented at UNC by allowing students to carry firearms with them to class.

We need to instead use these shootings as an example for why we need tight and strictly enforced gun control laws.

Seung-Hui Cho had been diagnosed with both depression and selective mutism and displayed troubling behavior throughout his childhood and at Va. Tech. Steven Kazmierczak had been prescribed a cocktail of anti-depressant and anti-anxiety drugs.

These students were completely unfit to own guns, and the suggestion that they, as well as similarly unstable people, should be free to carry firearms around campus is one of the most convoluted arguments I have read.

If we truly want to be able to go to class without feeling like "sitting ducks," we need to follow other industrialized nations in adopting strict gun control laws.

Consider it no coincidence that in comparison to other developed nations we have higher rates in both firearm ownership and in gun-related homicides.

I cannot think of a single instance in which I would feel safer if every undergraduate was walking around with a handgun.

George Drometer  
Sophomore  
Political Science

### Williams obviously is far classier than Krzyzewski

TO THE EDITOR:

I was so inspired by Mike Krzyzewski's comments about what he doesn't do regarding injury reports that I wrote down some things Roy Williams doesn't do:

Doesn't whore himself out to American Express, General Motors or any other company willing to pony up big bucks and increase his recruiting power.

Doesn't remain completely smug about the behavior of a player who commits a flagrant and vicious foul at the end of a game where the outcome has already been decided.

Doesn't act completely remote and inaccessible to the local and national press and then complain about unfair media coverage.

Doesn't make subtle below-the-belt comments without having the decency to refer to a team by name.

There you have it. Roy Williams, a class act all the way.

Dylan Thurston  
Manager  
Carolina Union Box Office

### CORRECTION

Due to a reporting error, the Wednesday editorial "Super bad idea" mistakenly stated pledged delegates are bound to a particular candidate. They can technically vote for whomever they want, but they are chosen with the understanding they will support that candidate. 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](mailto: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.

### Kvetching board

kvetch:

v.1 (Yiddish) to complain

"Fun night out with my boyfriend" and "Vagina Monologues" do not belong in the same sentence.

To the lone boy in absolution Monday night: Do me.

The rest of the class could care less about all the movies you've seen; we want to win some candy. Calm down.

Props to the UL for offering free blue books; now I can utilize my pocket change for its proper allocation, purchasing Dutch Master Cigars from the gas station.

I was OK with spending a quarter more than girls had to ... but those cookies sucked!

You have to wonder what the guy who left Boyz II Men knew that the organizers of SpringFest didn't ...

Kudos to the Wolfpack. Force us to unnecessarily use tons of water to de-State-ify our Old Well, (screw) the drought ... next time though you should probably tell your boys to win.

So I'm apparently too sober to get into the substance-free community. Seriously, housing, WTF?

Dear Carolina Review: I know all of your writers think that they're terribly witty (especially their jokes about the Men at Carolina program turning men gay!), but they're still just as ridiculous as they were in high school.

UNC, please design a new commercial to air during basketball games. If the voice-over isn't creepy enough, I think the mullets are a clear indicator that the promo is a bit outdated.

Whenever people hand me files in the Pit, they're pretty much saying, "Here, YOU throw this away."

That's right, I took the elevator to the fourth floor; knee surgery does that to you. Next time, think before you try to impress your girlfriend.

I can't ever get any work done because I'm always trying to keep up with the online comments responding to letters to the editor.

Daily Tar Heel, why is it that you constantly harass the ASG, but when things are going well, you are nowhere to be found? Do you find conflict that much more interesting than progress for the students?

If UNC smokers invested all the time they spend creating stupid, flawed analogies for the campus smoking ban into quitting smoking, I think we'd all be better off.

Send your one-to-two sentence entries to [editdesk@unc.edu](mailto:editdesk@unc.edu), subject line 'kvetch.'

### The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,  
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of editorial freedom

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