

DAVID HAMILTON AND TIM WANDER BERS, FLO FOOD E-MAIL: DSHAMILT@EMAIL.UNC.EDU WANDER@EMAIL.UNC.EDU

Take a stand by eating just pork

s students at UNC, we are inundated with information about global issues such as poverty, social justice and environmental degradation.

One of the reasons I admire UNC students so much is that this awareness often translates into action. We donate money to charity for great causes, do community service and spread awareness. But as we grab a meal between classes, we rarely stop to consider that we can transform the world by being intentional about the way we gat We are fed by an industrial food

chain of our own making that keeps us in ignorance of a food system that is unjust. One of these industrial food

GUEST COLUMNISTS chains begins in North Carolina and ends on the plates of consumers all around the world.

The king of industrial hog production in our state is Smithfield Foods. This \$12 billion company relies on the exploitation of workers, minority communities, farmers and animals in order to sell us a product that is bad for our health and worse for our conscience

Smithfield owns the world's largest meat packaging facility, located in Tar Heel. The plant processes an average of 32,000 hogs a day and employs 5,000 people, most of them of minority heritage. On paper, this many jobs looks great, but things look quite different inside the plant.

Because of excessive line speeds and inadequate training, workers suffer crippling injuries. According to government data, injury rates have gone up by 200 percent in the past three years. Most of the employees quit after only 90 days, and the company is forced to recruit from farther away each year. Unionizing efforts at the plant for the past 15 years have been unsucsful as employees continue to suffer low wages, intimidation and dangerous working conditions.

The suffering of minority workers in the processing plant is mirrored by the suffering of minority communities that live around Smithfield's hog farms. Our state is home to 10 million hogs that pro-duce 19 million tons of untreated waste every year.

That equates to 2.5 tons of hog waste per N.C. resident per year. Many of the farms are located in flood-prone eastern North Carolina, where the waste is stored in open-air pits and sprayed on surrounding fields. The nutrient overload often contaminates the drinking water of neighbors and causes massive fish kills.

The pigs live by the thousands in huge warehouses, in rows of tiny wall-to-wall pens. Industrial pork producers use 10 million pounds

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

THE CURRENT FRANKLIN STREET BUSINESS CLIMATE IS CAPABLE OF SKELETONIZING AN ENTIRE RECORD STORE IN JUST A FEW YEARS.

By the book

Election violation a concern, but revote not necessary

NC is taking one too many cues from Florida when it comes to election violations

At a pretrial hearing last week, the Student Supreme Court heard a complaint against the safety and security fee increase referendum that passed in the general election Feb. 12.

Tyler Younts, the Speaker of Congress, questioned the legiti-macy of the referendum on the grounds of improper listserv use, arguing that the integrity of the election was compromised.

Younts brings up an impor-tant point, and the incident is a clear violation of the Code.

However, we don't think the listserv abuse affected the outcome, and for practical purposes the court should leave the result as is and instead punish the offending group.

Younts said the chairwoman of the safety and security committee, a part of student government, sent out an e-mail over the committee's listserv urging members to send out their own e-mails about the fee increase via other listservs of which they might be members

Title VI Section 402 of the Student Code states, "E-mail lists reserved for the use of student government officials or any party acting on behalf of student government may not be used to ... support the passage or failure of a referendum."

Younts said that members sent out e-mails over at least two other listservs after the chairwoman's request but also added personal notes that actually told others to vote in favor of the increase.

Although these e-mails are a definite violation of the Code, we highly doubt it had any significant effect on the election.

The referendum passed by an overwhelming 71 percent majority, so it's fairly clear the student

body supports the fee increase. The Code does say, however, that a re-election can be called if the violation compromised the integrity of the election.

While the case could be made for this, it would be impractical to have the student body vote again. Turnout would be low, apathy would be high, and the result likely would be the same. Plus, this fee increase was

originally supposed to go on the Homecoming ballot in October, so it's been a long time coming.

Younts said, however, that unless some punitive action is taken, it leaves the door open for future similar violations. and we agree That's why the court should

punish the offending party in the ode violation: the committee.

But with the outcome of the referendum as it was, an overwhelming majority, it's not necessary to drag everyone back out to vote again.

Preparation gone wrong ECSU drill an awful idea any way you slice it

n light of the recent school shootings at Virginia Tech and Northern Illinois University, safety is on the minds of campuses across the nation, and it's good that the UNC system is taking steps to address and improve it.

Nevertheless, testing the safety of a campus calls for clearer thinking than Elizabeth City State University officials exhibited Feb. 22, only eight days after the NIU tragedy, as they conducted a mock gunman drill that most apparently did not know was a drill.

A man with a fake gun entered an American foreign policy class and threatened students and assistant professor Jingbin Wang for 10 minutes before campus police showed up to "subdue" him.

But nobody in the class, Wang included, knew the gunman was acting. The man placed the faux

fied students, faculty and staff of the campus safety exercise five days in advance of when the drill would take place.

And the day of the drill, administrators sent out another campuswide alert, by e-mail and text message, that a gunman would be entering a room in Moore Hall.

But the message apparently didn't get across. Without a foolproof communication measure with 100 percent effectiveness, ECSU shouldn't have gone forward with the drill.

Plus, if the campus police knew a drill was going to hap-pen, we doubt that it helped their preparedness any more to stage the drill with real students instead of having actors stand in.

ECSU officials should just be grateful no one panicked or did something impulsive.

Some students sent text messages to their parents. We can only imagine how distraught

escape the gunman. There are so many "what-ifs" that could have gone horribly wrong, ECSU officials should

be thanking their lucky stars that nothing happened as a consequence of the drill. What if the professor had a

heart attack? What if a student had actu-

ally jumped out of a window and gotten hurt? What if someone in the class

had been carrying a weapon and attacked the "intruder"?

If ECSU really wanted to run a drill, it should have done something similar to what UNC-Greensboro did in January by staging the mock gunman in a controlled environment while students weren't on campus

As it was, however, the drill was aggressive, unsafe and carelessly planned because it caused students and a profes-

sor to fear for their lives. Let's put it this way: You know QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"It's kind of creepy. I saw my car outside my condo, and I didn't like it."

JENNIFER ANDERSON, CHAPEL HILL, ON GOOGLE STREET VIEW

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Feel strongly about something that has been printed? Post your own response to a letter, editorial or story online VISIT www.dailytarheel.com/feedback

Column denigrated the dedicated fencing team

TO THE EDITOR:

As members of the UNC fencing team, we found Sam Rosenthal's column ("Knights of Columbus, that hurt," Feb. 29) to be belittling.

Too often do journalists reduce our sport to a series of cliches and puns. Rosenthal insulted the validity of this Olympic sport. We are not "starved

Frenchmen fighting over the last bite of crepe." We are hardwork-ing athletes who commit time and energy to something for

which we are passionate. Rosenthal focused too much on jokes and sarcasm while failing to research and objectively portray our sport. We don't feel that Rosenthal's article treated us with any of the respect that we deserve.

> Claire Brandow Sophomore Anthropology

> > Katie Rebich

Senior Communications, PWAD

DTH article impeded ability for fair hearing for Coonin

TO THE EDITOR: I am writing to express my

surprise and disappointment in the Feb. 27 article concerning Andrew Coonin's leadership of the CAA. ("Future CAA leader-ship unclear") I have never met Coonin and do not write as a friend or defender.

Instead, I write hoping that University Editor (Whitney) Kisling and writer (Brian) Austin have already given significant thought to the fact that a DWI is a serious and difficult problem for any student; an indi-vidual with a DWI undergoes an arduous process requiring time, money and effort to lessen the harm of the violation.

A front-page DTH headline on the issue surely does not improve

this already stressful problem. It is the DTH's mission to enlighten and inform the University community on impor-

tant issues and events Publicizing one student's mistake, even in the context of a potential upset for a UNC public office, does not fulfill this mission, especially when so lit-tle actual information is known about the incident or the potential outcome.

Every student on this campus has the right to a fair Honor Court hearing; each student also has the right to control the disclosure of sensitive educational records. That Austin presumptively discloses this sensitive information in the most public way possible borders on violating Coonin's rights and assumes facts not established in his article.

I hope the University Desk takes some time to examine the **Attacking Ty Lawson was** misguided and deplorable

TO THE EDITOR:

Last Friday a certain kvetch was obviously an attack from a masked N.C. State fan that has nothing left to complain about. Thus, this person decided to spout off at the mouth obscenities that are denigrating to some unknown UNC asketball player.

However, I completely understand the unknown person's position. I likewise have been very upset with a professor o' mine.

This professor has been nursing a phantom illness, and due to this, have been completely deprived of intellectual stimulation in that class. I actually ran into my "sick" professor partying it up at a club when she should have been lying in bed ill. I was quite irate.

Yet I did not get it. You see I have never taught a class before.

Thus, I did not, until recently, know that the part of your body responsible for partying was in no way related to the part of your body necessary for giving proper instruction.

Upon learning this, I under-stood that my professor was in no way culpable for her actions.

The unknown (more like cow-ardice) author of the related kvetch has obviously never participated in any form of athletics. He should stick to what he does best: making seemingly humorous quips to his make-believe friends.

As far as the rest of us, we thank Quentin (Thomas) for stepping up and can't wait to see our entire men's basketball team finish off a strong season.

> Cameron Clinard Freshman Undecided

Kvetcher was too hard on Lawson for not playing

TO THE EDITOR:

To whomever wrote about Ty Lawson on the kvetching board: I feel you are being extremely harsh on one of our players while being completely ignorant to his situation.

Ankle sprains vary in severity, and in case you were unaware, a 240-pound man fell directly onto Lawson's ankle. I'm rela-tively sure that can constitute a vere sprain.

Upon watching the replay, I sel we are very fortunate that he did not break any bones and his whole season is not ruined.

We must also take into account that Ty's main weapon is his speed and ability to make sharp cuts. These skills are severely impaired with an ankle injury. And as for the NBA-related

comment, I just want to state that sitting out is not helping Ty's draft stock at all. The scout are unable to watch him in conference play and are therefore unable to make any judgments.

I hope Ty can recover soon, but until then I am not going to make any unfound sions of his character when the only people that know of his true status are him, Roy (Williams) and the trainers

of antibiotics per year to keep their pigs alive until slaughter. This amount, an estimated three times the amount used to treat all human illnesses, cultivates stronger disease-causing pathogens. During October 2007,

Carolina Dining Services bought \$25,000 in Smithfield products. They were chosen because they came at cheapest cost to our school. But they clearly came at in inestimable cost to everyone else

We do not have to stand by as this great social and environmental injustice is carried out in our own backyard. The great thing is that we have the power, as students of a leading state institution and consumers of food on campus, to choose a healthier, tastier alternative. Pasture-based pork that is raised by local farmers is better for our state economy, good for the environment and, most important. good for the people on both ends of the food chain.

You're invited to a free of charge, ult-free pig picking at 6 p.m. Wednesday on the mini-quad in front of Manning Hall. Join us afterward in Manning 209 to hear from workers in the N.C. pork-processing industry, N.C. residents affected by hog waste and a local, sture-based pork farmer. Stand with us to show the University that you support pasture-raised pork products in the dining halls.

gun against Wang's back and ordered the students up against a wall. They had every right to be scared.

ECSU officials said they noti-

parents who received the mesages must have been.

Still others contemplated jumping out of the window to something went wrong when you have to offer counseling to those involved. ECSU should just hope the affected students don't decide to file a lawsuit.

Upping the ante Implementing Stage 3 restrictions was right move

rought continues to dents and amount of water use plague North Carolina, and local officials are stepping up restrictions and rates

The increases are a good move considering the persistent drought. We hope that the rate hike serves as an impetus for the community to continue to limit water use.

The Orange Water and Sewer Authority's Board of Directors enacted Stage 3 water restrictions Thursday because the res-ervoir didn't reach the board's 45 percent capacity goal.

Lake levels have dropped from 95 percent to 40 percent since June 2007.

Prices will increase by different amounts depending on building use, number of resiper month. The average consumers, those using 4,700 gallons per month, will see their bills rise from \$22.09 to \$27.61.

A \$5.52 increase per month isn't very large, and we recognize that in the absence of a truly noticeable rate increase, small hikes probably won't cause a dramatic decrease in water use.

However, for low-income people, a large hike in water rates could make using water prohibitively expensive, which would limit their ability to shower and prepare meals. Orange County's poor population shouldn't be penalized simply because we are in a severe drought.

And a small hike might be the kick in the pants some residents need to conserve even more.

To avoid the need for further and more detrimental rate hikes, everyone needs to continue to do their part to reduce water consumption.

The board has encouraged residents to cut water usage to 35 gallons per day per person.

To aid people in cutting back, the OWASA Web site, www. owasa.org, has a water-use calculator that allows you to plug in your estimated water use data and find out how many gallons of water your household uses per day, month and year.

Keep track of your own water use and do your best to cut back to the recommended 35 gallons per day.

Watch your water use, but please, for everyone's sake, don't skip the showers.

Honor Code.

.In Part A of the Preamble, they will find that the University intends "to instill in each student a love of learning, a commitment to fair and honorable conduct and respect for the safety and welfare of others." Every DTH article should keep this promise for our community in mind.

> Emily Laborde Vice Chairwoman, UNC Honor Court

SPEAK OUT

WRITING GUIDELINES:

- Please type: Handwritte 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.

Heather Giuffre Freshm Undecided

The Baily Tar Heel

Established 1893, 115 years of editorial freedom

ERIN ZUREICK

EDITOR, 962-4086 ZUREICK@EMAIL.UNC.EDU OFFICE HOURS: . MON., WED., FRI. 1-2 P.M.

ADAM STORCK OPINION EDITOR, 962-0750 APSTORCK@UNC.EDU

JONATHAN TUGMAN

ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR, 962-0750 TUGMAN@UNC.EDU

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

JESSICA SCISM SARAH WHITWORTH KATHRYN ARDIZZONE SARAH LETRENT DUNCAN CARLTON ELYSE MCCOY **GRAHAM ROWE DAVID GIANCASPRO**

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