



NATHAN NYANJOM
A DIFFERENT ANGLE

Nathan Nyanjom is a senior biology major from Columbia, Md.

E-MAIL: NYANJOM@EMAIL.UNC.EDU

Exclude 'exclusive' from your vocabulary

I get a lot of unwanted e-mails, but one stuck out to me a couple of weeks ago.

In between an advertisement for summer school (I'm a senior) and notification that tickets for Nickelback were going on sale soon (I'm human), I got an e-mail from the Black Student Movement, inviting me to their upcoming Parent's Day.

I should have followed the golden rule, but I went where few dare to go — I sent an e-mail back asking why I received an e-mail from a group I had no interest in communicating with since I viewed them as being an exclusive group that here in 2008 was only promoting an environment of separation.

To put it mildly, I got an e-mail back.

In six well-written paragraphs, I received a scholastic definition of the word "exclusive," was told of how the word should not be associated with the BSM and was eloquently informed that there are members of this student group — the second-largest here at UNC — that check off an ethnicity other than black on their census form.

While I appreciate the time and class with which the BSM responded to my inquiry, they failed to change my viewpoint — that the Black Student Movement ranks at the top of the Exclusivity List, along with the likes of fraternities, sororities and varsity sports teams.

While joining student groups, clubs and sports teams are valuable experiences that help people meet and befriend new collections of people, it's important that we keep our affiliations in perspective — that we use them to enrich our lives but not to define them.

The Black Student Movement is exclusive and is counterproductive in a holistic environment. While I was told in my e-mail that nonblack students were welcome to join the BSM, none of my white senior friends received the same e-mail advertisement — only my African-American self.

I certainly didn't see any white people at the cookout held outside of Morrison Residence Hall last week.

The BSM isn't the only group at fault, however. Greek life for both sexes excludes the majority of the University's student body, as semester membership fees allow only affluent students of privileged backgrounds to participate.

Something tells me that "I want to join a frat" wouldn't sell to a Bank of America loan officer.

The varsity sports culture is similarly excluding, as teammates are more likely to associate only with other athletes — breakfasts, lunches and dinners are shared among teammates in separate dining halls, and the last row of each lecture hall seems to be reserved for UNC's scholarship athletes.

As with anything in life, good can be found from these exclusive groups: The BSM surely has improved race relations, Greek life offers 5K marathon shirts to hundreds, and our football team brings in millions each year in pursuit of an above .500 record.

While the removal of these selective groups from our campus's environment will never occur, it's important that their participants realize that there is more to college and to life outside of them, if they are willing to take that step.

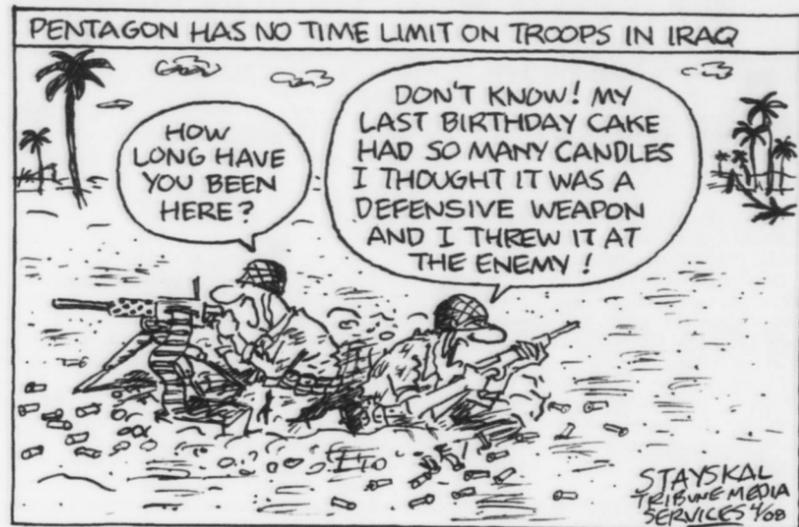
We all can join in. Sit somewhere different each day for class. Not only will it allow you to meet someone new, but it will give you a new angle at your professor's pit stains.

Worse comes to worst, you can sit next to a new Facebook prospect the next day.

We can't choose some groups that we belong to — I'm half black, half white and full-blown Baltimore Oriole.

When we are given a choice of what groups to belong to, however, it is important that we chose carefully, as we run the risk of limiting our college and life experiences if we subscribe to exclusivity.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Wayne Stayskal, The Tampa Tribune



Never forget

Response to Va. Tech has led to safety improvements

One year ago, we were all Hokies.

Looking back, we are reminded of the Hokie spirit that tore down rivalry barriers.

Nobody cared on April 16, 2007, what shade of blue you wore. We all supported the orange and maroon of Virginia Tech, united in shock and grief as we struggled to understand why the deadliest school shooting in U.S. history had happened.

Thirty-three families to this day still deal with their heart-breaking losses. It is up to all of us honorary Hokies to let them know that we will never overlook and forget the lives of their loved ones.

That's why we celebrate today as a day of remembrance — a celebration of lives lived.

Our sense of community and compassion for one another sustained us then and will continue to sustain us through the saddest of times.

It is not too obvious to note that we hope nothing like this tragedy happens ever again.

That being said, colleges and universities around the nation have re-examined their own emergency procedures and discovered that changes needed to be made to be able to respond better and quicker to threats to campus security.

The tragedy caused higher education institutions to look at themselves in the mirror about their security, and though the circumstances were terrible, the changes needed to happen.

With events like that at Va. Tech one year ago, we must look toward the positive to overcome the negative.

In the aftermath, the entire UNC system has re-evaluated its safety technologies and emergency communication systems.

The Board of Governors has made security a priority, concluding a comprehensive review of

campus safety in November and asking the General Assembly for \$29 million in new funding for safety initiatives.

UNC has taken its own steps toward improving safety and communication by installing a siren system and promoting the text message alerts, and student government has been working with the town to add more off-campus lighting.

Thankfully, the system hasn't had to be tested yet, though Appalachian State University responded well to a false alarm on its campus earlier this year.

And though improvements certainly can still be made, it's clear UNC and the system are heading in the right direction.

The Va. Tech shooting heightened our awareness. We will never be able to fully prevent an event like this, but we can at least reflect on the past to be more prepared.

We will always remember.

Ronald Bilbao
Former executive assistant to
Eve Carson

Changing of the guard

Probation system needs new faces to make changes

Heads are starting to roll over at the N.C. Department of Correction, and that's good.

It's the fallout from the scandal that has enveloped the state's probation system since the killings of Eve Carson and Duke University graduate student Abhijit Mahato earlier this year.

The news came Friday during a meeting of the Durham Crime Cabinet.

Details about the resignations — no one was fired, officials made a point of saying — are still sparse. We do know that several erstwhile state employees are now either looking for new career opportunities or spending more time with their families.

The problems within the probation system that have been brought to light need to be rectified immediately, and that means putting the system under new management.

A primary example of the failure of the current system was the fact that Chalisa Thomas, the officer assigned to super-

vised Lawrence Lovette, who police say was involved in the killings of Carson and Mahato, had never even seen him.

After he emerged as a suspect, she finally got around to reporting her inability to catch up with him.

She also had never completed basic training and failed to inform anyone that she had twice been caught driving while intoxicated.

The supervision of Demario Atwater, the other man police say had a hand in Carson's death, was little better; he did apparently meet with officials at some points, though he managed to go four months without checking in at one point.

He also had 10 different supervisors in three years.

Corrections officials put the blame for the Wreck of the Hesperus that is their department on a lack of resources and quality applicants.

Thomas was one of about 1,800 supervisors who were in charge of about 114,000 people as of early March, when Carson was killed.

That comes out to roughly 63 probationers per officer, a workload that no single person should be expected to handle.

We have no doubt that those deficiencies had plenty to do with the problems, and that's definitely an issue in its own right. We don't want probation officers who are functionally interchangeable with fast-food fry cooks.

But that does not by any means excuse the lapses; the department needs more workers, and more qualified ones at that.

The effectiveness of the entire probation system has been called into question. Now what is left is to fix it.

A staff shake-up is only one reform that needs to be undertaken; recruiting, hiring, training and supervision are clearly all major issues as well.

The probation system needs a strong leader willing to step in and make the necessary changes. We're betting, however, that person is probably not currently working for the department.

Fast track to success

Program to help start-ups good for UNC, business

Kenan-Flagler Business School has created a good program for area entrepreneurs.

The UNC Business Accelerator for Sustainable Entrepreneurship is designed to help entrepreneurs get their businesses off the ground faster by giving them access to the students, professors and facilities at the business school.

As part of Kenan-Flagler's Center for Sustainable Enterprise, the program is geared toward businesses that aspire not only to be financially profitable, but also to help foster social equality and ensure environmental sustainability.

Several startups have already begun to work with the program, including WaterPLUS, a com-

pany working on a water purification device for developing countries, and PVEe, a company in the solar energy business.

Businesses that focus on environmental sustainability should be rewarded for having motives beyond that of simply just turning a profit. There's a reason most companies aren't environmentally friendly — it's a lot cheaper not to be.

By mitigating some of the costs of starting a business, this program could be an effective way to help those companies that focus on environmental sustainability achieve success.

Also, creating networks between the startups and the students and faculty at the business school will help keep these businesses local.

The Research Triangle already has a reputation for being home to a number of technology companies, and businesses focusing on sustainable enterprises would be nice additions.

The program should also help business school students connect with companies, giving them internships that will give them valuable experience down the line. The more career-building options students have at Kenan-Flagler, the better it will become.

If the program is successful with its first startups, of which there will be up to 10, we'd like to see it expand to include even more. Supporting sustainable business is beneficial both for the entrepreneurs and for the community at large.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"In a way we're trying to take what happened ... and turn it to the most positive effort that we can imagine."

SUE OTT ROWLANDS, VA. TECH DEAN

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

Memorial concert was a success, will be continued

TO THE EDITOR:

The Eve Carson Memorial Benefit Concert this past Sunday was a huge success! Not only did we succeed in raising a total of \$1,400 in donations and T-shirt sales, but we also succeeded in fulfilling one of Eve's greatest hopes for this year. This concert had all of Eve's favorites: dancing, live music and tons of free food!

All the food provided was donated by local restaurants in support of our cause. Special thanks to Panera, Mediterranean Deli, Jimmy John's, McAlister's and Gummy's. A very special thanks to everyone at the Union for offering their help every step of the way, especially in production and design services. And an even bigger thanks goes out to our bands — The Friday Afternoon Jam, The Nothing Noise, The Huguenots, Nine PM Traffic and The BackBeat — who played for free in the memory of Eve.

While it was our hope to have the concert outside in Polk Place, we could not control the weather. We have begun the plans to make the concert an annual event and will do our best to secure multiple dates to ensure an outdoor concert, the likes of which will keep the memory of our beloved friend alive for years to come.

Ronald Bilbao
Former executive assistant to
Eve Carson

Building names are based on contributions, not time

TO THE EDITOR:

One thing I've realized during my tenure here at UNC — expect recurring themes each year on The Daily Tar Heel's opinion page. Case and point: the debate of University buildings named after slaveholders.

Contrary to what Carlyn Cowen suggests, it is not "easy enough to change the names of the buildings on UNC campus" ("University should rename buildings honoring racists," April 14).

Ehringhaus South, along with three other South Campus dorms, opened in 2002, and essentially received temporary names that matched their bigger "siblings." These temporary names were simply a placeholder until the University finalized its plans. The naming process is a thorough and lengthy one that takes time.

If you consult the Charter of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Naming University Facilities and Units (easily available online), you will find a specific section that discusses how history changes the context in which we view buildings, people and events of the past.

The charter clearly states this is not a reason to rename buildings. Slavery and racism are wrong, but both Saunders and Spencer were a product of their time, much like Thomas Jefferson was. The buildings that bear their names are in honor of their work and contribution to this institution.

At times history is difficult and painful to understand, but we should not remove these names, much like how we should not erase Jefferson's contributions to our nation.

Raphael Ruiz
Senior
Anthropology

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.

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Timing of lie-in is poor and message is misdirected

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to the April 15 article, "Lie-in comes year after Va. Tech," I am concerned to see this protest described as a memorial to both the Va. Tech shootings and now Eve Carson.

Personally, although I do agree that there are some issues with the current regulations, particularly the NICS system, I am disappointed that (the protesters) would choose the anniversary of the tragedy of the Va. Tech shootings to try and bolster their political message. Obviously this anniversary, combined with the still-recent events of Carson's murder, draws a lot of emotion into this issue.

In my opinion, any organization that relies on emotion rather than reasonable arguments to get its points across should be considered with heavy scrutiny.

The fact that (the protesters) chose this particular date for their protest astounds me, considering that the majority of their proposed legislation would not have even been relevant to the Va. Tech shooting. The guns used in the Va. Tech shooting were bought with a background check at a gun store, not at a gun show. This illustrates a problem with the system itself.

While I agree that there is a problem with the current gun regulations and that these shortcomings may be partially to blame, (the protesters) would have new and restrictive legislation passed, which not only would not have prevented incidences such as the Va. Tech and University of Northern Illinois shootings, but would also have the unintended consequences (or, more likely, intended consequences) of disarming law-abiding citizens.

As for this applying to Carson, I don't see how any new regulations on handguns could have prevented her death when the killer was already "banned" from having a firearm by at least three separate local, state and federal laws.

It is illegal in Chapel Hill to possess a firearm in public, it is illegal in North Carolina for a minor to possess a handgun, and it is illegal for an individual on parole for a crime that could carry a sentence of up to one year in prison to possess a firearm. Let's please keep Carson's name out of any sort of political disputes.

Stephan Hudson
Sophomore
Political Science, Economics

Headline misrepresented Obama's underlying theme

TO THE EDITOR:

The headline in Monday's paper, "Obama criticizes voters' priorities," was rather misleading (National and World News, April 14). The headline made it seem like Obama was blaming voters for choosing awkward voting priorities, which wasn't the case. Rather, his criticism was rightfully directed at the Washington sleazes who continue to let down their constituents and erode their faith in their elected representatives.

Noah Savage
Sophomore
Linguistics

The Daily 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

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