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Rolfe and Harrison are active in anti-violence work on campus.
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Examining our role in violence prevention

Something seems counter-intuitive about the way we respond to violence. Tragedy strikes, and very often our first reaction is to make UNC — the university of the people — a virtual fortress. Over the past four years, we have witnessed the progression of new emergency call boxes, fresh bollards and tests of warning sirens and mass text messages that have followed each disaster.

These measures are important, but they are reactionary, not preventive. As such, they don't address the root causes of violence at hand.

Take blue lights, for example: We can see them and feel reassured knowing that they exist.

But a blue light assumes violence and other crime are inevitable, and it is useful only when we are already running from whomever threatens us.

Violence does happen — in fact, it happens in epidemic proportions. Taking action in response to this violence is essential, but because blue lights are directed toward crimes perpetrated by strangers, installing emergency call boxes is like putting a Band-Aid on a virus. Although stranger-violence often makes the news, the fact remains that the vast majority of violence happens between nonstrangers.

Violence that doesn't make headlines happens every day on our campus. Rape is the most common and underreported violent crime on college campuses across the U.S., and the overwhelming majority of these rapes are between people who know each other. No number of blue lights will stop the violence happening at our house parties or in our bars, cars, dorm rooms or apartments.

There is a link between the sensationalized violence in the headlines that we have witnessed during our four years at UNC and the more intimate violence committed against so many of our friends and classmates. Violence doesn't "just happen." It is not just "people" or "youth" committing violent crimes, but, overwhelmingly, men. This is not "campus violence," but men's violence.

Addressing the roots of violence means facing the problems in our social construction of what it means to be a man and the grievous repercussions this has for all of us: Seventy-six percent of the victims of men's violence are men, and 91 percent of the victims of sexual violence are women.

While that doesn't mean most men are violent, all men are part of the system of masculinity. We can't end violence if we don't acknowledge the role sexism, power and dominance play in how we perpetuate these norms.

This means breaking free from restrictive gender norms and allowing men to have a greater range of behavior and emotion than aggression and emotional numbness. This means not tolerating sexist or homophobic jokes or using sexist language. This means ensuring there is space for women's voices in social situations, classes and romantic relationships. This means rejecting pornography and ending the exploitation of women's bodies in our everyday lives.

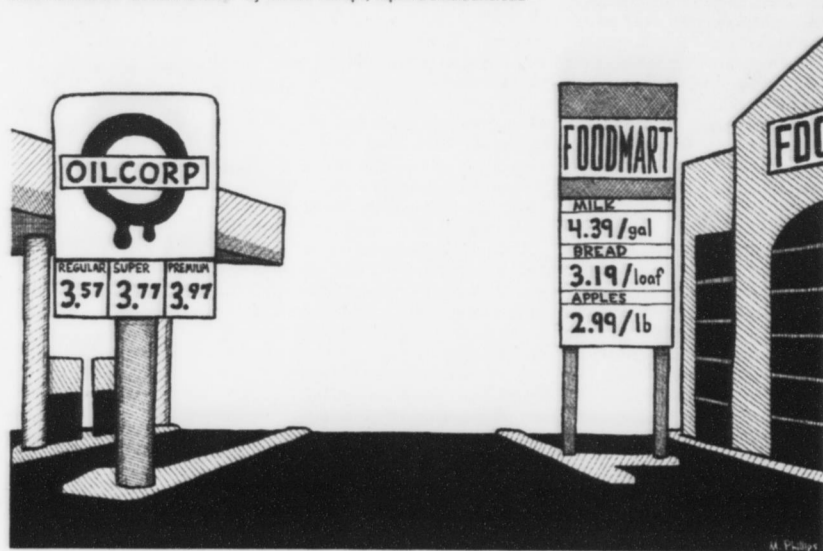
This means establishing a culture based on communication, mindfulness and intervention. Even if we do not directly commit violence, we are all bystanders, and none of us can afford to be silent.

We believe people are capable of change, and violence is not inevitable. Although reactionary measures like emergency call boxes, sirens and e-mail warnings might promote a campus conscious of violence, a truly safer Carolina will require a community interested in examining root causes.

It will require a hard look at the inequalities we enforce and sustain in our everyday lives. It will require comprehensive education about consent, about acceptance and about collaboration, communication and unity.

It will require us to stop promoting a culture of fear, and instead, remember our humanity.

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



Timing is everything

SAW should've concentrated efforts on new chancellor

Representative democracy that embodies the will of its constituents cannot function properly without people who voice their criticism of government.

Members of Student Action with Workers had every right to stage a sit-in at South Building outside Chancellor James Moeser's office Thursday.

The demonstration protested the chancellor's refusal to sign on to the Designated Suppliers Program, an anti-sweatshop policy that only lets universities license their logos to companies which pay their employees living wages.

However, it is regrettable that the students chose to voice their opinion — that UNC shouldn't license its logo to sweatshops — in such a misguided fashion by making unreasonable demands to Moeser during his last days in office.

Moeser declined signing onto the DSP in 2007 because of concerns of how it would operate and whether it would be effective.

He also met with students

Wednesday to discuss the issue and said that UNC is working with other universities to develop enhanced monitoring for smaller merchandise suppliers.

Moeser acted wisely by not adopting the policy before giving careful consideration to its efficacy. Obviously, what seems like a great idea could have unforeseen implications and end up hurting people more than it helps. That seems to be the case with the DSP.

One of the provisions of the program is that member schools only license their logos to factories at which employees have collective bargaining rights.

This means the DSP could have devastating consequences in countries such as Bangladesh, where workers aren't allowed to unionize and the textile industry is a mainstay of the economy.

Plus, by keeping production in these factories, the University has more pull in improving working conditions without pulling money out of poor, developing areas that need it.

While Moeser's actions suggest that he has been deliber-

ating on the issue and is open to student input, it does not seem rational that SAW would choose to reiterate its demands to the chancellor during his last weeks in office.

We think that if SAW wishes to see their goals actualized, it is best for them to develop a relationship with the new chancellor in which they could begin some dialogue about the best way to go about incorporating fair labor practices into UNC's licensing policies.

After all, the new chancellor is going to be around long enough to develop and sustain a positive interaction with, whereas Moeser is on his way out and has a limited amount of time and energy to devote to their demands.

Until a chancellor behaves otherwise, SAW should assume that he or she will not be antagonistic toward student voices on campus.

Taking a cooperative, rather than confrontational, approach will yield the best results when SAW continues to articulate its demands next year.

Unhealthy system

Withheld funding apt response to mental health failures

Just as citizens have a responsibility to faithfully pay their taxes each spring, governments have a responsibility to ensure that tax money is spent wisely and usefully.

North Carolina's state government has obliterated its end of this unwritten pact by wasting at least \$400 million on mental health reform since 2001.

Knowing that, the federal government's Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services did well to punish the state by withholding \$175 million in federal funding from community support programs during the last three months of 2007.

We wish the state had gotten a warning before the money disappeared because reforming the system will likely require money. But the punishment is justified.

We just hope the loss of federal funding will incite state officials to revamp a mental

health program suffering from innumerable ailments.

In 2001 evidence indicated the N.C. state government leaned too heavily on state psychiatric hospitals, and legislators responded by enacting reforms to treat more mental health patients in their own communities rather than the state's four overcrowded hospitals.

Under the new system, private health care providers replaced local governments in the delivery of mental health services.

The community support program, intended to cost the state less than \$5 million per month, soon cost more than \$50 million because of bloated private health care bills, money-hungry providers and a government that seemed to ignore it all.

Shockingly, many of the health care workers employed by private companies to provide services to the community had little or no experience in the

field and no college diploma.

Regardless, the state paid these workers as much as \$61 per hour for services deemed "unnecessary" 89 percent of the time by a Department of Health and Human Services review.

Rather than delivering useful services to patients in need, providers often took clients shopping or to the movies, all at the expense of N.C. taxpayers.

While private health care providers cashed in on this faulty system, the state's 210,000 residents who seek state help each year received worse service.

From March 2006 to January 2008, the government spent \$1.4 billion on the wasteful community support programs and only \$78 million on services statistically more effective at decreasing the chances of hospitalization.

Luckily, the federal funding is being taken from the community programs. In this case, less is probably more.

Don't listen to Kermit

With federal funding, it's easy for Carrboro to be green

Oh, Carrboro — a magical land of organic food, butterflies, Subarus and greenways.

And one of these greenways, thanks to some federal moolah, is in the process of becoming a lot better.

Carrboro's Board of Aldermen voted to accept federal funding earlier last week to begin conceptual planning for the expansion of the Bolin Creek greenway.

For those unfamiliar with the property, Bolin Creek is a multi-use public park trail. The plan is to extend the existing trail by 2.9 miles along Bolin Creek, from Estes Drive to the northern border of the Horace Williams tract and along Jones Creek.

Ultimately, we'd like to see these trails connected to the

downtowns of Chapel Hill and Carrboro so people can patronize downtown businesses without driving and dealing with parking.

The conceptual planning stage requires a \$14,000 commitment in local funds, but the remaining 80 percent will come from the Surface Transportation Program.

That 80/20 ratio also applies to the building of the trail itself, so the town has to put forth relatively little funding.

The expanded greenways, along with showcasing Mother Earth's natural beauty, will also encourage people to take part in more physical activity.

Greenways encourage residents to put their feet to the concrete instead of their ped-

als to the metal — which in the long run will help the environment and your wallet, given the endless rise in gas prices.

Expanding the Bolin Creek area could help lead the way to set up more green areas around Chapel Hill and Carrboro. Plus, it sets a good precedent to preserve already established green areas like Bolin Creek.

The greenway can be home to multiple uses compatible with maintaining preservation goals. The point is that you can enjoy nature without destroying it.

We love greenways, and with warm weather approaching, appreciating them is far easier. It's great to know we soon should have more places to stretch our legs.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"It was a lot of fun. But I felt pretty sick during the last 800 meters."

KEVIN CROSBY, THIRD-YEAR GRADUATE STUDENT, ON NOURISH INTERNATIONAL'S MAPLE VIEW CHALLENGE

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

Honor Court's inefficiency proves need for overhaul

TO THE EDITOR:

Carolina is very proud of its Honor Code and accompanying Honor Court system. There are only two other student-run honor courts in the country that are similar in size. I think the Honor Court is starting to feel the strains of its size just like our criminal courts.

I am writing to inform the University community on the ineffectiveness of an Honor Court hearing that occurred this week.

My friends and I brought a case against another student in Honor Court because he had stolen four phones and two wallets from us, a fact that this student admitted by signing a guilty plea in criminal court. This theft occurred in August 2006; thus it took the Honor Court over a year to hear this case.

When the hearing was begun it was determined that one of the five judges could not participate because he had already been a judge in another Honor Court case for the defendant. In our Honor Court this conflict leads to a hearing with only four judges but with the fifth vote automatically going in favor of the defendant!

Finally, after the four-hour proceedings the judges found that the defendant was guilty of theft and he would be sanctioned by a big, whomping ... written warning! A student can get expelled for cheating, but theft only deserves a warning? I think that the Honor Court system might be in need of an overhaul, so don't get your hopes up for justice.

Adam Jones
Junior
Arab Cultures, Anthropology

If Democrats stay divided, opportunity will be missed

TO THE EDITOR:

Recently I have become frustrated with my fellow Democrats. This year we have the opportunity to make a difference in our government and take back what is rightfully ours. The past seven years have been nothing short of disastrous, and it is our turn to make a change for the better.

I am very excited about the historic Democratic primary that is upon us, and I'm thrilled that North Carolina finally has a chance to voice our opinion in a primary that will have a significant impact. But what bothers me more than anything is the divide that is forming within our own party.

Our two candidates are great leaders, and the differences between them are minimal — forming basically around leadership styles. They both support the fundamental democratic ideals that need to make their way back to Washington.

I have spoken with several students on either side of the Hillary/Barack divide and have found that many of them will either vote Republican or not at all if their respective candidate does not receive the coveted Democratic nomination.

What does that prove? We are a party that should be united to reach a common goal of regaining the White House and making the fundamental changes in our government that have been necessary for so long.

Sarah Smith
Sophomore
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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Conflict of interest in ASG election should be noted

TO THE EDITOR:

As a former UNC Association of Student Governments president and a proud alumnus of three of UNC's constituent campuses, I feel compelled to highlight an issue in the ASG presidential election. One of the candidates, Greg Doucette, (ran) having just been elected president of N.C. State's Student Senate.

I, too, have served as a member of that body, and I must express my significant concerns over this potential dual-leadership role.

NCSU Student Senate President is a position roughly equivalent to a combination of student body vice president and speaker of Student Congress at UNC-CH.

In addition, that position is elected in a campuswide at-large election. The time commitment is significant, so much so that student fees fund a stipend to the student that holds that position, as do they for the position of ASG president. The amount of time required to adequately serve in each position far exceeds that which can be expected from one individual.

A perceived conflict of interest is also of concern. The ASG president, though obviously a student of a particular campus, is expected to be an advocate on behalf of the greater 17-campus University and avoid any perceived preference or loyalty to an individual school.

The NCSU Student Senate president is clearly expected to advocate for and serve the needs of students at N.C. State. Properly fulfilling both of these missions is impossible for Doucette or any one student to do.

I have known Doucette since I served in student government with him in the mid- to late 1990s. This letter is not intended to be a personal slight on him. However, the enormous conflicts presented by his plan cannot be reconciled.

Jeff Nieman
Class of 2000
ASG President 1998-2000

Polygamist sect is not the same as Texas Mormons

TO THE EDITOR:

I was disappointed to read the headline "Texas Mormons and lawyers descend on courtroom, create epic spectacle" (April 18). The original article, written by Michelle Roberts of the Associate Press was at least entitled "Polygamist sect hearing in Texas descends into farce."

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, whose members are widely known as Mormons, gave up the practice of polygamy over 100 years ago and the polygamist sect in question is a completely separate group.

By failing to include the distinction as was written in the original article, and by printing an edited title for the article that is incredibly misleading, the DTH is pushing misinformation by equating the "West Texas polygamist sect" with "Texas Mormons."

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The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,
115 years
of editorial freedom

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