



**JOSEPH R. SCHWARTZ**  
OVER THE HILL?  
Joseph R. Schwartz is a senior journalism major from Chapel Hill.  
E-MAIL: JOSEPH\_SCHWARTZ@UNC.EDU

## Duke football is as bad as bad gets

It's rare, but sometimes lawyers are able to present a piece of evidence so damning that the word "irrefutable" doesn't do it justice.

Duke's football record fits the bill. If the linebackers can't hit, you must acquit.

If you missed this week's landmark case, the University of Louisville sued our bedeviled Durham rivals for breach of contract after the Dookies backed out of a four-game contract with the Cardinals. I guess they thought better of the deal after losing the opening game 40-3 at home.

Louisville's lawyers argued that Duke owed the school \$450,000, \$150,000 for each game that the school could not find an opponent of "similar stature."

Duke's lawyers countered that the school's team is so pitiful, taking time to detail a 6-45 record in the past five years, that nearly any group of 11 guys with shoulder pads and a school sticker on their helmets would be its equal.

Judge Phillip J. Shepherd was left with little choice, writing in his ruling that "this is a threshold that could not be any lower."

It's for this very reason that The Daily Tar Heel doesn't produce a spoof issue of The (Duke) Chronicle, whose editors see it fit to print "The Daily Tar Hole" each spring. We don't have to make this stuff up.

Clearly, my testimony was not needed, but if I had taken the stand, I could have been cross-examined on the year my father bought four Duke season tickets after realizing that he could take our family to six games, including the UNC contest, for less than the cost of attending one game at Kenan Stadium.

What a year it was. I recall sitting in a sea of near-barren bleachers and listening to fans offering advice such as, "Why don't we just punt it on first down? At least that way, we wouldn't go backward."

Still, I can't entirely dispute Duke athletic officials' assertion that Wallace Wade Stadium is "one of the most comfortable in the Atlantic Coast Conference." As funny as that claim seems for a venue without seat backs, you certainly can't rival it for legroom. You could even set up an air mattress across a few rows.

The stadium, which can hold 35,000, drew an average of 20,064 "fans" per game last season. It took five games for them to admit as many fans as Tennessee hosts on a single Saturday.

And 6-45 in the past five years is just the tip of Duke's iceberg of shame. The team's been lacing them up since 1888, and it's only played in eight bowl games, the last of which was a loss 13 years ago. Last season's 1-11 campaign was better than six past seasons when they failed to win a game.

They haven't won an ACC matchup since 2004, when they beat Clemson 16-13 on a 53-yard field goal as the clock expired. Duke fans rushed the field and tried in vain to tear down the goalpost before realizing they didn't have enough collective weight to wobble the structure.

This isn't to say that Duke players haven't gone on to successful careers. The team's media guide lists several who are prominent lawyers and businessmen.

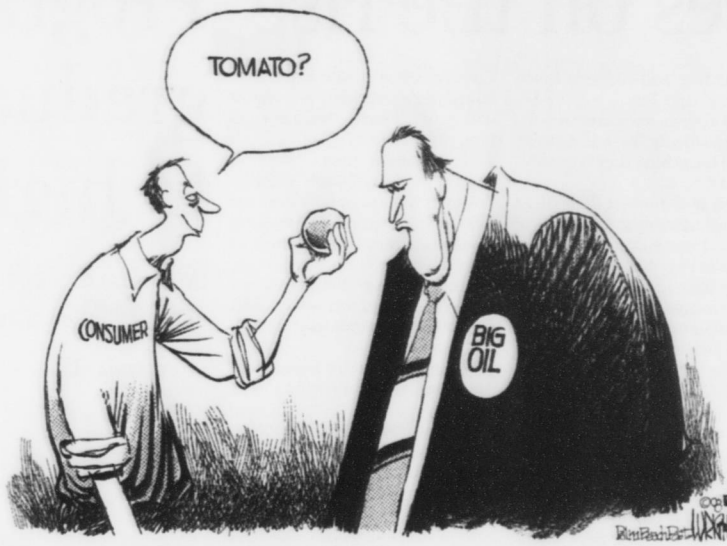
One former wideout, Reggie Love, now is Barack Obama's personal body guard, making this the first time anyone can remember a Duke player successfully defending anything.

Steve Wojciechowski has a better chance of picking coconuts than Duke's secondary has of picking passes.

But really, how much can you expect from a team with a quarterback named Zack Asack? At least it's easy for announcers. "Asack drops back, and it's a sack."

So enjoy your legal victory, Duke fans. You might not get another chance to celebrate a win for a while.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Don Wright, Palm Beach Post



## Governor fails smell test

N.C. should eliminate its outdated hog waste system

Each year, North Carolina's hogs produce an appalling 38 billion pounds of waste. That's more than two tons per Carolinian.

And though the state's city-dwellers usually do not see or smell their shares of that waste, last week environmental activists sought to rub at least one man's nose in it.

These concerned citizens brought a gallon of hog waste (which they delicately called an "unhealthy fecal marinade") to Gov. Mike Easley's doorstep and demanded something be done to improve the waste management process.

Though Easley has attempted to ease the environmental burden on rural sections of the state, he has fallen short.

At issue are the current methods employed for disposal of hog waste — lagoons and sprayfields.

Imagine if your house's septic

system pumped its sewage into an open-air, clay-lined pond in your backyard where it then sat decomposing. That's how lagoons work.

Now imagine that pond's excess fluid being collected and sprayed onto your lawn. That's how a sprayfield works.

The state has about 4,000 of these facilities.

"We suffer from it daily. It makes our lives unbearable," the activists told the governor in a statement signed by eight organizations.

Outside of the obvious problem of the stench, the lagoons experience a certain amount of seepage, meaning the waste enters into rivers, streams and groundwater.

A 1995 spill in Onslow County illustrated the danger of this system. It unleashed 20 million gallons of hog waste into the New River.

And, in a strange twist, last

week the activists were banned from bringing the gallon of hog waste to Halifax Mall because it was classified as a "hazardous" substance.

In 1999, Gov. Jim Hunt discussed eliminating the lagoon system in 10 years. With only hundreds deactivated and thousands left stirring, assessing Easley's progress is a simple matter.

Regardless of political rhetoric, lagoons will continue befouling the state's rural areas because they're currently the cheapest option — unless the governor is put under enough pressure.

Rodney Huffman, a professor of biological and agricultural engineering at N.C. State, said the stench is relative.

"If you're the one that is making money on the operation, it doesn't smell so bad," he said. "If you're not involved in it, and it's coming downwind to you, it's not so pleasant."

## Easley should travel wisely

Governor shouldn't have spent hundreds of thousands

Governor Mike Easley has been, by most accounts, a solid executive for North Carolina during his past two terms.

Sure, he hasn't been great, but he has avoided the prostitution rings, oral sex solicitations, freezers full of dirty money and most other controversies that have wreaked havoc on politicians in recent years.

He has done great work on the state's education system, raising teacher salaries and creating an education lottery to help sustain it.

Now, the nation's economy is trickling through the gutter, and the value of the dollar is as low as Jacques Cousteau.

North Carolinians are paying about four dollars per gallon for gas, and thousands cannot pay their mortgages.

In these troubling times, Easley and his staff decided to take a little vacation to Italy in the hopes of drawing tourism and business to our humble Tar Heel state.

But this was no routine busi-

ness trip. No, Easley, his wife and their 12-person crew spent more than 170,000 bones on the nine-day venture, not including the costs of the Easleys' security detail.

That's taxpayer money, by the way.

Much of the bill was charged by Gov. and Mrs. Easley. The two traveled in style, spending extravagantly all across Italy.

The governor and his wife spent almost \$20,000 on first-class airline flights alone and more than \$50,000 on a stretch Mercedes-Benz limousine while on the trip.

Their three-night stay at a Venice hotel cost in excess of \$2,000, and lunch with five others in Rome totaled more than \$700.

We at The Daily Tar Heel, like most who have come across these figures, thought these prices to be a little excessive.

So we decided to try our hand at the travel agency business.

On Orbitz.com, we found a round trip flight to Italy to cost about \$3,000 per person on average.

On Expedia.com, the rates were similar, hovering near \$2,000 per person.

Now we also recognize the importance of our state's salesman making an impressive first impression on potential customers.

But when Easley and his wife can save about \$16,000 of the taxpayer's hard-earned money just by sacrificing a little foot-room and moving to coach, we feel it is too large an expense to ignore.

The role of chief ambassador is not one Easley often fills for our state, and it is an important one.

But to spend extravagantly and lavishly on an Italian vacation, all with taxpayers' money, is absurd.

For Easley to finish up his un-extraordinary term with this kind of mistake begs many questions.

Namely, when did Easley morph into P. Diddy?

## News media ignoring Iraq

Insiders tell how networks have let down the public

Lara Logan, chief foreign correspondent for CBS News, recently spoke for frustrated Americans everywhere when she told The Daily Show's Jon Stewart that "if I were to watch the news that you hear here in the United States, I would just blow my brains out because it would drive me nuts."

But what are the rest of us supposed to do?

Logan's statement comes on the heels of former White House press secretary Scott McClellan's tell-all book, in which he calls the media "complicit enablers" who are focused on a "campaign to sell the (Iraq) war" instead of on performing their watchdog function.

In other words, the mainstream media continue to fail this country — and even the guilty parties agree.

An analysis by The New York Times found that last year's Iraq coverage ate up a total of 1,157 minutes on the weekday broadcasts for the three major news networks: ABC, CBS and NBC.

As of last Monday, Iraq's 2008 coverage totaled 181 weekday minutes. That's an average of two minutes per week.

Coverage of Afghanistan, while up from last year, accounted for a paltry 46 minutes.

Has Iraq somehow become less newsworthy?

Security has improved, but the country is still home to 200 attacks per week.

It's still home to 150,000 U.S.-led coalition forces.

So far in 2008, 201 American soldiers have been killed in Iraq, and hundreds more suffered wounds.

And, of course, there has been a massive, mostly-undocumented toll suffered by the Iraqi people.

Regardless of our opinions on the Iraq war, we must demand to know what's going on in the desert. After all, our tax dollars fund the weapons of war.

Even if the news networks choose to close their eyes to the situation, it will not go away.

Until they rediscover Iraq, we should tune them out and find news sources that give us a real picture of the world.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"I do really feel nostalgic. Parting is going to be sweet sorrow."

JAMES MOESER, UNC CHANCELLOR, ON HIS JUNE 30 DEPARTURE FROM THE OFFICE.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Due to space constraints, letters are sometimes cut. Read the full-length versions online at the letters blog, or post your own response to a letter. VISIT// apps.dailytarheel.com/wpblogs/archives/category/letters

Officials should invest to make our residents safer

TO THE EDITOR:

As an artist, resident and mother, I can't help but spend time thinking about the safety situation in downtown Chapel Hill.

Would Eve Carson be here today if we had taken more preventive measures? We can't bring her back, but we can take the necessary, simple steps to protect our children and ourselves.

Please enforce panhandling laws, have a stronger police presence and install more streetlights.

These would be taxpayer dollars well-spent.

If we focus on these issues, rather than tangential ones (how much starlight we would lose, the ramifications of the death penalty, etc.), only then does our children's safety become central.

I urge Mayor Kevin Foy and the Town Council to be proactive. Let's lead to harness crime rather than react to it.

Kimberly Rosario  
Chapel Hill

Press the Senate to renew incentives for clean energy

TO THE EDITOR:

The federal clean energy tax incentives are set to expire in December. If this is allowed to happen, the renewable energy systems and energy-efficient products we need to begin to become energy independent will experience a severe setback.

More than 100,000 jobs in the wind and solar industries could be lost. We urge the Senate to follow the House's lead and vote HR 6049 into law.

The bill pays for the renewable energy and energy-efficiency tax credits by closing tax loopholes for certain corporations and hedge-fund managers.

Renewing these tax incentives makes sense; it will benefit the local and national economies by creating clean energy jobs, increase our energy security and independence and reduce carbon output.

Please join us in urging our Senators to immediately extend these tax incentives.

Michael and Amelia Collins  
Chapel Hill

Editors were careless when discussing the mentally ill

TO THE EDITOR:

I do not accept The Daily

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.

Tar Heel's editing. Consider these lines from "Bill aims to strengthen gun control laws" (June 18).

First: "Kinnaird said that the legislature tried to pass similar measures in the past but that the first bill was opposed by advocates for 'the mentally ill.'"

Second: "The mental health community was not happy with the solutions we came up with. They felt that it was stigmatizing and penalizing."

With regard to the first excerpt, no matter how much someone wants to promote "the" mentally ill, editors ought not be duped by it, as they are not by the drunk Mel Gibson's "the" Jews. It is a trap editors far too willingly fall into. Please put a stop to the policy.

With regard to the second selection, no matter how much someone wants to promote the term "stigma," editors ought not be duped, as they are not duped when someone tries to associate that term publicly with rape survivors.

Please put a stop to the policy.

And please, "the mental health community" does not speak with a single voice, there are those of us very aware of language who employ none of the above. Ever.

Harold A. Maio  
Advisory Board Member  
American Journal of  
Psychiatric Rehabilitation

Town correct to give green light to election financing

TO THE EDITOR:

The town of Chapel Hill has shown remarkable foresight in their decision to authorize a pilot public financing program for their town elections ("Town approves pilot election program," June 12).

Instead of waiting for election costs to get out of hand and for special interest money to corrode the process (as they have in some towns in the area), Chapel Hill is creating public safeguards now while running small dollar, grassroots campaigns is still tenable.

This will help the town avoid being over-run with expectation-laden, high-cost elections and preserve the integrity of the town's democratic process for years to come.

At less than 50 cents per resident per year, the benefit of more fair and clean elections is well worth the modest cost.

Chase Foster  
NC Voters for Clean Elections  
Class of 2005

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,  
115 years  
of editorial freedom

RACHEL ULLRICH  
SUMMER EDITOR, 962-4086  
RULLRICH@EMAIL.UNC.EDU

CLINT JOHNSON  
OPINION EDITOR, 962-0750  
CLINT@UNC.EDU

SETH CLINE  
BOARD MEMBER, 962-0750  
FLYINCLINE@MINDSPRING.COM

The Daily Tar Heel

PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS STAFF

Business and Advertising: Kevin Schwartz, director/general manager; Megan McGinty, advertising director; Lisa Reichle, business manager

Customer Service: Kristen Bullins, representative  
Display Advertising: Luke Lin and Megan Wrenthaler, account

EDITORIAL STAFF

City: Bennett Campbell, Will Harrison, Dave Pearson, senior writers; Kathryn Ardizzone, Melissa Brown, Jonathan Crook, Katherine Demby, Ashley Lewis, Sarah Riazati, Hilary White

Bolick, Jennifer Durham, Adam Grettz, Nicholas Gullett, David Luther, Kate Naspier, Rachael Oehring, Sarah Riazati, Allan Sharpe, Nicole Wyche, Jenn Zeng

University: Anika Anand, Katie Anderson, Mary Katherine Ayers, Ashley Bennet, Jennifer Durham, Sarah Henderson, Kate Hewitt, Alex Kowalski, Mia Moore, Sarah Smith

Design: Miguel Lilly  
Graphics: Maggie Huff  
Online/multimedia: Mary Catherine Ayers, Anna Grace Koerber

Sports: Mike Ehrlich, David Ely, Gabe Hatt, Sam Rosenthal, senior writers; John Dougherty, Anna Kim, David Reynolds, Christian Wisah

Editorial Production: Stacy Wynn, manager  
Printing: Triangle Web Printing Co.  
Distribution: Stacy Wynn

Photography: Anika Anand, Mary Katherine Ayers, Larry Baum, Daniel

State & National: Dan Bolick, Sean David Childers, Stephanie Metzger, Brittany Murphy

The Daily Tar Heel is published by the DTH Publishing Corp., a nonprofit North Carolina corporation, Monday through Friday, according to the University calendar. Callers with questions about billing or display advertising should call 962-1163 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Questions about classified ads should call 962-0252. Editorial questions should be directed to 962-0245.

OFFICE: Suite 2409 Carolina Union  
CAMPUS MAIL ADDRESS: CB# 5210, Carolina Union  
U.S. MAIL ADDRESS: P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3257



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. It consists of editorial board members, the opinion editor and the summer editor. The 2008 summer editor decided not to vote on the board.