

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,
115 years
of editorial freedom

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Why is the University censoring its own?

Collective bargaining — I didn't know what that term meant for the first three years of my college experience.

I didn't know that it applied to workers' right to collectively organize and bargain with their employers, that North Carolina

is the only state that prohibits collective bargaining by state employees, and that the ban — implemented in the 1950s — is one of the last remaining pieces of legislation from the Jim Crow era.

And I certainly didn't know that collective bargaining had anything to do with our University's relationship with the workers it employs.

Maybe my prior ignorance over the subject was not an accident.

In July 2007 the UNC Employee Forum planned to publish an article on collective bargaining in the InTouch newsletter — which is inserted in the University Gazette, the faculty and staff publication.

The article was originally rejected on the grounds that it was an "opinion piece" and that the Gazette does not allow opinion pieces.

When the Gazette created new rationales for its decision, the Employee Forum contacted the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina to assess the legality of an action it considered censorship.

On Aug. 8, the ACLU sent UNC Vice Chancellor and General Counsel Leslie Strohm a letter rejecting the University's rationales for not printing the article.

The letter concluded that the July article was not an opinion piece. In addition, it noted that opinion pieces and stories presenting one side of an issue had previously been published in the Gazette without concern.

For example, a May 21 article ("Moeser wants to put labor groups on notice") concerning collective bargaining focused solely on the statements of then-Chancellor James Moeser.

Just weeks prior to its publication, a coalition of student groups, faculty, labor unions, politicians and community members voiced their support of a student-led 16-day sit-in pressuring Moeser to adopt the Designated Suppliers Program. The program would provide a process to ensure that the University and its clothing licensees, such as Nike and Russell, are complying with the labor codes of conduct UNC adopted in 1999. These codes mandate that workers who make our loged apparel have freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining, but they have not been upheld since their inception.

The May 21 Gazette article was one-sided and was printed, while the July article was not.

The censorship issue represents a larger pattern of statewide closed dialogue on collective bargaining.

We see the same closed-dialogue pattern in the UNC housekeepers' current struggle with the University concerning unpaid overtime work — a dispute that has yet to be addressed.

The ACLU asked for a response to its Aug. 8 letter by last Friday. The University failed to follow up in that time frame, but Vice Chancellor Strohm wrote that she expects to send a response by this Friday. Patty Courtright, editor of the Gazette, declined comment.

To enforce the University's stated values, the Chapel Hill community should organize to ensure that UNC workers have their voices heard and get the rights they deserve.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Alex Herrington, achctts1@email.unc.edu



Open house opportunity

Students should attend forum, share interests and concerns with Chancellor Thorp

Chancellor Holden Thorp is holding his first open house 4:30 p.m. today in the fishbowl lounge upstairs in the Student Union.

This forum is an opportunity for students and other members of the University community to hear from the chancellor in an intimate setting and then ask him questions.

About 70 people turned out for Chancellor Emeritus James Moeser's last open house in March.

Considering the 28,000 students, 3,200 faculty and 11,500 staff that comprise the University community, 70 isn't a huge number. Take some time tomorrow afternoon to meet our 10th chancellor, hear what he has to say and ask him questions about things that are priorities for you.

In case you're not really sure what the chancellor does, here's an idea of how he affects your life.

It's the money, stupid

One of the chancellor's main jobs is fundraising.

Securing the financial resources necessary to accomplish the University's vision is one of the main priorities of the chancellor, as established by the chancellor search committee prior to recommending Thorp for the top job.

Fundraising affects everything from the quality of professors the administration is able to hire to construction as the physical campus expands.

Shmoozing the bigwigs

The chancellor is responsible for advocating for UNC in a variety of venues. Under the direction of UNC-system President Erskine Bowles, he establishes relationships with members of the N.C. General Assembly.

He also is responsible for collaboration with town officials on projects such as UNC's satellite campus, Carolina North. The success of that town-gown relationship could indirectly affect your relationship with your Chapel Hill neighbors and how the community views students.

Setting our future course

Because the chancellor is such an important figurehead for the University, the priorities he articulates will be the priorities that the rest of the community, state and nation associate with UNC.

So that means if you think the chancellor should prioritize finding funding for a Latino center on campus or more rehearsal space for your performance arts group, let him know that your priorities should be his priorities. It's your open house. Use it.

Eve-inclusive

Junior-year scholarship should reflect spirit of service, not just conventional leadership roles

The Eve Marie Carson Scholarship, to be awarded to a UNC junior for the first time this spring, is a fitting tribute to its namesake.

The merit-based scholarship, originally a key aspect of Carson's platform as student body president, is the first of its kind in many respects and properly extols the unique vision she brought to the University.

The scholarship committee will look for candidates who demonstrate a commitment to leadership and service at UNC — fitting, as Carson exemplified that commitment.

As it refines the criteria, the committee should employ a broad, creative and inclusive

perspective when evaluating applicants.

Carson firmly believed that "inclusion, involvement, diversity and acceptance," are fundamental to the Carolina way, as she articulated in an e-mail to student government leaders last year.

Her boundless enthusiasm inspired many of us, and her commitment to UNC went well beyond her job title.

A scholarship in Carson's honor should recognize this attitude-driven rather than activities-based approach to service in selecting for involvement that extends beyond conventional leadership roles.

Selecting for the scholarship in a way that engages UNC stu-

dents with the spirit and enthusiasm that Carson embodied and shared will ensure that her legacy remains an active part of our community's collective memory long after this year's juniors have graduated.

The scholarship committee will hold a second meeting on Wednesday for those interested in getting involved with the process. The committee is student-led, making the merit-based award the only UNC scholarship to be given to students by students.

We hope the committee will continue to reach out to involve a wide spectrum of campus in the process and solicit applications from a diverse cross-section of juniors, this year and in the future.

(Sorry) you've got Webmail!

University should replace Webmail system with more user-friendly e-mail provider

Webmail should be Deleted. Then Expunged.

UNC is finally looking to outsource its e-mail service to an Internet provider such as Google or Hotmail.

Here, Here! The Webmail system as it stands is unrelentingly plain, and by plain we mean prehistoric. Webmail may be the last remaining artifact of the University's early days during the era of the original Hinton James.

But University students may soon be able to utilize features

at the cutting edge of e-mail technology.

Yes, we're referring to the elusive ability to save "sent mail" without expertise in HTML programming.

The ability to search message text, check e-mail efficiently and maintain e-mail addresses after graduation is anxiously awaited by University students.

Dare we even dream of viewing more than 15 messages per page?

Soon, students may be able to download attachments without setting aside a full hour in

their schedules to accommodate such an extensive project as saving a picture.

Many complain that Webmail is unreliable. It moves at a crawling pace and is clogged with spam.

Many students have abandoned the feat altogether. A new system would maintain the UNC domain but operate under an alternate service provider.

We fully advocate an outsource of e-mail systems to Google or Hotmail. We'll even take AOL.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"I want to come out and just have this mentality of killing an ant with a sledgehammer."

GREG LITTLE, UNC RUNNING BACK

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:

"The University administration is just trying to inhibit free speech. ... The veneer of liberalism is mighty thin in Chapel Hill."

— ON PIT EVANGELISTS NOW FACE NEW, STRICTER UNION POLICY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Graded system allows transition to adulthood

TO THE EDITOR:

Our national drinking age serves several purposes to the benefit of society. Our state has embraced the concept of a graded driver's license where the license holder gains more and more responsibilities as they get older. We can drive at 16, smoke and sign a contract at 18 and drink at 21.

These are all responsibilities and such a graded system allows teenagers who are becoming adults to gradually gain more and more responsibility as they grow older. Such a concept also works for other responsibilities in life. Having a uniform national drinking age keeps cross-border liquor shops from being opened, as would certainly happen if the drinking age were lower in some states than in others.

The 21-year drinking age creates college campuses where people under and over 21 live together in close proximity, making enforcement difficult. The simple solution, and one that has proven effective at certain private schools, is to simply declare the entire campus dry and ban the possession or consumption of alcohol on campus. Of course, many university presidents would fear to take such a move, fearing a decrease in the number of applicants more than the health and wellness of their students.

Thousands of individuals are killed each year in alcohol-related traffic accidents. We have high rates of alcohol abuse by young drinkers. This nation needs more restrictions on the sale, marketing and consumption of alcohol, not less.

Christopher Jones
Sophomore
History, Curriculum in Peace,
War and Defense

Nurse urges Chancellor Thorp to promote safety

TO THE EDITOR:

This morning my daughter started her first day of high school. I limited myself to a few pictures, told her not to worry and waved goodbye. She is worried about hard teachers, managing her time wisely and dreams of attending UNC. In some ways, high school will be the same for her as it was for me 30 years ago.

But in one important respect, it will be different. When I was in high school, the legal drinking age was 18 years old. And by the time I started my junior year, one classmate was paralyzed and another severely injured in separate alcohol-related incidents. Such stories were commonplace throughout North Carolina due to the low legal drinking age of 18.

As a trauma nurse, I have seen firsthand the decrease in sexual assaults, injuries, and deaths among young people since the drinking age was raised. I recognize that it will not prevent all minors from obtaining alcohol. But clearly the legal limit of 21 for alcohol purchase has been an effective public health strategy.

While I appreciate the frustration of university presidents who have had limited success

in addressing binge drinking, I believe the aims of the Amethyst Initiative are misguided. I urge Chancellor Thorp and other university presidents to renew their effort to promote safe behaviors on campus, rather than lowering the drinking age. This is an experiment that has already been tried and failed.

Claire Curran, RN
UNC Hospitals
Certificate Student, UNC
School of Public Health

Campus Health Services welcomes back students

TO THE EDITOR:

The beginning of the new academic year is always exciting because of a sense of endless possibilities, especially in forming new relationships.

A study of undergraduates at four universities published in 2005 shows how college students' perceptions of their peers' sexual activity can be overestimated. The study, by Scholly, Katz, Gascoigne and Holck, asked questions about various "sexual behaviors," (and) shows that while 80 percent of students had zero or one sexual partner during the preceding year, only 22 percent of those students believed their fellow students had one or fewer partners.

Students in this study thought that fellow students were more sexually active than they actually were. In fact, 59 percent of students reported having no sexual activity within the past 30 days. Similar findings were reported in the 2002 National College Health Assessments. Seventy-one percent of participants had one or fewer sexual partners during the previous year.

However, the common belief among respondents was that their peers had at least three partners during the previous year.

Campus Health Services invites you to be aware and to utilize the multiple services we offer to students.

Carolina Health Education Counselors for Sexuality (CHECS) provide nonjudgmental, risk-reduction conversations and accurate sexual health information at no cost to you. In addition, counselors are available at Counseling and Wellness Services to offer counsel on navigating human relationships and medical providers are available at Campus Health Services to provide medical advice and treatment in a caring and compassionate manner.

For specific detailed information about Campus Health Services with respect to all aspects of health, including sexual, find us online at campushealth.unc.edu. For an appointment with a CHECS counselor or medical provider, call Campus Health Services general information and appointment at 966-2281. If you want to see a counselor, walk in to Counseling and Wellness Services on the third floor of the James Taylor Health Services Building between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. We are here to help.

Carol Kozel, BSN, RN
Director of Nursing Services
and Performance Improvement
Coordinator
Campus Health Services

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.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Columns, cartoons and letters do not necessarily represent the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel or its staff. Editorials reflect the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel editorial board. The board consists of seven board members, the associate opinion editor, the opinion editor and the editor.