

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,
115 years
of editorial freedom

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Barbershop kicks off tour of Chapel Hill

At Midway Barber Shop on Rosemary Street last week, occasional snippets of conversation escaped the buzz of the electric shavers.

"I told her she can't do that," a man said to one of the barbers. "What are people going to think, a pastor's daughter rolling around to Lil' Kim?"

On the radio, the commentator yelled his excitement about Barack Obama's upcoming acceptance speech and threw on Stevie Wonder's "Signed, Sealed, Delivered."

It is my fourth and final year living in Chapel Hill. And I am seeing it with fresh eyes.

I waited behind a magazine for the place to clear out. The owner, Stepney, nodded me over.

He opened up. There's been some trouble over the last year, he told me, a corrupt lawyer hit a lot of members in the community pretty hard, money was lost.

On a busy day, the shop's patrons swap stories. "Come back anytime," Stepney said. "These guys are nice, they'll talk to you."

I'd come to the shop a couple of years ago but Stepney didn't seem to remember me. Still slightly embarrassed, I didn't make an effort to remind him.

As a sophomore in a reporting class, I was working on a story about gangs in Chapel Hill.

My professor told me that to get to know a community, you head to its barbershop.

Think: Northern white kid in pink button-down enters black barbershop and in so many euphemisms asks, "So what do you guys know about gangs?"

"I don't know," one of the barbers said. "Why are you asking us?"

"Umm." I tried to explain the thing about barbershops.

"Why don't you go ask the skinheads?"

"Umm ... Where's the skinhead barbershop?"

Fast forward a couple of years and this place is the first stop in my exploration into the nooks and crannies of our community outside of Franklin Street.

Unlike my sophomore approach two years ago, this time it's not about looking from the outside. It's about walking into a place where I wouldn't usually go — where I stand out; even — shaking somebody's hand and telling them, "Hey, if you need anything, if you've got a story or you just want to talk, give me a call."

The cowbell on the door clanked as I left.

Next door, at Glenn's Tattoo Service, Aaron went through a couple of paper towels trying to get some blue off his hands. A woman, a regular maybe, lounged in one of his chairs.

As a tattoo artist, Aaron's one rule is no neck, face or hands, and he tries to avoid gang signs. Every year, he pens University students with love notes he knows they'll later regret. But it's not his job to tell them that.

"You told me not to get my husband's name," the woman reminded him.

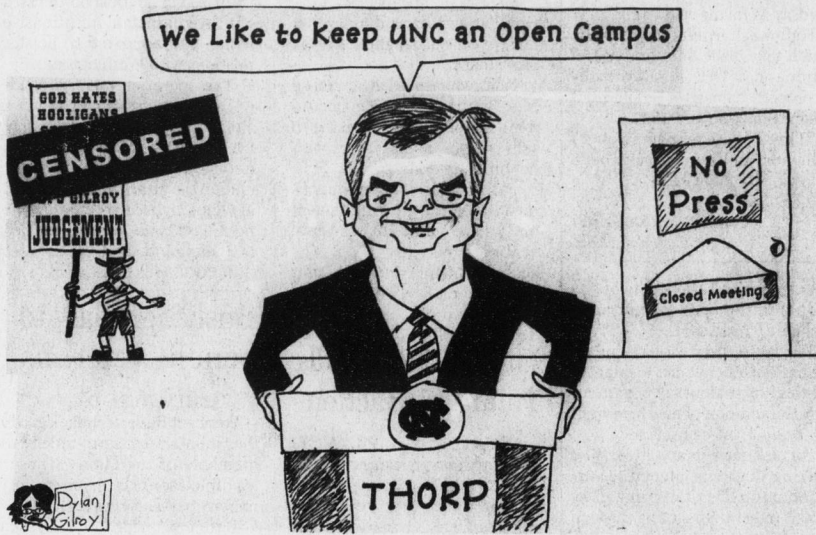
"That's because I like you." The day's rain had dried up. A man with dreadlocks rode by on a bike, calling as he passed, "There's a good band down at Weaver Street."

I followed the tip. And there was Holden Thorp, on jazz keyboard in high socks.

And so on.

I can't see every crack and crevice, but I can hit a few. I can't define this community with adjectives, but I can hear some of its stories. And I can't apologize enough for the stupid questions I've asked. I can only hope they are forgiven or at least, in time, forgotten.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Dylan Gilroy, dgilroy@email.unc.edu



Cracking the Code

Board of Elections must make campaign guidelines clear, enforce them consistently

Student body president candidates are barred from open campaigning until mid-January.

But 28 days of open campaigning is insufficient time to fully prepare for a successful run, so candidates traditionally muster staff and research their platforms months or even years in advance.

This advanced planning is subject to rules and restrictions monitored by the Board of Elections.

Recently, two students spoke on the record to The Daily Tar Heel regarding their campaigns after the DTH learned they had held large meetings to discuss their campaigns and sent e-mails soliciting supporters.

The candidates' brazen campaigning, coupled with their on-the-record discus-

sion of their candidacies, gives them an unfair advantage five months prior to the start of official campaigning.

In the Student Code, which regulates campus elections, Section 402 A. (1) states that no candidate can publicly seek to further the interests of his or her candidacy until 28 days before the election.

The BOE's interpretation and enforcement of this and other campaigning rules is at best ambiguous. Inconsistencies in interpretation lead to an unfair campaign climate.

And, election regulations in the Code aren't even convenient to student access.

The most recent revision, which was passed by Student Congress in April, can only be found through navigation of a maze of .zip files buried deep

within Congress' Web site.

Chairman Ryan Morgan said Monday the BOE is investigating possible campaign violations in the wake of last Wednesday's article, "SBP races launch early."

Typical election violations are confronted with minor monetary fines of only \$1 to \$50. But, a monetary fine does not compensate for reduced public name recognition, essential to SBP campaign victories.

To avoid inconsistent application of the Student Code, the BOE must revise the code to ensure clarity and consistent interpretation.

Rules must be defined more explicitly to clarify the nature of legitimate interaction between SBP candidates and the media.

And, regulations must be backed with effective enforcement and penalties.

Selling out on ticket prices

Rising price of football tickets puts them out of reach to a wider Chapel Hill community

Heightened excitement and expectations for the UNC football program have brought about alarming increases for fans.

The minimum general admission ticket price has jumped from \$40 to a steep \$50 for the 2008 season.

The ticket pricing system provides incentive for returning season-ticket holders to renew by offering a discounted face-value rate of either \$40 or \$45.

For more casual fans seeking to attend just one game, the tab is \$50 per seat. The price increase for individual game tickets makes a trip to watch

Butch Davis' Tar Heels less accessible to the average fan.

The \$50 price is comparably steeper than that of other football programs around the ACC. According to the UNC Ticket Office, N.C. State University offers single game seats that range from \$35 to \$49. Wake Forest, the 2006 ACC champion, charges between \$35 and \$50.

With the single exception of the University of Miami, all ACC schools currently offer seats cheaper than the UNC minimum price of \$50. Our Duke counterparts offer seats at half the cost of any one UNC ticket — probably due to the

strength of the program.

Even the perennial powerhouse programs of Florida State and Virginia Tech offer tickets that are cheaper at face value than those sold for admission to Kenan Stadium.

While a ticket policy that encourages strong supporters of the University might be profitable, those who cannot afford the commitment of season tickets should not be pushed out.

Those in the stands cheering on the "University of the people" should have easier access to Kenan Stadium. This increase in ticket price may put that access just out of reach for too many.

Beyond the majority

Diversity discussions should include needs of student religious groups

The University should take a more proactive approach to ensure that all students have the same ability to exercise their religion on campus.

Monday marked the first day of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting. During Ramadan, Muslims fast from dawn until dusk, yet University routines continue as usual for all students.

Muslims with weekly value meal plans will find themselves in a bind. It is unlikely that any fasting person will have the opportunity to use all dining hall meals during Ramadan.

Refunding unused meals during this holy month would be a fair and inclusive way to accommodate students who

practice Islam.

As the calendar now operates, value meal plans are priced to accommodate all official school holidays.

While UNC does not officially recognize any religious holiday, Christmas and Good Friday almost always coincide with University holidays.

Conflicts between religious and academic calendars are typical for many non-Christian religions.

This year, Jews will have to choose between attending Thursday classes and partaking in Yom Kippur, the holiest day of the year in Jewish tradition.

UNC has an excellent and progressive policy on nondiscrimination, yet the lag between

explicit policy and implementation remains substantial.

De facto recognition of Christian holidays while not accommodating for other religious holidays might alienate and disadvantage non-Christian students.

While the University already has many separate offices addressing issues of religion under the broader issue of diversity, these efforts are scattered and no substantive body has the authority to tackle specifically religious diversity.

A task force that includes both religious leaders and students would be significant in advancing the interests of religious students on campus.

Appeasing the majority is simply not enough.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"I wear Victoria's Secret, but I understand why the chancellor doesn't want the University associated with half-naked women."

JENNIFER PRICE, FIRST-YEAR

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:

"You're either 100 percent loyal to U.S. citizens or you are an illegal alien loyalist. ... Make your decision and live with it."

ON "STUDENTS GEAR UP TO FIGHT ANTI-IMMIGRANT POLICY"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Chairman of BOE tries to clear up election code

TO THE EDITOR:

Mr. (George) Drometer's assertion in his letter to the editor on Thursday ("DTH writers need to read up on election protocol") that there was a violation of Title VI, Article IV, Section 402 A (5) is appreciated, but the Board of Elections is the sole body dealing with election violations.

I've heard many people make accusations of election law violations, yet no reports of violations have been submitted.

As the chairman of the BOE, all reports of violations are sent directly to me, so if there are any reports, I should know about them. If you want to complain, do it on the kvetching board, if you want an elections issue addressed, report it at studentorgs.unc.edu/boe/.

It's simple; if you notice or suspect a violation, report it. The BOE investigates violations and deals out punishments accordingly, but we cannot punish violations if we don't know about them.

As for the article on Wednesday ("SBP races launch early"), neither candidate chose to talk to the BOE before the article ran, while a third candidate contacted me. I instructed him not to have his name printed. A fourth candidate, a sophomore, was apparently left out of the entire process by the DTH.

Also, if you're planning on running for any office, especially SBP (you know who you are, and so do I, even though you think I don't), contact me so I can inform you on the nuances of the Student Code. I know of three candidates who are aware I want to speak with them, but have not contacted me.

And to the commentator online, this is not the \$5.00 fine and slap on the wrist BOE of the past.

Ryan Morgan
Sophomore
Chairman of the Board of
Elections

Obama offers up stale solutions to age old issues

TO THE EDITOR:

"This election must be about bold solutions," says Vivek Chilkuri. ("Stop talking about Paris, start talking about issues," Aug. 28 letter to the editor) I agree. But the solutions Barack Obama offers to the economy, education, environment and the other issues that confront us are not bold.

Is it bold to merely repeat solutions that the Democratic Party has been saying for the past 50 years?

On his Web site, Obama promises more government intervention in the free-market, just like every other modern Democratic nominee. He also promises to substantially increase the taxes on higher wages.

All of these merely repeat Democratic policy initiatives of the past half-century. There is nothing new here.

The vast majority of these policies have been attempted and failed. Protectionism significantly worsened the Great Depression (Smoot-Hawley Act). Billions of dollars have been poured down the education hole to satisfy the NEA, and students' achievement has declined. Taxing

the most productive members of society causes capital to flee. France exemplifies this well, as evidenced by its high tax rate and diminishing tax receipts.

Obama speaks of "change we can believe in." What change?

Anthony Dent
First-year
Physics, Economics

Shortsightedness costs the future generations

TO THE EDITOR:

I feel I must voice my objections to Andrea Ludtke's column on Aug. 29 ("Stop the green, go out with a bang") which made some fallacious arguments regarding "evolution" and projected a generally short-sighted message.

The argument concerning "survival of the fittest" doesn't work out really. Evolutionary fitness is measured in the number of viable offspring one produces, not necessarily any other characteristic — so rabbits might be considered "more fit."

But the true idiocy is in the concept of pitting humans against all other species in a battle for survival. Humans have an "unfair advantage" in this competition: cultural development, which has taken us from stone tools to the iPod and atomic bomb inside of 40,000 years—during which our only biological change was smaller canine teeth.

Biological evolution, taking millions of years, cannot protect a species from our deadly force. But as Ludtke's thinking indicates, the cleverness that gives us our dangerous tools doesn't necessarily equal intelligence.

True intelligence would be to use our sentience to look around and see that all life is connected and, though we could fairly easily destroy all other life on earth, we couldn't survive long without it.

In the 21st century, thinking only about short-term convenience and pleasure would be a disgrace to our primeval ancestors who were marked by their forward planning skills. Some people do go overboard with conservatism, but it may be worse to go overboard on "living for today" at the expense of future generations.

Benjamin F. Ossoff
Junior
History

Governor Palin far more extremist than Kucinich

TO THE EDITOR:

The DTH cartoon on Aug. 29 cast Rep. Dennis Kucinich as beyond the mainstream.

Kucinich is infinitely more mainstream than John McCain's running mate, Sarah Palin. Gov. Palin is a right-wing extremist who denies evolution and a human role in global warming.

Currently under investigation for abuse of power, she was also a supporter of the far-right anti-Israel Pat Buchanan. Earlier this year, she admitted that she didn't know what vice presidents were supposed to do.

McCain's running mate selection speaks to his active disdain for his country and its citizens.

Noah Savage
Junior
Linguistics

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.