

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,  
115 years  
of editorial freedom

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QUOTE OF THE DAY:

*"The same thing Navy Seals do a 60-year-old grandmother can do; we just alter the intensity."*

DARRYL PIERCE, TRAINER, ON CROSSFIT BOOT CAMP

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:

*"How can someone focus when you have anywhere from 30 to 300 people in a quiet room jamming on keyboards?"*

— ON SECUREXAM ON "BLUE BOOKS, BIG PROBLEMS"

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.

ONLINE COMMENTS:

*Editor's note: These comments have been edited for length and style. To read and respond to the full comments, please visit [dailytarheel.com](http://dailytarheel.com) and [blogs.dailytarheel.com](http://blogs.dailytarheel.com).*

"I can't imagine an issue more pertinent to a local issue than the existence of a local bubble. And I can't imagine a more pertinent time or place to discuss such an issue than in the opinion section on the eve of a financial catastrophe."

"I'll continue reading the Opinion page of the DTH, but I will do so with a critical eye. Just as when I watch Bill O'Reilly's and Lou Dobbs' rants, I'll not only look for what is said but also for what may not have been said."

"It is not Danny's prerogative to choose which column is published. ... Did you not even consider reworking parts of the column so that it could become a stronger piece? Or did you just think of the word 'censorship' first and decide a battle against the DTH would gain you some real notoriety?"

"It's time to grow up, Alli. And when you decide that you want to wear the big-girl pants and accept responsibility for a gross abuse of power, then maybe the readers will respect you again."

"It seems that the justification for this is continually changing, and I find it offensive that Allison Nichols believes UNC students are gullible enough to accept her various, fickle and clearly secondary reasons."

"In short, Mr. Randolph sat down and wrote a note that seems to have come from his disquiet over recent events that was cathartic. He did no research (as he did in-depth for the smoking column which was published), he shed no new light on anything and he rambled on. If his goal is that the DTH not publish trite and unsubstantial articles, leaving his out of the paper was a good first start."

"Do you think that after the resignation of your opinion editor, several members of your editorial board and your University columnist, it might be time to turn the mirror onto yourself?"

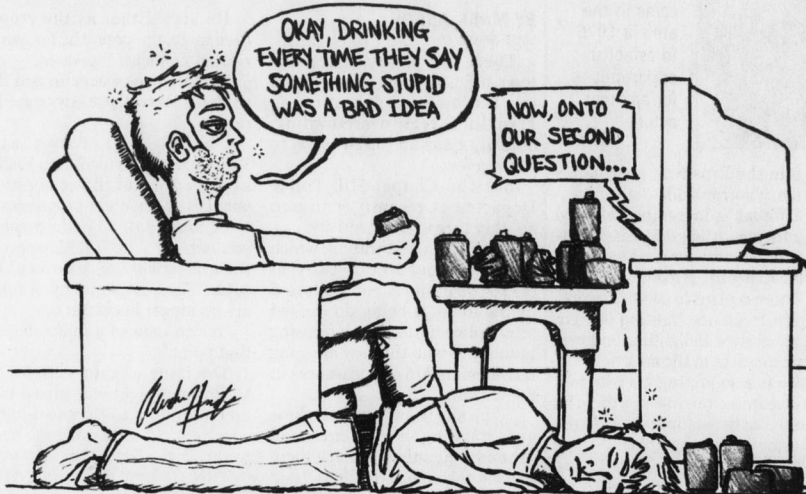
"The DTH is about this campus! The rest of you are too lazy to log on to nytimes.com or washingtonpost.com to read about what is going on nationally written by someone who does it better! ... Why edit AP articles to bulk up the paper?"

"Not publishing an article written by a staff writer is not censorship. Every word written by every journalist is not published. Choices need to be made every day. ... Editors make these choices based on quality of writing, interest to the community of readers, timeliness and probably a dozen more criteria. Editing is not censorship."

"Alli seems to think that the DTH should cover only local issues, no matter what. Although I understand that the DTH is primarily a local paper, I don't think this qualification should be absolute. For instance, if another 9/11 happened tomorrow, I would expect it to be on the front page of the DTH."

**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.

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



THE DANGERS OF THE NP DEBATE

READER FEEDBACK:

Publish rejected column, with editor's rationale

**TO THE EDITOR:**  
I regret the decision of Danny Randolph to resign as opinions columnist of The Daily Tar Heel because of the editorial decision to deny publication of one of his columns.

The column, which I have read, regrets that the campus at large, including the coverage in The Daily Tar Heel, often tends to overlook or downplay larger and pressing social issues beyond the borders of our self-contained and tranquil campus.

He cites, in particular, the newspaper's retrained coverage of the recent crisis in the country's financial markets with its looming implications for all of us.

Though the tone of the column is measured and reflective, it does contain a criticism of the paper in which the column was destined to appear.

The decision to deny publication has all the appearances, therefore, of an attempt to suppress public criticism.

Why not publish the column and encourage the editor to public beside it her own reasons for rejecting it?

In that way, instead of arresting the free exchange of differing opinions, the newspaper can allow its readers to form their own opinions in the very tradition that the masthead of the editorial page indicates, "115 years of editorial freedom."

George Lensing  
Mann Family Professor  
of English and Comparative  
Literature  
Director, Office of  
Distinguished Scholarships

Refusal to run column has undermined reputation

**TO THE EDITOR:**  
Some Chapel Hill residents may not be aware that Danny Randolph, a former columnist for The Daily Tar Heel, wrote a column for the paper entitled "Beware the Chapel Hill Bubble" discussing the faltering economy and the bubble The Daily Tar Heel creates by not mentioning such issues.

Mr. Randolph's column was denied by the editor, and he resigned.

I am, quite frankly, extremely disappointed at your decision not to publish Mr. Randolph's column.

Mr. Randolph raises an excellent point, one that has frustrated me many times with The Daily Tar Heel, that being the lack of national news coverage, even when it has extensive local consequences.

I understand that The Daily

Tar Heel is a local paper, intended to deal with local issues, but surely an event with astounding implications for every citizen, especially those about to enter the job market as we are, deserves mention in the paper.

The fact that two dead deer is front-page news, while our imploding economy (which affects the entire Chapel Hill community) is barely mentioned, worries me.

Regardless of what The Daily Tar Heel chooses to cover, I am angered that you refused to publish a legitimate presentation of an issue Chapel Hill residents should be aware of.

Mr. Randolph eloquently reminded Chapel Hill to keep in mind its position in this world, something that needs reiterating. It was also an opinion column, thereby not representative of the views of The Daily Tar Heel.

By refusing to publish this column, you have undermined your position as a reputable paper to me and have brought to light the serious lack of coverage of national issues with local impact.

I would very much like to see a letter from the editor explaining her decision, and the original "Beware the Chapel Hill Bubble" column published in The Daily Tar Heel this week.

Keith Grose  
Sophomore  
Mathematics/Economics

Common sense that crisis affects campus, students

**TO THE EDITOR:**  
I am thrilled that Allison Nichols is thinking of her dim readers when considering columns.

When Ms. Nichols turned away Danny Randolph's column she cited a fear that the "column might confuse readers about The Daily Tar Heel's purpose."

As a faithful reader I think have a pretty good sense of the DTH's purpose to inform the community and serve as a forum for discussion.

Ms. Nichols wants to stay local and that is respectable. What is not respectable is censorship under the guise of editing for relevancy.

If Ms. Nichols is concerned with keeping the paper's coverage strictly local then this year's edition on 9/11 would be complete hypocrisy.

But it isn't hypocrisy because the events of 9/11 went beyond their immediate locations and had a tremendous impact on our whole nation.

It should be common sense for Ms. Nichols that the recent financial events go beyond Wall Street and affect the whole nation, even idyllic Chapel Hill.

Wachovia's solvency, student

loans and credit difficulties are all issues that affect the local readers of this local paper.

Throughout the semester Danny Randolph has written thoughtful and eloquent columns.

His strength of content has been head and shoulders above the other columnists and his censored column is no exception.

If Ms. Nichols is truly concerned about the strength of content or relevancy then there is a particular column on MTV I'd like to discuss.

Caroline Moakley  
Junior  
History

Nichols must explain her new expanded role better

**TO THE EDITOR:**  
Eric Johnson told us Wednesday that editor Allison Nichols was defending "higher journalistic standards" in her regulation and oversight regarding the opinion content of the DTH.

Presumably it was these same journalistic standards which have now allowed her to redefine the structure of the Daily Tar Heel such that the former system in which the editor-in-chief was merely a nonvoting member of the Editorial Board no longer seems to apply.

I call on Allison Nichols to publicly define this "new role" she sees for the DTH which justifies what she does.

At the moment, all it seems is that the Opinion desk is being censured such that it may not in any way question how the editor envisions The Daily Tar Heel, and that Ms. Nichols effectively can silence any opinion by attacking the quality of the writing.

What next?  
A student body presidential candidate criticizes the direction of the DTH, and the opinion may reach only one conclusion, that of opposition to the candidate?

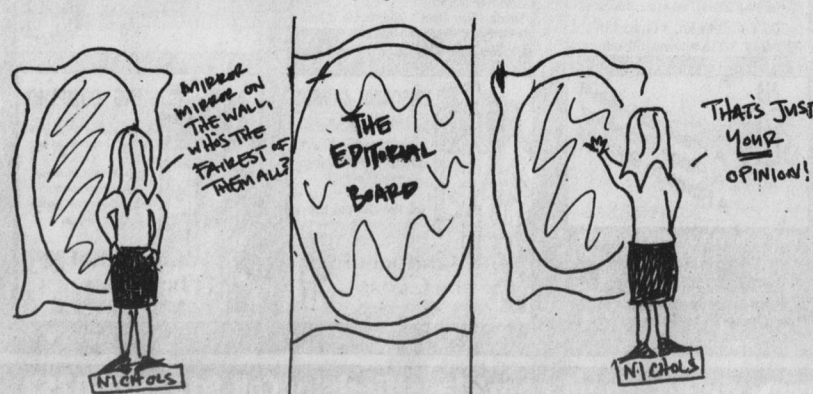
Eric Johnson's column was certainly enlightening, but what seems more telling is the fact that such an article need come out under a named author; is the new editorial board sufficiently weakened that it may not, itself, criticize Nichols?

Nine months ago, when campaigning for role of editor, Nichols was quoted saying, "One of the things I want to do is to start a public forum when something about the DTH coverage sparks controversy."

Where is this forum? And what power do we have to challenge her?

Mark Laichena  
UNC Student Abroad  
Political Science

READER-SUBMITTED CARTOON By Angela Tchou, tchou@email.unc.edu



**ANDREA LUDTKE**  
THE BLUNT BLONDE  
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From the diary of a nutty gym rat

At the gym. The place I go to work off guilt from taking the all-you-can-eat mantra of the dining halls literally. And of course, all those Alpine bagels.

Although I love the Rams Head Recreation Center dearly — my only ally against the lurking

Freshman 15 — it does have its drawbacks. And to a gym junkie like me, after a while the little things become major annoyances.

First of all, I must say I love the indoor track. It's just high enough above the court to escape the hooting and hollering of the men below in the fight-to-the-death basketball game. But not too high from where I can't gaze down and enjoy the view. I often find a few favorites ...

While I'm running around the track man-watching, it's a near miss by the time I notice the walker in front of me. To avoid this dilemma, I suggest dividing the three lanes into walk, jog and run. That way, the poor girl I crashed into last week (I'm sorry) can walk in peace, and the rest of us can man-watch carefree.

Speaking of men, in the spirit of equality I've managed to garner their experience at the gym. But, it took some deciphering of their complex language of grunts and snorts. My sources grunt of excessively long lines at the weight machines. The ones that spoke English voiced their concern about the lack of enforcement in cleaning the machines after use. This crime is often committed by their snorting counterparts.

I even heard that the boys' locker room always smells like something recently died. And no, gym faculty, I don't think plugging a Febreze NOTICEables into every outlet is going to do the trick with this one. Girls, you know the smell of one sweaty man is often enough to make you lose your balance (and not in the hot Dirty Dancing Patrick Swayze kind of way).

A whole enclosed area dedicated to housing the stench of these sweat-drenched creatures may actually require some elbow grease to clean ... and ventilation.

I do lose my balance on the treadmill when I get a whiff of that nauseating industrial-strength pink cleaning spray. It hits me like a truck and I'm overwhelmed with the memory of a nose-pinching medicine I dreaded taking as a kid. I beg of you, this is the 21st century, they can even make cat litter smell good.

My biggest complaint is how overcrowded the gym is most of the time. On a campus this large, two gyms aren't going to cut it. I know demanding another facility won't produce any instant results, but how about actually purchasing machines according to the law of supply and demand?

Supply: a ridiculous number of bike machines and stair-stoppers, an adequate amount of treadmills, and a meager supply of the golden ellipticals.

Demand: No one is ever on more than one or two of the bikes, there's usually at least one treadmill open, but getting an elliptical requires signing up half an hour in advance and giving up your first-born child.

And don't forget the evil eye doled out by competing girls if you go even 2 minutes over your 30 minute limit. While I applaud the smiling, helpful employees that run the Rams Head Recreation Center, there's always room for improvement in the gym itself.

Bottom line: Stock up on ellipticals, dump the bikes. Tar Heels, this is a crucial step in ensuring that our Carolina girls are truly "best in the world." Or at least hotter than what the Duke boys call girls.