

## The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,  
115 years  
of editorial freedom

ALLISON NICHOLS  
EDITOR, 962-4086  
NALLISON@EMAIL.UNC.EDU  
OFFICE HOURS:  
MON., WED. 2-3 P.M.  
ERIC JOHNSON  
PUBLIC EDITOR  
ERICJOHNSON@UNC.EDU

HARRISON JOBE  
OPINION CO-EDITOR  
HJOBE@EMAIL.UNC.EDU  
GREG MARGOLIS  
OPINION CO-EDITOR  
MARGOLIS.GREG@GMAIL.COM

## EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

LISA ANDRUKONIS  
YANIV BARZILAI  
BEN BUCK  
ANDREW STILES  
SARAH WHITWORTH



PABLO FRIEDMANN  
THE BRIGHT LINE

Senior international studies major  
from Newton, Mass.

E-MAIL: PABLOF@EMAIL.UNC.EDU

## Even from here, your microloan gift helps

"It was kind of a crazy idea." That's how Premal Shah, the president of Kiva, describes the idea of "people lending money to people that they've never met."

Imagine that. Because of technological advances in the Internet, it is now possible to deposit 25 bucks and become a banker to the world's poor.

Talk about people power. When Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank jointly shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, many saw it as a validation of how far microfinance had come.

Yunus' idea went one step further when Kiva was seeded in the United States to tap into the cashflow of the developed world.

I was first introduced to Kiva when a former high school teacher of mine asked me to join. She seeded her account with a little money and made microloans to entrepreneurs from Africa to Latin America. I thought it was a fly-by-the-night operation until I did some research.

Kiva, which means harmony or unity in Swahili, first gained notoriety in 2007 when New York Times columnist Nicholas Kristof profiled his loan to an Afghan baker, former President Bill Clinton has also talked about the group in his book, *Giving*.

This past Thursday night, the Kiva storm finally hit campus. The Carolina Microfinance Initiative hosted its first Kiva dinner, a spin on Nourish International's Hunger Lunch. The Campus Y was bustling and 15 projects worth \$500 were seeded that night.

Imagine that. Chapel Hill students providing the start up capital to help entrepreneurs expand their businesses and move up the income ladder.

Just imagine if our Rams Head or Lenoir dollars went to fund sustainable water projects in Uganda or bicycle repairs in Romania.

At the core of the microfinance movement is recognizing the lack of opportunities some people face. As Ryan Leatham, the general coordinator of the Carolina Microfinance Initiative put it: "Intellectual capacity and entrepreneurial ability are universal and equal throughout all cultures, but it is opportunity that separates us."

Microfinance aims to empower people by enabling ideas that directly impact local communities to take root.

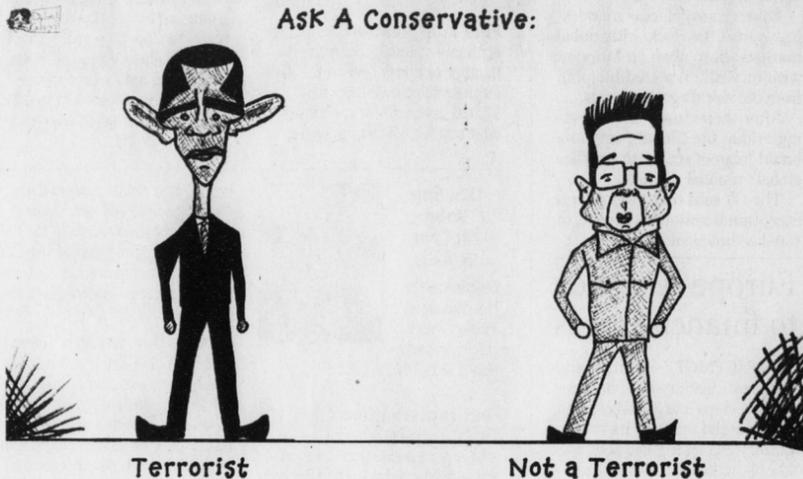
Anecdotal evidence has backed up those claims by discovering that microfinance directly empowers women and discriminated ethnic groups.

Unfortunately, some people seem to believe that microfinance weakens the cause of foreign aid. The truth is that this debate doesn't have to revolve between more foreign aid versus microfinance. The Kiva model is democratizing the foreign aid process, much like Barack Obama and Howard Dean used the Web to tap into small campaign contributions. It's making us, as students and voters, more informed of what's failing and needs to change.

Nowadays, you don't have to wait for the House to reauthorize a foreign aid bill or the United Nations to ask for more money. You can take that first step by attending the monthly Kiva dinners CMI is hosting.

Editor's note: Pablo Friedmann's column normally appears on Thursdays.

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



## Congress' plan backfires

In ill-fated attempt to scapegoat organization, Congress embarrasses itself and reveals major flaws

As the details of last week's Concepts of Colors controversy trickle in, it has become increasingly apparent that certain members of Student Congress wanted nothing more than a public witch-hunt.

They wanted a fiasco — and they got one.

But the inquiry into Shaniqua McClendon's funding request backfired and instead raised questions about the effectiveness and integrity of the finance committee.

After all of the facts have been presented, we believe it is clear that McClendon in no way attempted to deceive Congress regarding her financial request.

The ethics committee ruled similarly, stating Sunday that it did not find her guilty of inflation or intending to deceive them.

It seems that Congress simply wanted to scapegoat her organization as an example to other student groups, and in the process, they bruised McClendon's reputation.

Certainly, if Congress receives information that an

organization intentionally misrepresented funding requests, an investigation should be launched.

But this case was disgracefully handled.

Tim Nichols, speaker of Congress, only contacted McClendon by e-mail about an hour before he planned to present allegations to Congress.

Nichols stated that he had thought catching McClendon off-guard would ensure her honesty.

The responsible action would have been to contact her beforehand to discuss the details of the case.

McClendon was only informed that the integrity of her funding request was in question a couple hours before Congress was called to order, giving her little time to prepare any type of defense.

She was thrust in front of the entire body of Student Congress with almost no knowledge of what she was accused of doing.

The central issue is not with McClendon or her funding request, it is with the finance

committee.

Although McClendon attached a particularly detailed funding request, including listing individual items and prices, the finance committee never saw or reviewed this document.

It is unclear why this document was not reviewed, but to allow such information to fall through the cracks is irresponsible.

McClendon and her organization simply selected the items they wanted for their performances, including some particularly expensive items, and the finance committee approved it with little opposition.

We believe student groups should try to be frugal when spending student fees, but it's not up to the groups to present the most economical options. It is the finance committee's responsibility to insist that groups economize their requests and to scrutinize them more closely.

Congress' handling of this situation was irresponsible. Its leaders unnecessarily cast McClendon into the public spotlight and embarrassed themselves in the process.

## Congratulations, Thorp

Thorp has been hands-on, still faces many challenges

We joined the University community in honoring Holden Thorp's official installation as UNC's 10th chancellor on the University's 215th birthday.

Thorp's tenure so far has been marked with honesty, pragmatism, accessibility and excitement.

And we expect nothing less from him as he moves forward to implement his vision for UNC.

In his installation address, Thorp acknowledged — and rightly so — that these are "trying times." But the overarching mood of his speech was optimistic.

His speech was full of enthusiasm, desire and vision for the

future to take this University to new heights. And we are excited to see the great things he can help UNC do.

So far, Thorp has been very hands-on. He's working to reach a compromise with housekeepers and recently raised the minimum staff salary.

He has been accessible to students and Daily Tar Heel reporters and seems interested in hearing feedback and concerns. And he even started a blog.

We hope that this proactive approach is something that will mark all of Thorp's tenure, especially on the very important issue of enrollment growth.

The UNC system is projected

to add 80,000 students within the next decade.

UNC will have to decide how much of that growth it can shoulder and also assess its educational mission in light of the enrollment challenges.

It's important for University officials, especially Thorp, to be cautious about this growth. And it appears that he is.

We agree with his general sentiment that it's important to be prudent in how we grow as a University and make sure that educational quality is still a major focus.

As Thorp acknowledged, the path ahead will be difficult. And we hope he will be up to the challenge.

## Back on schedule

Backlog reduced, Honor Court can now better serve

The Honor Code once called for punishment for students stealing their professors' horses, dueling and not attending church.

In recent years, it operated with a protocol that resulted in 100 backlogged cases from the summer months and previous semesters that had to be prosecuted in the fall.

But this year, Honor Court is getting its act together. Not only is the backlog reduced, but the court also is actually ahead of pace.

It's hearing a similar number of cases but in less time. We appreciate this newfound efficiency.

Students who are found not

guilty deserve to have their integrity restored in a reasonable amount of time. A month has been a good goal in the past.

Guilty students deserve the same level of efficiency in getting their cases resolved.

And it's become apparent that the pace is improving.

Honor Court's summer efforts decreased backlog at the beginning of this semester. They maintained contact with parties involved in unfinished cases from the end of last semester and scheduled tentative court dates.

These measures reduced the makeup work needed at the beginning of this semester.

Jonathan Sauls, assistant dean

of students and judicial programs officer, said, "A quick decision is not always a good decision."

We agree. But taking too long to deliver justice is an injustice itself. That's why we applaud the Honor Court in its attempt to hear cases in a timely manner.

And now that the court has finished past cases and begun tackling those from this semester, it seems like it is on track.

We know Honor Court decisions have been highly contested before. The way in which it delivers justice has been controversial in certain cases.

But a basic level of efficiency is a central responsibility of the court. And we're pleased to see it on the rise.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Whenever I lose my car keys, I consider calling Holden Thorp."

ALLAN GARGANUS, NOVELIST

## FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:

"Chapel Hill is an affluent, educated, privileged, liberal area compared to most of N.C. — and THAT is why it is a bubble."

— ON "LET'S LIVE OUTSIDE OF UNC BUBBLE"

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## N.C. unfairly hinders third parties' chances in Nov.

TO THE EDITOR:  
North Carolina seems to be a hotly contested state in the upcoming elections. After eight years of Bush failures, the Republican Party has lost some of its grip. Sen. Obama and Sen. McCain are neck-and-neck, and your vote may decide the next president of the United States.

But mine won't. You see, I won't be voting for either McCain or Obama. I do not like their platforms and will instead vote for a third party.

Often in American history, unexpectedly high support for third parties can influence the policies of the Big Two, even if a third candidate doesn't win. Having a third party option to represent many different views is a wonderful facet of democratic government.

Of course, not everyone agrees. The Republican and Democratic Parties of North Carolina really want my vote. But rather than compete to represent my interests and win my vote, they've managed to create the third most restrictive ballot access laws in the nation.

In North Carolina, a candidate usually has to collect more than 100,000 signatures to get on the ballot. By contrast, more than two-thirds of all states require 10,000 signatures or fewer for ballot access.

Now imagine you have overcome this colossal obstacle, after spending around \$100,000 on paid petitioners. If your party does not receive at least 10 percent of the vote for president or governor, then you're back off the ballot and have to start again. This system makes it impossible for third parties to campaign — they spend all of their time and money collecting signatures.

This fall I'm voting third party. I don't expect my candidates to win. But maybe, if I'm very lucky, my vote can keep them in this rigged game — whether our entrenched political duopoly likes it or not.

Tom VanAntwerp  
Junior  
Business Administration and  
Economics

## Cage free eggs are more humane; kudos to UNC

TO THE EDITOR:

It is heartening to see that the University is moving away from using eggs from caged hens. Hens confined in battery cages are unable to engage in many important natural behaviors such as dustbathing, perching, scratching, laying eggs in a nest, standing on solid ground or even spreading their wings. Each hen confined in a battery cage has less space than a single sheet of paper to live her entire life.

I am pleased that UNC has begun to take action on this important issue but I hope it's only a first step to completely eliminate its use of eggs from caged hens.

Amanda Arrington  
State Director,  
North Carolina  
The Humane Society

Adam Long  
Sophomore  
Pre-Business

## 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.