

The Daily Tar Heel

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Lace up shoes for 5K to fight trafficking

I don't really like running 5Ks. I don't like getting up early, I don't particularly like to get sweaty, and I'm a little scared from venturing out of my North Campus habitat freshman year to run one, only to get so caught up in the music blasting from my iPod that I ran right past the helpful sign with the arrow on it and became hopelessly lost among the dark and twisted coils of Manning Drive. I ran back and forth for 20 minutes before giving up and hopping on an RU bus to arrive at the post-5K celebration in style.

This Sunday, however, I will lace up a pair of running shoes that I bought during a very torrid but short-lived affair with Funk Class at the SRC, and I will try my hand at taking on a 5K once more. Whether or not I will finish the race without the help of the kind folks at Chapel Hill Transit remains to be seen.

There is really only one thing that could pull me out of my cozy apartment and into what promises to be a chilly Sunday morning: helping out a worthwhile but somewhat neglected cause while scoring a T-shirt. Luckily, "Beat the Traffick: The 5K Dash for Freedom" promises to deliver both.

The Coalition Against Sex Trafficking and Tri-Sigma Sorority have teamed up to organize a 5K to raise money and increase awareness about sex trafficking around the world. CAST, a new organization that is affiliated with the Carolina Women's Center, was founded by junior Priya Desai, who attended a CWC conference in April and was inspired to create an organization that focused exclusively on sex trafficking.

CAST has also found support from the owners of local businesses such as Cluck-U Chicken and Townsend, Bertram and Company, who have donated gift certificates and other items.

"We've had a great response from the community," said junior Ben Flitter, the CAST 5K coordinator. "We're setting up an auction at the end of the race, so it's been great to have these businesses donate items for that."

While the auction and the 5K are designed to raise as much money as possible, education is also a primary goal of the event. CAST and Tri-Sigma volunteers will stand along the 5K route to direct runners, holding signs featuring facts about sex trafficking.

"I'm really excited about getting the chance to help educate people about this issue," said Tri-Sigma member Morgan Eberle. "We do philanthropy through Sigma all the time, but this is a chance to help bring attention to an issue that isn't necessarily as high profile as the work we do for causes like the Children's Hospital."

Sex trafficking is an issue that the average person does not consider to be a significant domestic problem, though cases have been recorded in all 50 states.

A fact sheet published by CAST states that an estimated 600,000 to 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders every year. Of these individuals, approximately 80 percent are women and approximately 50 percent are minors.

The 5K will begin Sunday at 9:30 a.m. at Graham Memorial. You can register now at freewebs.com/cast5k or in the Pit for \$17, which includes that T-shirt that I am so excited about.

So please consider hauling those sneakers out from the bottom of your closet and coming out to support a group that's fighting an issue that affects our community more than most of us realize.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Alex Harrington, achcts1@email.unc.edu



Application troubles

Study abroad process should be tweaked to allow students more options for credit, programs

The University's Study Abroad Office should allow students to apply to multiple study abroad programs.

This can be done without extensively expanding the application process.

UNC's Study Abroad Office offers more than 300 programs in 70 countries, yet students rejected from their first choice will find themselves in a bind.

The process for studying abroad requires a comprehensive 10-page application. This year, the Study Abroad Office only had two weeks to review 163 applications.

While applying to study abroad is a detailed and strenuous process, only a small part of

the application process itself is location-specific.

The application process can be tailored to allow students the ability to indicate program preferences in their application and include shorter written explanations of these choices, in addition to a basic study abroad essay.

If studying abroad maintains such a high interest, and UNC is as committed to study abroad programs as it claims, then the University must ensure that student demand is met through proper funding and staffing of the Study Abroad Office.

Also, current Study Abroad policy only allows students to receive credit for officially

sanctioned UNC-Chapel Hill programs.

But UNC's study abroad programs represent a tiny portion of the opportunity for students to study abroad worldwide. And, while the quality of study abroad programs must always be evaluated, it is hard to imagine that UNC maintains a monopoly on these quality programs.

While students may petition the Study Abroad Office to receive credit for other programs, UNC could offer a wider range of programs to complement the diversity of the world.

Studying abroad is an invaluable opportunity for all students and ought to be granted to anyone interested.

Money in the right place

Grant to fund mental health program is promising

We commend a new grant from two national charities to fight substance abuse and improve mental health care in Orange County.

The \$270,000 grant will be used to implement the Reclaiming Futures program. This national initiative helps teenage substance abusers by screening and providing treatment to those entering the juvenile justice system.

In the short term, the grant provides generous, much-needed funding for the area's substance abuse and mental health clinics. In the long term, it has real potential to fight drug addiction in Orange County and help criminal drug users get their lives back on track.

A well-tested model to combat drug use — like Reclaiming Futures — is exactly what our community needs. Private mental health clinics in the county have struggled to accommodate demand since reforms in 2001 cut spending on state programs. Higher prices have left many substance abusers without options for treatment.

We hope Reclaiming Futures will go a long way to bridge the gap between our county's mental health needs and its current capacity of treatment. We especially appreciate that the grant comes from two charities well-known for their strong philanthropic record in North Carolina: the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

"Breaking the cycle of drugs, alcohol and crime among our young people in North Carolina is an important priority for our organization," said Susan Richardson, program officer of the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, in a press release. "Reclaiming Futures offers a tested tool that can make a huge difference in our communities."

This grant is especially poignant now because of the tragic death of Joshua McCabe Bailey, a Chapel Hill resident found shot to death earlier this year. Bailey suffered from both mental health problems and substance abuse, and it is speculated that his death was drug-related.

We hope that Reclaiming Futures will do a world of good in helping those like Bailey.

Embrace intellectual debate

U.S. Rep. Robin Hayes, R-N.C., said at a rally in Concord on Saturday that "liberals hate real Americans that work and accomplish and achieve and believe in God."

His rhetoric is along the same lines as Republican vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin's remarks in Greensboro about "pro-America" parts of the country and Rep. John Murtha's, D-Pa., comments about how western Pennsylvania is a "racist area."

These comments depress me, both as an American and as a college student.

They are a symptom of the total failure of public political discourse to engage ideas and confront the challenges we face — like just how we're going to unfreeze the credit markets so our economy can grow; or how we're going to fix a broken health care system; or how we're going to achieve energy independence. And the list goes on.

We can't let this trend of anti-intellectualization extend beyond discourse. The problems our generation faces require



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ideas, not demagoguery.

And that's where we as members of a university community come in.

Institutions of higher education are the bastion for the intellectual development of our country and our political parties.

It's our university campuses where the ideas that will solve climate change, confront poverty and propel American ingenuity are born. And it's also the place where our political parties' philosophies grow.

As a result, when we hear our leaders resort to making incendiary comments that do nothing to advance the political and intel-

lectual dialogue, we should be outraged.

We need to rededicate ourselves to being people of ideas and solutions, rather than those obsessed with partisan bickering.

It's great that campuses are hotbeds of political activity. But, at the same time, we should be careful not to get sucked into the petty and divisive politics that dominates the national scene.

As Derek Belcher, president of the UNC College Republicans said, "we should definitely get back to a stronger focus on ideas and issues."

Because if we get stuck on divisive rhetoric, there is the "danger of disengagement with each other," said Vivek Chilukuri, president of UNC Young Democrats.

And if that happened, we'd be neglecting our responsibility to engage our country's problems in an analytical, creative and productive way.

It's up to us, the educated elite — liberal and conservative — to turn the focus from cultural division and wedge politics to intellectual development.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"We realized that this fund and only this fund would galvanize this class to act in ways that other funds wouldn't."

JAMES SHELLY, SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:

"Students have enough smarts to understand you need an experienced person to be vice president... Let us have a vote!"

— ON "SPLIT TICKET" EDIT

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Complaining about TAs' grading is not productive

TO THE EDITOR:

Zack Holland complained in his letter to the editor ("Grades are unfair when TAs have varying standards," Oct. 21) that it was unfair when TAs did the grading for assignments which require subjective grading since "there's typically a disparity in the average grades" in large classes with multiple TAs.

While he discounts the possibility that one TA might have better equipped or achieving students than another, I don't believe that can be ruled out.

More importantly, however, whining about fairness will not serve Mr. Holland well later in life.

As John Kennedy once said, "Life is unfair."

Perhaps if Mr. Holland were complaining about dying on a flood plain in an underdeveloped region of the world instead of his difficulty in getting lower grades than another student while being sheltered, warm, and well fed in a wonderful school he might have a point.

In school as in life, Mr. Holland will go much farther playing the hand he is dealt rather than attempting to obtain a different deck. (By the way, I do not believe I have ever taught Mr. Holland.)

Robert M. Hamer, Ph.D.
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Though probable, hikes in tuition are unacceptable

TO THE EDITOR:

Every few weeks, there is chatter of raising tuition. Though we have representatives speaking on our behalf, we the people need to express ideas ourselves. Raising tuition all the time overburdens students, the young minds of America's future.

Regardless of whether you are a freshman or senior, in state or out of state, government official or patron: This issue matters to everyone.

When the mass public consciousness gives voice to an issue, the established order must pay attention. Is there a place for moral consciousness in our society?

Several, if not most of the students are already struggling to pay for the costs of college. Throughout the nation, this is a problem for academic institutions.

Just like our parents ask where our taxes are going, we the students must question where the tuition goes. What we need to do is use our resources more efficiently. Is this not what is asked of the individual? Our intuitions must be accountable to this principle as well. There are viable alternatives to jacking up prices for those who are getting an education.

The budget must be used for necessities which are imperative. Science promotes the concept of efficiency where you try to get the most out of what you are putting in. Business needs to incorporate that into its pro-

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 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.

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Piran Jadali
Senior
Psychology

Voting straight ticket is not an intelligent move

TO THE EDITOR:

Regardless of your choice for president, senator, or governor, voting straight ticket is undemocratic. The efforts being made by local political parties to get people to vote straight ticket do not help you, the voter, make an informed decision — it merely takes advantage of blind party loyalty.

If you support Barack Obama, then vote for him. If you support John McCain, vote for him. But there is no requirement that you then vote straight Democratic or Republican on the rest of the ballot. Be aware of what you're getting into. In an election when change is the driving motivation for voters, try to take into account who the incumbents are, what their voting records may be, their individual platforms, their campaign contributors, and whether they have actually done the job for which they were elected.

As a case in point, David Price, the Democratic congressional incumbent of this district, would automatically receive your vote if you vote straight ticket, but be aware that he has repeatedly voted to fund the Iraq war, voted for the PATRIOT Act without actually reading it, supports the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, and he has even implied that he supports an invasion of Pakistan. One of his biggest campaign contributors is the defense industry. Is this who you want to represent you?

Do not assume that because you vote straight ticket you are getting the candidates that will represent you. Choose each candidate carefully — believe me, it doesn't take all that much time to fill out the ballot carefully rather than voting straight ticket.

William Harris
Sophomore
Political Science,
History