

## The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,  
115 years  
of editorial freedom

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## Equality needs to reach gay Americans

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are not created equal, that they are not endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

Is that not what our great Declaration of Independence clearly states? No? Did I get it wrong? Wait. Let me check a few books. Hmm... odd. That can't be right. Give me a minute to consult Google. Ah, interesting. Seems I did get the statement wrong. Well, please excuse my confusion.

Try to understand that with the recent developments in California, Arizona, and Florida to ban same-sex marriages. I was under the impression that states were forging ahead with their duty to not uphold justice and to not champion freedom. Silly me. But wait. Now I am truly lost.

As a gay American citizen, how can I claim that the decisions of states discriminating against same-sex marriages champion my "unalienable rights" to "liberty and the pursuit of happiness?"

If anything, these decisions erode my rights by asserting that my loving commitment to my partner is not worthy of government recognition and the financial advantages it awards to married couples merely because my commitment happens to involve another male.

Oh, and then there's Arkansas, which recently passed legislation prohibiting unmarried couples from adopting or fostering children, an obvious swipe at my kind and me. Hold up, Arkansas. It's not enough that you won't let me marry, but now you prohibit me from raising a child too? Why is that exactly?

Is it because the love I can give a child is solely dependent on the genitals of the person I love?

When I shower my child with my love by teaching her how to ride a bike or to play the violin, by praising her when she wins a basketball match or a spelling bee, by building up her confidence if she makes a bad grade or confronts a bully, by educating her about tolerance and respect, love and forgiveness, all of that is inconsequential because I give my heart to a wonderful human being who just happens to have the same body parts as me, right?

Let's take a moment. Let's take a moment to realize that America is in a period of transition, as seen in the election of our new president-elect to the White House, yet while transitioning we are unfortunately retarding its progress by curbing civil liberties.

We Americans congratulate ourselves for advancing racial equality, yet oddly enough, we are turning our backs on general equality. We cannot claim ignorance of the issues and accept the exclusion of American citizens from the fold of fairness.

As Mr. Obama's election shows, a new day is dawning in America. We Americans need to make preparations that enable us all to walk proudly into that new day, a new day where seeing our own love and our own humanity in each other will create a more just nation; a more united nation; a nation that will greater exemplify our cherished principles of resolve, responsibility, equality, and humility; a nation that will see these principles touch our lives in precious ways simply because we will have truly recognized the value of loving and being loved, the value of being human.

### EDITORIAL CARTOON By Alex Lee, lobin@email.unc.edu



## Dining quality important

Locally grown options should take back burner to taste

Nutritious, quality food must be Carolina Dining Services' first priority.

While increasing the use of locally grown food is important, a greater effort should be focused on food quality.

Mystery meat, soggy pizza and pasta are too often the only things on the menu, and patrons' initial impression of the nice facilities and the "Carolina Diner" wear off quickly once they sample the food.

Dining services should place

a priority on nutritious food that also tastes good.

Furthermore, Carolina Dining Services should extend the hours of operation for its facilities. Besides Alpine Bagel, there are no options for late-night dining on campus. It's hard to believe that on a campus with thousands of students, the late-night options would be so limited.

In addition, locking students into a meal plan forces students to deal with the current quality of the food served in the dining

halls with no recourse.

Allowing students to cancel their meal plans without steep financial penalties would force their patrons were satisfied with their dining experience.

Focusing on local foods is important because it helps the local economy and environment. Any transition to a more locally-based dining services program should be a long-term goal.

But dining services has more pressing issues to address.

## Re-Centering

High time for permanence in poverty center leadership

A change in leadership for the UNC Center on Poverty, Work and Opportunity is just what is needed to ramp up its anti-poverty efforts.

The center has struggled in its three-year existence because of a lack of sustained leadership.

The hiring of UNC law professor Gene Nichol as the new director is a good step forward for the center.

Nichol has said he plans to make a long-term commitment

to the center and its goals. That's exactly what's needed.

Nichol, as he has said he would, should focus on expanding opportunities for students to volunteer at the center.

There's already a strong dedication to public service and social justice at UNC. The center should harness this passion to do work throughout the state.

The center began under the leadership of former Sen. John Edwards in 2005. As a visible figure on the national stage he

provided strong early momentum for the center.

But soon his political ambitions took precedent and he focused on a presidential run.

Since then, the center lost much of its early momentum and saw another director leave his position.

It needs a strong long-term commitment and dedicated leadership. Hopefully, Nichol can provide both and help get more students involved in its anti-poverty efforts.

## New approach for gay rights

Saturday's protest against the passage of California's Proposition 8 was a tremendous success by all accounts.

Not just because it was the largest gay rights protest in North Carolina's history, but because it represented a shift in the way gay rights advocacy is conducted in North Carolina.

The huge outpouring of support in favor of gay rights was the result of the work of just a few passionate individuals using social networking sites and e-mail lists to spread the word.

The 1,000-plus protest didn't need the resources of a large nonprofit organization.

These organizations are no longer the sole gatekeepers to social change. Now individuals can guide the agenda, and we're not afraid to ruffle a few feathers along the way.

Equality North Carolina, the state's leading LGBT advocacy group, initially hesitated to support and publicize the protest, as it conflicted with its "2008 Equality Conference and Gala."

"Equality N.C., HRC (Human Rights Campaign) — they like to be in control of the message for LGBT issues," said Will Elliot, an organizer of Saturday's protest.

But this time they weren't. And the protest was a huge success, proving that we no longer have to rely on organizations such as Equality N.C.



HARRISON JOBE  
Opinion Co-Editor from Greensboro.  
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Representatives are rarely held accountable by these organizations. If an organization like Equality N.C. vocally opposed a representative's vote, its access to that politician could be compromised.

And trust me, gay rights organizations have let the Democrats get away with a lot in the legislature's long-standing tradition of ignoring LGBT issues.

For example, late last spring the legislature took up the passage of an anti-bullying act.

Half a dozen Democrats decided not to show up to vote on this issue, and the bill failed.

The votes were there for the passage of this historic legislation — it was the senators who were missing, several of whom were running for office this cycle, that made the difference.

And this is despite the fact that Public Policy Polling showed that 72 percent of North Carolinians supported this explicitly LGBT inclusive anti-bullying bill.

We've also got to stop praising

the Democrats in the N.C. legislature for keeping a bill to constitutionally ban same-sex marriage in committee.

Don't be fooled. The only reason this bill stays in committee is because the General Assembly would be forced to discuss gay rights if it was put to a vote.

Additionally, the Democrats have yet to take up the task of updating N.C. law to reflect the Supreme Court's ruling that anti-sodomy laws are unconstitutional, a ruling that took place more than five years ago.

If there's one issue that N.C. legislators don't want to bring up, it's gay rights.

They're afraid to — they're under the illusion that we are still the North Carolina of the Jesse Helms era.

This is where we come in — to prove that North Carolina has come a long way. We have to start holding our representatives accountable. Advocacy organizations aren't going to, and they certainly aren't going to push for the progressive changes that we want — including same sex marriage.

Politicians need to know that they won't automatically earn our vote simply because they have labeled themselves Democrats.

Advocacy organizations still have a role to play, but the era of individual activism has arrived.

This weekend's protest proved it.

### JOIN US: The Daily Tar Heel is hiring for the spring semester.

We're looking for about eight columnists who will produce hard-hitting, insightful, well-written and well-researched columns with local relevance centered around a theme of their own choosing on a biweekly basis.

We're looking for about eight to 10 board members who will write unsigned editorials on behalf of the DTH. Members must attend a one-hour meeting on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday of each week to brainstorm and pitch ideas. Each board member can expect to write at least three editorials a week.

We're looking for at least two cartoonists who will produce creative, original editorial cartoons weekly.

Please visit Student Union, Room 2409 or [dailytarheel.com](http://dailytarheel.com) under "About us" for an application. Applications are due at 5 p.m. Nov. 24. Contact Editor Allison Nichols at [allisonnichols@gmail.com](mailto:allisonnichols@gmail.com) with questions.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"The black community had some disdain for how Homecoming was run this year, but we just need to ... figure out how we can improve the process in years to come."

DONOVAN LIVINGSTON,  
MR. BSM AND A HOMECOMING CANDIDATE

### FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:

"Please tell me this is satire or a guy who lost a bet or at least a hoax by a Duke student."

— ON LETTER TO THE EDITOR "SINGING OF ALMA MATER SHOULD BE CLASSY, NOT RUDE"

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Schools need to educate on the realities of racism

TO THE EDITOR:

Mr. Stiles' disregard of the students' education ("Small Ignorant Cowards," Nov. 10) ignores the underlying problem and one of the significant purposes of President-elect Obama's campaign. These students have made it to a higher education institution, but have yet to take advantage of it.

Though what they deserve is for their names to be revealed, what they need is for the school to do its job and expose them to the realities of racism.

These boys will not develop morals from financial, verbal or any other form of punishment.

They will learn them from embracing the America which just elected Barack Hussein Obama to be its next president. If they don't have any interest in becoming a part of the community they have insulted, they don't have any need for higher education.

Allen Spicer  
Senior  
Economics, Entrepreneurship

#### Students shouldn't care so much about trivialities

TO THE EDITOR:

Chill out, people. I'm sick of reading letters to the editor and editorials where people are getting angry about the stupidest things and demanding "justice."

My biggest complaint with this whole school is that everybody is obsessed with pretending they're an obnoxious adult.

You run around trying so hard to be boring, serious, politically correct adults that nobody laughs off the absurdities in their life.

Instead you can't let anything trivial go, you over-dramatize every problem and you automatically assume that everything that doesn't subscribe to your specific, politically correct viewpoint is some abhorrent injustice that must be stopped. Yesterday's letters to the editor epitomized this pathetic trend. For example:

"DTH should cover football as much as basketball": Only a small group of people actually make a living from sports. For the rest of us, it's just entertainment.

Which is more important to cover? Neither, they are both just games.

"Condom advertisement was offensive and crude": Guess what girls? You are beautiful. You should take it as a compliment that guys fantasize about you 24/7; it's not an insult. And yes — lust is the best way to get our attention, advertisement or otherwise.

"Singing of alma mater should be classy, not rude": Seriously, man? Everyone knows it's all in good fun, and if it gets the kids more excited then it's a good idea.

The list goes on. The point is: chill out, get over yourselves, and learn to accept the fact that other people don't see things the way you do. Please stop getting so worked up.

Stephen Bloemeke  
Junior  
Communication Studies

### 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

#### Student Television will continue, despite setback

TO THE EDITOR:

I wanted to congratulate Andrew Dunn on a very professionally written, comprehensive article covering the Ernie Gilbert embezzlement case ("Student charged in embezzlement," Nov. 17).

I extend an additional thanks to our Board of Directors, Student Congress, Student Legal Services, the UNC Honor Council, Student Activities Funding Office and the Chapel Hill Department of Public Safety.

Your help has proven elemental to the success of this investigation so far.

We have already set our administration and oversight levels beyond what they once were.

Our Board of Directors, a constitutionally recognized group authorizing all major STV purchases, is meeting regularly.

Student government's executive branch and STV are beginning talks with SAFO on how to best restructure funding for organizations like our own.

I am honored to manage a brilliant and dedicated group of students this year. I invite you to tune in as we soon begin broadcasting from a completely renovated production center. We will continue bringing you 24 hours a day of original, student-run and student-produced programming.

Thank you for your understanding and support as we continue to move Student Television forward.

Eric Ellington  
Station Manager  
UNC Student Television

#### Silent Sam is more about sacrifice than racism

TO THE EDITOR:

Last week, I was showing our beautiful university to a friend. I was dismayed to see food splattered on the front of Silent Sam's pedestal.

I realize that many in North Carolina would like nothing better than to see Silent Sam torn down. I also realize that some would argue that the men he enshrines deserve to be forgotten.

However, I believe Silent Sam rightfully stands as a monument to more than 1,000 students and alumni who fought or died defending their homes and this state.

I urge you to remember that these people, despite what they believed about slavery, might have been your ancestors. They might have fought alongside or to defend your ancestors and this state from a horrifyingly destructive war.

I refuse to believe that the men Silent Sam memorializes sacrificed their education, their future and their lives simply to continue the abhorrent institution of slavery that still casts a shadow on our society. Rather, I believe they fought because it was their duty to defend their home — just as Sam's inscription reads.

In future, try to remember the perspective of those dead students and citizens of North Carolina and don't defile their memorial.

William McLeon Harris  
Sophomore  
History, Political Science

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.