

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,  
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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  
BEN BUCK  
JAMES DING  
MICHAEL LEWIS  
ANDREW STILES  
SARAH WHITWORTH



**PABLO FRIEDMANN**  
THE BRIGHT LINE

Senior international studies major from Newton, Mass.  
E-MAIL: PABLOF@EMAIL.UNC.EDU

UNC right to divest funds from Darfur

Standing on the tarmac of the Kigali airport in Rwanda 15 years ago, former President Bill Clinton famously said never again. His remarks were in reference to the brutal genocide that killed an estimated 800,000 people.

The sad reality is that we have failed to learn our lessons. Genocide of unprecedented proportions is taking place half a world away in southern Sudan. It's caused then Senators John McCain and Barack Obama to issue an unprecedented, joint statement in late May demanding that the genocide in Darfur be brought to an end.

As noted journalist and scholar, Samantha Power, chronicles in her book, "A Problem from Hell," we fail to rationalize the inhuman act of genocide and too often repeat the phrase "never again." It is a phrase that we can not allow another elected official to say again.

With an economy in the tank and two wars raging, it's unlikely that President-elect Obama will have much time to bring the genocide to an end. All hope, however, is not lost.

A movement based in large part on the success of the 1980s divestment campaigns against apartheid South Africa has been afloat across college campuses in the last few years. Financial pressures two decades ago helped cause a democratic transition in South Africa in the early 1990s. Nowadays, the goal is to force college endowments to divest from companies complicit in the ongoing genocide in Darfur.

Specifically, the movement is targeting companies, such as the China National Petroleum Company and Petronas, which are the biggest players in Sudan's oil industry. The goal is to convince people to sell stocks of these blacklisted firms and cause the stock's price to tank. As they feel financial pain, these firms will pull out of Sudan and deprive the government of funds.

During the last few months, Students United for Darfur Awareness Now and others have been asking if our endowment is invested in companies complicit in the Darfur genocide. Fortunately, the answer to that question is no.

A while back the board of directors of the investment fund passed a resolution stating that our endowment would not directly hold interest in any entity identified as "highest offenders" by the Sudan Divestment task force.

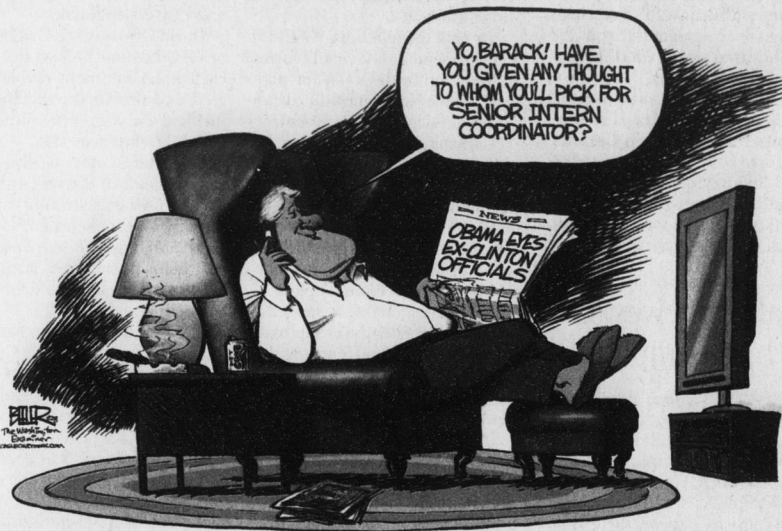
The president of the UNC Management Company, Jonathon King, has publicly stated that UNC-Chapel Hill's endowment does not currently maintain positions, through investments in funds that it directly oversees or can influence.

Our endowment's commitment to this issue does not end with a simple statement. It periodically sends letters on a quarterly and semiannual basis to managers whose stock purchases it can influence. Our endowment asks these individuals to consider not investing in companies complicit in the Darfur genocide. We even send letters to fund managers whom we have no chance of influencing.

Talk about taking the lead on an issue of critical importance to this University and the global community we live in.

Three cheers to the board of directors of the UNC-Chapel Hill Endowment Fund for deciding to take the moral high ground on this issue. For this, they deserve our sincere thanks and appreciation.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Nate Beeler, The Washington Examiner



Change death penalty law  
Ban on capital punishment in North Carolina should come from state law, not N.C. Medical Board policy

The status of capital punishment in North Carolina shouldn't hinge on ethics determinations of the N.C. Medical Board.

Unfortunately, it does. Capital punishment should ultimately be banned in North Carolina, but this decision should be based solely upon state law.

The N.C. Supreme Court is currently hearing arguments relating to this issue because of a de facto moratorium on executions in the state.

State law requires the Department of Corrections to have a doctor present for executions.

But the N.C. Medical Board has effectively suspended executions with a January 2007 statement that said doctor participation in executions is unethical.

Now the Department of Corrections can't find doctors to be present at executions because they are worried about repercussions from the medical board.

Because the death penalty is an unjust measure of punishment for criminals, it is understandable that the medical board finds doctor participation unethical.

Doctors should not be coerced into serving as an arm of the state.

But the medical board should not inhibit doctors from cooperating with the law, either.

Capital punishment simply shouldn't be up to the medical board.

In March 2007, a superior court judge said state law trumps the medical board's opposition; the board has

appealed to the N.C. Supreme Court, which is now hearing arguments in the case.

No matter what the N.C. Supreme Court finds, it is unacceptable that such a critical issue as capital punishment be contingent on the policies of the N.C. Medical Board.

The Supreme Court must clarify the meaning of the law requiring doctors' presence at executions to end the de facto moratorium to determine a permanent policy in North Carolina.

Hopefully, in the future, the state will outlaw capital punishment all together.

But the decision should be based on an authoritative state law, not legal disputes between the medical board and the Department of Corrections.

Props to Dance Marathon

This year's Dance Marathon committee deserves much praise for its efforts last week to recruit dancers to raise money for the N.C. Children's Hospital.

By the end of last week's push, recruiters had managed to get 1,828 students to sign up to participate in Dance Marathon next February.

That's a 50 percent increase from last year, and it means that even if each dancer only raises the \$100 minimum that

is assigned, the N.C. Children's Hospital will receive almost \$200,000 from UNC students.

The recruiters' constant enthusiasm and eagerness to get people to sign up made it hard not to want to participate.

"I think the combination of 24 extremely enthusiastic people and new creative methods of getting the word out really helped," junior morale committee member Erica Ludi said.

But it wasn't just the recruiters that made this year's turnout

so high — these numbers show a lot about the character of UNC as a whole. We're impressed by the nearly 2,000 of you who committed to raising money for Dance Marathon.

The recruiters worked hard last week, and their efforts clearly paid off. If everyone involved in the event can keep up an enthusiastic atmosphere like this, Dance Marathon will certainly raise even more money than last year, thanks to the higher participation.

QuickHits

**Gas**  
Pump, baby, pump! Well, not so fast. Cheap gas prices (just more than \$2 per gallon on average in North Carolina) offer some much-needed relief in a poor economy. But this is an addiction we need to kick in the long run.

**Scholarship gift**  
UNC alumna and librarian Jane Iris Crutchfield's gift of more than \$1 million to the School of Information and Library Science is the largest in that school's history. Who knew librarians made bank?

**Post-election gun sales**  
Gun dealers across the country have reported a sharp increase in sales after the presidential election. We're not too big on guns, so to keep ourselves safe, we'll go trendy and opt for Tasers — perhaps DPS can lend us theirs.

**Tasing**  
After a student was Tased repeatedly last week for "acting strangely," we thought: Single Tasing? Fine. But after that? Don't Tase me, bro!

**Snow**  
If it's going to be so miserably cold, it might as well snow. But next time we'd like more than a tiny flurry for 15 minutes. Oh winter, you're such a tease.

**Airport protestors**  
Residents voiced concerns about the proposed Orange County Airport. They probably didn't fly private jets to the protest — unlike most people who will use the new airport.

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 each week to brainstorm and pitch ideas. Each board member can expect to write at least three editorials a week.  
We're looking for cartoonists who will produce creative, original editorial cartoons weekly. Submit three work samples to apply.  
Please visit Union 2409 or www.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 with questions.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"I sat down and had a chat with myself. I said, 'Look, you're like Grandpa. You're welcome at some times but when they go out drinking they don't want Grandpa there.'"

JAKE PHILLIPS, 74-YEAR-OLD GRANVILLE TOWERS RESIDENT

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:

"I don't understand why the DTH decided to even write this piece."

— ON "VETTING PROCESS DRAWS CRITICISM"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ashley Judd shouldn't have gotten a good seat

TO THE EDITOR:  
Can someone please explain to me why we are giving Ashley Judd one of the few decent student seats that exist in the Smith Center? First off, she is NOT a student. Second, she is an ardent Kentucky fan.

Many actual students go through their tenure at UNC without ever getting riser seats.

Someone told me it was because she made a bet that if President-elect Obama won North Carolina, she would sit there. Well that sounds like a pretty sweet deal to me — hey if you do something I want you to do, I get front row seats in your basketball stadium.

Maybe Mrs. Judd should concentrate more on Kentucky since Sen. McCain and VMI are the only ones pulling out victories there.

It's bad enough students are woefully under-represented in the front rows of the Smith Center. Now the few seats we have are given to rich and famous fans of the opposition. Carolina basketball shouldn't cater to celebrity fans of the other team. I guess my only solace is looking forward to peering into the risers and seeing John Tesh all decked out in red when State comes to town.

Dan Conrad  
Graduate Student  
Law School

Silent Sam helps inspire us to move past racism

TO THE EDITOR:  
I, for one, see Sam as a reminder of our University's dark history, and as a symbol I desperately wish to prove wrong. In a weird way, he ends up being an inspiration.

On the night of Sen. Obama's victory, I wanted to run up to Sam and tell him how I really felt. Expletives would have been directed at the monument, I'm sure. I stopped myself when I realized that he's just an inanimate object, but I took immense joy in the fact that Sam's credibility had taken a fatal blow.

His presence symbolizes a marked past, and a sin so engraved in our history and our culture that makes it impossible to forget. Tearing down Silent Sam won't heal us of our racial problems. There are still plenty of divides permeating our campus, but his departure might make us forget how far we have come, and how much further we still need to go.

Chris Clayman  
Sophomore  
Political Science

Valiant soldiers are rightly honored by Silent Sam

TO THE EDITOR:  
(In response to the letter "Silent Sam memorializes racists, should not exist," Nov. 19). I recommend that the writer take a history course. The Union Army did not

**CORRECTION:**  
Due to a source error, Wednesday's editorial "Court must be vetted," incorrectly states that the General Alumni Association helps fund Homecoming king and queen service projects. The GAA does not contribute funds. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

**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

come to North Carolina to "suppress a rebellion," but to forcefully prevent a secession. The original 13 colonies in 1776 seceded from the British Empire, which made war to try to prevent the secession. Fortunately, they were unsuccessful. In 1860-61, the Southern states tried to secede from an oppressive "empire," but were unsuccessful. I challenge Mr. Lasky, or anyone else, to show us in what part of the Constitution, or in what pre-1860 law, secession is forbidden.

The Founding Fathers decided not to put such a provision in the Constitution for fear that some states would not join the Union.

Silent Sam represents North Carolinians who fought to defend their homeland against aggressors. I am prepared to fight to keep Silent Sam where he stands.

J. Edgar Williams  
Class of 1950

Letters serve important function, are not trivial

TO THE EDITOR:  
Ironically, Mr. Bloemeke himself overdramatized the letters to the DTH that he used as examples of triviality ("Students shouldn't care so much about trivialities," Nov. 18). The people who complained about DTH coverage of football, condom advertisements and so on did not call these issues "abhorrent injustices." They had viewpoints they cared enough about to share in the DTH. While I might not share those, I still read the letters and support their publication, because the free exchange of opinions, regardless of subject matter, is what UNC is all about.

Everyone I know at this University cares about something. It is what characterizes us. While I doubt anyone's greatest passion is pushing for more football coverage in the DTH, the expression of such opinions is indicative of an atmosphere where students care and are not scared to share. Mr. Bloemeke interprets recent letters to the editor as evidence of a student body that gets angry "about the stupidest things," but his own letter showed that he thought about and responded to those things. Doesn't that prove their effectiveness?

Sapna Maheshwari  
Senior  
Journalism  
Political Science

Bring back wristbands for men's basketball tickets

TO THE EDITOR:  
When my student lottery tickets arrived for the men's basketball game vs. Kentucky, the e-mail clearly stated, "There is no benefit to arriving prior to your Phase's entry time."

But I soon found out that this was ridiculously untrue. When I arrived five minutes before my scheduled entry time, I was shuffled into the natatorium where 150 other students were already seated ahead of me. At my phase's scheduled entry time, we were led to the Smith Center entrance in the order of our arrival. Clearly there WAS great benefit to arriving prior to my phase's entry time.

This is just one more reason why I miss the wristbands and 6 a.m. line checks!

Peggy Trygstad  
Graduate Student  
School of Education

**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.