

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,
115 years
of editorial freedom

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Americans need to bring back chivalry

Like any foreign national studying at an American university, I can't help but continuously compare U.S. customs and culture to that of my homeland. Usually these "comparisons" are little more than imperialistic rants, but some issues show a significant divide between the British and American mindset.

One such issue is a concept we've seen shrivel from a code of conduct held in the highest regard into an ideal whose name cannot be whispered on campus without evoking the rage of numerous feminist groups.

I am talking, of course, about chivalry.

Chivalry at UNC is perceived as giving up a seat on the P2P to that girl whose friends have to carry her on or holding open the UL door so it doesn't hit the person behind you in the face. It's a poor reflection of our society that I need to point out that these are not chivalry, they are simply good manners.

American culture indicates that being overly friendly, smiling politely and pretending to agree simply to avoid conflict represents honorable conduct. It doesn't.

Unnoticed acts of honesty, bravery and compassion, previously dictated by human decency, have become replaced by social climbing and the jungle-law attitude of modern culture.

This point is where the real split between British and American culture becomes evident. Not for the first time, I was informed last week that myself and all Englishmen are "blunt, cynical and old-fashioned."

This is likely true. English education prioritizes honesty and fair treatment, rather than avoidance of truth for social appeasement. British boarding school seeks to foster the growth of young ladies and gentleman into well-rounded, respected members of society, rather than churning out students with As in math and English. American education seems far more focused on the perfect GPA, expanding a resume and flattering the right people to get ahead.

Dishonesty with our fellow students represents a lack of the courage needed to speak one's own opinions and is a disservice to our peers. To find within each of us the inner mettle to discard social opinion and to be honest and straight with each other and ourselves, regardless of the consequences — this is the nature of chivalry.

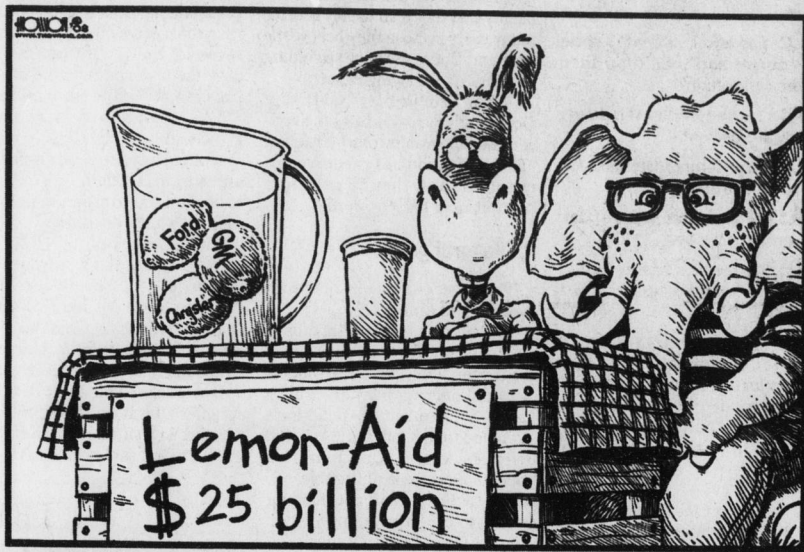
Gentlemanly conduct in recent years has been condemned as condescending and anachronistic. The idea of "women and children first" is contemptuously viewed as a pompous attempt by men to impose a double standard.

Men of UNC, do not let this assuage your nobility. Whilst a bevy of shrieking feminists going down with a sinking ship might be an attractive notion, the gentleman's code of ethics must remain intact simply because the alternative — shameless individualism — is far worse.

Contrary to popular belief, chivalry is not an excuse for male pomposity or for the imposition of double standards. In a modern setting the "knight in shining armor" is androgynous. Our university years represent a stage in our lives when we make decisions that will shape us as individuals and dictate what kind of men and women we grow to be.

Male and female Tar Heels, from whatever background, should seek to leave university not only as accomplished academics, but as individuals of strong character prepared to perform those unnoticed dutiful acts of compassion and courage that society needs.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Terrence Nowiski, Western Front



Save the trees

UNC should celebrate cultural, religious diversity with more — not fewer — decorations in the library

Don't be a Grinch. Instead of removing the Christmas trees from UNC's libraries this year, the University should instead deck the halls with holiday ornaments of more cultures and religions.

As a school that prides itself on its diversity, UNC is acting imprudently by simply removing Christmas trees from Davis and Wilson.

A much better idea would be to embrace our diversity by showcasing other winter celebrations, like Hanukkah,

Kwanzaa and the winter solstice, as well as Christmas. First, the Christmas trees in Davis and Wilson are an annual tradition at UNC.

Removing them would disappoint the many students who have come to expect decorations during the holiday season.

Secondly, for those who do not celebrate Christmas, it would be an appropriate and illustrative statement about the cultural diversity of the University if the libraries put up holiday decorations from other religious and cultural

traditions.

By doing so, UNC would add to the rich diversity of this campus, rather than subtract from it.

And from a purely aesthetic perspective, sprucing up the libraries a little bit during the final exam period would be a nice holiday respite.

A Christmas tree, menorah, and kinara together in the lobbies of Davis and Wilson would be an uplifting and welcoming sight. But more importantly, it would underscore the student body's diverse background.

Wasting away

Orange County Commissioners have studied waste-transfer site issue enough, should make a decision

The Orange County Commissioners should make a final decision on a location for the county's new waste-transfer site at its Dec. 11 meeting.

Because Orange County's current landfill is reaching capacity, a waste-transfer site is urgently needed.

Chairman Barry Jacobs said that at the December meeting the board might select a site, propose to revise parts of the selection process or start from scratch.

The board already went back to the drawing board last

November and since then its selection process has been highly transparent and fair.

It's time to bite the bullet and make a decision.

Certainly, no one wants a waste-transfer site in his backyard, and there has been a great deal of public opposition about the various proposed locations.

More than 250 people showed up at last week's public forum.

Not only has the board done a good job at soliciting public input, but it has taken into account the impact of the waste-transfer site on the community.

Last November, the board

rescinded its decision to place the waste-transfer site in the Rogers-Eubanks community after public outcry.

And the board commissioned an additional study to analyze the community impact of each of the proposed sites.

The commissioners have shown due diligence in their decision-making process. It would be hard to fault them for making a hasty decision at this point.

Plans for a new waste-transfer site need to be finalized quickly before we run out of space.

Look both ways

Town right to think about improving pedestrian safety, but there's more to be done

The town's testing of a new pedestrian crossing system last week shows an impressive openness to innovation and a special sensitivity to safety on and near campus.

After several tragic accidents involving pedestrians in the past year, it's good to see the town looking for innovative ways to address this problem.

While this new crossing scheme doesn't directly remedy the major cause of the accident in October (driver error), the town is still right to address the broader issue of pedestrian safety.

The new system at the intersection of South Columbia Street and Cameron Avenue allows pedestrians to cross in

all directions — even diagonally — as all the lights are red for one cycle.

Town officials are interested in testing the system for potential expansion to other highly trafficked intersections in Chapel Hill.

The changes have been proposed as part of an effort made by town officials to remedy pedestrian safety issues.

In October a Chapel Hill Transit bus driver failed to yield at a crosswalk at the intersection of South Columbia Street and Mason Farm Road, subsequently striking and killing a pedestrian.

There were also two pedestrian deaths this past May — one close to campus on the

corner of Manning Drive and South Columbia Street.

The town should also consider other pedestrian safety measures, like placing reflectors on crosswalks to help with visibility at night or having more concrete islands, like on South Road on campus.

These measures would make pedestrians feel safer and help drivers remember to be on the lookout.

It is certainly beneficial for town officials to test to determine what changes might prevent driver errors.

While new crosswalk schemes are important, pedestrian safety is still up to the good judgment of drivers and pedestrians themselves.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"From the looks of it, it seemed like they wanted it a lot more than we did."

E.J. WILSON, UNC DEFENSIVE END

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:

"If Carolina did win this game, you'd all be quick to rub it in (like a rival would)."

— ON "SENIOR DAY SPOILED BY WOLFPACK WIN"

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reports of Mardi Gras Indians arrested untrue

TO THE EDITOR:
In response to a Friday night online article regarding the marchers arrested on Franklin Street, I wanted to be sure both the University and town community were aware that the report of the arrested marchers being members of the Mardi Gras Indians, who visited campus on Friday, was not true.

Though they led an approved musical procession through the Quad earlier in the afternoon, they were having dinner with a group of students at the time of the reported incident.

I really appreciate the Daily Tar Heel's swiftness in removing the article from the internet; however, I did want to be certain that anyone who had read the article was not left with false impressions of the Mardi Gras Indians. Indeed, anyone, who spent time with them or attended their lecture earlier in the day, would agree that they brought a message celebrating unity and community.

It was CUAB's honor to host them, and we want to thank them for so generously sharing their stories and their culture with us.

our superior institution.
Wes Saunders
Sophomore
Political Science

Letter about Alma mater was incomplete as edited

TO THE EDITOR:
If online comments are indicators, it seems that Mr. Hopper's letter ("Singing of Alma mater should be classy, not rude," Nov. 16) about the Fight Song was not appreciated by fans. One wrote, "Seriously, DTH, why did you print this?" Agreed! Why was his letter printed if the majority of the important content was removed?

If there isn't enough room to print the letter without significantly altering the tone or meaning, then it should not be run. Mr. Hopper's original letter was about returning compassion and civility, not "destroying tradition" or the fun, competitive spirit of the games.

This slapdash editing of his letter has prevented any sort of meaningful discussion, leading angry students to accuse Hopper of being a "closet Duke fan" — ouch. Next time, have a little more care in which words are removed, and try using a scalpel instead of a chainsaw.

Tom Allin
Senior
American Studies

Tanner Huggins
Senior
Peace, War, and Defense,
German

Getting rid of Christmas tree in library goes too far

TO THE EDITOR:
This has gone way too far. The decorations and month-long break have already been named "holiday" instead of "Christmas." This is a "spirited" tree in the library, it does not represent the Christian Christmas which is considered to be offensive.

Really, how offensive can this tree be, especially to end a 30-year-tradition? It's funny how we can take down a "Christmas tree," but not take down decorations representing other faiths. Is one faith more offensive than another? Again, the Christmas tree itself does not represent "Christmas" — the meaning comes from whatever you associate it with. Why not protest the malls for displaying trees?

Our country is too concerned with not offending someone, when in turn, they are offending more people. Close your eyes if you don't like it and put the tree back! If we are trying to be politically correct, let's represent ALL faiths and not exclude a certain one.

Allegra Torres
Junior
Communication Studies

'Project Heal' slogan was offensive, inappropriate

TO THE EDITOR:
On Nov. 13 at Player's Nightclub, "Project Heal," a campus organization, whose "mission is to engage undergraduate students in international service experiences to facilitate culturally relevant and locally driven sustainable development in Lawra and Kumasi, Ghana," hosted a Wild, Wild West-themed party to raise money for their organization. As their efforts abroad are certainly commendable, I would encourage them to first understand cultural issues right here in America.

Their party's original tagline, "Poke-A-Hotass with Project Heal," presumably a pun on Pocahontas, was used to support the original theme of cowboys and Indians. As an American Indian student here at UNC, the event was highly defamatory and offensive.

Lately, there has been a lot of talk about an inclusive campus community. Yet at this institution of the people, America's "first people" (who still exist) don't feel welcome because of blatant ignorance such as this.

Once contacted about the event and the offensive description, the group changed the theme of their party yet the tagline remained. But this is not an attack on a particular organization just a friendly reminder to make an effort to understand and know before perpetuating ignorance.

Tyler Thomas
Senior
Carolina Indian Circle
President

Leslie Revelle
Sophomore
Communication

UNC should have place for N.C. State to get revenge

TO THE EDITOR:
In response to the article "Red spray paint mars UNC," Nov. 21, I believe that it is very hypocritical of our campus to repeatedly paint the N.C. State Free Expression Tunnel without offering a legal alternative for State fans to "return the favor."

If we have any respect for the integrity of our campus's many historical landmarks (which State lacks) we should offer a location for our rival schools to communicate their hatred for

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.

JOIN US: The Daily Tar Heel is hiring for the spring semester. APPLICATIONS DUE TODAY

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 at least two cartoonists who will produce creative, original editorial cartoons weekly.

Please visit Union 2409 or www.DailyTarHeel.com under "About us" for an application. Applications are due at 5 p.m. today. Contact Editor Allison Nichols at allisonnichols@gmail.com with questions.