

The Daily Tar Heel

100th year of editorial freedom

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Vote Rashmi Airan for SBP

In Tuesday's run-off elections, The Daily Tar Heel endorses Rashmi Airan for student body president. Airan's experience, ideas and plans make her by far the superior candidate for the office.

Anyone who has ever believed their faculty adviser just was not doing the job in guiding them through their academic career will be interested in Airan's peer advising program. The program would give students the opportunity to discuss their academic track with an older undergrad in the same area of study. It would complement faculty advising, not replace it, and provide younger students with the realistic views and practical experience of the people who have actually taken the courses — not just from those who teach them.

Airan is committed to increasing the number of Reading Days and, of course, seeing that they don't fall on Saturdays. Her experience in Student Congress has given her the opportunity to work inside the system and see how it operates. This makes her the most likely candidate to be able to institute some of her plans, especially in dealing with an academic calendar that the University administration seems to have set in stone.

"Politician" seems to have become a dirty word in this year's campaigns, but it doesn't have to be. Airan is a politician — meaning she is comfortable in student gov-

ernment and will be able to work there. She realizes the president's office is simply not the best place to begin a career of political climbing and is above the ego trips and power plays for which student government is becoming notorious.

The student body president holds the office for one year and cannot take six months to learn all the ins and outs of the system before actually getting some work done. John Moody, Airan's opponent in the run-off, is correct in his claims that he is outside politics. This lack of previous political involvement is touted as an advantage but can only serve to hinder him as a president. He has a platform with no supports — a bunch of free-floating, half-formed goals and no plan as to how they can be reached.

Airan is committed to an open student government free from all the silly bickering and clashes of egos. Government exists because of its responsibility to spend student fees wisely. Airan realizes that and will also be looking for additional ways to fund student projects without fee increases.

In short, Airan is the candidate who can and will do the job, not just someone who would like to do it.



Rashmi Airan

Run-offs: Learn from the mistakes

Sequels tend to be weaker than their originals. Very few movies and books have managed to create solid sequels to blockbuster originals. One can only hope the same won't happen to the UNC Elections Board and its flop, "Elections '92." Before voters return to the polls Tuesday, the Elections Board members should eliminate the numerous mistakes that occurred during elections two weeks ago.

Running out of ballots is one mini-disaster that should not happen again. At the Student Union poll site last elections, ballots for student body president and Daily Tar Heel editor ran out with 15 to 20 minutes of voting time left. Although voter turnout during run-offs is lower than during regular elections, the Elections Board should overestimate the number of voters in order to prevent this from reoccurring.

Long lines plagued heavy voter turnout in spots such as the Union, forcing some voters to abandon their hopes of voting. Providing more poll tenders could have diminished this problem. Furthermore, the poll tenders need to be better educated on the dos and don'ts of voting and election rules. The controversy over student body president candidate Rashmi Airan and supporter Mark Chilton partly arose because poll tenders were unaware of Mark's political activities and the potential conflicts that could arise by inviting him behind polling tables to put votes in the ballot boxes. All poll tenders should be aware of the Elections Board official who is working with them and should then give all questions to him or her. Thus, the Elections Board can ensure that the rules are fol-

lowed and that controversies won't arise from questionable polling practices.

Elections Board members also should be aware of candidates hovering around the poll sites. Student Congress Speaker Tim Moore, who ran for re-election, distributed referendum ballots to students as they walked into the Union poll site. While Moore performed a needed service for the students in doing this, he also gave himself unfair exposure that other candidates did not receive. This sort of politicking just doesn't sit well and is grounds for lawsuits.

To educate voters, candidates and poll-site workers, the Elections Board could post a full set of elections rules around the poll sites. That way, anybody who is interested can know what is kosher during elections, and it also gives Elections Board members, who are extremely busy during polling hours, an added protection.

Finally, the Elections Board has a responsibility to count votes as quickly as possible. The candidates, voters the DTH all anxiously await the results. During the first elections, the board counted votes for congress races first — a long and boring ordeal that only forced the candidates for the big offices to wait longer. The Elections Board would do many people a favor if it dispensed with the more important offices first and then moved into congress votes during the wee hours of the morning.

Elections are hell, there is no doubt. But the Elections Board now has the 20/20 vision that accompanies hindsight to fix the problems. If run-offs can be concluded this week, with no lawsuits, Elections Board members will have done their job right.

MEANWHILE, BACK AT THE STUDENT CONGRESS PLANTATION...



The DTH: toward a second century of excellence

Jennifer Wing
Editor in Chief

The Daily Tar Heel is entering its 100th year of editorial freedom — an incredible one hundred years of educating students and the University community about the campus. Yesterday marked our 99th birthday, and as history has shown, there is an enormous amount to celebrate.

The history supporting the DTH may be the most impressive aspect of this Chapel Hill institution. Journalism greats such as Thomas Wolfe, Charles Kuralt and Ed Yoder have held the DTH editorship, and many other desk editors and staff writers have risen through the ranks to become highly respected in their fields. And I have no doubt in my mind that future editors and staff members will continue to reflect the DTH's high caliber.

The DTH was first published as an athletics "rag." When the University Athletic Association first published The Tar Heel on Feb. 23, 1893, the following passage was published in that first newspaper to explain the Tar Heel's responsibility to its community:

"A weekly paper published at the University of North Carolina, under the auspices of the University Athletic (sic.) Association, devoted to the interest of the University at large.

Issued every Thursday morning, it will contain a summary of all occurrences in the University and village of Chapel Hill.

Space will be assigned for the thorough discussion of all points pertaining to the advancement and growth of the University."

The column further explains that sports news

would figure largely into the coverage as would personals and society news. Since those early days, the student newspaper has grown to five days a week and has added "Daily" to its name. What once was a one-page newspaper has exploded into an eight- to 12-page newspaper with a 150-student staff behind it. News expanded beyond religion and athletics to cover all aspects of a diverse and exciting campus.

Editorially, the DTH has played a major force in Chapel Hill and the University. The DTH is the place to look for the campus news, and our city coverage has become competitive with local commercial papers. Every year, innovative elements have been added to the DTH, making it one of the best college dailies in the country. In the past year, the DTH has won two national awards ranking the newspaper in the top five of college dailies.

And just this year, the all-campus election of the DTH has been changed to a selection committee. Such a historical switch is yet another improvement in the quality of the DTH. Now, the editor will be chosen for journalistic and leadership qualities, not for political skills.

To celebrate our 100th year of editorial freedom, the DTH will place a special logo in the masthead every day for a year. In addition, the

DTH has officially kicked off its special capital improvements campaign to raise \$100,000 by our 100th birthday. Tar Heel notables such as Rep. Jim Cooper, journalism professors Jim Shumaker and Chuck Stone, and journalist Larry Keith from Sports Illustrated, among many others, have all joined the campaign.

With such an impressive and extensive history behind it, The Daily Tar Heel is sure to survive whatever storms it may encounter in its next 100 years. I will always be proud to say that I worked for the DTH and that I contributed to its history. Perhaps it's because I'm leaving this place in a week and I'm feeling a little teary-eyed, but I vow I will always support the DTH — editorially and, I hope, financially. I have no doubt that the DTH will always be a major player in the University community. I charge future DTH staffs to give the University hell, don't ever be intimidated by egotistical politicians and remember your ultimate mission — providing the readers fair and accurate coverage. As long as the staff remembers these ideals, I have no fear that the DTH will steadfastly remain a Chapel Hill institution. Happy Birthday.

Jennifer Wing is a senior English major from Greenville.



Est. 1893
100th Year of
Editorial Freedom

Dissecting the misrepresentations of Libertarians

Windsor/Smith
Guest Writers

Last semester, Daily Tar Heel staff columnist David Ball, in a quite effective and finely sharpened piece of satire ("Who cares about the other guy? Try being selfish"), thoroughly misrepresented Libertarian views. We appreciate the opportunity, in this presidential primary season, to set the record straight with this brief Libertarian primer:

Libertarianism is neither radical nor reactionary, left nor right. Nor is it new. It represents the classical liberal (as opposed to contemporary liberal) philosophy upon which this nation was founded. Aristotle, Cicero and John Locke were essentially Libertarians, as were Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry and the majority of the Framers of the U.S. Constitution.

The basis of libertarianism is an expression of the natural rights of human beings: no first use of force. That is, no person has the right to initiate force against another. From this, libertarian views on most issues can be deduced — the principles are internally consistent.

The most basic principle is that all individuals are sovereign over their own minds and bodies; they have a natural right to live their lives and think as they choose as long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equally valid right of others to do the same. Governments have historically and routinely rejected or restricted this right as they have seen fit. That some of these governments have been democratically elected is irrelevant — no one has the right to vote the initiation of force upon someone else.

The only proper functions of government are to defend the country from outside aggression and to protect the lives, rights and property of its citizens. If our country is attacked by a foreign power (first use of force) the government has a responsibility to coordinate defensive, or retaliatory, force to defend and protect its citizens. It is also proper for the government to punish, through imprisonment or otherwise, individuals who have initiated unwanted force (committed crimes) against others; this is the basis of our system of justice. It involves the use of justifiable defensive, or retaliatory, force as a form of self-defense on the behalf of people. Fraud, theft, trespass and infringements of civil liberties and property rights are proscribed by law, punishable by the government. Government has a proper, just and essential place in the lives of free people. Libertarians are not anarchists.

Laws prohibiting the interaction of people with one another as free individuals are unjust, as they involve the real or threatened first use of force. Whether in the financial marketplace or behind bedroom doors, agreements between and among consenting adults are not government business. Laws prohibiting individual behavior that does not forcibly affect others are also unjust. The government should not be in the business of protecting individuals from themselves by prohibiting activities that some deem immoral or risky (while, ironically, using

trade infringed and the fruits of people's labors seized. These two parties differ only on why they want to trash the Bill of Rights and, to some extent, which parts. Both cheerfully utilize the real and threatened first use of force to support their personal and collective causes, which change and expand with the scent of votes and the growth of government. They have no internal consistency; compromising their principles, they blow this way and that on political winds.

We no longer have to "be" Republicans or Democrats to participate meaningfully in the political process. For people who are not completely comfortable with the right, left or middle (middle = no direction), who believe in Liberty and who would prefer to see voluntary cooperation, rather than force, determine the nature of human relationships — there is the Libertarian Party. It by far the largest of the "other" parties and is growing rapidly. The presidential ticket is quality, coed and will be on the ballot in all 50 states this November. An informational and organizational meeting of the newly forming UNC Libertarian Party will be held at 7:45 p.m. Wednesday in Union Room 224. You may call (800) 292-3766 for more information on this meeting or on the party in general. As for us — give us Liberty ...

Dana John Winhorst is a graduate student in environmental health studies from Minneapolis. Kate Smith is a sophomore French major from Asheville.

Column policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticisms. We attempt to print as many letters to the editor as space permits.

The Daily Tar Heel does not print responses to responses. If a letter is criticized in a following letter, the original letter writer may not respond.

Letters to the editor and guest columns should be mailed to The Daily Tar Heel office or dropped off in the green box marked "Letters to the Editor" located outside of the Daily Tar Heel office located in the rear of the Carolina Student Union.

People interested in writing guest columns should contact The Daily Tar Heel in advance. Interested writers should speak to Jennifer Wing or Cullen Ferguson. Guest columns should generally range in length from 800-1,000 words. Timely columns will be given priority over less pertinent topics.

Because of developments with campus elections, guest columns selected for open slots may not be printed before Spring Break.

When writing letters, please follow these guidelines:

- All letters must be typed and double spaced.
- If you have a title that is relevant to your letter's subject, please include it.

The Daily Tar Heel

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