

## OPINION

# Thomasville Times

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### To the Editor

To all of those who called, visited, emailed, texted, or wrote in to express their concerns about my unscheduled visit to High Point Regional recently, I am pleased to report that I am feeling great and back at work. I want to publicly thank High Point Rotary Club, High Point Country Club, Guilford County EMS personnel, and the entire medical team at High Point Regional Hospital for their care and concern after I fainted. While I was being treated, I kept thanking everyone for all of the special attention I was receiving — and to a person — they kept reminding me that everyone receives the same level of care. What that reinforced in me is that we are lucky to live in such a special place with caring and dedicated professionals throughout our community. Again, thank you to all who expressed their concern for my well-being.

**Howard Coble**  
Member of Congress

### To the Editor

On behalf of the American Cancer Society and Relay For Life of Davidson County, we would like to extend a huge THANK YOU to the Creasey family and to all the volunteers who helped make the "Extreme Walk Through Tours" a success. Volunteers are the heart of the American Cancer Society and are what make our organization so remarkable in the fight against cancer.

Thank you, to the Relay For Life Committee — Sherry McBride (accounting chair of Relay For Life), Carolina Cancer Services, Robyn Dezego and once again our Relay family ... The Creaseys!

It was great to partner with Carolina Cancer Services on this project. It's was great to see two cancer organizations come together and serve the community of Davidson County.

In a nation where more than one million people will be diagnosed with cancer this year, Davidson County is inviting you to celebrate life at our Annual Relay For Life event held on May 21-22, 2010, at Thomasville High School.

The American Cancer Society Relay For Life is a unique fund raising event in which teams of participants take turns walking the track overnight in an effort to fight cancer. Teams camp out, eat and play games.

The message of the event is cancer can be conquered. This year's theme is "Hero's Of Hope" in honor of Tricia Creasey. Mrs. Creasey is our Survivorship Chairman of the Relay For Life and invites all cancer survivors to come and support Relay through participating in the Survivor Lap at the event. This emotional lap honors the courage of all who

have defeated cancer. All survivors (anyone who has ever been diagnosed with cancer) all walk the opening lap — unified in victory and in hope.

The atmosphere of Relay For Life is one of camaraderie and celebration, providing an opportunity for cancer survivors to pass the torch of hope on to those still battling cancer or those that might be touched by cancer in the future.

If you are a cancer survivor, a local business, a church, or family and would like to take part in the Relay For Life of Davidson County, please call your American Cancer Society at (336) 404-8965.

For more information on cancer, call the American Cancer Society at (800) ACS-2345, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, or visit [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org).

**Jami Myers**  
American Cancer Society

### To the Editor

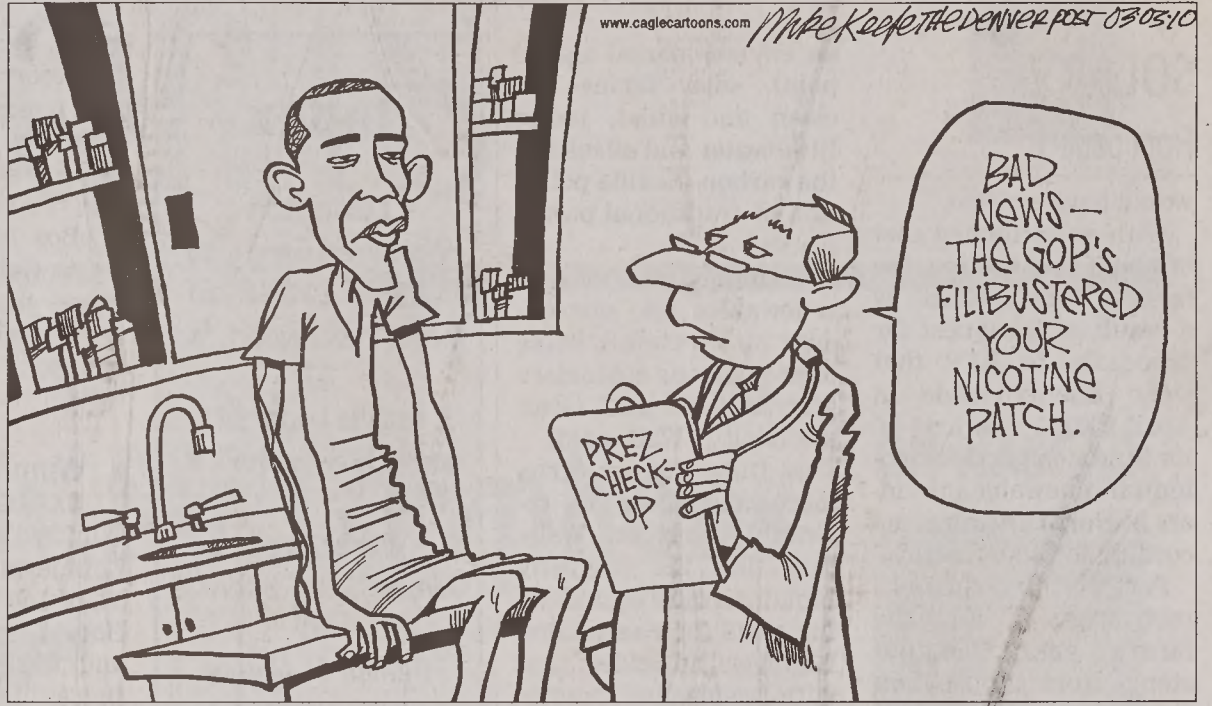
Go Storm! We want to congratulate the Davidson County Community College men's basketball team — the Storm — on winning the NJCAA Division III Region 10 Championship Tournament Feb. 27 in Brinkley Gym. The team will be back in the gym Saturday, March 6, at 3 p.m., playing for the District 7 Championship against Montgomery College-Germantown of Maryland; the winning team will play for the national championship title in Delhi, N.Y., March 11-13.

In January, we were both privileged to watch this team's dramatic win over the UNC Junior Varsity team, previously unbeaten for the season. At the StormWatch viewing party in the new DCCC Conference Center, where the spillover crowd gathered because Brinkley Gym was sold out, we witnessed the Storm beat Carolina 101-69. It was a proud moment for the entire community, just as it was when the DCCC Storm women's volleyball team also vied for the national championship in Minnesota in 2009.

Sports championships make us proud, and we are so glad that athletics have attracted additional attention to DCCC and given students extra opportunities outside the classroom. But what makes us even more proud is the college itself and the way it is growing and changing to meet new needs. DCCC is the community's college, and sports are just one more way that we can cheer on this college, its students, and our community.

If you're not already a Storm fan, we hope you will become one soon!

**J. Larry Link**  
Lexington  
**Don Clinard**  
Thomasville



## Voyeurism dressed as a public service

### VIEWPOINT



**MONA CHAREN**  
Syndicated Columnist

It's none of my business what Barack Obama's LDL cholesterol level is. And I don't have to know that he is using nicotine therapy to attempt to kick his smoking habit. But all of this and more is dutifully passed along after the president's annual physical. Want to know his resting heart rate? It's available. And we're told that President Obama has been instructed by his physicians to "eat healthier" and "moderate his alcohol intake."

What to make of this annual invasion of privacy? We've been privy to similar details about other presidents — sometimes to an excruciating degree (President Carter revealed his troubles with hemorrhoids). In part, this may be a response to President Eisenhower's 1955 heart attack. Treatment was less sophisticated then, and the president spent seven weeks in the hospital. That was discomfiting enough, but with the advent of nuclear weapons, the Cold War, and the "football," anxiety about a possibly debilitated president led to passage of the 25th amendment to the Constitution, which provided for the smooth transition of power in the event the sitting president should die or become incapacitated.

But a Cold War sensitivity

to the president's health is not the whole explanation for our current fetish for private health information. After all, Bill Clinton's refusal to release his medical records didn't undermine confidence in his ability to fulfill his term. So something else is going on.

Surely, it's one part voyeurism. They dress it up as a public service but it's gossip all the same. Whenever a public figure undergoes a medical test or surgery, we get minute-by-minute updates on his condition and full-color graphics of the affected part of the poor sop's body. When former president Clinton checked into an N.Y. hospital to have a stent placed in one of his arteries, CNN and the other cable channels were ready with easels and experts to walk us through it as if each of us were a family member. It was the same when Dick Cheney suffered a recent heart attack.

Concern for even the smallest details of a person's health is the proper realm of family and close friends, don't you think? To broadcast your stent operation or upper GI series or whatever on MSNBC is undignified — or what the 18th century would probably have called too "familiar."

Besides, there lurks beneath all of this professed concern another sentiment — less noble.

In the case of Cheney, several news types expressed the "hope" that the former vice president was sticking to his diet and exercise regimen. When Clinton became ill, the AP reminded us of his eating habits: "Clinton's legend as a voracious and unhealthy eater was sealed in 1992, when the newly minted presidential candidate took reporters on jogs

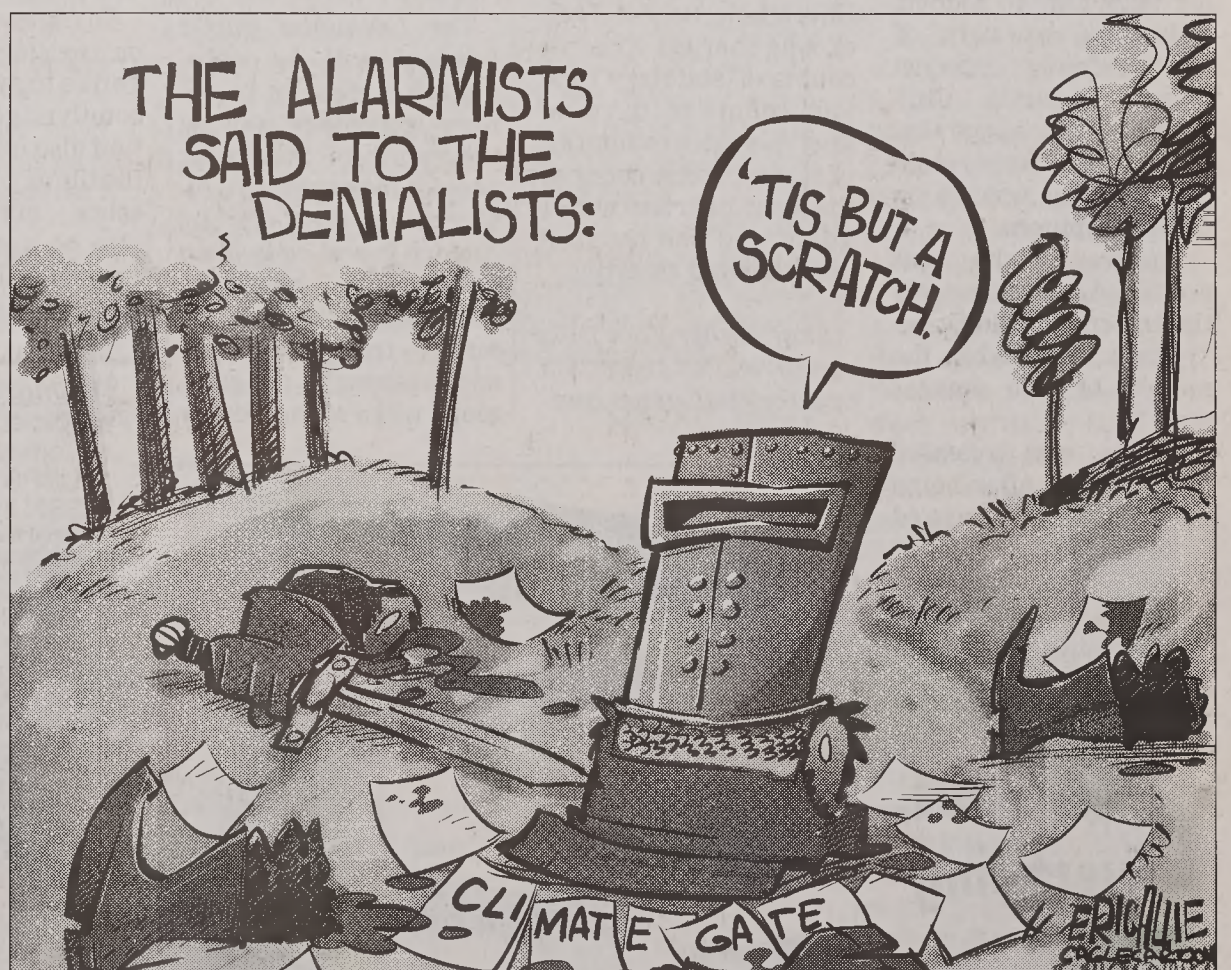
to McDonald's. He liked hamburgers, steaks, French fries — lots of them — and was a sloppy eater who could gobble an apple (core and all) in two bites and ask for more." It surfaces again and again — a bossy smugness about other people's health.

We have arrived at a cultural moment when no one would dream of waxing judgmental about your sexual life or your manners, but we feel free to place you in metaphorical stocks for offenses against health. To prove yourself, show us your HDL-to-LDL ratio!

The busybodies who ask about the health habits of prominent people must imagine that they are performing a public service of some sort. Don't we hear incessantly about the crisis of obesity and sedentary habits? But while it makes sense to encourage the society as a whole to curb its outsize appetite for red meat, fried potatoes, and sugary sodas, it's hardly fair to single out individuals for scolding. In the first place, it's none of our business. And secondly, it's completely unfair. Nature is unpredictable. Some who exercise and eat a low-fat diet nevertheless have high cholesterol levels. And the reverse is often true as well.

But finally, it comes down to this: We are mortal. We sicken and die. This is a problem that not even Barack Obama claimed to be able to solve. Ailing people need sympathy and support. But Americans have veered awfully close to treating illness as a character flaw.

To find out more about Mona Charen and read features by other Creators Syndicate columnists and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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### EDITORIALS

All unsigned editorials are the consensus of Editor Lisa Wall and Sports Editor Zach Kepley