

The Daily Tar Heel

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CAPITOL LETTERS

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Innovate UNC hits the District

Despite basketball disappointment and all the student election shame, Wednesday was actually one of my prouder days as a Tar Heel. As I watched UNC shine in the national policy spotlight, it made me optimistic for the future.

Let me explain.

On Wednesday morning, The Atlantic held a televised town hall event about jobs and the economy here in D.C.

They had headline interviews — including Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner — as well as distinguished panelists, including Chancellor Holden Thorp. All this was in front of an in-studio audience, with webcasts to students at UNC and Miami of Ohio.

I received an invite through UNC to join the in-studio crowd. With trepidation, I ended up seated behind the panelists, so I knew I'd have to try and sit still with an interested expression for over three hours.

In the end, the only challenge was controlling the smile on my face as UNC went from strength to strength.

First, the UNC students connecting live blew Miami of Ohio out of the water with their intelligent questions for the interviewees and the first panel on communication's role in the modern economy, the impact of global trade by individual states, and more.

And then Chancellor Thorp anchored the second panel on innovation and building new businesses in America.

There has been some confusion about innovation at UNC, but Thorp had no problem sharing his vision to the audience in D.C.

As he talked about getting more startups off the ground, connecting researchers to venture funding and bringing entrepreneurs like those in the room into the ivory tower of academia, the moderator and other panelists turned to him as some kind of "innovation oracle." The listening crowd and panelists got it, and our chancellor seemed surprisingly comfortable in TV makeup on stage.

I'm told that after the event, Thorp and Professor Buck Goldstein (University entrepreneur-in-residence) went to the White House to talk innovation strategy there.

Sure, I'm proud of UNC, but I didn't go into the event expecting it to be such a showcase of the talents and interests of UNC students and faculty. But through the course of the event, it was clear that whatever we have going on with innovation, other people want to hear about it.

So I left with a couple of conclusions. First, however dubious UNC students and faculty are about the Chancellor's innovation message, the business and policy community is waking up and watching what's happening. And second, this really is a chance for UNC to shine if we serve as an example for institutions around the country.

Maybe Thorp took it a little too far when he tweeted: "Our students are talking about the future and asking smart questions instead of wasting time sitting in a tent," in response to one particularly good student question from Chapel Hill.

But it was true — and despite the pain of the evening's loss, Wednesday was a good day for UNC.

MONDAY:
Sports columnist Sam Ellis writes about sports and Valentine's Day.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By J.R. Fruto, bundok@email.unc.edu



Tricky transition

SBP candidates should prepare now so after results are released transition is not chaotic

Thanks to the delay of election results, the transition period so crucial to the success of the next student body president's administration is waning quickly. The current candidates must do all they can to use this time in limbo effectively.

In the typical six weeks between election and inauguration, the incoming president has a lot to do: select a cabinet, build relationships with administrators, and learn as much as he can about the job from the current president.

Additionally, this year's president-elect will be thrust immediately into budget discussions. As the student body's advocate to both the Board of Trustees and the state legislature, the incoming president will have to immerse himself

or herself in the nuts and bolts of our school's budget.

No doubt, the timing of the suit that caused this moratorium was unfortunate. But attempts to blame the suit or its plaintiff for the current predicament are misplaced; they fail to account for the bungled decisions leading up to it.

This dispute could have been settled almost two months ago, when the Board of Elections first ruled on the legitimacy of Lee's candidacy.

Had BOE chairman Andrew Phillips made a more sound decision, he would not be responsible for the nightmarish situation in which we now find ourselves.

Still, our present concern is the next president's administration. To the current candidates: Use this precious time to

come up with a transition plan so if you are elected, you can act effectively from day one. Create a timeline for implementing your platform.

Enumerate the specific issues you would need to address before the semester is out. And despite this election's abundant ill will, think seriously about the other candidates' ideas and decide which ones you'd like to incorporate into your plan.

While this may seem premature, consider the alternative of spending your entire term under the cloud of this election.

The worst consequence of this mess of a campaign season — that is, a disorganized administration that finds itself in an endless game of catch-up — could be yet to come.

Wasting time

County fails again to adequately address landfill issue

Orange County has shirked its responsibility to follow its commitments and has kicked the can down the road too many times.

Now the time has come for a real solution to a pressing problem with regard to the Orange County's Eubanks Road landfill.

In an unsurprising move, Orange County has once again applied to delay the closing of the Eubanks Road landfill which was created in 1972.

The landfill was slated to be closed in 2012, but Orange County Waste Management officials want to delay the closing until 2016, citing high costs. After closing, the tentative plan is to temporarily utilize a waste transfer station in Durham.

But continuous delays do not a sustainable solution make.

The county says that extending the life of the landfill is good for taxpayers. But this extension is not a lasting solution by any means.

Even Steve Yuhasz, Orange County Board of Commissioners vice chairman, acknowledged that the trash is going to have to go elsewhere in the long run.

Gayle Wilson, director of the solid waste management department, also openly admits to wanting to extend the landfill as long as possible in order to "delay greater costs," he said.

The delay includes plans to steepen the side slopes of the landfill in order to increase its capacity. But delaying greater costs in order to better serve

the community is a contradiction in terms.

And with the landfill located in a historically low-income and black area of the county, saying it is good for the "current users" tells only part of the story.

Without a viable solution, the landfill will certainly grow and only further complicate the options for a solution while increasing later costs and placing an even greater burden on the least advantaged parts of our community.

If the Orange County Department of Solid Waste Management truly wants to do what is best for the community, it should stick to its commitment to stop using the landfill in 2012 as promised and find a solution to this long-standing problem.

Clash over conflict

Daughtridge's appointment a conflict of interest

Bill Daughtridge Jr.'s position as senior policy adviser for N.C. General Assembly Speaker of the House Thom Tillis, R-Mecklenburg, presents a clear conflict of interest and could ultimately affect his performance in both that position and his position on the UNC-system Board of Governors.

Daughtridge is also the vice chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee and is on the Public Affairs Committee on the board.

There is a policy barring BOG members from taking paid positions with the state. Technically, Daughtridge is free to take any position for the state as long as he is not paid.

Daughtridge is not being paid for his work with Tillis.

But this does not dispel the fact that Daughtridge, by taking an unpaid position, is splitting his attention and time between his duties as a BOG member and his new legislative position. And the conflict of interest clause exists for a reason. A lack of compensation does not mean Daughtridge will not be beholden to other interests.

Daughtridge has recently been involved in the search for former UNC-system President Erskine Bowles' successor. Daughtridge also proposed a new three-tier tuition system last year. In the wake of UNC's upcoming budget cuts, Daughtridge should not risk shirking his responsibilities on the BOG.

He has the credentials to excel as senior policy adviser for Tillis. He is a former state

representative for Nash County, so Daughtridge's experience in the legislature could aid Tillis. Daughtridge also brings an extensive knowledge of the UNC system to the table. There is no question that Daughtridge is a good fit for the adviser position.

But Daughtridge must choose between the two positions, or neither will get the attention they deserve.

It's unclear if Daughtridge was aware of the conflict when he accepted the new position, but just because he isn't being paid doesn't mean he made the right decision.

It is imperative that Daughtridge commits to one position wholeheartedly. His term on the BOG ends in 2013, but he must make the decision now.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"If you peel back the layers of it, it's not only about the word, but it's about women's experiences, which we don't really talk about either."

KALLI SMITH, A NARRATOR IN "THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES"

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:

"That should get them good and worried for March."

TARHEELFOREVER, ON UNC'S PERFORMANCE AT DUKE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNC fans should do their best to keep their cool

TO THE EDITOR:
I love our good ol' Tar Heel boys more than ever.

In light of Wednesday's game, I must admit that I experienced mixed emotions. While awaiting the P2P immediately after its end, I was excited to hear fellow Tar Heels discussing how we played a good game. How we, together in our own territory, will out-spirit the Cameron Crazies in a few weeks. This is the Carolina spirit I love. Nevertheless, as the P2P filled up with restless Tar Heels, negativity and hatred seeped from the sea of Carolina blue.

I love an exciting game/rivalry as much as the next person, but I soaked all this in quietly as I was slowly disheartened by the cruel, unrelenting comments and even the discord amongst our own students that it caused.

The victory of winning is sweet, but the victory of accepting defeat humbly ought to be even sweeter. If we are to separate ourselves from the Dookies, to establish that we are, indeed, more dignified than they, then we must actually do that. Last night I believe I heard the words "f---" and "Dook" more than I have ever heard them. A column in Wednesday's DTH cited how we Tar Heels aren't like the Devils who proudly proclaim "Go to hell, Carolina" just because. How are we any different?

I won't say "keep it classy, Carolina," but I dare you to prove that we are just as sweet and as good sports as those boys who played their hearts out.

Katie Hill
Sophomore
Elementary Education

We all have responsibility to solve the landfill issue

TO THE EDITOR:

I was pleased that the DTH brought the issue of the Orange County landfill to light. Few people are aware of the issue and even fewer are concerned. The article did a good job of explaining what Orange County is doing to solve our waste issues. However, there is no mention of what we can do to help solve this issue. As important as it is to make people aware of the problem, it is also important to inform them of the things they can do to help achieve a solution and encourage them to be supportive rather than critical.

By remembering to either re-use or recycle, citizens of Orange County can help extend the life expectancy of the landfill because it allows more space for actual waste and ensures that proper items get recycled.

UNC's campus waste is taken to Durham, so even though people on campus do not affect the Orange County landfill, the waste from students who live off campus goes into the Orange County landfill. Instead of criticizing Orange County for not creating better solutions, people should do their part to minimize their impact on the landfill.

Megan Gyoerkoe
Student Government
Environmental Affairs
Committee

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

Kvetching board™

kvetch:

v.1 (Yiddish) to complain

All those in favor of Brooklyn, say aye! All opposed ... say neigh?
Wanted: Fellowship of nine to take back Larry Drew's championship ring and cast it into the fires of Mordor.

To the baseball player in front of me in class that got a D+ on your paper: guess they took away y'all's tutors as well.

Hey yo DTH, How about a visual aid for Thursday's vagina column?

Dear Fratmaster, We appreciate your efforts at creativity, but cowboy boots do not go with backwards baseball hats. Ever.

It hurts, but let's be real. Nothing could have prepared our freshmen for the shockwave of blinding ugliness at Duke. At least next month they'll have us sexy fans to counteract the horror.

To my ex-girlfriend who did not get me anything for Christmas: Go to Student Health and find out what I really "gave" you. XOXO.

Dear Deanna Santoro, While I like to believe your resignation was driven by a sense of justice, I have a sinking feeling this instance will only serve as a nice story for your law school personal statement.

Feminists, if it is that important to you why don't you change it to personopause?

To this kvetch column: Congrats on being overly full of election and Duke related complaints. Hope next week is better for you!

With all the lawsuits, hearings, and press coverage, it almost makes it seem as if the student body president actually does something.

Thank you Brooklyn Stephens for being the only SBP candidate who chose to ride an animal rather than behave like one.

Dear frat stars in the restroom: No I was not doing a coke check, but maybe I should next time?

Hey cute girl at Student Stores, I've seen you do the Sudoku's, if you have any problems with the numbers next time I'm in there I'll just give you mine.

We have a supreme court?

Class project group: I'm leaving the team mid-semester, but instead of telling you directly I'm going to have my dad call the professor to inform him that the project is no longer in my best interests.

To the guy in the chem library watching porn: Turn your laptop away from the window.

Sorry, Brooklyn Stephens. I just wrote in a vote for your horse.

Being a vegetarian in Lenoir is like being a girl at Carolina — the options suck.

Hey Ian, how good is the DTH in bed?

Alert Carolina, you gave me the illusion of a social life for an hour Monday. You may have saved my life.

CBS Sportscaster, stop referring to Barnes and Marshall as "freshmen." Did you learn nothing from the Ingram BOE hearing?

To the business major who asked, "Who is Dowd and why is he down?" There's still time to change majors.

Send your one-to-two sentence entries to opinion@dailytarheel.com, subject line 'kvetch.'

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 nine board members, the associate opinion editor, the opinion editor and the editor.