

There's something about Mary



DTH/KATIE BAILEY

Student Body President Mary Cooper sits at South Building, one of her favorite campus spots. She said she started sitting there during breaks from work at the Campus Y.

Cooper has fulfilled all 'big three' campaign points, despite challenges.

By Katie Quine
Staff Writer

Mary Cooper was caught in the middle. In a year of unprecedented tuition hikes that often pitted student against administrator, the student body president had to serve as a mediator — and only had so much time to act. “There had to be a level of realism,” said Cooper, who leaves office today. “Sure, I don’t think tuition should increase, but to have a productive conversation, you have to go in with the mindset of, ‘OK, we are suffering so badly, how can we (compromise)?’” Cooper said. As the sole student member of the Board of Trustees, Cooper was the board’s only member to vote against a 15.6 percent tuition increase proposal for in-state students in November. Cooper proposed an alternative hike of 6.4 percent, which she said she believed to be more attuned to students’ wishes, but it was rejected by the board.

Rating Mary Cooper's platform success

Student Body President Mary Cooper, who leaves office today, largely accomplished her platform goals despite an increased focus on tuition.

Flat-rate taxi service



IN THE WORKS

The Chapel Hill Police Department will present the petition to the Town Council on April 30.

SOURCE: MARY COOPER

“I did not agree with the piece of work given the magnitude of the problems we faced, but I admired her for it very much,” said Bruce Carney, executive vice chancellor and provost. The UNC-system Board of Governors ultimately passed a systemwide average tuition and fee increase of 8.8 percent for the 2012-13 academic year.

Student Enrichment Fund



ACCOMPLISHED

Funding will now fall under the auspices of the development office.

CCI printer expansion



ACCOMPLISHED

Interested Greek houses may now contact auxiliary services for printer installation.

DTH/MEG WRATHER

Despite her alternate proposal, Cooper was criticized by some student protesters for not taking an active stance on tuition quickly enough. Sophomore Sean Langberg, a member of Students for a Democratic Society who was active

SEE **COOPER**, PAGE 7

CUAB and CAA plan 2012 Homecoming concert

Students will play a larger role in deciding next year's act.

By Katherine Proctor
Assistant Arts Editor

Plans for UNC’s 2012 Homecoming concert have already begun. And Tom Low, incoming president of the Carolina Union Activities Board, wants to make them more transparent. “Organizing the concert is an extremely detailed process,” he said. “The best way to describe it is bureaucratic.” The Homecoming concert is co-sponsored by CUAB and the Carolina Athletic Association. Both organizations host all Homecoming activities. Indie rock band The New Pornographers headlined the 2011 concert. The show sold about 703 of 4,500 available tickets, or 16 percent. CUAB lost about \$63,000 on the show.

For this year’s concert, the student body will have more opportunities to give input on the acts they want to see, Low said. Starting April 18, there will be a whiteboard in the bottom of the Union where students can write their ideas. “We do ask them to try to be realistic,” Low said. “We can’t afford Jay-Z and Kanye West.” Low said members of CUAB will take photos of the board every few hours to ensure that all suggestions are taken into account. Kimmy Summers, major events chairwoman for CUAB, said students can also send their input to the committee through email. “We want student opinion to be more involved and tangible,” Low said. He also said the process of selecting Homecoming acts is more complicated than some students may think. “There are three pieces that

HOW TO SUGGEST ACTS

- Write ideas on the whiteboard in the Union
- Send ideas to unhomecomingconcert@gmail.com

kind of have to align — the date we want, the artist we want and the price we want,” he said. CUAB began the year with a budget of \$364,000. Zoey LeTendre, program adviser to CUAB, said in September. CUAB receives one-third of student organizations fees — about \$13 per student per year. In November, a new student fee was proposed to attract bigger acts for the Homecoming concert. But this fee will not be in effect next year, Low said. “The survey didn’t have enough of a response for us to go through with it,” he said. In the fall, The New

SEE **HOMECOMING**, PAGE 7

Cellphone ban still topic of controversy

The ban's efficacy may be hindered by issues with enforcement.

By Jenny Surane
Staff Writer

In the week since the Chapel Hill Town Council made the landmark decision to ban all cell phone use among drivers on municipal roads, Town Hall inboxes have been flooded with emails. Some come from residents decrying the ban — which will be the first town ordinance in the country to outlaw both hands-free and handheld cell-phone use for drivers when it goes into effect June 1. “We totally expected this,” council member Penny Rich said. “We knew that there would not only be criticism, but a lack of understanding.” But Rich, who championed the ban, said the criticism has not changed her mind. Council member Gene Pease,

who voted against the ban last Tuesday, said the criticism merely echoes his original concerns about the ban. “The criticism that is coming in is consistent with how I feel about the ban,” he said. Pease said he still worries about whether the ban is enforceable in light of caveats that allow drivers to call immediate family members and 911 while driving. “It’s the exceptions,” he said. “I can talk to my family, but not my friends. And the police will have a hard time enforcing that.” Chapel Hill police Sgt. Joshua Mecimore said since the ban is a secondary offense, it is extremely difficult to enforce. “The chief made it clear to the council that there are difficulties that surround enforcing this type of ban,” he said. But Mecimore said the ban is an opportunity to educate the public about the dangers of distracted driving.

SEE **CELLPHONE BAN**, PAGE 7

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS

Sexual assault rules in limbo

Officials say a victim's wishes will continue to be a priority.

By Chelsea Bailey
Senior Writer

Editor's note: April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. During the next three weeks, The Daily Tar Heel will publish a series of articles exploring the issue both on campus and in the University community.

When dealing with reports of sexual assault from students, the University faces a complex problem. “We want to have a system that is ultimately sufficiently simple enough that it is accessible,” said Dean of Students Jonathan Sauls. “On the flip-side, in developing that level of simplicity, we don’t want to foreclose opportunities for survivors to connect as they feel comfortable.” Of the 43 reported sexual assault cases last year, it’s estimated that only one of those was prosecuted through UNC’s Honor Court. Though a victim’s motivation to report or not report an assault differs in each case, in the end, University officials make the wishes of the victim a priority. And though the reporting process is changing during the course of the next few months, administrators said the concern for the victim will not. “There’s not a one-size-fits-all solution and there can’t be because every situation is unique,” said Melinda Manning, assistant dean of students. “Our goal is to listen, not to prescribe any sort of answer — to explain to them what their options are and help them decide how to move forward.”

Procedures old and new

This fall, University procedures for reporting and prosecuting sexual assault may look dramatically different due to a federal mandate from the U.S. Department of Education. In January, a “Dear Colleague” letter was circulated to colleges nationwide that called for changes to sexual assault procedures in higher education. Administrators say the mandated changes are aspirational and ultimately geared toward ensuring equality for both the accuser and the accused. One of the biggest policy changes includes lowering the standard of proof from “beyond a reasonable doubt” to “a preponderance of evidence” to determine guilt in sexual assault cases. That means a person can be found guilty of sexual assault by the Honor Court if he or she “more likely than not” committed the act. UNC administrators have released interim procedures to bring current policies in line with the mandate. Sauls is heading the effort to revamp the procedures. “It’s more than just writing a policy,” he said. “To me, it’s less material what ultimately comes of the judicial process — our support is unconditional for any student.”

SEE **SEXUAL ASSAULT**, PAGE 7

Inside

SPRING TOURS

With thousands of visitors in town this week, businesses are expecting sales to increase. **Page 3.**



SPELLING AND GRAMMAR

The journalism school has replaced the spelling part of the required spelling and grammar exam with a word choice section. **Page 3.**

YMCA MERGER

The local YMCA has ended talks of a formal collaboration with the Triangle YMCA. Differing values was brought up as one of the reasons. **Page 5.**

This day in history

APRIL 3, 1994

The women’s basketball team won the NCAA national championship, defeating Louisiana Tech University 60-59.

Today's weather



Isn't Easter Break like Spring Break...
H 73, L 60

Wednesday's weather



...Round 2?
Get your plans together.
H 83, L 53

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

TODAY

Career planning for sophomores: If you are a sophomore and don't know where you are headed, or if you know the career you want to pursue but aren't sure how to get there, come to this workshop. It will get you started and introduce you to resources to help you determine and reach your career goals.
Time: 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.
Location: Hanes Hall

'Building Small Worlds': Listen to Caitlin Fisher, award-winning digital storyteller and director of the Augmented Reality Lab at York University, deliver a lecture on "Building small worlds: new stories for new screens." The talk is free and open to the public.
Time: 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Location: Hyde Hall

WEDNESDAY

Art for lunch: Bring a bag lunch and enjoy an hour of inspiration and information about art on display in the Ackland's newly opened exhibit "Thornton Dial: Thoughts on Paper." During this event, associate professor Glenn Hinson will discuss "Stories of Spirit, Stories of Erasure: Thornton Dial and the Marketing of Faith."
Time: noon to 1 p.m.
Location: Ackland Art Museum

To make a calendar submission, email calendar@dailytarheel.com. Please include the date of the event in the subject line, and attach a photo if you wish. Events will be published in the newspaper on either the day or the day before they take place.

The Daily Tar Heel

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CORRECTIONS

Due to a reporting error, the original version of Monday's story, "Library employees hope for raises" said that almost two-thirds of UNC library employees make less than \$30,000 per year. In fact, two-thirds of library employees classified under the State Personnel Act make less than \$30,000 per year. The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

- The Daily Tar Heel reports any inaccurate information published as soon as the error is discovered.
- Editorial corrections will be printed on this page. Errors committed on the Opinion Page have corrections printed on that page. Corrections also are noted in the online versions of our stories.
- Contact Managing Editor Tarini Parti at managing.editor@dailytarheel.com with issues about this policy.



Crunk and disorderly

From staff and wire reports

Before we even tell you this story, we'd like to share with you the headline given to it by some online editor with a sense of humor at WPTV in West Palm Beach, Fla.: "Apparent boisterous bare-breasted brouhaha in Indian River County." Alliteration FTW.

A county Sheriff's deputy approached a Vero Beach, Fla., residence March 25 after hearing the sound of glass breaking and people fighting. The deputy saw a man and a woman who appeared intoxicated and "had no regard for the community." The woman then took her shirt off. As you will.

NOTED. "Animal Hoarding" is easily one of the most disturbing/fascinating shows on television. This just makes us wince, though.

A Florida man who had 700 cats confiscated due to animal cruelty charges wants the cats back. 700 is not cute. It's scary.

QUOTED. "New Doritos taco bell taco worth every penny."
— @Stilwatawhite (Stilman White, UNC point guard)

Look Stilman, can't you just do a mission in Durham? It's a struggling community of sin, too. Please don't leave. How will we know what tacos to buy?

POLICE LOG

- Police responded to reports of an unauthorized use of conveyance at 347 S. Estes Drive at 12:20 a.m. Sunday, according to Chapel Hill police reports.
- The resident's daughter took a 1997 Sierra worth \$10,000 without permission, police reports state.
- Someone was lying in the road at the intersection of West Franklin Street and Merritt Mill Road at 11:54 p.m. Sunday, according to Chapel Hill police reports.
- Police responded to reports of simple assault at 110 N. Graham St. at 4:21 p.m. Sunday, according to Chapel Hill police reports.
- Someone was hit in the head, reports state.
- Police responded to reports of larceny at 163 E. Franklin St. at 6:46 p.m. Sunday, according to Chapel Hill police reports.
- Someone stole the tip jar at Franklin Street Pizza & Pasta, police reports state.
- The tip jar contained \$40, according to police reports.
- Chapel Hill police assisted another agency in locating a stolen 2008 GEM electric cart at McCauley Street at 7:49 a.m. Sunday, according to Chapel Hill police reports.
- Police responded to reports of a dog barking loudly on a deck at 210 Pinegate Circle at 2:10 a.m. Sunday, according to Chapel Hill police reports.
- Someone gave police information about drug activity at 828 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. at 12:29 a.m. Monday, according to Chapel Hill police reports.
- Police responded to reports of disturbing the peace at 118 Ashley Forest Road at 4:20 a.m. Sunday, according to Chapel Hill police reports.
- Someone pushed the victim in the chest and verbally threatened him, reports state.

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2012 GLADYS HALL COATES UNIVERSITY HISTORY LECTURE

LUX LIBERTAS

IN PERPETUITY

Historic Preservation at UNC

with WENDY HILLIS

Historic Preservation Officer, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2012

5:00 p.m. Viewing of the exhibition *A Dialogue Between Old and New: Notable Buildings on the UNC Campus*
North Carolina Collection Gallery

5:30 p.m. Program | Pleasants Family Assembly Room

Wilson Special Collections Library, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Free and open to the public

In conjunction with Library exhibitions about campus architecture, on view through May 31, 2012:

A Dialogue Between Old and New: Notable Buildings on the UNC Campus (North Carolina Collection Gallery)

Knowledge Building(s): The Libraries at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Davis Library Gallery)

INFORMATION

Liza Terll, Friends of the Library
liza_terll@unc.edu, (919) 548-1203
http://library.unc.edu/

SPONSORED BY the North Carolina Collection, the University Archives and Records Management Services, and the Friends of the Library

UNC
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Journalism school replaces spelling with word choice in test

Students will still be tested on grammar on the required exam.

By Vanessa Voight
Staff Writer

The University's journalism school has officially recognized the power of a spell check.

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication's spelling and grammar test, a requirement for all students in the school, will no longer include a spelling portion as administrators attempt to adapt to the changing industry.

The school will alter the test in the fall for the first time since the test's creation in the 1970s, said Chris Roush, senior associate dean in the school.

"What we're trying to do is just make the exam more relevant for

today's journalism and mass communication students," Roush said.

The decision to change the test came after a committee of faculty and staff concluded that the presence of computer tools such as spell check made the spelling portion unnecessary, Roush said.

The new exam will consist of two-thirds grammar questions and one-third word choice questions. It will be lengthened to 50 minutes to give students more time to complete the word choice portion of the exam.

Rhonda Gibson, associate professor in the school, said the word choice portion is designed to emphasize problems spell check can't catch, such as the use of they're, there and their.

"Spell check can tell you whether 'their' is spelled correctly but not if it's the right word," she said.

After the 2012-13 school year, the test will no longer be offered as part of the school's news writing course,

Roush said. Instead, students will sign up to take it at the school's student records office, where it is offered on a weekly basis.

"What we're trying to do is encourage students to take it earlier in their time here on campus so we don't have second-semester seniors taking it to graduate," he said.

Nicole Yang, a senior journalism major, has taken the current version of the test. She said she wished the test had included a word choice section when she took it but said she thinks the spelling section still has merit.

"I feel like as a journalist it's something you just need to know," Yang said. "You can't rely on technology to fix everything for you."

Melissa Paniagua, a junior journalism major who has yet to complete the test, said she would prefer to take the new version.

"For a few years we've already been using spell check anyway," she said. "That's not something people

had trouble with as much as word choice and AP style."

Thad Ogburn, metro editor at the (Raleigh) News & Observer and a UNC alumnus, said a basic knowledge of spelling is still an important skill for reporters to have.

"I think it does go to your publication's credibility," he said, adding that online and print readers dislike seeing misspelled words.

"I always tell people, 'Don't rely on spell check as a crutch.'"

Gibson said replacing the spelling section with word choice would better prepare students for life in the professional world.

"Regardless of what kind of job you get... chances are you're going to be crafting messages of some sort," she said.

"It's not just rote memorization of spelling. I think it's a better test."

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

Campus Y looks to be inclusive

New co-presidents Mackenzie Thomas and Jagir Patel want committees to communicate more.

By Hailey Vest
Staff Writer

Nearly a month after its new leadership took office, the Campus Y is beginning to establish a vision for a more inclusive social justice movement.

The Campus Y's executive board held a retreat on Sunday to discuss plans for the upcoming semester and to help the new leadership transition over from the old one.

Co-Presidents Mackenzie Thomas and Jagir Patel, who took office March 12, said they have several objectives for next year, including heightened fundraising and better communication between committees and with non-members.

"Our goals definitely stem from the successes of this year but also recognize where we could have made improvements," Thomas said.

In the February election, Thomas and Patel ran against Laura McCready and Joseph Terrell, who campaigned on a platform of more unified social activism. The Campus Y has united this year in support of a set of issues, including gender-neutral housing and lower tuition.

Thomas said that members are spread out over 30 committees, all with different goals that change on a daily basis. This makes communication crucial for collaboration among members, Thomas said.

Emilio Vicente, director of internal relations and programming, said his focus next year is to bridge the gaps between committees and members of the executive board.

This will help solidify the Campus Y's focus on social justice, he said, adding that he hopes to meet with all committee co-chairmen at least once to get feedback on current issues.

Vicente said he is planning several workshops to help educate students on social justice issues and will create an informational listserv to help get students involved.

Patel added that they are working to create a brochure with information about the Campus Y to be distributed to incoming freshmen at summer orientation.

The co-presidents have also started holding office hours on Wednesdays to encourage members to come to them with questions and concerns.

Thomas said they also plan to raise money for the Y Fund, a micro-grant which was created last fall to support and foster social justice initiatives.

The two said they will continue preparations for the coming academic year, and that the retreat helped them plan for the constant work that comes with the job.

"We wanted to ensure that we, as members of the executive board, thought of our positions as fluid and productive throughout the summer — our positions are not controlled by on-off switches that we are turning off for a couple of months," Thomas said.

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

VISITORS MEAN BUSINESS



DTH/SILVANA GOBERDHAN-VIGLE

Anna Eusebio shows a group of prospective students and their families around campus. The increase in tours during the spring helps boost local business.

An increase in tours brings business to town and University

By Caroline Hudson and Leda Strong
Staff Writers

This week's flood of campus tours have an effect on more than just students' paths to class.

The influx of tourists has a significant impact on business for the University and Chapel Hill.

Andrew Parrish, an undergraduate admissions assistant director, said 8,000 visitors are registered for tours in the next two weeks — and that number may grow.

To accommodate them, there will be four tour times a day for the next two weeks instead of the usual two, said Nestor Ramirez, an admissions ambassador.

Patty Griffin, communications director of the Chapel Hill/Orange County Visitors Bureau, said businesses in Chapel Hill look forward to the spring because of the business it brings.

Jenni Brooks, assistant retail manager at Johnny T-Shirt, said the business always makes sure it has "Carolina" and alumni T-shirts in stock.

"Most people want to leave a college tour with a T-shirt," she said.

Dennis Wiley, shift manager at Cold Stone Creamery on Franklin Street, said new faces on campus mean new business for them.

And Sam Wright, general manager at McAlister's Deli, echoed the others' sentiments. She said business increases in the spring thanks to a combination of tour groups as well as the warmer weather.

And the visitors have a noticeable impact on campus businesses, too.

"It certainly helps our sales," said Scott Myers, director of food and vending at UNC.

Myers said sales usually drop in the spring because people tend to spend more time outdoors.

"What it really does is offset a normal pattern of less business," Myers said.

"It's not like you're moving a bunch more merchandise, but it's a lot more visible because visitors will come in all at one time."

But he said the idea is to create a good environment, not to cash in on the visitors.

"We want to set a good image for the University," Myers said. "And we want to be a positive part of the experience for why people would

select to go to Carolina. So that's our main intent."

John Gorsuch, director of Student Stores, also said campus visitors have a distinct impact on sales.

"Carolina is a very popular brand, and when people visit our campus, they want to get something from the store," Gorsuch said. "So we see very good business from these visitors."

Gorsuch said that while visitors bolster sales, Student Stores serves the entire community and also sees business from faculty, staff, current students and alumni.

"We take care of the community," Gorsuch said.

"A lot goes with those football Saturdays — a lot of returning alumni coming into the store again," he added.

Gorsuch said people come because they are considering UNC, so he does not view them as tourists.

"There are potential students and families at one end, then you've got current students and their families, and then at the other end of the spectrum you've got alumni," Gorsuch said.

Contact the City Editor at city@dailytarheel.com.

NC gubernatorial races heating up

Many unknown candidates are challenging established politicians.

By Charles Patton
Staff Writer

The campaigns for the state's gubernatorial office are beginning to heat up ahead of the May 8 primary.

Democratic candidates attended a forum hosted by the N.C. Association of School Administrators Thursday to discuss education issues, while Republican frontrunner Pat McCrory unveiled his education platform the day before.

McCrory, the former Charlotte mayor who narrowly lost to Gov. Bev Perdue in 2008, has largely maintained his lead in the polls due to name recognition and support among independents.

According to recent surveys conducted by Public Policy Polling, a left-leaning polling firm based in Raleigh, McCrory is the clear leader on the

Republican side with 64 percent of the GOP vote. Former Congressman Bob Etheridge leads among Democratic voters at 26 percent, followed by Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton at 15 percent.

But with 45 percent of the Democratic electorate still undecided, much of the race is up for grabs.

Etheridge's campaign anticipates a tough primary fight and is running on a platform of opposition to education cuts enacted last summer by the Republican majority at the state legislature, said Keith Nathan, press assistant for the campaign.

"As governor, Mr. Etheridge will stand up against the actions of the GOP General Assembly," he said.

Conversely, McCrory's campaign positively views the Republicans' actions in the last session, including efforts to boost the economy and energy production through drilling, said Brian Nick, McCrory's campaign spokesman.

"I think the differences between Pat's position and many Democrats is that we need to be at the point of action," he said.

"I have been told that I had more qualifications to be governor than all the other candidates put together."

Jim Mahan,
GOP hopeful in the gubernatorial race

Nick said the McCrory campaign has not found anyone who knows anything about the four other Republican challengers in the primary, a fact Jim Mahan hopes to change.

Mahan, a former entrepreneur, architect and teacher, is running a campaign aimed at turning the state's economy around and reforming government in 185 days.

No governor should serve for more than one term, Mahan said, and he feels like his wealth of experience makes him a qualified candidate for governor.

"I have been told that I had more qualifications to be governor than all of the other candidates put together," he said.

Mahan's dislike of career politicians is shared by one of the five Democratic candidates who is relatively unknown,

Gary Dunn.

Dunn, a 58-year-old junior English major at UNC-Charlotte, believes politicians have strayed from listening to their constituents and have spent far too long in their jobs.

"I went to a Democratic victory dinner in Charlotte, and I was in tears when I heard people lauding other people for being in government for a long number of years," he said.

"We don't want stagnation in government."

Etheridge and Rep. Bill Faison, D-Orange, are scheduled to attend a town hall forum at N.C. Central University's law school on Wednesday at 7 p.m., according to reports from the (Raleigh) News & Observer.

Contact the State & National Editor at state@dailytarheel.com.

inBRIEF

SPORTS BRIEFS

UNC's McAdoo is still undecided about whether he will enter the NBA draft

North Carolina freshman forward James Michael McAdoo has not yet decided whether he will enter the NBA draft, but a decision is expected by the end of the week, according to multiple sources.

McAdoo has until April 10 to reach a decision, as mandated by the NCAA. Junior forward John Henson and sophomores Kendall Marshall and Harrison Barnes have already declared for the draft.

McAdoo started just three games for UNC this season but would likely slot into a starting role next season should he stay in school. He led the Tar Heels with 15 points in their season-ending loss to Kansas.

McAdoo's father, Ronnie, told the Greensboro News & Record that his son projects as a lottery pick but that his preference would be for his son to stay at UNC for another year.

CITY BRIEFS

Report released by Partnership to End Homelessness about last year's efforts

The Orange County Partnership to End Homelessness, which supports local homeless individuals through a collaboration of government, faith-based and community groups, released a report on its 2011 efforts Monday.

The report states that in 2011, CASA and the Orange, Person and Chatham county OPC Area Program housed eight homeless people.

Street outreach workers from another group, Housing for New Hope, housed 44 homeless people in Orange County.

The partnership also saw the creation of a job-readiness program for people who are homeless or at-risk for homelessness.

And the Orange County Support Circle Program, which partners groups of volunteers with people transitioning out of homelessness into permanent housing by providing them with support, was also developed in 2011.

— From staff and wire reports

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*Contact the City Editor
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The Hunger Games movie is based on the first book in a trilogy of novels written by Suzanne Collins.

In response to Lorenzini's

"It is important to see the film in an academic context," said Knott, who said she read the book and saw the movie. "The message

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Independent theaters rely on niches

The Varsity and the Chelsea offer alternatives to theater chains.

By Mary Stevens
Staff Writer

Martha Moore and her 22-year-old daughter Deanna Riggan have been regulars at the Chelsea Theater for years.

Today, they've come to the independently run theater off Weaver Dairy Road to see the comedy "Friends With Kids."

"It feels better than going to one of the big theaters," Riggan said.

In a year when theater groups like Regal Entertainment bring in a gross income of more than \$1.4 billion, independent theaters, like the Chelsea and Franklin Street's iconic Varsity Theatre, rely on their niche audiences and intimate atmospheres to stay afloat.

While the Chelsea features newly released independent and foreign films at a standard ticket price, the Varsity specializes in sub-run screenings — or mainstream movies shown for a discounted rate during their second run.

Moore said going to the Chelsea is a convenient way to stay up to date with independent films.

"You feel very cool if you come here," she said. "You're part of the in-crowd."

The Varsity is able to sell tickets at \$4 because it shows films five or six weeks after their release dates, owner Paul Shreshian said.

Multiplex theaters — where tickets cost between \$7 and \$11 — return up to 90 percent of sales to movie distributors. That percentage is less for sub-run theaters, which allows the Varsity to keep ticket prices low.

For every week a movie is shown after its release date, the return percentage decreases by 10, Shreshian said.

He said he returns 30 to 50 percent of his sales. Bruce Stone, owner of the Chelsea, said he generally returns 50 to 70 percent of his sales to distributors.

Neither Shreshian nor Stone would comment on their theaters' income.

At the Chelsea, Stone said he pays a flat rate to distributors and keeps the movies for a predetermined amount of time rather than paying different percentages back each week like Shreshian does.

In addition to ticket sales, Shreshian said he gains additional income by renting the Varsity to various community and university groups.

The theater has housed a wedding, a funeral and many birthday

parties and has become a valued partner for various University groups like the Ackland Art Museum and the comparative literature department.

Chelsea owners Bruce and Mary Jo Stone became the Varsity owners in 2000, 10 years after the Chelsea opened. They ran both theaters under the same business model, showing mainly independent films with a few mainstream movies interspersed.

But Stone said he gave up ownership of the Varsity in 2009 because it became difficult to show interesting films on five screens — two at the Varsity and three at the Chelsea. The theater shut its doors for about four months.

Stone said several of the independent film distributors had shut down, and the college audience was harder to predict.

"The younger audience has changed a lot in the last 20 years," he said. "I don't know if there's as much of a movie-going interest or passion."

In November 2009, Paul and Susan Shreshian reopened the Varsity as a sub-run theater, hoping that discounted tickets for recently released movies, even if a bit older, would draw a college crowd.

"It's across the street from the University, so it kind of made sense to run that type of show,"

"The art films tend to appeal to an older crowd — drama, characters, Meryl Streep ..."

Bruce Stone,
Owner of the Chelsea

Shreshian said. "The reduced admission seems to work."

Stone said a lot of today's college students are more interested in current blockbuster films like "The Hangover" and "The Hunger Games" than they are in independent films.

"The art films tend to appeal to an older crowd — drama, characters, Meryl Streep — whereas a younger audience may be more of a Johnny Depp kind of world," he said.

But Stone knows he has a group of regulars who prefer the Chelsea to the flashy corporate theaters.

"Multiplexes tend to have sort of a circus mentality," he said.

"There are arcades, kids running around, teenagers. These are adults. They feel more comfortable because they don't have to wade through all that kind of stuff just to see a movie."

Contact the Arts Editor
at arts@dailytarheel.com.



DTH/JOSH CLINARD

Sara Kertai says hello to one of University Mall's bunnies. Jenny Boone, who works for the Noerr Programs Corporation, which employs bunny and Santa mascots, said the kids like to dance with the bunnies.

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- Marlon Brando

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If April 3rd is Your Birthday...
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Aries (March 21-April 19)

Today is an 8 - Coast to victory (even if you don't feel like it anymore). Finishing the job satisfies and leaves space for exciting new projects. Celebrate with dinner out.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Today is an 8 - Things are getting busy. For the next month, as Venus enters Gemini, you immerse yourself in study and research. Imagine the project as completed and a great success.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)

Today is a 7 - Make household decisions for the next two days. In general, folks are on your side. Find what you seek close to home. For the next month, you're looking good.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)

Today is an 8 - The routine you're practicing gets enhanced by the rules you already know. Your self-discipline is respected. Don't flirt quite yet. Study a while longer.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)

Today is an 8 - An assumption gets challenged. You have tons of moneymaking ideas. Keep an eye on the numbers. For the next month, group activities go well. Go for clear, direct action.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

Today is an 8 - Go ahead and toot your own horn! Work on your portfolio. You're entering two especially confident days. For the next month, advance your career. Get further than expected.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)

Today is an 8 - The road ahead may be muddy. Check out the map, and follow up on details and strategy. Check supplies and equipment. For the next month, travel beckons. Don't get sidetracked.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

Today is a 7 - Your duties may keep you from social events. You might as well bring love and fun to your work. It's going to be easier to compromise for a while.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

Today is a 7 - Work gets in the way of romance now, but more opportunities for love abound for the rest of the month. Bring productivity to new levels. Opposites attract.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Today is an 8 - Your partnerships develop and bring positive changes. Definitely choose love over money. Relax and enjoy both. There's a lucky break.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Today is an 8 - Your partnerships develop and bring positive changes. Definitely choose love over money. Relax and enjoy both. There's a lucky break.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Today is an 8 - Your partnerships develop and bring positive changes. Definitely choose love over money. Relax and enjoy both. There's a lucky break.

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COOPER

FROM PAGE 1

in tuition protests, said that while he believed Cooper's proposal was sound, it was already too late.

"The decision came out in August or September, and (student government) finally got engaged in December or January after many of the power players on the Board of Trustees and Board of Governors had kind of already made up their minds," Langberg said.

Cooper said too much bureaucratic red tape during the tuition proposal process was to blame, making developing a proposal difficult.

"Every single person was rushed, from the protester to the administration to student government — we were finding out what the rules were of tuition late in the game," Cooper said.

"If I had a Magic 8 Ball, then I would have started ages ago."

Student Body Vice President Zealan Hoover mirrored her sentiments, emphasizing Cooper's attention to detail.

"She does not rush to make a decision — she makes sure she makes the right decision," Hoover said.

"That really says a lot because the only criticism that has been cast at her a lot is that she took too long to make a decision, but

"Every single person was rushed, from the protester to the administration to student government."

Mary Cooper, Student body president, on this year's tuition talks

I've never heard someone criticizing her for making the wrong decision," he said.

As tuition became the first of Cooper's priorities, it did not stop her from accomplishing her major platform points.

Despite some unforeseen delays, not one of Cooper's "big three" platform points have gone unfulfilled.

To launch the Student Enrichment Fund, Cooper and Hoover used their own student government stipends to finance the initiative.

Since then, the fund has received a \$5,000 donation from the Parents Council, and funding will fall under the auspices of the Office of University Development, Cooper said.

Many cabinet members and administrators said Cooper's ability to accomplish her goals despite tuition and budgetary concerns was outstanding compared to past administrations.

"She's been exceptional because not only does she bring to the table what you would expect from a student body president, but her sense of strategic judgment and ability to see the big picture and think from the

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

SEXUAL ASSAULT

FROM PAGE 1

Currently, students have several options — on- and off-campus — to report sexual assaults, including the Dean of Students Office, Counseling and Wellness Services, the Department of Public Safety, and the Orange County Rape Crisis Center.

Depending on their comfort levels and how much information they wish to share, students can choose to make blind, anonymous or full reports to any of the access points.

Administrators said they hope to hire a single person to coordinate and streamline the reporting processes at the different access points.

Last year, 43 cases of sexual assault were reported by students, a rising trend in reported assaults in the past three years.

Though the vast majority of assaults are student against student, Manning said very few victims choose to pursue disciplinary actions through the Honor Court.

"I think maybe one of those cases went through the Honor Court last year," she said, adding that this is not unusual.

Under the interim procedures, each assault case brought to the Honor Court is heard by a panel of faculty, staff and students that make up the University Hearings Board.

Both the accused and the accuser are appointed representation and allowed to present evidence. The Hearings Board then decides whether the accused is guilty or not guilty of the assault.

'Reliving what happened'

Manning said victims might be deterred from prosecuting their cases through the Honor Court or criminal court because it forces them to continually repeat potentially traumatic details of their experiences to strangers.

"A lot of students feel like they would basically be forced to relive what happened and that could inhibit the healing process," Manning said. "We want to empower the survivor as much as possible to make their own decisions about how to move forward."

Sauls said he hopes to have a new procedure ready for the fall; and though policies will change, he stressed one element will remain central to the process — the victim will always come first.

Bob Pleasants, Campus Health interpersonal violence prevention coordinator, said he encourages students to focus on prevention.

"We hope that we're starting to see a shift on campus where students are more willing to act, more willing to care," Pleasants said.

"We hope that over the years we're able to change the campus community to make it more safe."

Training and prevention

Pleasants works closely with training programs like HAVEN and One Act — prevention tools he said are invaluable catalysts for initiating conversation about sexual assault, especially in light of the complexities involved in the reporting procedure.

"We want to empower the survivor as much as possible to make their own decisions."

Melinda Manning, Assistant dean of students

In the past 18 months, nearly 1,000 students have received One Act training and about 500 people a year are certified through HAVEN, Pleasants said.

Both programs strive to arm the campus community with the tools necessary to prevent and respond to sexual assault.

Manning said the popularity of the programs marks a tremendous shift in the campus culture surrounding sexual assault.

"When I first started here 10 years ago there was really small student group that talked about sexual assault — there wasn't a HAVEN program, there wasn't One Act. It wasn't really talked about.

"So even in that time there's been tremendous change."

Pleasants said the goal of prevention is to reach students early so that they continue to support and advocate for victims.

"Now we've got football and basketball players willing to wear a 24-hour rape-free zone T-shirt," he said. "It's a small symbolic thing, but it still means a lot as far as how the dialogue is held on campus."

Contact the University Editor at university@dailytarheel.com.

CELLPHONE BAN

FROM PAGE 1

"I think the hope is that it will discourage from distracted driving, which is certainly something that we have tried to focus on over the past couple of years," he said.

And council member Lee Storrow said despite problems with enforcement, he stands by his decision to approve the ban.

"I still support the ban because

this isn't just a ban against using a cellphone while driving, it is a ban against driving poorly while using a cellphone," he said.

National insurance groups like Governors Highway Safety Association also support the ban.

Jonathan Adkins, spokesman for the group, said despite the problems with enforcement the ban is a step in the right direction.

"There are some legal challenges, but it still sends the message

that Chapel Hill acknowledges a problem with distracted driving," he said.

Despite concerns, Rich said she has also seen encouraging emails.

"There are a lot of people on the other side that are saying they are really happy about it," she said. "A lot of them are asking 'What took so long?'"

Contact the City Editor at city@dailytarheel.com.

HOMECOMING

FROM PAGE 1

Pornographers were contracted to perform at Carmichael Auditorium for \$49,000. Low said the contract is only part of the concert's total cost.

After costs of production, security, hospitality and publicity, the 2011 concert's total expenses were around \$74,100.

"People ask why we don't get

someone bigger," Low said.

"It's not just a question of can we afford Lady Gaga's contract — logistical pieces are a humongous part as well."

He said it's important for students to understand that planning and paying for the concert is a process.

"We can't just do it overnight."

Contact the Arts Editor at arts@dailytarheel.com.

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MIRROR MIRROR

12:30-2:45-4:55-7:15-9:30

WRATH OF THE TITANS

PG-13 12:40-2:55-5:00-7:20-9:40

HUNGER GAMES

PG-13 1:00-4:00-7:00-9:50

21 JUMP STREET

R 1:25-4:15-7:25-9:45

DR. SEUSS' THE LORAX

PG 12:45-2:50-4:55-7:05-9:25

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'Mass fatalities' in shooting at small Oakland college

LOS ANGELES (MCT) — The man suspected of shooting and fatally wounding multiple people at a religious college in Oakland had previously been a nursing student at the school.

Pastor Jong Kim, who founded Oikos University about 10 years ago, told the Oakland Tribune he was unsure if the alleged shooter had been expelled from the school or dropped out voluntarily. He said he heard about 30 gunshots while remaining in his office for safety.

Lucas Garcia, a teacher at the school, told KGO-TV he heard a half-dozen shots in the middle of a lesson before someone yelled that someone had a gun. Garcia said there are a little more than 100 students enrolled at the university, but not all were on campus at the time. He said the school teaches the Bible, nursing and English.

"It's a small school," he told KGO-TV.

Police arrested the suspect several miles away in Alameda at a shopping center Monday afternoon.

Authorities had described the gunman as an Asian man with a heavy build and wearing khaki clothing.

According to its website, Oikos University is a Christian university that "was established specifically to serve the community of Northern California in general and San Francisco and Oakland areas in particular." The school is not far from Oakland International Airport and the Oakland Coliseum.

Dramatic live television footage showed officers swarming around the small Christian university, with some appearing to enter the main building. Some civilians were seen being rushed from the building and into police vehicles.

Meanwhile, officials said there were "mass fatalities" in the



MCT/DOUG OAKLEY
Police officers in SWAT gear walk past victims in a shooting at Oikos University on Edgewater Drive in Oakland, Calif., on Monday.

shooting, but it remained unclear how many people were killed. Several media reports said about 10 people were hit but there were conflicting reports as to how many are dead.

Video shows possible gash on head of Martin's shooter

ORLANDO, Fla. (MCT) — A newly enhanced version of police video taken on the night of the Trayvon Martin shooting more clearly shows a possible gash or injury on the back of shooter George Zimmerman's head.

ABC News showed the new video Monday. In it, an apparent wound of some type can be seen on Zimmerman's head when he

turns away from the camera.

The video is an enhanced version of surveillance tape released by the Sanford Police Department last week. It shows Zimmerman being taken into SPD headquarters after the shooting.

Zimmerman was seen by paramedics after the shooting, officials have said, and was released without being arrested that night after he was interviewed by detectives.

In the original version of the video, no injuries were visibly apparent. The video was enhanced for ABC News by Forensic Protection, a California video and audio enhancement firm.

In the enhanced video, as in the original, no blood is visible on Zimmerman or his clothing.

games

Level: 1 2 3 4

3		5			2	6		
9						4		3
				6				
6			2	1			9	
	1						3	
	8			3	5			1
			8	7				
4		8						2
		6	3			9		7

Solution to Monday's puzzle

6	5	4	3	9	7	2	1	8
7	8	2	1	4	6	9	3	5
9	1	3	2	8	5	6	7	4
8	2	1	9	6	3	4	5	7
3	4	9	5	7	2	1	8	6
5	7	6	4	1	8	3	9	2
1	9	8	6	5	4	7	2	3
4	3	5	7	2	9	8	6	1
2	6	7	8	3	1	5	4	9

Smaller class sizes. Summer School at Carolina.

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Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1 Word before dark or hours

6 Black Friday event

10 Prefix with fall

14 Where towels are the usual attire

15 Nice price?

16 Rob of "Parks and Recreation"

17 *Ten times the seller's cost, say

19 Actor McGregor

20 "All My ___ Live in Texas": George Strait song

21 Pre-A.D.

22 Waiters take them

24 Comes down hard

27 Come to terms

28 Tin alloy

31 "___ho!"

33 Homeric war epic

34 *Green labyrinth

38 Dynasty known for porcelain

39 Sleepiness inducers

40 Draft animals

41 *Groundbreaking desktop publishing software

43 Golfer Sam

44 Less than zero

45 Competes in a bee

46 Where dos are done

49 How the rain in Spain falls on the plain

51 Warning to a pest

53 Once named

54 Slangy morning drink

57 Provo's state

58 Some buried treasure, or what are literally

found in the answers to starred clues

62 Top-notch

63 Lake near Lake Ontario

64 College big shots

65 Ivan IV, for one

66 "Das Kapital" author

67 "The King" of golf, to fans

DOWN

1 1968 U.S. Open champ

2 Imitation

3 Harbor towers

4 Hydrocarbon suffix

5 Spoke absent-mindedly

6 Spending outing

7 Genesis craft

8 Actress Lucy

9 Former Montreal player

10 *Fundraising receipts

11 Dinghy propeller

12 Conscious (of)

13 Uptight

18 Excellent server

23 All-night party

24 *Child star's parent

25 Maria ___, former queen of Hungary

26 Passover meal

28 MTV's "___ My Ride"

29 Director Kazan

30 Chicken morsel

32 Justice Dept. heads

34 Hoovey

35 It may follow a Salchow

36 Intensity

37 Conclusions

39 Prohibition

42 Revealing skirt

43 Dieter's sweetener

45 Dagger of yore

46 Powerlifter's move

47 Roadsters, e.g.

48 Rainforest vine

50 Back-of-the-book reference section

52 The opposition

54 Stapleton who played Edith Bunker

55 Luxury hotel

56 In ___: actually

59 Nest egg letters

60 Movie set VIP

61 Pol. neighbor

Today's video

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EDITORIAL CARTOON By Mark Viser, mviser@live.unc.edu



The University needs your money

Private donations are vital to maintaining UNC's prestige.

It doesn't take a Ph.D. to understand that a smaller budget for a graduate school will hurt the school's ranking, since it means a reduction in the money allocated for research, retention of faculty and recruitment of students.

This year at UNC, many graduate schools' rankings plummeted, leading us to wonder if they are the proverbial canaries in the coal mine.

That is, does our graduate schools' collective loss in prestige forewarn of a larger diminishment in prestige for the undergraduate branch of this university?

No one would deny that budget cuts have put many important programs in jeopardy. But the long-term implications of our anemic budget have gone largely unaddressed.

We hope UNC as a whole will fare better than many of our graduate schools have.

Nevertheless, our graduate schools' recent declines in rankings should serve as a wake-up call to the legislators who have repeatedly voted to slash UNC's budget in recent years.

And for students unconvinced that budget cuts have affected them, we urge them to consider the long-term value of their diploma.

The problem with the catch-all phrase "budget cuts" is that it obfuscates some of the very real and specific impacts these cuts have on students — even if they don't realize it.

UNC's long-term prestige is one of the most vulnerable of these areas. Though "prestige" may be open to many interpretations, there are some concrete ways to measure it: faculty retention, admissions rate, yield and rankings.

If UNC's prestige falls (and some would argue it has already begun its descent), all current students will suffer, since our degrees won't mean as much 20 years from now as they do in 2012.

Since graduate schools are more susceptible to the impacts of cuts, it seems fair to use them as a (very rough) indicator of how the rest of the University will weather the long-term impacts of recent cuts.

If this is in fact a reasonable interpretation, then the future of UNC does not look bright.

UNC has long been known for offering its students an excellent, well-rounded experience both in and out of the classroom. Our taxpayers, faculty and alumni have spent decades working hard to build this reputation.

Students, voters and legislators must not forget that it takes money — and lots of it — to maintain this tradition of excellence.

Regulation can foster creativity

UNC needs more designated spaces for public art.

The graffiti marring the walls of Greenlaw and many other buildings on campus can't really be called art. It does little to improve the buildings' overall appearance, let alone add to the culture of the University.

But UNC could easily regulate defacement like this by creating a designated area for artists to create street art and higher forms of tagging.

Not only would this mean less vandalism of public places, but it would also add some color to the University itself.

By adding an area for public art, like North Carolina State University's Free Expression Tunnel, artists would be given an opportunity to create freely.

Those who used to quickly spray paint a symbol or sign would be allowed time to create a higher-quality image that audiences around campus could enjoy.

This would foster a sense of creativity that is lacking in much of the graffiti found on campus.

Even if this area did not create UNC's own Banksy or Shepard Fairey, it would at least provide regulation.

Instead of being confronted with wanton defacement,

students, faculty and visitors would find art.

This is not a novel idea. With its Free Expression Tunnel, N.C. State has proven it's possible. And there are many other examples.

The Portsmouth Museum of Art in Portsmouth, N.H., started an exhibit that now extends out into the community.

Here in Chapel Hill, the Yates Motor Company building displays art and works to preserve the public murals around town with their Painted Walls initiative.

This investment has clearly improved the culture of our town.

To create its own public art display, the University need not look far.

Carolina Creates is currently preparing The Grand Show, a public exhibit at University Square that will display community and student artists on April 20.

If UNC decided to implement this display permanently at a location on campus, we would have our very own public art's display.

From Portsmouth, N.H., to N.C. State, to Franklin Street, communities that have embraced public art have seen their cultural communities benefit.

These benefits could easily be seen on this campus. They just need a place to call home.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I don't think tuition should increase, but to have a productive conversation, you have to go in with the mindset of, 'OK, we are suffering so badly, how can we (compromise)?'"

Mary Cooper, student body president, on this year's tuition talks

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT

"I would love for Barnes, Marshall and Henson to all stay because they all have so much potential. But, if they don't want to be here then we can't stand in their way."

Melanie, on UNC basketball players' NBA plans

COLUMN

Strengthen UNC's ties with the state

After my last column ran, I got an email from Nicholas Didow, a professor at UNC's Kenan-Flagler Business School. He invited me along to shadow a class of second-year MBA students he was working with who would be traveling down to Eastern North Carolina.

Didow and the MBA students were providing consulting services to a newly-formed entrepreneur network and a dental clinic targeted at underserved populations in the area.

So, like any good student, I decided to cut class and spend two days in Rocky Mount. (In case you were wondering, yes, a pack of MBA students wandering around downtown Rocky Mount sticks out. A lot.)

When we walked down Main Street, doors would open and business owners would invite us inside, eager to talk to visitors from UNC. I ended up in a furniture store with some other stragglers talking to the owner. As soon as we told him we were from UNC, he smiled.

"That's a nice school y'all have there in Chapel Hill," he said. "My daughter's there. She's a freshman. We're really proud of her."

It was clear that this man, and everyone else we encountered in Rocky Mount, respected UNC deeply. But what was also clear was that not all of them felt a connection to it.

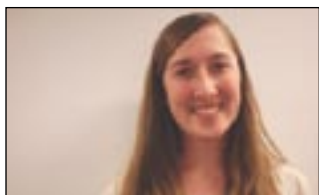
This connection was on my mind when I sat down with Steve Farmer, UNC's director of admissions to talk about what the admissions office does to ensure that they reach out to students in rural areas across the entire state.

It's a tall order, but it's something admissions works hard to fulfill, dedicating resources to participate in college fairs and panels all across the state.

Despite this outreach, Farmer said the low numbers of UNC students from rural areas are a reflection of low application rates from these places.

So why aren't these students applying? Could this be a larger expression of a lack of connection rural areas feel to UNC?

This lack of connection isn't just the admissions office's problem. It is a problem we all need to admit, and a problem we all need to take steps to fix.



Allison Hawkins
The Western Front
Senior history and political science major from Brevard.
Email: achawkin@live.unc.edu

We can start fostering a stronger connection between our campus and our state by doing the same sort of outreach as the MBAs I shadowed.

Like any relationship, UNC's relationship to its state needs to be reciprocal. North Carolina provides us with funding, students, professors and thousands of rabid basketball fans.

In turn, UNC must use its intellectual capital, resources and institutional structures to improve the lot of the state.

Getting our hands dirty doing work in communities throughout North Carolina is how we prove to outside stakeholders that we have a genuine interest in the future of the state — and how we prove to prospective students that Chapel Hill is more than the stereotypes they may have heard.

We students need to facilitate this connection. About 82 percent of us are from North Carolina, and the rest of us have chosen to spend at least four years of our life in this state.

This connection can be made in many ways. It can be an extension of our schoolwork, as it was for the MBA students I shadowed. This will require dedicated and innovative professors with a commitment to service and a willingness to come up with ideas to extend learning beyond the classroom.

It can come from volunteer efforts from campus organizations that want to tackle issues in our own backyard. And it can be made on a personal level, as each of us use the knowledge we gain at UNC to make things better back home.

We need to utilize all that UNC has to offer as well as our own talents to the best of our ability to improve our state. Otherwise, we stay in a bubble that doesn't do either us or our state any good.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cellphone ban will help save lives in Chapel Hill

TO THE EDITOR:

I am a doctoral student at UNC's School of Public Health in the department of health behavior. I helped make the case at the Town Council meeting a few months ago for the danger of any cellphone use while driving.

I wanted to respond to a few of the student comments in the article "Students speak out about cellphone ban" published last Wednesday.

One of the students said, "They may as well exclude conversation because that's a distraction, too." But when you drive with another person in the car, that person becomes an extra set of eyes. He or she may see things — like someone crossing the street — that you did not initially see because you were distracted.

When you're on your cellphone alone in your car, there is no one else to pay attention to the road for you. No one else can react but you, and by the time you do, it may be too late.

Another student said the ban doesn't make much sense. It wasn't too long ago that people

didn't think a ban on driving while intoxicated made much sense either. It took years for policy to catch up with science.

It turns out, we already know that driving while on your cellphone—even on a hands-free device—is just as dangerous as driving while drunk.

One student said they shouldn't "spend their time regularizing stuff like that." So do you think that they shouldn't spend time regulating drunken drivers either?

Are you okay with the potential loss of life that will result?

Yael Fillosof
Graduate student
School of Public Health

North Carolina shouldn't be opened up to fracking

TO THE EDITOR:

The biggest environmental fight of 2012 facing North Carolina may be the impending decision whether to allow the controversial practice known as "fracking" in our state.

Fracking is the process of drilling and injecting fluid into the ground at a high pressure to fracture shale rocks and release the

natural gas inside.

Hundreds of people turned out to a public hearing on fracking in Chapel Hill on March 27, including many Sierra Club members.

Of the 50 people who spoke, nearly all expressed concern or displayed outright opposition.

But that may be hard to tell for those who read The Daily Tar Heel article, "Chapel Hill fracking meeting draws crowd," published on Thursday.

Also, the article may have cast doubt on where the Sierra Club stands on opening North Carolina up to fracking. So, let's take a moment to make sure we are clear.

North Carolina is not ready to frack. It may never be ready. And while the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) did a fantastic job in its report, the report itself raises more questions than it answers.

We still know far less than we need to know about fracking. With our air, water and health at stake, any quick moves to open North Carolina up to fracking would be irresponsible at best.

The scientists and professionals at the DENR should be allowed to do more study before

the legislature makes any decision on the matter.

Dustin Chicurel-Bayard
Communication Director
NC Sierra Club

A conservative argument against Amendment One

TO THE EDITOR:

The debate about Amendment One rages on.

One argument sorely missing is the conservative argument against this amendment to the N.C. Constitution.

Conservatives preach ideals of keeping government small and out of our individual lives — listen to the arguments against ObamaCare. So why do conservative Republicans feel the need to not only legislate an invasion into our individual lives, but constitutionalize it?

Amendment One should be defeated using its supporters' own ideals.

North Carolina, get the hell out of my personal decisions. If two guys want to marry each other, the state has no rational interest in stopping them — nobody else's rights are infringed by this.

Whenever you hear an argument for Amendment One, respond with "that government which governs best governs least." I'll be voting against Amendment One on May 8 and so should you.

Connor Blair '13
UNC School of Law

Student government seeks committee chairs

TO THE EDITOR:

Demonstrated time and time again, Tar Heels have a commitment to serve their community. Now is your chance to carry forward this uniquely Carolina spirit of public service and impact campus life.

The Will Leimenstoll administration is now accepting applications from eager, diligent and creative students to chair the more than 15 executive branch committees and special projects for the 2012-13 academic year.

These committees and special projects plan and implement innovative projects that ensure students' voices are always represented.

Please visit unc.edu/studgov

to download the cabinet application. Applications are due Friday at 5 p.m.

Chris Scanzoni '13
Public policy
2012-13 nominee for Executive Branch chief of staff

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 151 E. Rosemary St.
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