


COLUMN



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# Stand against financial aid cap

As students at UNC, we often take for granted how incredibly lucky we are. We've had the privilege of attending a university that prides itself on inclusivity, affordability and excellence.

UNC is one of only two public universities in the whole country that meets 100 percent of demonstrated financial need, and we do it while maintaining a high standard of academic excellence. Our strong financial aid program is the foundation of this proudly public institution. Recent events make me concerned this foundation could be in jeopardy.

To provide some context, in the face of declining state appropriations and rising tuition costs, UNC has been able to sustain its financial aid model by using a percentage of revenue from tuition increases to fund student aid. This process started during the 2000-01 academic year, and it's the reason that we've been able to remain truly accessible.

Currently, UNC uses 38 percent of the revenue from the last tuition increase for need-based financial aid to support the 43 percent of our undergraduate student population on need-based financial aid. Right now, the UNC-system Board of Governors, which governs the state-wide university system, is discussing a 25 percent cap on tuition revenue for aid.

For our university, a cap would pose a significant and long-term structural problem in sustaining UNC's financial aid program, one that would be too large for private giving or state appropriations to overcome.

Why are these discussions occurring? Public universities have been feeling the strain of the nationwide economic crisis.

It's also a common misconception that tuition revenue for aid hurts the middle class. At UNC, over half of need-based aid recipients come from middle or upper class families. Consequently, it's difficult to justify a policy that could impact the financial stability of a large portion of our students.

If the Board of Governors introduce a 25 percent cap, the cap would theoretically shave \$6.83 per month off the tuition in-state non-aid recipients pay – roughly equivalent to two cups of coffee. To most Tar Heels, that \$6.83 seems like an extraordinarily small price to pay to retain our campus culture and academic experience.

My team can't tackle this issue on our own, and we need your help. But before you pick up the phone or send an email, I encourage you to get educated.

This is an issue that virtually all university stakeholders at UNC can agree upon – that our university should be able to decide how to structure our own financial aid model. Student government is in the process of compiling a huge amount of resources and action items that will be available on our website next week, so you can make your own assessments and act accordingly. Until then, you can always contact me directly.

Should this issue surface at the Board of Governors meeting in August, it will be a critical opportunity for all of us to demonstrate that UNC is not a place that just values academic excellence, but takes its position as a flagship public institution to heart.

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Aneshia Tinnin, atinnin@live.unc.edu

EDITORIAL

# Policies don't fix problems

## New policies do nothing to fix the influence of athletics on academics.

We use the words “The Carolina Way” to talk about what it means to be a part of UNC. These words mean honor, integrity and pride in our institution. But a series of revelations of academic fraud following the NCAA's investigation of the football team has stripped them of their meaning.

And the administration, buying into a culture of opacity, disregard for public accountability and deference toward athletics, is largely responsible.

A series of policies have been enacted to prevent something like what happened in the Nyang'oro case, but they fall far short of what we need. If administrators care about the University's future, they must restore faith by undertaking difficult, meaningful reform.

The University learned of the NCAA's investigation into its football program in June 2010. Its probe exposed a culture of improper benefits and academic misconduct among some players. The credibility of the athletic department

was thrown into question, and administrators, led by Chancellor Holden Thorp, promised to get to the bottom of it.

One year later, irregularities surfaced in the Department of African and Afro-American Studies. The curtains were drawn back on academic fraud centered on privileges for football players provided by the head of an academic department.

The internal investigation led to a series of policy revisions that include tighter regulation of independent study courses and stronger departmental oversight. But these changes only ensure Nyang'oro's teaching practices in summer session courses and independent studies are not replicated. They only put a finger in the dike — and the water is rising.

The severity of the scandal, with 54 classes and 215 athletes implicated, and the reluctance of administrators to expand the investigation beyond the internal review — or to engage the public transparently — damage the University's reputation.

The conflict of athletics and academics compromises the Carolina Way.

And this must change if we

hope to salvage our reputation.

Former UNC-system President William Friday offered an alternative with his work as founding co-chair of the Knight Commission. This commission recommended a set of principles to govern college athletics in response to a decade of highly visible scandals. They were released in a report in 1991 and implemented to some degree by the NCAA.

But this scandal suggests that these principles, far from being realized, have never been more needed and must be revived at UNC.

By engaging in a more transparent investigation, communicating openly with the media and public, combating the influence of athletics and boosters on administration and reaffirming the priority of athletes as students first, we can still be the university we know.

Athletic Director Bubba Cunningham has shown his commitment to academics by involving University administrators in the hiring of his staff. His commitment and faculty support for policy reform suggests that change is possible. It's on Thorp and other officials to do their part in reminding us what the Carolina Way means.

COLUMN

# We're still a great university

## The mistakes we've made won't define us if we can work to be better.

The first time I stepped onto this campus as an official Tar Heel, I knew this place was different. Maybe it was something about the way the Bell Tower sounded on the first day of class. Or maybe it was just knowing I was at one of the best universities in the country.


Whatever it was, I felt at home. A lot has happened, both this summer and in years past, that have made me question things about UNC. I've questioned the integrity of our athletic department. I've questioned the transparency of our administrators.

But one thing I've never questioned is the passion and drive of this student body.

I've watched friends balance three majors, a job and a commitment to a student organization, and still graduate on time. I've watched us all come together in the Smith Center to cheer on our team. I've watched us excel time and time again in the face of hardship. And this time should be no different.

There's no doubt that what happened in the Department of African and Afro-American Studies was wrong. And it's tarnished UNC's reputation. And we're going to have to work to rebuild it.

More than once this summer,



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I've seen Facebook statuses that link to news stories with a comment that goes something like: “And this is the best university in the state? Yeah right.” I've encountered someone at a rival school who's said, “So is that how you do it at UNC? You cheat?”

I tell them no. I tell them that this scandal doesn't define who we are. We are more than our mistakes. We always have been.

This is the last issue of The Daily Tar Heel for the summer. We look now to the coming school year, which I'm sure will have more than its share of achievements, excitement and mistakes. We'll try to catch each one and follow it as it develops into a story. That's why we're here — to tell the truth about what happens in and around our University.

But we're student journalists, and we're bound to make blunders this year, as we have before. Does that stop us? No. When we make a mistake, we come out and say that we were wrong. We work to correct it. And then we move forward.

While the mistakes made by UNC were far more grave, we should expect essentially the same thing from our University. All officials responsible should be held accountable, and we have to create better policies to ensure something like this — or something different, but equally as damaging — doesn't happen again.

We must look toward renewing ourselves, to becoming a stronger and better school. Policies must be reviewed and reformed. Professors and students must pay more attention to what's happening around them and be willing to speak out when they encounter something that doesn't seem right. And we must all ask ourselves whether we're willing to sacrifice our academic excellence at the expense of athletics.

But we can be better. Because regardless of past transgressions, we are still UNC. This is still our place.

We are still that passionate, driven student body. Let's make this year a proud one.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“If people believe that there was some type of cover up, then the reputation of the University will suffer even further.”

Louis Bisette, Board of Governors member on panel's review of UNC-Chapel Hill's investigation into academic fraud

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### There's a whole town just waiting to be seen

TO THE EDITOR:

I sit on my screened-in front porch in Chapel Hill, garnished with white Christmas lights in July and the occasional mosquito that maneuvers its way through the mesh wiring. And I wait.

I wait for the deluge of memories, the sound of the marching band outside Carmichael at a painstakingly early 9 a.m. on Saturdays.

I wait for the sound of passing periods between classes, when every one and their mother (excuse the expression) meanders through the sea of people that is the Pit, a happy medium between jostling their neighbor and hugging their friends.

I wait for Polk Place, for the soft breeze that brushes me while I tell gangly high school seniors during a tour why they should apply to Carolina, why they really ought to don Carolina blue as their second skin.

I wait for listserv blasts from Teach for America, from Peer Advising, from the chancellor, encouraging me to sign up for this or get involved with that or give my time and energy to a specific cause.

But last night, sitting at Top of the Hill and drinking an Old Well White, I had an epiphany.

This university is a great one, overflowing with my peers that never cease to inspire me, humble me or amaze me. Our school spirit is unrivaled, our faculty unmatched. But a key ingredient to this school's success, one often overlooked (myself included!) is the town that encompasses our campus.

Did you know that the Dead Mule Club is named after a slew of Southern authors, whose repetitive inclusion of a dead mule into their collective literature merited the name of the bar? Or that there's a bar called the Cave, with stalactites and stalagmites and cave decor, alongside live music played every week?

The kindest bartender I've ever encountered serves a delicious, mouth-watering Asian drink special at the Lantern, and Milltown has the best chicken sandwich I may have had. Ever.

After a semester of study abroad and the traveling that accompanies such an experience, I find myself surprised at all this glorious little college town has to offer. I casually stumbled upon the Trevi

Fountain while exploring the cobblestoned streets of Rome, soaked in the baths of Budapest until my fingers and toes surpassed the pruny and wrinkly stage, woke up at 7 a.m. after a night train-ride to Auschwitz in Krakow, and almost dropped my camera overboard while anchored a mere 300 feet away from the Cliffs of Moher.

On my flight back to America, I dreaded the repetitive lifestyle that college has to offer, the list of Thursdays I have spent at R & R or the smell of Alpine in the Union. I thought coming back to Chapel Hill signified a sort of death of personal growth, a permanent return to the ordinary and bland.

But what I failed to see — what my 20 year old self failed to recognize before she boarded the flight to Madrid on that fateful January 15, 2011 — is that adventure lies in the hands of those who are willing to grasp it. I must leave no stone unturned—I must explore, experience, and appreciate this town to its fullest.

I officially have less than 365 days as a UNC student. To sound trite and cliché, my days here are numbered.

But Fridays on the Front Porch of the Carolina Inn, the bricks in the quad that trip me daily, Mike Posner at Cat's Cradle, the countless dreadlocks I spy while crossing the Weaver Street Market lawn and the Sunday morning religious folks strolling idly down Franklin Street around brunch time will stick with me long after my mailing zipcode is no longer 27514.

FRANK is an art gallery just itching to have guests wander the exhibitions, West End Wine Bar and the Crunkleton dazzle me with their class “in a glass”, and you actually can find some seriously cool stuff at Time after Time every once in a while.

Chapel Hill may need its students, but this summer, I'm realizing more and more each day that the students need Chapel Hill as well. It's a relationship of the utmost reciprocity.

I must get back to the girl who followed Lonely Planet travel forum daily, who grabbed a map and a pen and conquered a city. Tourism isn't always a plane ride away — sometimes we just need a twist of perspective to rediscover and cherish the gem that is Chapel Hill.

So get to work. Don't wait. There's a whole town just itching to be seen.

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 Street.
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The Daily Tar Heel


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119 years  
of editorial freedom

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Weekly QuickHits




LDOC




Summer school ends this week, and so does The Daily Tar Heel. Now we can all head out of here, relax on a beach somewhere and forget that we have to come back in a little under a month.

Michele Bachmann




Bachmann attacks Hillary Clinton's aid Huma Abedin for having family ties to the Muslim Brotherhood. Now Abedin's getting death threats because of Bachmann's insanity.

Hot Dogs and Brew



Who needs Gumby's when you've got hot dogs? Chapel Hill now has its very own hot dog place. And we're loving it. Thanks for catering to us college kids, Hot Dogs and Brew. We've got your back.

Sally Ride's Legacy



As the first woman in space, she inspired generations of young women to literally shoot for the stars. Her death at age 61 is tragic but her memory will live on. Ride on, Sally Ride.