

FOR THE RECORD

Shock and sorrow

In many communities throughout the land, this year will be remembered mainly for the historic election of the first African-American president. In North Carolina, it will also be remembered as the year the state elected its first woman governor.

For the first time in a generation, the state played a significant role in choosing a Democratic nominee for president and, in a community with a large population of young people, the energy of the primary and general election season was palpable.

That part of what happened this year is likely what will make it into the history books.

But for many in this community, 2008 was a year of anguish and remorse, of shock and anger. This was the year we lost so many young people and watched as so many more confront the bitter truth of mortality much earlier than any of us would have wished.

The most-widely reported example of that happened within the campus community, which endured the violent loss of a beloved leader. In the eyes of the thousands who gathered at informal memorials and official remembrances, tears and sorrow were evident, but so was that look of disbelief.

The memorials for Eve Carson were not the first in 2008 to pay respects to young person with promise whose life was cut short. Nor were they the last.

A few more of our young people died at the hands of others, many more died in accidents.

And the pattern of shock and sorrow was repeated so often, you had to worry how their peers would endure.

Shortly after the Chapel Hill High prom, we ran a photo of three happy teens hamming it up for the camera. A couple of weeks later, two of them were gone. It's been difficult to look at that issue ever since.

And many of us remember Atlas Fraley; he was hard to miss — a big, friendly kid who was full of life. Not long after school started back up, he was gone too, and Chapel Hill High was once again in mourning.

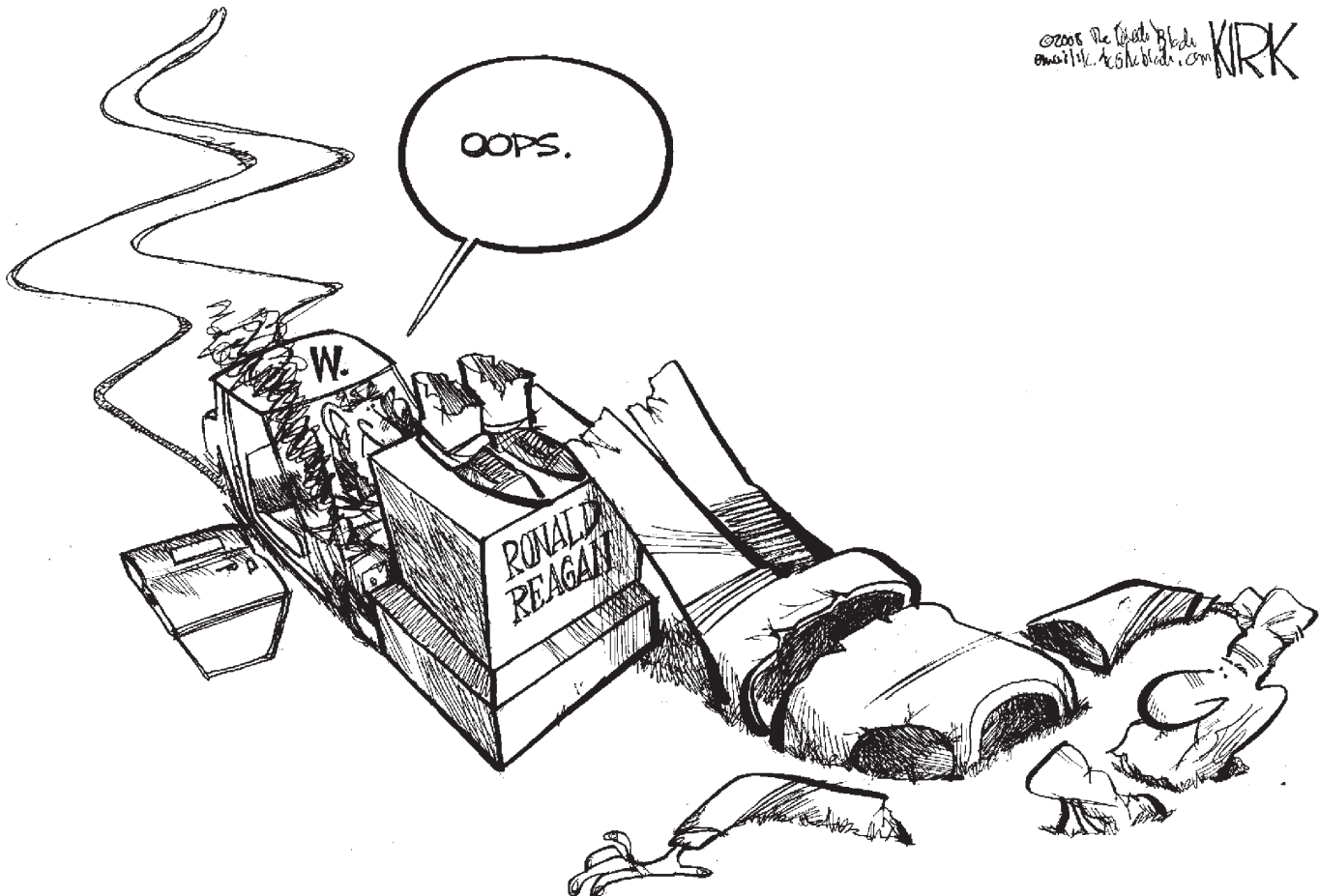
No corner of our community was untouched by all this. It's a small world, and these are small towns; and in the days of Facebook and texting, everyone, especially the young and technologically savvy, is linked together more than ever.

While there's maybe a little nostalgia for the simpler life, that connectedness has been a good thing. Our kids, particularly the ones who will very soon become adults and head out into the world, need each other in times like these. And they need us too. They need to know that we know that 2008 was a very hard year for them. They need to know that it's not always like this.

Sometimes being that clear-eyed adult isn't enough. Sometimes the people who look up to you need to see in your eyes the tears and sorrow and that look of disbelief.

Kudos

A warm thank you to that tall DJ known as L in Japanese and his friends for sponsoring a dance party this past week at Cat's Cradle in memory of Chapel Hill Tigers Rodney Torain and Atlas Fraley. It was a good chance for the young and not-as-young to get together for a cause — proceeds went to the families — and celebrate the lives of their friends.



LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be no more than 425 words in length and must be accompanied by the author's name, address and contact information. Typed letters are preferred and email even moreso.

Letters to the editor

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In memoriam

Joshua Bailey, a gentle soul who loved the

outdoors, was taken from his loving family too soon.

Margaret Ellen Barrett left this world at age 60 after passing her time baking, teaching, reading and befriending all those she met along the way.

Eve Carson was a young leader whose life continues to inspire the entire community.

Fred Curtis made all those who knew him feel unique and loved as he traveled through life loving cooking, music, the coast, the Tar Heels and his wonderful family.

Dr. Christopher C. Fordham III, a former chancellor of the University who helped it grow into a nationally-recognized center for research and teaching, died at UNC Hospitals at the age of 81.

Atlas Fraley & Rodney Torain, talented and beloved Chapel Hill High students and close friends, died too young, a striking tragedy for their aggrieved school, community and families.

Betty June Hayes, an active political participant and Orange County Register of Deeds from 1954 to 1988, passed on in late March at the age of 78.

Ruffin M. Hobbs created great works of metal sculpture, earning recognition and respect with his skill and talent, and died at his home and studio at the age of 56.

Mary Hayes Holmes died at 78 after

leading an active Christian and community life, serving her church and many civic causes and becoming the first female Chatham County Commissioner.

Margaret McCaull Carmichael Lester — Graceful and vibrant, the former gourmet retailer was a long-time Democratic Party volunteer.

Mary Norwood Jones spent a lifetime in service to the youth she taught and the communities she was a part of, returning to Chapel Hill from Washington, D.C. in 1991 and leading Northside Community Watch while volunteering with many youth programs.

James Karpinos, a talented athlete who dedicated much of his time to service, died at 22 in the outdoors. He was a forest firefighter and Wilderness First Responder.

Hazel Felker Kiser, 83, passed away in March after living in Chapel Hill and attending Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for over 50 years.

Dr. Campbell W. McMillan, alumnus of Wake Forest, traveled the world with the Navy and as a doctor, and was best known for his gift of treating children with respect for the individual.

Lee Meyer, owner of Meyer Painting and Contracting, passed on in the summer after a life of hunting, golfing, warm friendship and loving family.

Marvin Poythress was a Chapel Hill

native, a true Tar Heel, he worked at the hospital and at Kenan Stadium, served in the Army, practiced carpentry and attended Damascus Church — he loved his God, his family his county and his Tar Heels.

Mel Rashkis was a passionate schools and community advocate known for his deep compassion and remembered for his contributions and the elementary school bearing his name.

Cy Rawls, beloved member of the music community, passed on this year and left behind many friends who truly cared for him.

Chuck Tillotson, carpenter, guitar player and family man left this world suddenly, well-loved and remembered by his close friends and family.

Bill Thorpe was Chapel Hill town council member and dedicated servant to his community and voice for the minority.

Hanson Douglas Sessoms, 76, was a worldwide leader in leisure studies and recreation and spent his life teaching, volunteering, traveling and photographing the world with his wife.

Irina Yarmolenko was found dead at 20, a bright spirit who moved to the States from Russia with her family in 1990 as a refugee and found her place as an active student at UNC-Charlotte.

Craig Peter Yarnell, co-founder of Yarnell Hoffer Hardware, passed away suddenly at 49 and is remembered for his kindness.



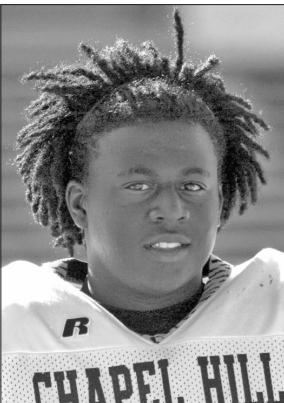
Joshua Bailey



Eve Carson



Fred Curtis



Atlas Fraley



Christopher C. Fordham, III



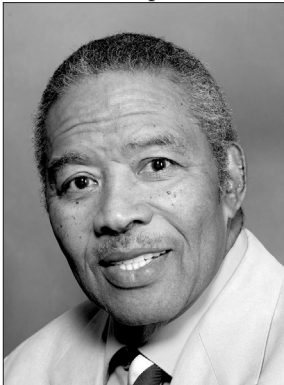
Margaret Carmichael Lester



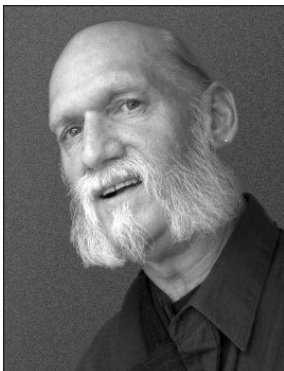
Mel Rashkis



Cy Rawls



Bill Thorpe



Chuck Tillotson



Rodney Torain



Irina Yarmolenko

COMMUNITY Q&A: WHAT IS LOCAL?

Last week in our editorial, we asked the question "What is Local?"

Following are some our readers' responses. Send your thoughts to editor@carrborocitizen.com

You can read the editorial on our web site at carrborocitizen.com/main/2008/12/23/for-the-record-122408

Supporting local

I'm an economist who has been thinking about this topic for many years. To me, the important thing to remember is that when you buy a good or service, you not only receive the good, you also lend support to a (often long) chain of businesses that have been involved in getting it into your hands. Once you are comfortable with that idea, you can see that what you buy and where you buy it affect the shape of the world around you. If you want there to be a local mechanic to repair your car when it

gets old, you need to take it to that mechanic for routine maintenance (like oil changes) long before it needs repairs.

That may be a good way to think about "what is local?" What do you want in your community? If you like to be surrounded by farmland, then buy at the farmers' market. If you want a vibrant downtown, do much of your shopping there. If being able to buy a cup of coffee, a sandwich, or a nice dinner without making a special excursion matters, patronize the local restaurants. If the idea of a dependable, local handyman appeals, hire him or her the next time you have a little-too-complex repair at home--and pass the name along to your neighbors.

Go the next step by thinking farther along that supply chain. Can you buy things that are manufactured locally ...or at least distributed by a nearby firm? Do the profits from

the store stay in the area? How much of the labor content in what you buy is from your region? your state? your country? To only use things that are made within a 50-mile radius (or only in the U.S) is almost impossible, but if you think it through, you can make a difference.

So, maybe it's better to think about "supporting the local" than trying to define "what is local" by remembering that you are buying a community as well as goods when you shop. I don't get hung up on a definition of "local," but I've become willing to pay a little more for a good or service in order to support the kind of community in which I want to live.

TOM TIEMANN
Carrboro

Real local pork

I've noticed that UNC dining services as well as a few other restaurants around town often refer

to Smithfield bacon and other pork products as "local." This really burns me up. The only thing that Smithfield does locally is pollute. The CEO lives on Park Avenue, the company is owned by shareholders; the business model is putting small pork farmers out of business, thus eliminating competition.

Local is a tricky word and we do perhaps need a replacement. Local means community and relationship-driven commerce — small scale businesses held to high standards because they are identified with a person who lives amongst us and who is committed to treating employees, the earth, the community, and the consumer with care. In the values of local it is better to support a small-scale artisan ham-maker in Tennessee than to buy a North Carolina factory farmed one.

APRIL MCGREGER
Carrboro

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