

COLUMN



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Always a maid, always expensive

It's summertime in Chapel Hill, and for many couples, that means wedding season. On sunny days, the Arboretum hosts photographers eager to capture the silhouette of a bride's dress. Kissing newlyweds pose in front of the Old Well, taking the first sip of their new lives, before proceeding to Top of the Hill for the reception. The cake they stuff in each other's faces is, of course, from Sugarland.

If you're one of the lucky girls who managed to snag a guy at Carolina, then this may be you (congratulations). If you're one of the typical Carolina girls who sits at a female-filled bar thinking, "If only I could find a guy like Kendall Marshall," then you will most likely be a bridesmaid or, worse, the maid of honor — the one who holds up the wedding dress when your friend has to pee.

Think of Katherine Heigl in the 2008 comedy "27 Dresses" — always a bridesmaid, never a bride.

As a member of a Christian sorority at UNC, I've seen my fair share of weddings. This summer alone, five of my sisters have tied the knot and three more have gotten engaged. This explosion of nuptials, a possible side effect of royal wedding fever (best of luck, William and Kate), comes with a hefty price tag for the friends of the bride.

Shows such as TLC's "Say Yes to the Dress" and David Tutera's "My Fair Wedding" teach us the utter importance of supporting your friend on her special day, while shows such as "Bridezilla's" teach us that if you do not support her, she will eat your face.

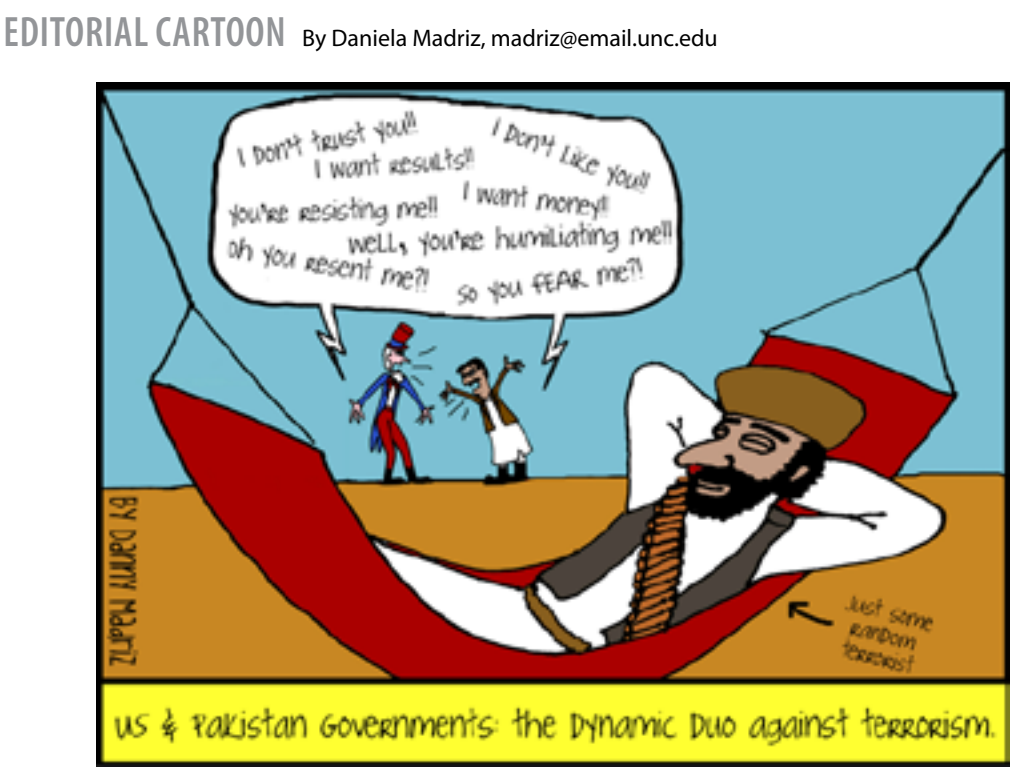
Support includes the following: emotional guidance, dress advice, self-esteem boosting and lots and lots of cash. According to a study by Weddingchannel.com, the average bridesmaid will spend more than \$1,500 for just one wedding.

First, there's the bridesmaid dress. The bride will say that you can shorten it and wear it again — that is a lie. It will most likely always be inappropriate for any other occasion. There is also a good chance that it will be hideous. Second, the bridesmaid must purchase shoes, accessories and jewelry. Next, the bridesmaid pays for her hair appointment, clothes for the rehearsal dinner, nails to match a seriously unfortunately-colored dress and a silver iced tea spoon set picked out by the bride.

The maid of honor has special financial responsibilities. She must plan and host the bridal shower, which is typically a "surprise" party for the bride. The shower includes cake, cocktails, a brunch and party favors for the guests. The maid of honor is also financially responsible for the age-old tradition of taking the bride and her bridesmaids out for an evening of Chippendale dancers who "treat" the bride to special attention.

By the end of the wedding your feet ache from ill-fitted shoes, your perfectly quaffed up-do has fallen to your shoulders, you're eating your third piece of cake (the diet starts tomorrow) and your wallet is considerably lighter. But above all, you're happy.

The bride is glowing, and you know that one day, she will be there for you on your wedding day. Yes, being a bridesmaid is expensive. Yes, it's a hassle. But in the end, it's worth it.



EDITORIAL

Delayed decisions

UNC system should not have forestalled fixes to budget woes.

On July 7, the UNC-system Board of Governors approved the UNC system budget for the 2011-12 school year. Not surprisingly, the budget reflects the dire straits that our state and nation have been facing for the last five years. UNC-system President Thomas Ross says he will initiate a full-scale review of our place among peer institutions over the next year and, until the review is complete, the BOG has disallowed any tuition increases to mitigate our budget woes.

As current UNC students, we are unwilling to sacrifice the quality of our education — even for one year. Tuition increases, although not ideal, are sometimes a necessary tool in order to maintain our position as a top university.

Surely, the BOG has known for some time that the outlook would be grim, especially given that this year will mark the fifth straight in which the UNC system has suffered budget cuts. It is unfair to expect this academic institution to

operate with significantly less funds from the state, without expecting some means of increasing revenues.

These cuts have the potential to corrode the quality of our education. And waiting a year to test the extent to which the cuts will affect our education is unfair to current students who are forced to play the role of lab rat.

With a systemwide cut of 15.6 percent, UNC-Chapel Hill will incur the largest cut among the 17 UNC-system schools: 17.9 percent, amounting to more than \$100 million in cuts.

And when it's all said and done, the cuts over the past five years will have amounted to over \$1 billion to the UNC system.

UNC has consistently ranked in the bottom quartile for tuition rates among peer institutions and is consistently ranked among the top values for public universities in the nation. Obviously, this is a reputation that we have an obligation to maintain.

But President Ross was not hired with a mandate for inaction. Desperate times call for desperate measures, and waiting an entire year to assess our position amounts to a stall

tactic that we cannot afford.

After four consecutive years of debilitating cuts, surely Ross could have anticipated the severity of the fifth in order to protect the quality of education in the upcoming year.

This debate mirrors the partisan divide found in the debt ceiling negotiations on Capitol Hill. But Washington bureaucrats, with all their faults and inefficiencies, are working on remedies to current problems as they arise, not a year later.

As the leaders of tomorrow, current UNC students deserve to have their problems dealt with in a timely fashion. Perhaps they deserve solutions that do not simply parallel the actions taken by our peers.

In his first year in office as UNC-system president, Ross should have been bold in making spending decisions that affect our education for the upcoming school year. While acting in a manner that is forward-facing is admirable, Ross and the BOG should keep in mind that current students have already bore the brunt of these budget cuts, many of them for multiple years.

It's a shame that we'll have to wait at least another one.

EDITORIAL

One foot(print) at a time

Mary Cooper's early successes indicate her ability to achieve goals.

Student Body President Mary Cooper built her campaign platform on three big ideas. This fall semester, Cooper will fulfill at least one of those "Big Three" promises by expanding CCI printing.

Despite significant budget cuts, Cooper has managed to implement her plan. This is no small task given the recent state budget cuts to the UNC system.

Though the editorial board has been critical of student government in the past, Cooper deserves credit for making good on her promise, especially in the midst of adversity.

Fulfilling a campaign promise before the school year has even begun is in itself a positive step. Moving an initiative from paper to reality is not simple; feasibility issues have always plagued student government.

Last year's student body

president, Hogan Medlin, made good on some of his promises, but largely failed to implement many of his most significant policy proposals due to crushing budget cuts from Raleigh.

This year, Cooper faces even steeper cuts than Medlin.

Too often during an economic downturn, legislation and student initiatives run aground due to the lack of resources. However, Cooper has responded with vigor rather than complacency, demonstrating her ability to deliver on the promises she made last spring.

Cooper has had to work hard to make her plans feasible with some creative funding.

Part of the expansion of CCI involves bringing the printing service to Greek housing. Each fraternity and sorority house will be required to buy its own printer, costing the school nothing.

In a perfect world, the University would have paid for the printers for each Greek residence. But Cooper's out-of-the-box

approach provided an opportunity to successfully implement an important program while spreading the burden in an equitable manner.

Cooper's initial success is a step in the right direction, albeit a small one when compared to her other campaign promises.

Still, Cooper's innovative style is exactly what her administration will need to implement the changes Cooper promised in the spring.

Her other ideas include a flat-rate taxi service and a student enrichment fund that would provide grants for students attending conferences, seminars and lectures outside of UNC.

Both are excellent ideas on paper but will require considerably more planning and funding than the CCI initiative. For now, Cooper's small step in the right direction is welcome news, but hardly reason to rest.

During this era of drastic budget cuts, UNC needs Cooper's strong, guiding hand to continue making positive changes.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I wish (Shruthi Sundaram) the best of luck. (Board of Elections chairwoman) is probably the hardest and least appreciated job within student government, period."

Dakota Williams, former student body treasurer

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Veto good for recovery and energy opportunity

TO THE EDITOR:

In light of Gov. Perdue's recent veto of the Energy Jobs Act, which would have opened North Carolina up to dangerous forms of energy exploration such as natural gas fracking and offshore oil drilling, it is important to also commend Perdue for the proactive policies she is embracing that can steer North Carolina towards a clean energy economy.

Through Executive Order 96, the Governor formed the Offshore Wind Economic Development Task Force, placing North Carolina on the path to pursuing renewable energy options that will create jobs and spur investment in the state.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, offshore wind in North Carolina could bring \$2.7 million a year in payments to landowners and \$10.7 million a year in local property tax revenue. The construction phase alone could create 1,628 new jobs, bringing \$188.5 million into local economies.

Even after the initial construction phase is completed, offshore wind would sustain 243 new long-term jobs and bring \$21.2 million a year to local economies. After 20 years, the total economic benefit of offshore wind in N.C. would bring \$1.1 billion into the state, directly and indirectly.

Short-sighted, anti-environmental state legislators have failed to put forward a jobs agenda for putting North Carolinians back to work and expanding our energy opportunities. Hopefully, Perdue's task force can change that.

Stewart Boss
UNC Sierra Student Coalition

Women's sports are very unreasonably ridiculed

TO THE EDITOR:

Recently, I read the following kvetch: "I didn't think I could care about the World Cup less until I found out that there was a Women's World Cup." Uninformed views like those expressed by the kvetcher only serve to promote the idea women are inferior in sports to their male counterparts. I do not anticipate this article will influence the kvetcher to enjoy soccer, but I hope it makes people respect how far women's athletics have come in a short period of time.

Brazil banned women's soccer until the 1980s, but nobody would guess the new-

ness of their program watching Marta, who many want to play for Brazil's men's team. Considering Marta's lack of resources, funding and the recent admission of allowing women to play, the rapid development of females in sports is obvious. Furthermore, UNC alumna Mia Hamm has scored more international goals than any male or female player. Now that female sports are beginning to gain traction in the arena of public opinion, we are beginning to see instances in which female athletes can perform at the same levels as men.

When I hear people's apathy towards women's sports, it does not anger me, but their ignorance baffles me. An instance of women's capability outside of soccer is the 1970s tennis "battle of the sexes" in which women actually won. I believe female athletes are underestimated, but given time and effort, they can reach the same competitive levels of males.

Alex Davies
Junior
Psychology

Kvetching board™

kvetch:
v.1 (Yiddish) to complain

To the squeaky-voiced boys who have been debating the per-semester college expenses for the past hour: you could not look any more frosh. And "snacks" are going to cost you far more than \$250. Also, you're going to need to create a separate row on your spread sheet for alcohol expenses.

To the girl from the back of biology class: No I will not make out with you! Especially when today's topic is chlorophyll. Geez.

I recently moved from Carboro to Church St. and while I'm delighted that it only takes me 10 minutes to walk to campus, I'm a little revolted that I have to walk past P Bob's and frat court every single day now. #hip-piechickproblems

To, "Why study so hard if I'm just going to marry rich." Nice one, DUDE; such lofty goals are surely a benchmark of success.

To the guy who spelled POOP with his own feces on the UL bathroom wall: jokes on you; YOU have it on your hands.

Google+ is so dumb, I can only assume it was invented by Bing.

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

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- 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.

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The Daily Tar Heel

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The Daily Tar Heel is published by the DTH Media Corp., a nonprofit North Carolina corporation, Monday through Friday, according to the University calendar. Callers with questions about billing or display advertising should call 962-1163 bet ween 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Classified ads can be reached at 962-0252. Editorial questions should be directed to 962-0245.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Columns, cartoons and letters do not necessarily represent the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel or its staff. Editorials reflect the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel editorial board, which is made up of board members, the opinion editor and the summer editor.

Weekly QuickHits

**Troop support**

Actress Mila Kunis will attend a Marine Corps Ball after a sergeant invited her on YouTube. Let's hope he brings in the big guns for the date...but not literally as her face is pretty much perfect the way it is.

**Man vs. Man**

This season of Man vs. Wild will feature Jake Gyllenhaal. While fighting the terrain of Iceland, Gyllenhaal will also battle Bear Grylls over who looks manlier while eating a snake. Trying to attract a female audience?

**Debt ceiling**

President Obama and Speaker Boehner are deadlocked in a debate over spending vs. taxes. Unfortunately, our entire economy currently hinges on whether or not politicians can agree on something.

**USA! USA!**

Team USA defeated Brazil in PKs this week-end after coming back in dramatic fashion at the end of overtime. Here's to hoping we will get to see another sports bra celebration at the end of this week.