

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,
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of editorial freedom

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UNC graduates give gift to Ghana

It's no secret — at UNC we love our sports. Growing up in eastern North Carolina, I was lucky enough to experience the household-shattering world of ACC basketball madness (I was an N.C. State fan growing up, but don't tell anyone).

But even in this soon-to-be March Madness season, athletic success isn't UNC's only claim to fame.

Kendall and Tyler are my boys, don't get me wrong, but for every inspiring student on the court, there are as many or more inspiring students off it; students who are definitely entitled to more than just a blurb on the UNC home page.

People like the class of 2009's Emma Lawrence, who despite her age is no rookie to international development.

After having spent the summer of 2006 volunteering in Ghana, Emma was shocked at the quality of medical care when performing outreach health work.

"No one had basic medical knowledge or supplies. Some kids actually had to be taken to the hospital; no one realized they had terribly severe foot infections from lack of proper shoes," she said.

"In the United States, that would never happen. You'd just go home and throw some Neosporin on it."

It is this very disconnect, this gap between American and Other, excess and need, that MedPlus Connect addresses.

MedPlus Connect is the brain-child of Emma and two of her friends, Lauren Slive and Emily Nix, both of whom are also UNC graduates. The non-profit organization is based on one simple belief — those who need medical equipment deserve it.

Operating in Ghana's three northern districts, MedPlus Connect turns our country's "trash" into another community's treasure.

"There is so much waste in the U.S. Because of a whole variety of insurance regulations, clean unpackaged supplies are thrown away every day," Lawrence said.

"For instance, at the Cleveland Clinic, if a piece of equipment even enters the patient's room it has to be thrown away."

MedPlus Connect is working to take advantage of these unfortunate regulations by transporting this very same medical equipment to some of the most poverty-stricken areas of Ghana; these same areas where, just years ago, hospitals had no hospital beds, no X-ray machines, no gauze or needles.

However, Emma and her team didn't start big. The first summer, medical supplies were brought over in suitcases.

Now, MedPlus Connect has sent approximately 83,443 pounds of medical supplies, valued at a staggering \$1,300,000 — all of this, and Emma Lawrence is only 23 years old.

Lawrence says MedPlus Connect makes sure to incorporate the Ghanaian people into each and every decision made.

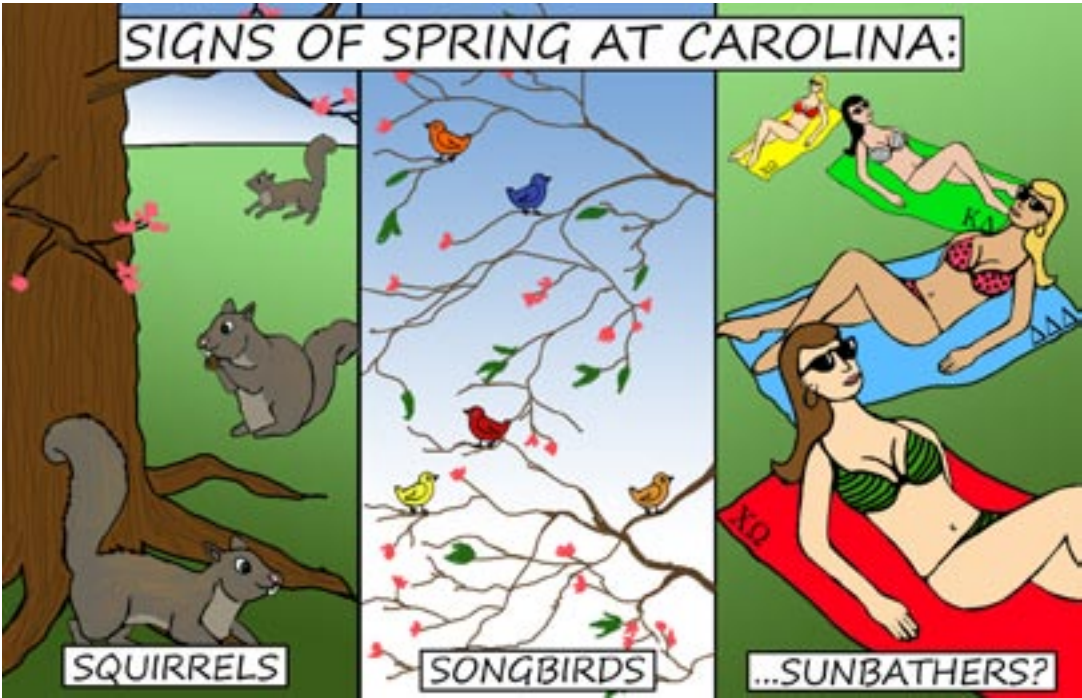
Rather than delegating, they prefer to collaborate.

"We are not here to change the system, but we are hoping to become part of it," Lawrence said, adding, "Honestly, nothing feels better than feeling like you're not needed."

But need will continue. However, I have hope knowing people like Emma Lawrence will be there, a Tar Heel who left her heelprint on a continent too often forgotten.

WEDNESDAY:
Perry Tsai asks: "Are you as exclusive as you think you are?"

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Jamie Berger, jcberger@email.unc.edu



That's the ticket

Ticket policy should be altered to encourage better turnout at junior varsity games

UNC men's junior varsity basketball games do not generally attract huge audiences. Yet current men's basketball ticket policy discourages Phase 1 ticket holders from attending JV basketball games.

A novel way to increase attendance at these games would be to fix the perverse incentive and allow Phase 1 ticket-holders to enter the stadium prior to JV tip-off and allow them to stay in their seats through the varsity game.

It's something for leaders to consider when reevaluating next year's ticket policy.

Though JV games are open to the public, the current system discourages Phase 1 ticket holders from attending those games because students who go to the JV games are forced

to go to the back of the line after the first game ends. Most JV games end around 1.5 hours prior to varsity game tip-off — the same time phase 1 ticket holders are allowed to enter the stadium for varsity games.

But by then, a line for Phase 1 ticket holders has usually formed. By forcing these die-hard fans to go to the back of the line, we discourage them from supporting our JV team.

Phase 1 ticket holders have an incentive to stay outside of the stadium during the JV game and wait in line for better seats for the varsity game.

This is hardly the right way to encourage support for the JV team. While it is true that JV games aren't quite as sexy as the varsity ones we watch on ESPN, they are the truest examples of players work-

ing hard for little glory. These players play for the love of the game. Fans who respect and support that love should be rewarded and encouraged.

Incoming Carolina Athletic Association president Caitlin Goforth expressed concern about burdening security personnel who have to discern between actual Phase 1 ticket holders and random fans attending JV games.

And Phase 1 ticket holders unwilling to attend the JV games would not get first crack at seats.

But overall, providing incentives for students to attend JV games could provide much-needed support for the team. It would also eliminate the prospect of punishing or discouraging committed Phase 1 fans from attending these games.

Responsible government

Oversight Committee a step forward for accountability

A bill to partly restructure Student Congress introduced by Congress member Zach De La Rosa is a welcome change that should increase oversight authority for Congress.

The bill effectively establishes a new "Oversight Committee" to replace the current Student Affairs Committee. The Oversight Committee will have more expansive powers than the Student Affairs Committee, as the sponsors of this bill believe the old committee's powers were too limited.

With the recent negative atmosphere surrounding the student body president elections and a lawsuit against the Student Union for possible misallocation of funds, the general perception of student government is pretty bad.

This bill proposes substantive changes that are designed to change this perception.

"We hope that this bill begins an atmosphere of accountability, so that students know that their representatives are fulfilling their responsibilities," De La Rosa said in an e-mail.

The new committee will work toward keeping Congress informed on how the Union, Student Television and other student organizations are spending the money that Congress has allocated them. This should give the government more supervision in regards to making sure that student money isn't being abused.

Additionally, the new committee will work with the student body treasurer to ensure that the money is allocated

responsibly. This should provide valuable and powerful oversight ability to effectively regulate student organizations.

The new committee will also regulate Congress and student government. The bill includes a provision that will allow the executive branch to discuss any issues they see on campus with Student Congress.

This will allow the different government branches to work together to solve problems that arise from inter-branch misunderstandings before they start and ensure that different elected officials are fulfilling their responsibilities.

This welcome change should not only help solve numerous problems plaguing student government but also create a better atmosphere of accountability and responsibility.

The way forward

Union must not write out students from the process

The student body has spoken and now the Union must figure out how to move forward with proposed renovations.

Voted down by a slim margin of 8 percentage points, the \$8 per semester fee to fund the UCommons project will not appear on students' bills this fall.

The Union has several options: It can try to go to student referendum again next year, with the awareness of student concerns and how its advertising campaign was perceived this year.

Or it can wait and try again in the next few years.

They can also try to get to private funding for the project, but we hope they view this as a last resort for funding of the renovations — the Union planning has involved substantial student input and closely reflects students' needs.

The final reasons for the fee's failure might never come to light.

Graduate student opposition, a contentious election season, dislike of the project's student fee-funded advertising campaign and general student fiscal conservatism probably all contributed to the referendum's failure.

We hope the Union learns its lessons from its failed campaign and tries again in a few years.

Student money should not be abused by paying for advertisements for increased student fees — although it might be difficult to privately raise the thousand dollars the Union might need for another publicity campaign, it is certainly easier to find that than private funding for the entire renovation.

Graduate students need to be convinced of the usefulness of a 24-7 Union with more meeting and performance spaces. Just because

they don't use the Union now does not mean they never will.

If Union officials decide to seek out private funding, they must relay student preferences to investors and emphasize the need for increased meeting and performance space in a 24-7 Union.

Students have voted "no" on funding several projects and have consequently lost their privileged position when using those resources.

By voting not to fund the Smith Center, students lost out on chances to reserve whole sections of courtyard seats.

Now we're stuck in the risers.

Small sacrifices now can make UNC that much better of a school for future students. And that sense of continuity — and responsibility — is part of what makes our school great.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:
"I mean, Jesus got only two votes, so I guess that I'm three times as electable as Jesus."
NASH KEUNE, ON WRITE-IN VOTES FOR SBP

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:
"It's a classic marketing campaign— make people believe that something is inevitable and hope they will get on board."
ALEX MILLS, ON THE STUDENT UNION FEE REFERENDUM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Quick Hit made illogical conclusion about protest

TO THE EDITOR:

I am one of the students who participated in the march on the board of governors. I have crafted this response in order to express my regret with the portrayal of the participating students in your Quick Hits section on Feb. 17.

The author disparaged us for being late and then made the illogical conclusion that somehow because we were late, we were not the best products of a costly education. I would just like to state what is quite obvious — the author of this section did not follow the story closely, if at all. If he had he would have known that we met with who we sought to meet with, namely Hannah Gage and Tom Ross.

We also brought up substantive issues of merit with them, issues such as the rising cost of education, costs that are forcing some students to leave school. No student should have to go through this and I wonder if the author would still have the temerity to make these comments had he understood the real ways in which these cuts and hikes affect students.

I would like to close by saying that this is not a call to stop these comments from being made on The Daily Tar Heel; quite the contrary, I am a proponent of free speech, but I think The Daily Tar Heel would find that it is in its best interests, for the sake of reliability, to make sure its editors are as informed as possible.

*Jonathan Nicholas
Senior
African-American Studies*

Government needs to legalize gay marriages

TO THE EDITOR:

This letter is in response to the letter "Government recognition of commitment outdated" (Feb. 14).

I agree that the sanctity of marriage is not what it used to be. "Some individuals insist on excluding certain people from ... marriage, but ... others insist on maintaining it as the only form of government-recognized commitment." The commitment shared between two individuals exists whether recognized by the government or not.

Heterosexuals, for centuries, have disgraced the purity of marriage. They have obtained impious divorces and committed sacrilegious acts. The church believes that homosexuality is a sin, but aren't lust, fornication, adultery and divorce sins as well?

Alison Grady discusses the injustice endured by homosexuals who wish to be recognized for their commitment to one another, but cannot due to the provincial beliefs of the radically religious. Even though I am a heterosexual and a part of the Christian faith, I believe that the government should legalize gay marriage.

*Serena Witzke
GSPF President-Elect*

Smoking ban good for the state of North Carolina

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in regards to the

*Katelyn Arroyo
Freshman
Psychology and Italian*

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.
- **E-mail:** opinion@dailytarheel.com
- **Send to:** P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27515.

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I am writing in regards to the

*Ted Gellar-Goad
Graduate Student
Classics*

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