

# The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893, 122 years of editorial freedom

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## Your flag is not my flag

When I was young and poor and used to wear corduroy on hot summer days, my father would haul my sister and me to the beaches of Miami to spend an afternoon digging in the dirt, which was free.

I remember asking my father to explain to me why some flags were red, white and blue and others were the colors of the rainbow. Most would explain to a 6-year-old that one is a flag symbolizing the 13 colonies and 50 states, while the other is a symbol of the gay rights movement.

Instead my father told me both flags were a statement to say this, and he pointed to everything, is not meant for us — and by “us” he meant poor black folks living in the U.S. My father’s words struck me then and have had a great impact on how I view the world to this day.

I came to appreciate and accept my queer, black self when I let go of feeling that I was too dark or my hair too nappy to be loved. It’s appropriate that I am writing this column during Black History Month, on Valentine’s Day especially because it is a day to show love during a month celebrating blackness. This makes Feb. 14 a day to appreciate black love.

And while I feel loved on most days, there are days my queer identity is commodified or tied to capitalism in a way that seeks to exploit me. Oddly, these nights are called LGBT nights which are frequent in cities like Chapel Hill.

Capitalism has a disgusting way of taking pieces of someone’s identity and using it to turn a profit. In my experience, I’ve gone to places and watched sexually suggestive adult films displaying men in states of undress on screens, bartenders serving decorative drinks and the rainbow lights and flag displayed prominently as to let everyone know tonight is queer.

I’ve also noticed that these nights tend to draw a high number of white, middle class, gender normative, able-bodied men — the image we would normally think of when someone says “gay” or LGBT.

I raise issue with these nights because they do not make much room for me. These nights emphasize and encourage a detrimental normativity which pervades the white LGBT community — called homo and transnormativity. These ideologies replicate narrow depictions of sexual orientation and gender expression often excluding those who are black, brown, poor or disabled.

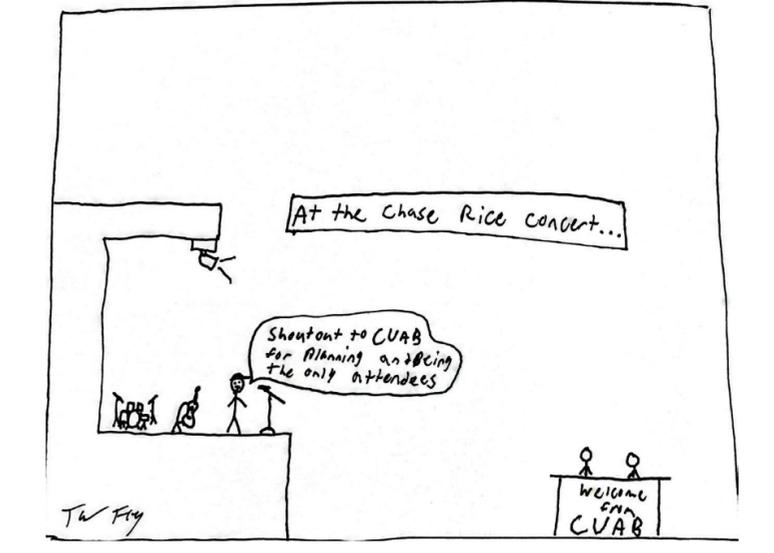
In doing so, by not considering that queer folks come from a diverse background, businesses communicate that these nights are not meant for everyone in mind, but only some.

The best way to undo these trappings is to begin with hiring staff and event planners who are queer and have experiences outside the norm. Remember that one night prioritizing LGBT folks should not end when the bar closes but should always be the case by providing a safe space for people to enjoy and express themselves as true and complete selves.

I do not need one night of a week nor a month to appreciate myself, but I do need space to grow out my nappy hair and love my blackness. And yours.

**Next**  
 Not Your Token  
 Gwendolyn Smith writes about mean online commenters

**EDITORIAL CARTOON** By Tyler Fleming, [flemingtyler1996@gmail.com](mailto:flemingtyler1996@gmail.com)



**EDITORIAL**

## Diverse from the start

### All first-years belong together on South Campus.

People always complain that cross-cultural conversations and dialogue are few and far in between at UNC. While this problem is not unique to our university, UNC exacerbates it by creating a housing system in which our first-year population is segmented in two demographically distinct pieces living in two completely separate bubbles.

The presence of Granville Towers as a viable, popular housing choice for first-years is one of the biggest diversity issues on this campus. This editorial board — made up of both “Granville-ites” and “South Campus folk” — urges the Department of Housing and Residential Education to follow through on its “First Year Experience” efforts and reconfigure Granville as a North Campus dorm, intended only for sophomores, juniors and seniors.

It is not the differences in locations or amenities that cause us large concern, but the demographics. No one can doubt that South Campus and Granville are made up of distinct populations across race, sexuality or socio-economic status.

With Granville’s tiered-housing options that can range up to \$10,000 a semester and its proximity to Greek life, it attracts a very different crowd. Granville should instead be marketed toward sophomores, juniors and seniors, as it is an attractive living location with close proximity to both campus and Franklin Street.

This rebranding is crucial. The differential population promotes a culture in which Granville residents and South Campus residents might view one another as “others” rather than first-years undergoing a common experience. The supposed sense of unity the college experience provides is instead unwound by the remarkably different paths created by our housing selection. Our administration and professors continually remind us that higher education is fundamentally about exposure to new ideas and new people, but UNC and the housing department support and endorse a housing system that is instead antithetical to this very essence.

Focusing on first-year housing can be a particularly strong focus of change because it is an experience shared by virtually every student. We must acknowledge the ways in which place shapes our trajec-

ries at UNC, from friends to extracurriculars.

UNC certainly recognizes first-year housing as a problem. Recently, the housing department has focused new initiatives to cultivate a “First-Year Experience” that celebrates UNC’s diversity. The honors housing, previously located in Cobb Residence Hall, was moved to South Campus to Koury Residence Hall just two years ago. All we ask is a continuation of these efforts to bring all first-years geographically together.

UNC has no one to blame but itself when it comes to these diversity issues. Just two weeks ago, a resident adviser’s Black Lives Matter board was torn down in Granville, reflecting the current tense racial climate. These aggressions will continue until the University takes serious steps to desegregate our housing system. Our message is not to diminish the types of people who live in Granville or South Campus or chastise them for having chosen to live there; they are largely making individual, sensible decisions. In administering housing, the University should heed its responsibility to breaking down the barriers to empathy and understanding among students, not fortifying them.

**EDITORIAL**

## Inexcusable aggression

### A loss can never justify interpersonal violence.

The excitement of watching sports lies in its competitive, adrenaline-infused nature. Whether you love sports or hate them, it cannot be denied that they traditionally provoke heightened emotions of rage and anger both within the players and the fans. For most, this aggression simply ends with the euphoric or tragic feelings of either victory or defeat. However, this anger can turn into physical violence. Even more, traditionally obvious signs of domestic violence may be overlooked in the midst of the mayhem.

We must be wary of the powerful psychological effect of sports disappointments. In a study done by economists David Card and Gordon Dahl, the relationship between sports losses and domestic violence reports was studied. They found that NFL

losses can directly lead to a 10 percent increase in domestic violence reports immediately following a loss from a local team. It also observed that close games had a 50 to 100 percent effect on the rates of domestic violence.

Notably, it was almost only in unexpected losses for home teams that there were significant spikes in domestic violence. Though, of course, no team’s loss would ever cause someone to turn to domestic violence, there is a clearly observable pattern that unexpected losses can trigger an existing abuser to act. And it is this same setting that may make it harder for victim’s loved ones to see the warning signs.

We can’t turn away from the fact that, for many, the climates of watching sports — often involving alcohol, intense emotional highs and lows and feelings of rage and triumph — can set the stage to exacerbate existing problems of domestic violence. Additionally, the

setting of sports watching often gives fans a free pass to express otherwise socially unacceptable levels of aggression.

Normally, their expressions of intense aggression, especially expressed toward their partner, would be clear indicators of anger issues or potential for domestic violence. However, these warning signs may be overlooked or downright excused in the aftermath of an emotion-filled loss.

This is a conversation we should be having regularly, and with the UNC-Duke game — one of the biggest sporting events in North Carolina — it is all the more important for fans of both teams to be watchful for signs of violence or abuse in their peers. No amount of team pride or loyalty will excuse channeling rage into one’s personal relationships. And no social gathering of fans should be a place where violent, toxic or disrespectful displays should be suddenly excused or tolerated.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**

“There was an escalator. No, no, no, no, no, let’s say one of the hover board things. I saw a kid on a hover board.”

“Hinton James,” on the weirdest thing he saw on Hinton James Day

**FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT**

“Keep the cap at 18 percent. That is plenty. It is hard enough for in-state students to get admitted already.”

gyoung55, on the out-of-state enrollment cap at UNC-Chapel Hill

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Bonnie Hauser for county commissioner**

TO THE EDITOR:  
 I am excited that Bonnie Hauser is willing to put her excellent problem-solving skills and management experience to work for the betterment of our community.

Bonnie is running for county commissioner in District 2, and although I live outside her district, I’m very pleased that she could earn a seat at the table. I trust Bonnie’s judgment.

A former partner at the global research and investing firm PricewaterhouseCoopers, Bonnie retired to Orange County more than 12 years ago to live close to her family. She immediately began volunteering in the schools and with Big Brothers Big Sisters, where she was recruited to the board. A longtime advocate for local social justice and racial equity issues, she also serves on the board of the Northern Orange County NAACP.

Bonnie draws on her professional experience to work on community issues, using best practices to find the best solutions. With her engaging style, she brings together various groups to work collaboratively on goals and challenges so everyone understands differing perspectives.

On the technical side, Bonnie understands what budget numbers are saying and recognizes how commissioners’ decisions affect our community. Bonnie thinks things through and brings a fresh approach to leadership.

We need Bonnie Hauser on the Orange County Board of Commissioners. Vote for her on March 15.

Nancy Oates  
 Chapel Hill Town Council Member

**Carbon dioxide is not always a pollutant**

TO THE EDITOR:

In using the term “carbon pollution,” Alison Jones is using doublespeak, what the Merriam-Webster dictionary defines as “language used to deceive usually through concealment or misrepresentation of truth.” “Carbon pollution” really means carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), an invisible, odorless gas essential to plant photosynthesis.

This is more than just an academic point.

It is an example of how misleading language has poisoned the climate debate. Calling CO<sub>2</sub> “carbon pollution” encourages people to think of it as something dirty, like graphite or soot.

Calling CO<sub>2</sub> by its proper name would help people remember that, regardless of its role in climate change, a topic of intense debate in the science community, it is anything but

pollution. Besides the waste of billions of dollars and the loss of millions of jobs due to the climate scare, another tragedy is unfolding. As a result of the unjustified confidence that we know the future of climate and, even more outrageously, that humanity can control it, only 6 percent of the more than \$1 billion spent every day across the world on climate finance is devoted to helping vulnerable societies adapt to climate change.

The rest is dedicated to trying to stop climatic events that may someday happen.

This is the real climate crisis that should concern Mothers and Others for Clean Air.

Tom Harris  
 Class of ’77

**SAFO needs to be investigated soon**

TO THE EDITOR:

It’s time to talk about SAFO. When you pay your \$39 student organization fee each semester, it goes into a bank account held by the University. When Student Congress or GPSF allocates money, the Student Activities Fund Office (SAFO) processes that transaction and keeps a record of it. This ensures that student fees are used in a legal and accountable way.

SAFO now consumes more than 20 percent of the student organization fee. A 2012 report from the Foundation Center found that administrative expenses of grant-making foundations with two to three full-time staff averaged 6 percent. For those foundations giving less than \$3 million per year in grants, overhead costs were 7.6 percent on average. This study was based on a sample of more than 1,000 organizations.

The cost to manage student fee allocations through SAFO is three times the average of similar organizations. This is especially astounding when you consider that members of Student Congress and GPSF are providing hundreds of hours of labor each year at no cost.

To make matters worse, SAFO misreported the amount of money available for allocation last year.

This led Student Congress to overspend by tens of thousands of dollars. This deficit is now being made up by fees from current students.

The SAFO employee responsible was forced to resign, but the system is still in place.

I admit that student fee allocation is not exactly like a traditional foundation, but we owe it to ourselves to investigate other ways of processing and recording these transactions.

John Anagnost  
 Graduate Student City and regional planning

**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 or mail to our office at 151 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514
- Email: [opinion@dailytarheel.com](mailto:opinion@dailytarheel.com)

**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 comprises 10 board members, the opinion assistant editor and editor and the editor-in-chief.