

COLUMN



Caitlin Cantrell
Summertime Hill Thrills
Senior biology major from Hillsborough.
Email: ctcantre@gmail.com

Stop and smell the roses this summer

Summer vacation has arrived! Freshly cut grass, pool parties, sunburns, family, friends — and perhaps a sizzling romance to match the scorching summer sun.

Oh wait. You're in summer school.

Before you come slap me for my blatant use of juxtaposition, please allow me to clarify. I am one of you. I have consciously, purposefully, rather reluctantly but nevertheless dutifully chosen to postpone the previously stated summer endeavors in order to further my education and — hopefully — assure my graduation within four years.

Who in their right mind would trade the freedoms of summer for more school work, especially after completing two long, grueling semesters? Based on research by Francis Caro, most members of the middle class.

Caro's article entitled "Deferred Gratification, Time Conflict and College Attendance" proposes that the distinction between social classes comes from the unique ability of middle class members to defer gratification.

Basically, Caro says my choice to attend summer school is a means of postponing the immediate satisfactions of summer in order to fulfill the later goal of graduating from a prestigious university with a decent GPA.

And maybe he's onto something.

Every stage in my life thus far has been defined by what I was about to experience. When I was in elementary school, I wanted to grow up and be one of the big kids. When I was in middle school, I desperately wanted to turn 16 so that I could get my driver's license and drive myself to the movies.

And when I was a senior in high school, I dreamed of the day I would lounge on the quad here at UNC.

Odds are you have undergone similar situations, where you dream of something beyond the present. There's probably been a moment in your life when you've waited for a time when life would simply be better.

But as you bustle back and forth between classes this summer, ask yourself: have you ever finally reached that point in the future when everything feels perfect?

Granted, the desire for a better future is one of the greatest methods of human motivation. If we were completely content, we would never fight to save the environment, question social prejudices or progress in science or technology.

But I fear that modern society places too much emphasis on this misleading future "perfection" and ignores the simple beauty of everyday existence. So, my fellow summer schoolers, I challenge you to perform one small, instantly gratifying activity every day this summer.

Buy the song you keep singing from the radio, take the long roundabout path to class, read snippets of a good — or trashy — novel. Those little things won't hurt your future goals one bit.

Relish in the limited time we have at this wonderful university. We all deserve to stop every now and then and enjoy the glorious Carolina blue sky.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Aneshia Tinnin, atinnin@live.unc.edu

“... just remember that not only did you see an NCAA Basketball Championship during your time here, but in your senior year – Duke lost in the first round to a 15 seed.”

Michael Bloomberg, 2012 Commencement speaker



EDITORIAL

Repeal Amendment One

An amendment that violates equality for all cannot stand.

While the outcome of the May 8 election is a setback for both unmarried homosexual and heterosexual couples, the battle against Amendment One must rage on.

And since many of the counties that voted against the amendment are home to colleges and universities, students and faculty at UNC and other institutions must continue to play an active role in making sure the amendment is repealed.

Amendment One violates the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which states, “No State shall ... deprive any person of life, liberty or property without the due process of law, nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.”

As Amendment One dissolves both heterosexual and homosexual civil unions, many of the rights afforded to such couples are no longer valid.

For example, the new law may make it more difficult for one partner of an unmarried couple — whether a homosex-

ual or heterosexual — to maintain custody over his or her child should the partner with primary custody die or become incapacitated.

Many voters in North Carolina were unaware of such effects prior to election day.

A recent poll showed only 36 percent of the population understood the amendment would ban both gay marriage and civil unions; 26 percent thought the amendment only banned gay marriage, and 10 percent thought voting against it would actually legalize gay marriage.

Twenty-seven percent said they didn't know what effect the amendment would have on families.

The numbers alone provide a basis for a repeal of the amendment. They also show that if people had been better informed, the outcome would have been different. When told about the legal ramifications of the law, only 38 percent of voters continue to support it and 46 percent oppose it.

Many of the proponents for the law argued that the amendment upheld Christian religious principles. The Rev. Billy Graham, who is 93 years old, made phone calls to North

Carolina families in the week leading up to the amendment, said, “The Bible is clear — God's definition of marriage is between a man and a woman.”

This argument also opposes the U.S. Constitution, as the First Amendment to the Bill of Rights provides for separation of church and state.

As federal law overrides state law, a repeal of Amendment One seems fairly clear cut. The U.S. Supreme Court will soon debate Proposition 8, a similar law in California. Many hope it will be overturned.

If students and members of the community want to see Amendment One repealed, they must work to make their voices heard and inform other citizens about the effects of this legislation.

The history of this country is filled with a plethora of legislative mistakes — Jim Crow laws and the disenfranchisement of women to name a couple.

But there's a system in place to help fix those mistakes. It's important that we figure out how to use it to fix this one.

This civil rights issue will define our generation. We must make sure we remain on the right side of it.

EDITORIAL

A man without a party

To compete in the fall, Democrats must force David Parker out.

A tempest in a teapot. That was how David Parker, embattled chair of the North Carolina Democratic Party, described the sexual harassment scandal that led to a meeting of the party's state executive committee Saturday in Greensboro.

Parker said publicly that he would resign at the meeting, following calls for withdrawal from party members and elected officials including Democratic gubernatorial candidate Walter Dalton. But Parker's resignation speech sounded more like a rallying cry, and after deliberations described by one party leader as “pandemonium,” the committee voted to reject his resignation.

Parker's self-centered decision to stay undermines the efforts of Democrats in the hugely important November elections. If the party hopes to defeat the Republicans

this fall, they must resolve to remove Parker from the equation.

Sexual harassment charges were made against Jay Parmley, the former executive director who resigned after they were publicly revealed. Parmley was right to step down, and Parker should have followed suit. His refusal to deal with the situation has caused great embarrassment and could have detrimental effects for the party.

As 2012 is a critical election year at both the state and national levels, Parker's willingness to put self-interest before party interest could not come at a worse time for Democrats. The party was swept out of the North Carolina legislature in 2010 by a Republican tide fueled by the Tea Party movement.

The effects of the strict budget they subsequently passed have been felt across the state.

As a result, the UNC-system Board of Governors approved tuition increases at all 16 campuses.

Democratic candidates, including Dalton, are pledging

to return funding to schools. But Parker's contentious leadership could jeopardize the party's efforts.

As North Carolina's gubernatorial race is one of only 12 in the nation this November, that contest might very well come down to fundraising ability. And Parker may put Dalton at a disadvantage.

More fundamentally, Parker's actions — the attempted cover up in response to the sexual harassment charges and his refusal to acknowledge the importance of image to a political party — reflect values at odds with the transparent and unified leadership which Democrats desperately need right now.

By going back on his word to the public and the candidates depending on him, he violated the trust of the people of this state.

There is no sustainable path for the party under Parker; he presides on borrowed time. Either he steps down now or come November, Democrats realize that his deluded meteorology underestimated the size of this tempest.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Only a lack of education can hold you back in America, and today you've cleared the bar, and you've done it at one of the country's finest institutions.”

Michael Bloomberg, during his Commencement speech on Sunday

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Findings deliver a heavy blow to UNC department

TO THE EDITOR:

The recently issued “Review of Courses in the Department of African and Afro-American Studies” at UNC is sobering and disappointing for all of us who believe deeply in African and Afro-American studies and are committed to upholding the ideals and the integrity of the University.

The findings of the report have been a heavy blow to us. We are particularly mindful of our majors who have worked hard, with integrity, and are in no way implicated in this report that deals primarily with a subset of summer school courses taken mostly by non-majors.

There are two findings of the report that merit greater attention:

Finding 7: “No evidence emerged during the review that directly implicates any faculty or staff other than potentially professor Nyang'oro or Ms. Crowder in the creation of aberrant or irregularly taught courses, or in the recording or changing of student grades in these courses.”

And from the conclusion: “The evidence we reviewed indicated that between 2007 and 2011 the vast majority of courses offered in the Department of African and Afro-American Studies were not compromised in the ways outlined in this report.”

The vast majority of all students taking our course were not impacted.

The report also made clear that the determined and visionary new department chair and the faculty have put in long hours establishing policies and procedures that will ensure that nothing remotely like this situation will ever happen again.

Most importantly, we want to ensure that our graduating majors will be able to enjoy the day of pride and celebration that they have earned.

marriage in the state constitution.

While opponents of the amendment used deceptive tactics to confuse voters and suppress turnout, North Carolinians voted overwhelmingly to protect traditional marriage — to ensure that marriage stays as God intended it to be, between one man and one woman.

While some may try to say differently, values matter. We live in a nation that was built on values. The U.S. is exceptional because of the ideals that it was founded on, put forth in the Declaration of Independence.

When we surrender the very values and ideals that our nation was founded on, I suggest that we surrender the exceptional status of the U.S.

I am grateful to the people of North Carolina for voting with me to protect the important institution of marriage.

Brendan Madigan '14
Public policy

Celebrate, but remember your fellow Tar Heels

TO THE EDITOR:

During the commencement ceremony on May 12, 1996 — Mother's Day — a cloud of smoke floated over Kenan Stadium, masking the Carolina blue sky, a cloud originating from the Phi Gamma Delta house.

That morning, five young people lost their lives in a tragic fire: Mark Strickland, Josh Weaver, Ben Woodruff, Joanna Howell and Anne Smith.

Today, let us think of those five young Tar Heels.

Let their memory remind us all that our time is precious, that our safety lies in our own hands.

As a result of the fire, all dorms and Greek houses have sprinklers and fire alarm systems with direct notification to the fire department.

If you live off campus, insist that every bedroom have a working smoke detector and try to select housing with sprinkler systems.

We truly have heroes in the Chapel Hill Fire Department who keep us all safe and healthy.

But ultimately, it is our individual responsibility to ensure that we are well protected from fire. Do not let the deaths of these five young students be in vain. Take steps to protect yourself. And never forget.

Hill Winstead '12
History

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.
- Email: opinion@dailytarheel.com

The Daily Tar Heel

PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS STAFF

Business and Advertising: Kevin Schwartz, <i>director/general manager</i> ; Megan McGinley, <i>advertising director</i> ; Lisa Reichle, <i>business manager</i> . Customer Service: Danielle Stephenson and Aneshia Tinnin, <i>representatives</i> .	Display Advertising: Molly Ball and Ashton Ratcliffe, <i>account executives</i> ; Devin Cooney, <i>digital account executive</i> .	<i>tive:</i> Meg McNeill, <i>FoodFinder account executive</i> .
Arts: Alex Dixon. City: Kaitlyn Knepp, Lauren Kostenberger, Jasmin Singh. Copy: Georgina Cavanaugh, Laurie Beth Harris. Design: Susie Mann. Photos: Melissa Key, Chloe Stephenson, Hannah Samuelson. Sports: Henry Gargan, Michael	Lananna, Chris Moore, Marilyn Payne, Brooke Pryor. State & National: Vinayak Balasubramanian, Memet Walker, Claire Williams. University: Matthew Cox, Jessica New, Becky Bush, Amelia Nitz. Opinion: Jake Filip, Nate Harrison, Taylor Hartley, Tim	Longest, Clarke Tugwell, Rachel Shope. Newsroom Adviser: Erica Perel. Editorial Production: Stacy Wynn, <i>manager</i> . Printing: Triangle Web Printing Co. Distribution: Stacy Wynn, Nick and Sarah Hammonds

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 between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Classified ads can be reached at 962-0252. Editorial questions should be directed to 962-0245.

OFFICE AND MAIL ADDRESS:
151 E. Rosemary St.
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-3539



ISN #10709436

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

Rallies for Repeal

We're throwing our full support behind the "Repeal Amendment One" campaign. You can write a law that defies the 1st and 14th amendments, but here's hoping that it can't stand up in court.

Cell phones vs. towing

The towing ordinance doesn't align with the cell phone ban, so Chapel Hill town council's writing another exception to the rule? How long before they realize that this whole thing really isn't going to fly?

Obama on marriage

The president's decision to support gay marriage has both parties and the public talking. Here's hoping that the discussion promotes action in both North Carolina and across the country.

Summer blockbusters

We've got superheroes, vampires, vampire hunters and aliens. Aside from the angst, we're excited. Guys: prepare for the explosions. Ladies: plenty of eye candy to go around.