

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,
117 years
of editorial freedom

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Don't bask in Duke's big loss just yet

Next to a Tar Heel victory, the most popular development in the college basketball season for UNC fans is a resounding Duke loss. During and after a drubbing such as the St. John's victory on Sunday, Tar Heel fans usually take a moment (or several) to relish in the vulnerability of our nearby nemesis.

To Tar Heel fans who, like myself, find it too easy to enjoy those moments, I implore you that the only Duke losses we should celebrate are those that come at our hands.

Why refrain from delighting in their misfortunes? There are at least two reasons. The first is that our target is, after all, Duke. In 2001, they recovered from an 11-point Senior Day loss in Cameron Indoor to Maryland (an ally in our Duke-detesting cause) to beat us in the Dean Dome, win the ACC tournament and take the national championship.

And last year, in a situation eerily similar to Sunday, Georgetown, member of the Big East Conference along with St. John's, hosted the Blue Devils and turned them away resoundingly. Duke rebounded from that setback by winning 18 of its next 19 games to take (yet another) national championship.

Those were depressing paragraphs, but the point of reliving those pieces of history is to show that a bad Sunday in late January is not necessarily going to sink a good team's ship. (Take heart: two instances validate our suspicions of Duke's ability — the Tar Heels' convincing win at Cameron in March 2008 preceded Duke losses in the ACC semifinals and the NCAA Round of 32, and our win on Senior Day 2007 also propelled Duke toward first-round ACC and NCAA losses.) So no good Tar Heel fan should put too much stock into the Blue Devils' mishaps.

But there is a deeper-seeded reason to focus on our own successes instead of the failures of our rivals. This schadenfreude — the derivation of pleasure from others' misfortunes — is an interesting enough concept that philosophers and scientists have long found it worth examination.

Schadenfreude's merits have been questioned since the days of the ancients. Aristotle, in "The Nicomachean Ethics," states that "the spiteful man falls so far short of pained that he even rejoices." Aristotle compares this spitefulness unfavorably with the enviousness of one who is offended by other's fortune.

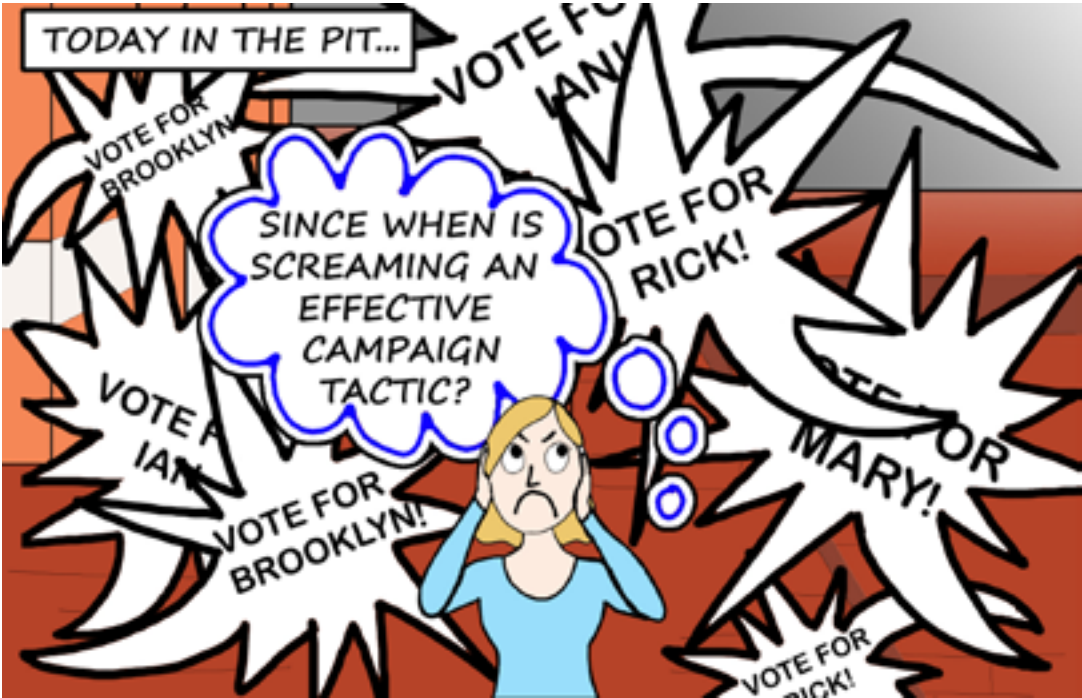
Jumping forward to the present day, scientific research has borne out that people will act in ways that harm those we envy in order to enjoy their deprivation or suffering. That enjoyment can be traced to increased dopamine reception in the brain, the biochemical payoff, which is the crux of the psychological concept of schadenfreude.

This biopsychological framework rebuts Aristotle's understanding of the ethics underlying it. But the means people undertake to reap the benefit of schadenfreude belie its payoff. It is not worth dismissing Duke now when we may find occasion to celebrate our own triumph in a week's time.

After all, the rivalry we enjoy does not thrive because we have pummeled hapless Duke teams into the ground for decades. It prospers because both programs have grown into national powers that test each other in every meeting. The real cause for celebration is that we can do to Duke what few others can 130 times in 229 tries.

FRIDAY:
Blair Mikels and Alex Walters shine light on moonshine.

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



Delegate Dispute

Attempt to dismiss Ingram seems politically motivated, not in line with the spirit of the Student Code

Student body president candidate Rick Ingram's position as a delegate in the UNC-system Association of Student Governments was called into question last week by Student Body Treasurer and Vice President of ASG Dakota Williams.

This issue brings an inconsistency to light that should be addressed by Student Congress.

The Student Code allows student government leaders to remove students serving as external appointments if they miss more than one meeting. Student Body President Hogan Medlin dismissed the accusation because Ingram had given advanced notice of one of his absences.

Medlin has missed several ASG meetings, but has not been expelled from ASG because the

rule in the Code does not apply to him.

The UNC-Chapel Hill delegation to ASG includes the student body president, the speaker of Student Congress and two external appointments.

Under the Code only the external appointments can be held accountable for their attendance, while the student body president and speaker are not. Student Congress should consider legislation making sure that all are held accountable in equal measure so that UNC is fully represented at meetings — both ASG and otherwise.

Furthermore, Williams' accusations reek of political game-playing. Ingram did not say that Williams was out to get him, but he agrees that the timing of the accusation is

suspicious. The connections are hard to ignore — Williams doesn't seem to have the warmest relationship with Ingram.

We're glad that Williams knows the intricacies of the Code, but he only bastardizes its spirit by invoking it for political purposes — which we believe he has done. Ingram has only one unexcused ASG absence, and other members of the delegation have more.

And the fact that Medlin decided not to let Ingram go, in spite of the rule, attests to the good faith on Ingram's part of meeting his delegate responsibilities.

Neither Ingram nor anyone else should shirk their responsibilities. But determining the level of dedication often requires more than glancing at attendance sheets.

Wrongful eviction

Town regulation a burden on innocent students

The decision by the town of Chapel Hill to enforce the law banning more than four unrelated people in a home fails to recognize the realities of life here and places a heavy and unnecessary burden upon students.

The Land Use Management Ordinance has long been on the books, but Chapel Hill Senior Code Enforcement Officer Chelsea Laws has decided to step up enforcement.

A law limiting the number of non-related individuals in a single-family unit to four makes little sense.

Chapel Hill is fundamentally a college town. Residents who live near the University ought to recognize that fact.

Of course, the point at which the freedoms of one party begin to detract from those of another is the point

at which that liberty is forfeited.

But being a nuisance, regardless of occupancy, is grounds for punitive action. So letting students peacefully occupy a home that accommodates them hardly seems like too much to ask for.

Housing is always in demand in Chapel Hill and a premium is placed on living near campus. By artificially limiting the supply of housing, the town is effectively forcing students to find housing farther from the University or pay more.

This will lead to increased traffic, congestion and transit costs as students require other means of transportation to make the longer commute.

Also of issue is the lost revenue of landlords who must now evict their residents lest either party pay a fine of \$100

per day. So much for freedom of contract.

Surely, having one resident per bedroom represents a reasonable standard. But while the ordinance may be unreasonable, it is still the law.

In an ideal world, this regulation wouldn't exist. In the meantime, students should do everything in their power to avoid causing neighbors to file complaints.

Laws herself basically indicated that the Town won't seek anyone out. So any way to avoid suspicion is good.

Steering clear of overly raucous behavior and drawing unwanted attention should keep the eviction notices at bay.

But that doesn't change the fact that students should be able to live in homes that can accommodate them.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

“Countless times I was on the phone with coaches. As soon as they'd start talking about Carolina, just put the phone down, walk downstairs, get a snack, come back up, still talking.”

T.J. THORPE, WIDE RECEIVER RECRUITED TO UNC

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:

“UNC is and has always been the university of the people.”

UNDERGRAD2, ON ADMITTING NON-RESIDENT STUDENTS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Homosexuality not a sin, Bible for different times

TO THE EDITOR:
I am sure that Adam Blaser ("God loves all, including homosexuals, equally," Feb. 2) thought he was being quite tolerant, even respectful, of LGBT-identified people when he wrote that everyone is a sinner and God loves us equally. However, he fails to realize that homosexuality is not a sin. There is nothing wrong with being LGBT; there is nothing God wants to change about it.

Yes, there are those six "clobber passages" that condemn certain types of same-sex acts. But there are also verses that condemn getting tattoos (Leviticus 19:28) or eating shrimp (Leviticus 11:10). Even in the New Testament we are told that women must not speak during church — at all (1 Corinthians 14:34-35). The Bible is full of hundreds of verses that Christians ignore, and that is because the Bible wasn't written to us. It was written to specific cultures at specific times. We must figure out what still applies and what doesn't — after all, God gave us the powers of critical thinking.

And LGBT people do not choose to be who they are. They are just as able to live successful lives. Their families are as well-adjusted as opposite-sex-headed households. So to use the Bible, in 2011, to explain that homosexuality is a sin is to use the Bible to justify your own ignorance and/or hatred.

John Michael Watkins
Junior
Spanish

reality. It represents a gift from God that should be celebrated.

Kelli Joyce
Junior
Political Science
Peace, War and Defense

Anyone', gay or not gay, can be a 'real' Christian

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to J. E. Williams' letter on Feb. 1, titled "Homosexuality, Christianity are diametrically opposed," I believe your opinion is valid, and that the Bible does clearly denounce homosexuality. That being said, your assertion that "anyone who deliberately defies these condemnations can hardly be a real Christian," seems to me closed-minded and empirically false.

There is such a range of Christian interpretation of the Bible, and that while many do believe that there is one Truth, disagreements abound as to what that Truth is. For example, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America in 2009 voted to accept homosexual members and ordain gay and lesbian priests. Humbly, I attest that any follower of Christ who can bring others to embrace Him and His word is more "real" a Christian than you or me.

When it comes down to it, the guiding values of love and compassion that the Bible promotes have themselves been practiced in many different ways and social contexts.

Matthew Moran
Sophomore
Mathematical Decision Sciences

Homosexuality does not have bearing on morality

TO THE EDITOR:

I agree with the conclusion of yesterday's letter to the editor, "God loves all, including homosexuals, equally." But I object to the author's repeated claims that homosexuality is "definitely" sinful and condemned by Christian scripture. The nature and ethics of homosexuality for Christian persons is hotly debated within many major denominations, and there is solid Biblical scholarship to support both positions.

Context is crucial for understanding the meanings of ancient texts, and there is a strong argument to be made that modern practices of homosexuality have virtually nothing in common with the practices discussed in the Bible, where same-sex attraction is mentioned only a handful of times. The concept of individuals being "homosexuals/sodomites," as the author put it, is only a few centuries old, and therefore an inappropriate translation of the original Greek.

Countless lesbian and gay individuals participate regularly in church throughout America as lay members, Sunday School teachers, deacons, pastors and many other positions. For many Christians, including myself, the question of an individual's sexual orientation has no more bearing on their morality than whether or not they're right handed.

So yes, "it's okay to be gay and a Christian." And yes, "it's not our job to judge our neighbors in the first place." But for many Christians, diversity of sexual orientation does not represent one equal sin among many, to be grudgingly accepted as a sad

Graduate students should not pay UCommons fee

TO THE EDITOR:

In the face of colorful fliers, relentless signature gathering, and all this talk of student opinion, we have completely neglected one very important segment of our student body: graduate students.

Nearly 40 percent of the students on this campus are graduate students who seldom frequent main-campus facilities, including the Student Union. Even with the well-advertised improvements, we have no reason to believe that the "UCommons" would change that.

Nevertheless, the current proposal would commit all students (including graduate) to pay this biannual fee for the next 30 years or so. Please bear in mind that all students already pay \$80.75 to service the debt for the Union each year.

I would be much more comfortable if this additional fee applied only to undergraduate students, who would actually be using the space. As much as I'd enjoy a "vibrant study space" with adjustable walls and doors, I can't justify requiring my grad student friends to pay for it, even if the majority of students do want to buy \$8 pairs of socks.

Rep. Stephen Estes
Student Congress, District 6

CORRECTION:

Due to a reporting error in Wednesday's column "Women are more than the statistic," the first woman in space was incorrectly identified as Sally Ride. It was Valentina Tereshkova.

The Daily Tar Heel apologizes for the error.

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.

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. The board consists of nine board members, the associate opinion editor, the opinion editor and the editor.

Quick Hits

DNC in Charlotte

The 2012 Democratic National Convention will be in Charlotte. I'm sure President Obama just enjoys Charlotte's rich night life and endearing populace, not the electoral votes N.C. has up for grabs.

Basketball

Well, we've been giving thumbs up to the basketball team the past few weeks, and they're doing pretty well.

So why stop now? Anytime the scrubs get some playing time you know we're doing something right.

Peeing prof

Prosecutors charged a professor at a California university with peeing on a colleague's office door. Hopefully this season's SBP election losers don't resort to similar tactics in the fall.

Alert Carolina

Yeah, we get it: the tests are necessary for ensuring our safety system works. But man, they sure are annoying. Can't they put a silencer on it or something? Or maybe ring the Bell Tower bells? Those sound nice.

Super Bowl

Hopefully your professors were not sadistic enough to have an exam or assignment due on Monday. We expect the game will be exciting, but if not there are always the commercials. Can't wait for Go Daddy.

P.T.'s

The iconic bar and grill, known for '90s music and burgers, was shut down after the owner assaulted an employee, bursting his bladder. Now where are we going to get Beam and Cokes for \$2.50 (competition: hint, hint)?