

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,
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of editorial freedom

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Love and
sports:
a natural
bond

Valentine's Day presents a great opportunity to reflect on the impact of love and intimate relationships in our lives. And UNC happens to be an excellent place to find a significant other.

Just ask our very own Roy Williams, who has been married to his college sweetheart for nearly forty years.

You might be surprised to know some of the parallels between athletics and the holiday.

While Chapel Hill is a magnificent place to find someone to forge a relationship with, the venue of courtship can be critical. It might take some bravado, but meeting someone at the gym could lead to a better long-term relationship than the person you took home from the bar. After all, alcohol is considered a depressant and exercise-related endorphins are proven to make you happier.

Regardless of the vehicle of introduction, sports bring us all together through a common focus. What better way to impress your trophy fratdaddy than to play with him in the upcoming basketball marathon on Saturday?

Or perhaps you idolize athletes and aspire to create a genetic offspring capable of challenging UNC's own Mia Hamm and husband Nomar Garciaparra's children for athletic dominance.

UNC's Campus Recreation took a hands-on approach to promoting healthy relationships among students by organizing a Valentine's Day Couples Challenge. Couples competed against other couples in an array of athletic and mental challenges intended to add a unique and active twist to the Valentine's experience.

Valentine's Day ought to evoke nostalgic memories of the appreciation of another's company. And in the spirit of both charity and chivalry, dates with members of UNC's basketball team were recently auctioned off for Dance Marathon.

The "Blue Steel," famous for their sticky note prank on John Henson, which was filmed by Daniel Bolick (aka the Yellow Mamba), even managed to fetch \$375.

And while Valentine's Day is typically associated with romantic interpersonal relations, some historic moments came at the intersection of athletics and Valentine's Day.

On Feb. 14, 1957, the Georgia state senate unanimously approved Sen. Leon Butt's bill that barred black people from playing baseball with white people citing that it could give them a "sense of equality." The bill's initial passage sparked a national outrage that eventually resulted in the bill's defeat and the rise of a more socially inclusive model of interracial athletics.

Landmark civil rights events of the past, including the desegregation of baseball, are responsible for leading to more progressive societies such as the modern UNC community.

A special "Happy Valentine's Day" goes out to everyone who managed to maintain high enough standards to remain Valentine-less for today's holiday.

But everyone else: Take the time amidst your intimate celebrations to think about how sports, Valentine's Day, and your personal life are so closely and surprisingly intertwined.

TUESDAY:

Matthew Moran will elucidate the case to meditate.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Connor Sullivan, cpsully@email.unc.edu



They love you not.

Punitive, not productive

Retroactive fine by the BOG is worse
than inconsistent enforcement

The UNC-system Board of Governors was wrong to fine UNC-Chapel Hill for breaking a rule that did not exist when the infraction occurred. Though it is important that the BOG enforce its policies consistently, fines should not be enforced retroactively.

UNC was fined for exceeding the number of out-of-state students it is allowed to enroll. However, when they were admitted, the students who now constitute the excess were allowed to be considered in-state for tuition purposes.

This past summer, the state legislature repealed the law that grants these scholarship students in-state status, thereby putting UNC over its limit. However, since the students in question had already been accepted and enrolled, there was nothing

UNC's admissions office could do to rectify the problem.

Charles Mercer, chairman of the BOG's budget and finance committee, said the fine was imposed anyway because his committee thought it "better to act consistently with the policy."

Though this is a reasonable defense of imposing the fine, it fails to address the negative consequences of the decision — consequences which are far worse than appearing inconsistent.

By retroactively imposing this fine, the BOG has set a precedent under which UNC-system schools are incentivized to hedge their bets and consider possible future legislation when deciding their schools' policy.

This new dimension compels university administrators to try to predict the outcome

of the inherently unpredictable legislative process.

Such speculation adds an unnecessary layer of complexity to the already difficult job of running a university in unfavorable economic times.

These considerations aside, it is simply unsound policy to enforce laws retroactively, especially when the "infractions" cannot be reversed.

There are many factors administrators cannot predict or control, and they have no choice but to try to account for them. The decisions of the state legislature shouldn't be one of them.

The BOG should act in a way that shows it is in fact on the same team as the schools it governs. Distinguishing between genuine errors and deliberate violations would go a long way toward sending that message.

Mr. Medlin goes to Raleigh

Presence at capital the best way to influence the agenda

With all the commotion of student body president elections — and this one in particular has had more than its share of drama — it can be easy to lose sight of what we're really voting for.

Last week, Student Body President Hogan Medlin traveled to Raleigh with the UNC Association of Student Government's "Students Day at the Capital" to advocate for the University.

The ASG's four legislative priorities seem sound. It's important that individual campuses retain the flexibility to make cuts where they see fit, instead of having the General Assembly dictate what needs to be cut where.

Financial aid was another one of the association's priorities.

This is where Medlin and the

other system presidents have an advantage on UNC's other lobbying organizations — by putting students on financial aid face-to-face with legislators, they can better understand the real impact any cuts in state-funded financial aid will have.

Although Medlin said he is planning to go back in late March or early April — when the budget discussions will be most heated — the new student body president should be prepared to jump into campus advocacy in Raleigh as soon as he or she is chosen.

We applaud Medlin's willingness to get to know the new legislators and put a human face to the university system.

But there certainly is room for adaptation of strategy and greater specificity.

As legislative budget pri-

orities become more transparent over the next few weeks, Medlin and Co. will have a better idea of exactly what points to push on.

If more out-of-state students with merit scholarships are forced to give up in-state tuition rates, it would be devastating to the campus' diversity and intellectual environment.

The ASG recently voted down a proposal that would ask for a voting position on the Board of Governors, which shows a serious lack of institutional confidence on its part — yet lobbied for exactly that last week.

This board has been critical of ASG, but we were impressed by their lobbying priorities. The ASG — and individual campus student body presidents — should continue building relationships with legislators.

Taking on toking

North Carolina has better issues to address than K2

It was probably only a matter of time.

As surprising as it was that imitation cannabis was legalized at all, there is no doubt dedicated smokers of "spice" were well aware that its legal status was probably as short-lived as the high K2 itself gives.

A bill to ban imitation cannabis will probably be voted on this Thursday in the N.C. House and Senate.

N.C. Rep. Jimmy Dixon, R-Duplin, a co-sponsor of the bill, told The Daily Tar Heel that he expected the bill to pass.

In a country where medical marijuana is increasingly accepted, the state stands to lose more than tax dollars by banning K2.

While the general populace is, no doubt, supposed to feel

thankful that our government has acted so forcefully to keep allegedly harmful substances out of consumers' bodies, we would prefer it limits its actions to substances we have no choice in consuming — fire retardants in pillows, heavy metals in paints and other substances widely regarded as toxic.

Although a ban on K2 will probably not dissuade anyone from moving to North Carolina, it does send another signal that the state is moving in a different direction than much of the U.S.

Synthetic marijuana should be in the same category as alcohol and tobacco — substances that can be dangerous, but are highly regulated and heavily taxed.

The new Republican majority's mandate was not to illegal-

ize spice, but to enact more fiscally responsible policies.

No politician wants to be seen as soft on drugs but we wish the N.C. General Assembly would focus on more pressing issues and not on devising a ban that will probably be circumvented in the coming years anyway.

With a ban on marijuana and now a possible one on synthetic cannabis, legislators should admit it's not the substance they want to ban but the high.

Manufacturers will likely just come up with a new way to circumvent the letter but not the spirit of the ban.

It's time state legislators stop making bans that limit citizens' freedoms and focus on ways to solve the very real and substantive issues the state faces.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"I guess I'll just stay in retail. All those years of honors and APs will just lead me to selling toys."

EVA PANJWANI, 23, WHO SAID SHE DROPPED OUT OF UNC WHEN SHE COULDN'T AFFORD TUITION

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:

"Maybe they should repeal another stupid law, the 18 percent cap."

MATT, ON UNC BEING FINED FOR ADMITTING TOO MANY OUT-OF-STATE STUDENTS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNC students need to remain one unified body

TO THE EDITOR:

Having graduated from our wonderful institution this past May I have to say that I love Carolina now more than ever and miss it dearly. But, having caught up on recent events that seem to be plaguing the student elections and our unfortunate but hard fought loss at Duke this past week, I just want to urge my fellow Tar Heels to remain unified.

I have moved abroad and therefore watched the Duke game via Skype with my family back home in the states at 3 a.m. local time and I have to say I have never been more proud of our boys. They were classy, fought hard, and upheld every value of sportsmanship that Carolina is and should remain known for. Those qualities should not only be apparent on the court, but should permeate the student body whether you wear a jersey or a T-shirt to basketball games.

As a recent alumnae passing down some now "outsider" perspective, we attend an amazing school that is respected worldwide. We are mostly blue-collar students that work hard and succeed, and we have an amazing legacy. Regardless of student election fumbles, wins and losses on the court or differing opinions elsewhere, stay unified, and trust me when I say there is only one Carolina.

Sarah Hiser
Class of '10

This Valentine's day, save Earth by using condoms

TO THE EDITOR:

"Wrap with care, save the polar bear" and "Wear a condom now, save the spotted owl" are just two of several slogans that will appear on the packages of condoms which Helping Paws, the committee of the Campus Y devoted to animal protection and advocacy, will be handing out this Valentine's Day.

Human overpopulation is the root cause of the current wave of mass extinction that is dominating the planet. According to E.O. Wilson, the famed evolutionary biologist and UNC's 2011 commencement speaker, Earth is losing 30,000 plant and animal species per year to extinction (or three species per hour).

Too many people are using too much of the world's fresh water, land mass, and other natural resources while heavily polluting much of what remains unused by humans. One of the biggest steps you can take to curb species extinction is to employ family planning in your life and also to promote it to others. Family planning involves deciding when and how many children to have and utilizing birth control methods, like condoms, to implement said plan.

The average child born in the U.S. will consume as much energy (and hence, resources) as 13 Chinese children or 128 Bangladeshi children. So the next time you think having your own show on TLC about your gigantic brood is a decent career option, reconsider, for biodiversity's sake!

Alex Lane
Co-chairwoman
Helping Paws

UNC is about more than simply basketball games

TO THE EDITOR:

The other night I went for a run to relieve some stress after our gut-wrenching loss to Duke. I'll admit it — I was angry, frustrated, even grieving. The Duke game is like a holiday, marked on the calendar months in advance, and the Heels — our Heels — had just let a huge lead slip away to some unfortunate-looking college kids from Durham. I couldn't help but imagine the elation Duke students were experiencing.

It started out like any other run, but it didn't take long for that to change. Upon reaching Cameron Avenue, out of the hundreds of songs on my iPod, James Taylor's "Carolina in my Mind" began to play. As I was about to pass the Old Well, I decided to stop and reflect on my soon-to-be four years at UNC.

Then, it hit me.

This place is about more than basketball. It's about more than top-notch students, budget cuts or even Franklin Street. This place is about family, tradition, learning to deal with adversity, creativity and excellence. It's about the Old Well, the Bell Tower, the Pit. It's about thousands of students banding together as one to support a group of basketball players who battled with every ounce of effort they had.

Losing to Duke might cut my heart out, but at least I bleed Carolina blue. That's a feeling those folks down the road will never have.

Chris Howerton
Senior
Public Relations

Carolina-Duke rivalry okay to be passionate about

TO THE EDITOR:

This is in response to "UNC fans show their best to keep their cool" (Feb.11).

Katie Hill, you are the kind of Carolina fan that fuels the "wine and cheese" stereotype. The Carolina-Duke rivalry is the best in all of sports. It's a rivalry rooted in tradition and fueled by emotion. The hatred is natural. "Go to Hell Duke" is in our fight song, just as "Go to Hell Carolina" is in theirs. The games played between the two programs are remembered by fans for lifetimes. This rivalry is the Battle for Tobacco Road. It's 8 points in 17 seconds. It's the bloody Montross game. It's "J.R. can't Reid." It's Stackhouse strutting down the floor at Cameron. It's Duhon's reverse layup in OT. It's Wojo slapping the floor. It's Marvin's put back. It's the Bloody Hansasbrough game. It's Dean vs. K. It's Roy vs. K.

Bottom line is this, we hate them, and they hate us. And you know what? That's okay. Just watching replays of past games gets me fired up as if it was happening right in front of me all over again. And that is what this rivalry is all about. So excuse me if I get a little ticked because we let one get away from us, but we're Carolina, we never "accept defeat," we deal with it. You deal with it your way and I'll deal with it mine.

Jack Frost
Sophomore
Business Administration

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.

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- **Drop-off:** at our office at 151 E. Rosemary Street.
- **E-mail:** opinion@dailytarheel.com
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