

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,
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of editorial freedom

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A taste of good ol' mountain moonshine

Here in the South, when we say "Moonshine," we're probably not talking about the cosmos. "White lightning," as many have called it, is not uncommon in liquor cabinets and comes from a tradition older than the United States. We set out this week to understand modern consumption of homemade corn whiskey, commonly known as white lightning moonshine.

After adding a little corn mash to a load of sugar, boiling twice at 176 degrees, and filtering into a clear mason jar, moonshine can be 150-proof and sell for less than Burnett's Vodka. Making corn liquor for personal consumption is illegal in the U.S. and punishable by law. Yet North Carolina moonshine making is alive and well.

Just below the Virginia state line in Wilkesboro, the family tradition enjoys a particular stronghold. Those uninitiated may find the moonshiners' circle a challenging one to break into, but we luckily had an inside man.

Our source, Glen Hendren, was able to shed some light on the fascinating white lightning industry, which started as a profitable livelihood but is quickly turning into an increasingly accessible hobby. The recent cultural obsession with the do-it-yourself ethos has spilled over into the home-brewed whiskey market — recipes and legitimate equipment can even be purchased at supply stores like Carrboro's Fifth Season Gardening Co. or online.

Hendren counts many moonshining friends among his acquaintances, but they are mostly heritage hooch makers, people who've passed a home brew recipe down generational lines like a treasured family heirloom. "It's all they've ever done, so they keep on makin' it down in the hollers. It's their livelihood," he says.

Born in the 1930's, Hendren has watched many a moonshiner go under.

"The law tightened up on 'em," he said. It started with the moonshine-inspired NASCAR races of old. Now, there's competition with the local "likker" store.

"The ABC stores are on every corner and will get you drunk just as fast. Some families just about get driven out of business," he said. "It's gotten to where people who've been making moonshine for years are quitting that and growing marijuana."

The low price of moonshine comes from relatively cheap ingredients and a lack of taxation. While both moonshine and marijuana are illegal to produce, many busted moonshine-makers are hit with little more than a slap on the wrist. Marvin "Popcorn" Sutton, one of the most infamous and productive moonshine makers of the South, offered to sell 800 gallons of white lightning to a federal agent. He was sentenced to only 18 months in prison.

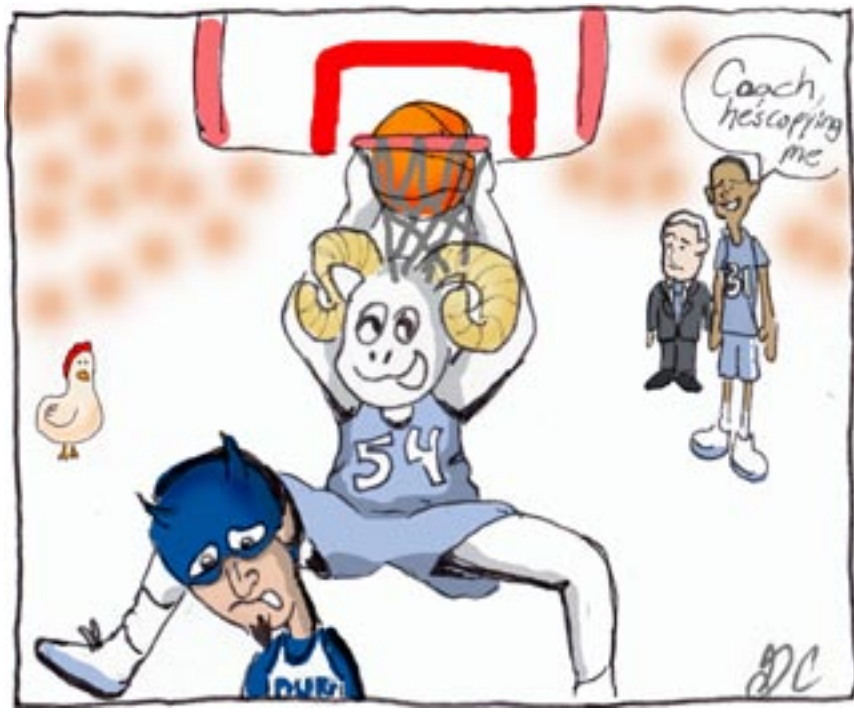
So how hard is it to get moonshine in Chapel Hill? The answer depends on how much one wants it. It's even possible to operate a moonshine still in a dorm room (check with your RA first).

We got ours by knowing a guy who knows a guy. The moonshining community is just that — a community of people dedicated to sharing and selling experiences. And there's no need to be hasty. "I'm 83 years old, they was makin' it when I was a boy," says Hendren, "and they're still makin' it now."

MONDAY:

Troy Smith unveils a new untold story in Chapel Hill.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Guile Contreras, gcontrer@email.unc.edu



Vote Drescher and Saad

for presidents of the senior class

Dean Drescher and Mohammad Saad have the right vision for the senior class.

Spring elections can often feel exclusively dominated by the campaign for student body president. It doesn't help that the other offices on the ballot are often under-competitive or simply not competitive at all.

But in this year's senior class president race, two sets of candidates are vying to represent a quarter of undergraduates in their culminating year.

Drescher and Saad have the right mix of leadership, chemistry and platform ideas to represent seniors well in their final year at UNC.

They recognize that leading

the senior class requires the right blend of social and service elements. Everyone looks forward to bar nights, but engaging the class in charity is more difficult.

Their service platform reflects this. Small monthly projects that focus on relatively large impact for small input are the right way to engage successfully.

Also, the two have observed this year's presidents and have solid ideas for improvement.

Commencement speaker selection is one. The two are familiar with changes in the process and with what's needed to ensure they carry out their duties on this front successfully.

They are also aware that the composition of class marshalls was a problem this year. They

seek to reform it by improving diversity and keeping the numbers of marshalls lower and more manageable.

Why not Chen and Currie

Susan Chen and Omar Currie have a lot of spunk. They were clearly dedicated to their platform, even writing a song for their campaign.

But Drescher and Saad have better ideas. For instance, Chen and Currie's service idea in rural North Carolina seemed selected because it is something Currie cares about, not because the pair thought seniors would too.

Despite their zeal, they simply lacked the all-around appeal of Drescher and Saad.

Lee's breach of the Code

Board of Elections failing to address violation

Though we did and do endorse Ian Lee on the basis of his ideas, we feel compelled to voice our reservations about the legitimacy of his candidacy due to its clear violation of the Student Code. The Board of Elections' failure to even acknowledge this concern is appalling.

The code states, "The following Student Government officers shall not participate in a campaign for any elected position..." and then lists 10 student government positions, the sixth of which, Student Body Secretary, is currently held by Lee.

As our endorsement stated, Lee should have stepped down from this position, and still can.

This far into the race, addressing the violation might

do more harm than good. But that does not change the principle of the matter: The BOE needs to do its job.

The BOE should not be content for its inaction to serve as tacit approval. Nor should the other candidates' silence about Lee's violation be interpreted as a lack of concern on their part. The consequences for a candidate of suing an opponent are manifold and largely negative, even if the suit is won.

First and foremost, responsibility to follow the code rests with the candidates.

Regardless of his reasons for doing so — his last-minute decision to run combined with his obligation to fulfill his duties as secretary — Lee is ultimately responsible for any

consequences of this breach.

And if Lee broke the code unwittingly, he still must be prepared for the fallout, since ignorance of the law is never an excuse for breaking it — especially because the secretary's job is to know the code in and out. Lee's enormous institutional knowledge, perhaps his greatest strength, seems unlikely to help him explain his actions here.

But the BOE, led by Andrew Phillips, is to blame, too. As the primary check on candidates' power, it should have addressed these issues long before they came to our attention.

Lee may be providing the best answers to the tough questions, but only the BOE can say whether he should be giving these answers at all.

UNC leads gap year efforts

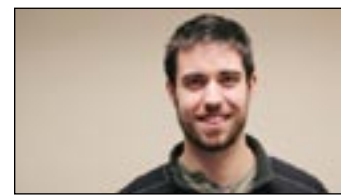
Most students go straight from high school to college. It's the expected path, the recommended path — maybe even the safest. And there's nothing wrong with it; this trajectory is exactly what many students need.

But at UNC this trend is being challenged. Some students are starting to step outside the norm, taking a "gap year" before starting.

I did the same thing before starting at UNC. I chose to take a year off before throwing myself back at the rigors of academics, extracurricular activities and internships that have since defined my college years. During my gap year I did everything from working in a factory, to interning with a professional ceramicist, to spending three months with a Maasai tribe in Tanzania.

The year challenged me to work, travel and build a foundation for growth at UNC. I came to college refreshed, ready to learn, and full of new languages and cultures: a global citizen in the making.

UNC is becoming a national hot spot for students interested in taking a year off, thanks to



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recent efforts by student government, the Admissions Office, the Campus Y and a core group of "gapper" students and friends.

A private donation recently made UNC the first public university to financially support gap years in the U.S. Starting with the class of 2015, the Global Gap Year Fellowship will offer five incoming freshmen up to \$7,500 for an international, service-based experience before they come to school. In years following, that number will grow to 10 or more.

UNC students, myself included, have also come together this year to create one of the nation's first student gap year organizations, called Gappl: UNC's Gap Year People. Our goal is to advocate

for gap years and support current gappers. We are beginning a national discussion on how to integrate gap years into the college transition process.

Not all students choose to take a year off before college. Some choose the "stop-out" method, taking a year off in the middle of their college years. One Carolina student, junior Marietta Stewart, claims, "My stop-out year was a time of self-reflection. I needed the time to stop learning and remember what I was intrinsically passionate about. It was my time to be truly independent."

UNC's approach to gap years is unique because it isn't looking at them simply as a "year off." A structured year can complement a student's academic years, giving them experiences to reinforce their classes and extracurricular activities. The growing infrastructure will help the returning "gappers" integrate these experiences into their undergraduate career.

For anyone who's looking for the next step, join the movement. Talk to your friends who just got admitted, consider a stop out year, spread the word, and be proud of UNC.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"The University has a responsibility to the students ... to offer the classes they are required to have."

BOBBI OWEN, SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN, UNDERGRAD EDUC.

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:

"Student employees were not told to campaign but that's just all legalities ... it was clear that life would be easier if we did."

TT, ON UNION EMPLOYEES BEING ASKED TO PETITION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DTH coverage of Ingram campaign negative, unfair

TO THE EDITOR:

This Wednesday, I was disappointed, although not entirely surprised, to see that Rick Ingram did not secure the DTH editorial board's endorsement for Student Body President. However, I was even more disappointed by the reasons that the board gave in "Why not Ingram." The Daily Tar Heel's consistently negative press coverage of Ingram's campaign raises questions about the legitimacy of their argument.

His platform was described as "aloof and outdated," and criticizes his ideas about connecting student organizations. What's "aloof" about trying to address issues with registration and Connect Carolina? And as for its supposed "outdated" qualities, there has never been a more vital time to focus on student fees, a major consideration in Ingram's platform. The idea of a liaison that assists campus groups in working together is also a good one; as political director of UNC Young Democrats, I have seen firsthand the difficulties that often arise when different student groups try to coordinate events.

Additionally, his experience with lobbying members of Congress with the Young Democrats will serve him well in lobbying UNC's executive board.

I am volunteering for Rick's campaign for three reasons: his passion for student issues and student groups, his concise, goal-oriented platform and his eloquence in expressing his views. These three areas are hallmarks of a successful Student Body President.

Austin Gilmore
Sophomore
Political Science and
Sociology

Support abused women at Chi Omega fundraiser

TO THE EDITOR:

In 1997, Becca Stevens founded the Magdalene House, a halfway house program in Nashville, Tenn., for women who have survived lives of violence, prostitution, and addiction. To further aid the women post-Magdalene, Thistle Farms was founded. By hand, the women of Magdalene create natural bath and body products that are as good for the earth as they are for the body.

By making and selling Thistle Farms products, the women have the opportunity to work in a supportive environment where they learn basic job skills, earn a regular wage, and further their recovery.

On Monday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., Chi Omega is hosting some of the women and selling the Thistle Farms products at the Chi Omega house. A few of the Magdalene House graduates will speak about their pasts, and afterwards, Thistle Farms products will be on display and for sale. We encourage you to come to not only promote the rights of women, but to also purchase great body products that are available in over 140 stores nationwide but are still not sold in North Carolina.

Simply purchasing one Thistle Farms product can help protect women from an abusive and often inescapable lifestyle.

Anna Spoden
Sophomore
International Studies

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

Kvetching board

kvetch:

v.1 (Yiddish) to complain

Dear SBP candidate, Anyone who uses a phallic symbol on their campaign posters deserves to be labeled "cocky" by campus media.

UNC Greeks, while it may have been 70, its not time to break out the pastels quite yet.

Dear Ian Lee, sorry for turning down your Facebook friend request, but we're not friends. We've never even met.

To the guy in my dorm who boasts about how many kvetches he's had published: Shut your face. All that means is you're good at complaining.

To the guy at the SRC secretly taking pictures on his phone: Everyone enjoys some eye candy at the gym, but you're just plain creepy.

Dear Ian, Thanks for making a tent-sized A-frame. It made a good shelter when my roommate sexiled me last night.

To the boy who kvetched that he can't find a girl at UNC, I'm so sorry — you are apparently hideous and/or have the worst personality possible. Sincerely, 60 percent of the UNC student body.

Dear B-school, thanks for accepting me and for not having class on Fridays. Now I can actually have the Charlie Sheen Thursday nights we all dream of.

Dear DM: Just because you're being annoying "for the kids," doesn't give you license to dress like rainbows vomited on you.

@NCState: We're just like you, only prettier. Oh, and better. #notourivals

To the people who crowd the doors of lecture halls while the previous class comes out: You are counterproductive and irritating.

Dear SBP candidates, Dance Marathon called. It wants its campaign back.

To the sorority girl using her laptop on the StairMaster at Rams Gym: You really couldn't go 30 minutes without checking CollegeACB?

Dear Morrison: Nothing says "loser" quite like displaying your "winner" poster for three solid months.

To the person who can't find a seat at Lenoir or a girl: Just do what the fraternity boys do, and share.

If I give everyone in College Republicans \$1 to cover their ASG fee, will they please shut up?

To my professor: I appreciate your highlighting the important information in my readings, but by the time it's scanned in, it looks like Nixon got at it.

Dear short, fellow Tar Heels in the risers: I forgive you for making me sit out the 2nd half. — Gumby

Yes, I am graduating in May. No, I don't know what my plans for next year are. And yes, I do want to punch you in the face.

Send your one-to-two sentence entries to opinion@dailytarheel.com, subject line 'kvetch.'

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.