

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,  
117 years  
of editorial freedom

SARAH FRIER  
EDITOR, 962-4086  
FRIER@EMAIL.UNC.EDU

CAMERON PARKER  
OPINION EDITOR  
CDP@UNC.EDU

PAT RYAN  
ASSOCIATE OPINION EDITOR  
PCRYAN@EMAIL.UNC.EDU

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS

CALLIE BOST  
ROBERT FLEMING  
TAYLOR HOLGATE  
SAM JACOBSON  
MAGGIE ZELLNER

GREG SMITH  
SHRUTI SHAH  
NATHAN D'AMBROSIO  
TAYLOR HAULSEE



**HINSON NEVILLE**  
CULTURE CRITIC  
Freshman business major from  
Roanoke Rapids.  
E-MAIL: NEVILLEH@EMAIL.UNC.EDU

# Accents: a subtle form of flattery

Sometimes I have a very Southern accent. Other times, it's practically undetectable. And really it just depends on where I am and who I'm talking to.

But it doesn't stop at minor alterations in dialect, and it's not only me. We all change various things about ourselves to adapt to a slew of very different social contexts.

In essence, we're adapting ourselves to please whomever we happen to be talking to. And while some remain critical of this social morphing, I think it's a skill we need to welcome — at least as far as our verbalization.

These automatic, unconscious shifts in language are evident in how we alter our vocabularies when speaking to children. And generally, the way you speak to friends at a party is not the same as the way you speak to a professor at office hours.

Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is known for delivering speeches in the accent of his audience — so much so that the accent he took on in some of his 1980s speeches bore no resemblance to his recent ones.

Social psychologists title this copycat nature “the chameleon effect” and insist that it happens naturally and frequently because we feel a rapport with people who mimic not only our accents, but also our moves.

While on the P2P the other day, my casual conversation with the person next to me was interrupted with a phone call. She quickly switched over to a Jersey accent for that conversation, and then back to her neutral Chapel Hill tongue after it ended. Comforting the caller in her native accent was probably all that caller really needed. Her mimicry was unconscious, unnoticed and harmless.

It would typically be in our best interests to have pleasant relations with those around us. And if slight alterations in speech patterns can help, then why not use them?

Therapists, salespeople and tons of other professionals are sometimes advised to use mimicry to help build relations with others. Imitating vocabulary, speech, rhythm, accents, posture and gestures can help ease communication.

This chameleon effect reaches farther than just regional accents. New York University psychology professors Tanya Chartrand and John Bargh had college students discuss pictures with researchers. The experimenters were neutral and relaxed with half of the students. With the other half, experimenters mimicked their movements, posture and mannerisms.

Afterward, imitated students reported that their experimenters were more likable and that they had smoother interactions with these researchers.

Keeping that in mind, at an interview with Goldman Sachs for a summer internship, it would probably be wise to leave the “y’alls” and the twang behind. Not because a Southern dialect is anything to be embarrassed about, but instead because mimicry is one of the best forms of flattery, and it's doubtful that the interviewer will be speaking “Southern.”

In the end, the bulk of communication isn't how we're saying it — it's what we're saying. And if altering an accent helps get my point across, so be it.

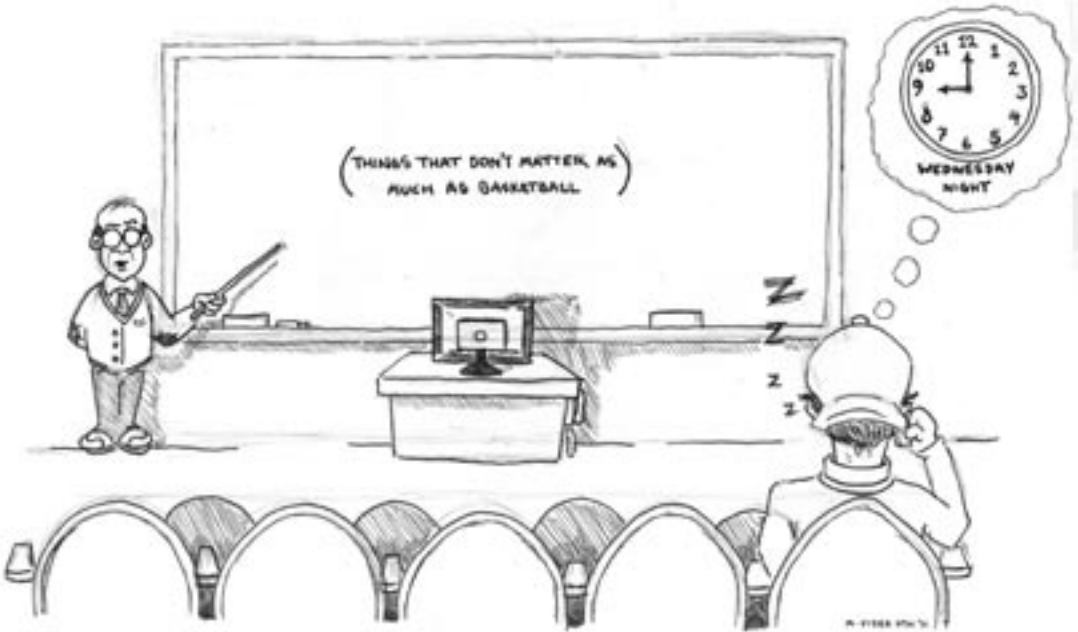
**WEDNESDAY:**  
Perry Tsai writes about an unconventional body image issue.

Editorial Board endorsements:

Student body president:  
Ian Lee

Senior class:  
Dean Drescher and Mohammad Saad

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Mark Viser, mviser@email.unc.edu



# The Interview

## Deanna Santoro fights for the spirit of the Student Code she spent years reforming

Deanna Santoro's surprise resignation Monday morning from her role as speaker of Student Congress marks only the beginning of her effort to send shock waves through student government.

Santoro is filing suit against the Board of Elections for failure to rule at all on certain sections of the Code and ruling improperly on other sections.

Now that she's in the game, Santoro wants an injunction on the results of today's election until her case is resolved.

It's no secret that this has been one of the most tumultuous election seasons in recent memory. Two candidates — Rick Ingram and Ian Lee — have seemed to stretch the Student Code to its absolute limits, if not shattered them entirely.

Yet the BOE has inadequately addressed these concerns. Election regulation doesn't get more laissez-faire than this.

Santoro, who resigned because those in her position are prohibited by the Code from making “any statement against a campaign or candidate,” airs her grievances in her virtually empty former office in the student government suite. Only a few personal items and snacks stacked in a chair are left to indicate anyone inhabited it.

**A reputation for reform**

Santoro has become known for a stubborn reform-mindedness. She said she was inspired to join Congress after the controversy surrounding former speaker Tim Nichols and his abysmal leadership. Back then, Congress was ripe for change.

As chairwoman of the Rules and Judiciary Committee she embarked on systematic reform of the Code — an effort she continued until her resignation.

As speaker, Santoro continued these reform efforts along with fellow Congress member Zach De La Rosa.

Now that she's gone, De La Rosa shouldn't let that effort go. And he ought to consider pursuing future reform as speaker.

But what good is reform when it isn't enforced?

**Controversy**

Santoro learned this year that the battle is hardly won by reworking the Code.

“What I voted on in my mind in Student Congress, it's not what's being upheld by the Board of Elections,” Santoro said.

Her complaints are twofold.

First, she is challenging the BOE's ruling in December on a provision of the Code that says the student body secretary can't participate in a campaign for elected office.

Lee, who is student body secretary, has done it anyway with the BOE's blessing.

It's a feat of incompetent interpretation. Not only does it contradict plain meaning, but it also allowed a candidate for student body president to be in charge of updating election law in the Code.

The shoddiness of that decision might explain why the BOE is reluctant to rule on another section of the Code which makes failure to resign from an executive branch office grounds for disqualification.

BOE refusal to rule on that section is Santoro's other complaint — and her tipping point.

After a final conversation last night with Andrew Phillips, chairman of the BOE, she sent out an e-mail to Congress announcing her resignation.

**Suing for change**

Santoro admits it's a paradox: wanting to carry out a speaker's mandate of supporting the Code but not being able to defend it while being speaker.

She hoped that someone else would step up.

“It's been very upsetting to not watch that happen,” she said. “I honestly had faith in the system.”

Santoro, like the editorial board, said she thinks the obvious conflicts of interest presented by the BOE's rulings are unacceptable.

Original intent is a legitimate legal interpretation. It's hard to imagine writers of the Code meant to allow officers to keep their positions while running for office.

But arbitrariness has instead prevailed. And it's made a mockery of the Code and the election process.

“I feel that I cannot step aside and continue to watch this happen,” she said.

**DEANNA SANTORO**

# No shame for the Union

## UCommons is a good idea — its campaign was not

The UCommons fee increase referendum made it on today's ballot.

Although this board has endorsed the project itself, we have sincere problems with the way the Union conducted its campaign.

Student body president campaigns may use up to \$250. The Union used more than \$1,300.

SBP campaigns are prohibited from paying students to campaign. The Union paid student staff to gather signatures.

While the Student Code charges the Board of Elections with regulating and policing campaigns, it lacks more specific rules for fee referenda.

The Union took advantage of this gap and ran its campaign in a way that would clearly be in violation of the Student Code if student campaigns had done it.

While an institution has a right to advocate on its behalf, it's the utter lack of proportionality that has upset the student body — and rightfully so.

With no funded and organized opposition, the marketplace of ideas that an election season is supposed to embody was markedly one-sided.

Student Congress had the opportunity to fund Students for a Democratic Society to launch a counter-campaign, but the motion failed.

Unfortunately, this left the student body with only one dominant perspective in what would be a major financial investment for the University.

Students deserve the right to information about both sides of an issue — especially when a University institution with a large budget is in control of one side of the debate.

Other controversial fees — such as the child care fee — have gone on the ballot without a juggernaut advertising campaign, yet the debate regarding the fee was robust to say the least.

The Union's missteps have not only exposed a gaping regulatory hole in the Student Code, they've also obscured a perfectly good project with an uproar about campaigning strategy. We hope students will look to the idea and not the marketing.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

*“You chose to try to embarrass me, you chose to try to embarrass my campaign manager, and that’s wrong. You should not have done that. ...There (is) no evidence.”*

RICK INGRAM, DURING DISQUALIFICATION HEARING

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:

*“What’s next? He calls someone poophead? Give me a break.”*

JAMES G., ON RICK INGRAM'S REPORTED STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT CAMPAIGN VIOLATIONS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BOE should disqualify Ian Lee for breach of Code

TO THE EDITOR:  
On Friday, The Daily Tar Heel finally brought attention to one of the most blatant violations in Election Law (“Lee's breach of the Code”). Ian Lee ran a presidential election campaign while maintaining his position as student body secretary.  
The student body secretary is in charge of updating the student code, advising the president and leading the student body. As such, the student body secretary must be an unbiased head of the student government. One cannot run for student body president without supporting a campaign and trying to advance a particular set of political interests. This directly conflicts with the mission of being a successful, unbiased leader of the student body. The Student Code explains that the student body secretary cannot run for student body president in two separate parts.  
The more important part of the Code, Title VI Article 3 Section 310, states that a campaign will be automatically disqualified “for Failure to Submit a Resignation for an Executive or Judicial Branch position.” Lee is currently running a campaign, but has failed to resign as student body secretary. According to the Student Code, his candidacy should be disqualified. Lee must step down as student body secretary if he would like to continue his campaign. If he does not, the Board of Elections clearly must disqualify him.  
*Christine Hajdin  
Graduate Student  
Chemistry*

We can work together to end violence in community

TO THE EDITOR:  
Thank you to the members of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity for intervening in the assault on a staff member last week. Their quick thinking, selfless deeds and willingness to act might have prevented a tragedy.  
While few of us may never be called upon to intervene so directly to prevent harm, it is important to remember that bystander intervention takes many forms. Each one of us can take action by speaking against violent language, by standing up for a friend or colleague being harassed or bullied and through the simple acts of listening and understanding others. Individuals can volunteer on campus or at the Orange County Rape Crisis Center, get HAVEN trained to support student survivors of interpersonal violence, or participate in One Act training to hone their skills in bystander intervention.  
One of the most important messages in our programming is that while we live in a society with violence, the majority of us are not committing acts of violence. The overwhelming majority of us are bystanders, not participants, to violence. This example of intervention by members of the fraternity shows not only that we can stop violence but that we can all work together to create a violence-free community.  
*Shamecca Bryant  
Executive Director  
Orange County Rape Crisis  
Center*

Ian Lee the right choice for Student Body President

TO THE EDITOR:  
It's once again time to elect the student who will represent our interests next year to administrators, trustees and the General Assembly. With times as tough as they have been for UNC, we need a strong student leader who cares about students. And UNC, that leader is Ian Lee.  
Ian has already done a lot for students, starting with his charge to defeat the construction of the infamous South Road bridge, soliciting more than 1,300 student responses in a survey and saving students some \$8.1 million. And Ian wants continue saving students money by creating a study to make sure that students' tuition is paying for the cost of education, and isn't simply contrived to keep up with peer schools.  
With issues like free parking in Rams Deck after 5 p.m. for students, allowing meal plans in the Bottom of Lenoir and Alpine and Fix My Campus to provide students with a way to get real answers, Ian will make a tangible difference in the lives of students.  
More student groups have supported Ian than the other three candidates combined. With the support of Di-Phi, Sangam, the DTH, GPSE, RHA, College Republicans and the Computer Science Club, Ian has proven that he can work with students from all backgrounds.  
Ian has what it takes to be SBP, and I have the utmost confidence in him, his ideas and his overall message. If you want someone

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.