

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,
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of editorial freedom

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Maple View Milk: A life story

If you live in Chapel Hill and shop at the grocery store, you've probably seen the glass Maple View milk jars available in the dairy section. But are you familiar with the story behind the milk or conscious of the business that produces it? Us either.

The locally sourced milk comes from Maple View Farms of Hillsborough, a dairy operation that's been selling both the reusable glass jar and the product within since 1996. Ice cream and butter are also pillars of Maple View's product line, distributed year round to Triangle grocery stores, providing a staple in the diet of many conscious eaters.

If you think Maple View Farms is the embodiment of sustainable agriculture, then you're not alone, but you might be incorrect. You won't find the USDA Organic label on any Maple View products. Their dairy cows are not free range, are not fed organically and are not exempt from the eventual fate of most dairy cows: hamburgers. In fact, at the Maple View Farm Country Store, beef is sold out of the same freezer as the ice cream pints.

Should a conscious eater buy Maple View products? We set out this week to visit the farm, and to answer this question ourselves.

We talked with Robert "Farmer Bob" Nutter, the semi-retired co-owner of Maple View, about why he can't label his products as organic.

"These people who say their milk is all organic cannot use any antibiotics on a cow," he said.

And he's right; USDA Organic labeling requires that animals are given no such antibiotics.

"We treat 'em with penicillin. (When) they've got a sick cow, they just milk 'em. We think that's inhumane."

Maple View's altruism doesn't end there. Seniors, students and kids are welcomed into ecologically based classrooms in the new agricultural center on-site that showcases soil science, plants, insects, nutrition and even a solar array.

When you roll up to the Country Store at Maple View Farms, eight minutes away from UNC's campus, you can see cows grazing lazily in front of Nutter's rustic, gated country home. But this isn't where the milk comes from.

"Those are the dry cows out front," explains Farmer Bob. These could be Holstein steers, which is the beef you'll see for sale in the country store. "The cows that are giving milk are all in the barn."

Farmer Bob explained that when a dairy cow produces below the "pounds of milk per day per cow that's profitable," they leave the farm for auction in Siler City. "They might be 3, 5, or 8 years old," Nutter said. "We just sold one for \$1,000."

So when gazing at Maple View Milk in the dairy aisle, consider the alternatives. Gallons of industrial milk might be more convenient to purchase, but there are significant benefits to buying local.

"We try to give back to the community, and the community has given back to us," Nutter reminded us. "If the people don't drink it, then we won't be here."

Amazingly, the Maple View milk itself is almost always a cheaper option, just remember to return the bottle.

"If we put milk just in plastic jugs, it'd be a lot less work and a lot simpler," Nutter said. "But we believe milk tastes better in glass."

We wholeheartedly agree.

FRIDAY:

Noah Brisbin gives a law student's perspective on the ongoing SBP debate.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By JR Fruto, bundok@email.unc.edu



A step forward for SafeWalk

SafeWalk expansion shows the program is strong and sensitive to student needs

Wednesday night marked the premiere of the expanded SafeWalk program.

Previously limited to on-campus locations, Granville and Greek housing, students will soon be able to have escorts ensure they reach home safely in Chapel Hill and Carrboro too.

This board has been skeptical of the SafeWalk program in the past.

But SafeWalk's leaders seem to have been responsible in their decision-making.

SafeWalk first expanded its reach to Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, which might seem a little unnecessary at first glance — the street is very well lit and relatively busy at night.

But Christina Lynch, director of SafeWalk, said the first phase of expansion in SafeWalk

would allow the group to perfect its protocols and ensure the safety of its employees. This is a fair point.

A cautious approach should allow the group to ensure proper procedures are in place while informing students of increased service.

Further expansions include Hillsborough Street, Henderson Street and North Street.

The extended timeline also permits off-campus communities time to get accustomed to the SafeWalk program.

We hope the leaders of SafeWalk will reach out to neighborhood organizations to inform them of the program and ask for their assistance in keeping students and student employees safe.

Lynch said the group had an average of 19 SafeWalk clients

per night last semester, with Tuesday and Wednesday pulling an average of 40 a night. The figures seem to suggest that demand is strong.

The areas included in the expansion cover the majority of the places students live off campus, and were chosen based on student surveys.

Data tracking has led to more accurate predictions about the number of SafeWalk teams to have on call for any given night.

The budget is reasonable — \$22,000 per semester — and leaders have saved student money by shifting some of the financial burden to the federal work-study program.

The program might also consider investing in more bikes. SafeWalkers can walk students home and ride back to campus for faster turn-around times.

Old features, new face

ConnectCarolina finally gives fresh look to old favorites

With the official death of Student Central on (ironically) Valentine's Day, students now have no choice but to turn to ConnectCarolina.

It's no secret that it has been a tough transition. And frankly, the registration system still feels a little unwieldy compared to the easy (if rudimentary) user interface of Student Central.

But the recent, if belated, addition of several features we loved about Student Central has given hope that ConnectCarolina is finally coming into its own.

One is Tar Heel Tracker. Anyone familiar with the old GRADS system in Student Central would recognize this degree audit as a new-and-improved version.

It's actually disappointing

that it is only currently available to freshmen and sophomores if for no other reason than juniors and seniors could really use it.

The reprisal of the GPA calculator is also welcome. No one ever wants to know that it will take 75 hours of "As" in order to graduate with that 3.8 GPA you always wanted — but the tool is there.

Tar Heel Tracker and the GPA calculator were both featured in platform planks for student body president this year. It reflects how much students value them, in addition to supporting our long-standing belief that platforms exploit ongoing projects for candidates' aggrandizement.

There's one more feature that was sorely missed in Student Central that has been reincar-

nated in ConnectCarolina.

The "unofficial transcript" was a simple course and grade summary that everyone who wanted to apply for an internship or get a discount on auto insurance leaned on heavily.

The "My Course History" page will surely help a lot of students, especially since the Registrar's Office is faced with a glut of official transcript requests that has caused major headaches.

This isn't to say that all is well. One timeline for the implementation of ConnectCarolina places the degree audit and grading feature rollouts at last October. Students were left with a decaying Student Central while ConnectCarolina was less than satisfying. And the registration interface remains a problem.

But progress often comes in small steps.

Don't annex me, bro

Local and state property owners need more rights

Involuntary annexation isn't exactly as sexy or attention-grabbing as other political issues like abortion and health care, but it is one that affects communities all over the state.

The policy that allows annexation without the consent of property owners is unfair and should be reevaluated by the General Assembly.

Over the last few years, Carrboro has involuntarily annexed several neighborhoods that never wanted to be a part of Carrboro.

When former Carrboro mayoral candidate Brian Voyce — whose neighborhood was involuntarily annexed — was asked about moving to Carrboro by The Daily Tar

Heel in 2007, he answered by saying "I didn't...Carrboro moved to me."

North Carolina is one of the few states that still allows involuntary annexations. This policy lets towns and municipalities grow and incorporate new pieces of land, often without the consent of the property owners, that will be subject to new taxes and fees.

Voluntary annexations, in which property owners request to become a part of a town, do occur and are not controversial.

As written, the current laws governing annexation give all of the power to towns and municipalities — leaving property owners few options when it comes to having input

in the process.

Right now, property owners don't have a choice. They can go to public hearings and stage protests, but if a town wants to annex them there is little they can do to stop it.

So far this session North Carolina legislators have introduced at least four bills addressing annexation policy.

Current legislation seeks only to ban involuntary annexation or repeal recent controversial annexations.

This legislation is a good start. The General Assembly should continue to work to enact meaningful annexation reform that gives property owners more rights when it comes to involuntary annexation.

QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"It is simply impossible to absorb further budget cuts without adversely affecting the quality of the academic experience for our students."

THOMAS ROSS, PRESIDENT, UNC SYSTEM

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:

"Honestly, the rhetoric on both sides of the argument has been underwhelming ..."

RMCMEZY, ON THE ONGOING DEBATE OVER GENDER-NEUTRAL LANGUAGE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Perverse priorities partly to blame for budget woes

TO THE EDITOR:

We're all suffering financially. We're denying current students the chance at what might be their dream degree, and depriving many applicants of the chance to don Carolina Blue. Why? "We just don't have the money." But money isn't the real problem; priorities are.

I'm a student fortunate enough to work at the UNC Phonathon, calling alumni to ask for donations for academic departments and student organizations. I'm privileged enough to talk to so many wonderful Carolina graduates who are happy to give what they can, from the successful corporate giant to the little old lady with only a little to spare. All of them make me proud to be a Tar Heel. However, there are far too many who say, "I'm broke, times are tough" though I can clearly see the \$1,000 donation they made to The Rams Club last month.

I love Carolina sports as much as the next Tar Heel, but when future careers are at stake, should they really be the priority? I'm aware that the funds used for athletics, including the football stadium addition, were designated specifically for that use. But why is our School of Nursing being forced to deny students admission and change their admissions process when there are plenty willing and able to support Carolina financially?

What kind of message are we sending about UNC as we constantly cut academics and deny worthy students admission, but have a shiny new addition to our football stadium?

Gina Johnson
Senior
English

Apply for membership on student-run Honor Court

TO THE EDITOR:

Attention all first-years and sophomores. The Honor Court is currently accepting applications for new members!

A fixture on our campus since 1795, the Honor System is excited about taking on some new folks. Heard the Honor Court is only for pre-law students? Nonsense. It is a huge campus, and we want everyone represented.

We are looking for fun new people from all walks of life that are excited about upholding the integrity of our great university. We are proud to say that UNC is the only university to have a student-run honor system, aside from the military academies, and we would love to have you help us carry on this great tradition.

While a great responsibility, we can assure you that Honor Court is an extremely rewarding and worthwhile experience. If interested, please attend the interest session at Monday at 7 p.m. in Hamilton 100. Applications are now available online at honor.unc.edu and are due on Feb. 24th. If you have any questions please contact trojgreg@gmail.com or patrickspaugh@gmail.com. We look forward to receiving your application.

Troy Smith
Patrick Spaugh
Recruitment Committee
Honor Court

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

Can we give Kendall Marshall a nickname already? The following seem appropriate: Special K, Ken-Possible, and Kendelicious.

Dear UNC Men's Basketball team: I know our loss to Duke really put a damper on everyone's moods, but giving John Henson a plastic fork at the restaurant where I work honestly made my week.

To the dude I saw intently shielding his eyes from the late afternoon sun walking through the quad: If only there were some more practical orientation for your backwards fitted hat...

Question for the girl who came outside wearing nothing but a guy's button up during the HJ fire drill: I've heard sex is magical, but you're telling me that when you did it, all of your clothes disappeared?

To the girl popping Plan B on the P2P Sunday night: Happy Valentine's Day!

You really made us buy scantrons for the multiple choice part of the test which contained 5 questions? I had to break a \$10 bill for that!

To the people handing out condoms in front of Lenoir on Valentine's Day: Thanks for rubbing it in.

No, frat stars, holding up numbers when girls walk by and screaming "Happy Valentines Day!" isn't OK.

To the guy taking notes at Byrns' finding true love lecture: Let me remind you of the male-female ratio at UNC.

Hey Deanna, are you as close to the edit board as you are to Rick Ingram?

Sorry I haven't responded to your previous e-mails, I haven't had access to my computer for the past few days. "Sent via BlackBerry by AT&T." Really?

To the girl tanning in the graveyard: I know the weather has been nice, but WTF?

@Rick_Ingram: It's hard to believe that you kept this campaign classy and clean when you mock the BOE chair on your Facebook. #youreanidiot

To Harrison Barnes: It's awesome that you are starting to live up to all the pre-season hype (knock-on-wood), but are you really going to sit in class and Google yourself the whole time?

To the guy in the UL "researching spring break" on Google Images: I saw you turn the safe search off.

The weather should eat some Activia so it will stay regular.

You know you're a UNC student when you look at every situation as a kvetching opportunity.

Dear suitemate: The fact that your shower tote has been untouched in the bathroom for four days straight says a lot about your hygiene habits. Now we truly know where "that smell" comes from.

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

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.

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