

**The Daily Tar Heel**  
 Established 1893,  
 117 years  
 of editorial freedom

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## Defend education, it's your right

Students across the country are organizing to defend public education.

The National Day of Action to Defend Public Education, to be held today, was called for by organizers in California and New York and will see students at institutions of higher education in 30 states and Washington, D.C., march, rally, sit-in, picket, teach-in and more to defend the right to an education for all.

Even during this severe economic crisis, the United States in fact has the money to make public education truly public and accessible to everyone.

Look at the government's spending of tax dollars: The U.S. spends about \$800 million every two days in Afghanistan and Iraq and has handed more than one trillion dollars to bail out private banks.

North Carolina has the money, too. Research Triangle Park is one of the largest research parks in the nation and boasts corporations like IBM, GlaxoSmithKline and Sony Ericsson, bringing in massive revenues. We should not have holes in the budget!

Such corporations should be placed in a higher tax bracket according to their profits. Instead, money is saved by cutting wages and firing workers. The staff that remain do the work of numerous workers for the pay of one while being threatened by the privatization of public sector jobs at the University (like Aramark running the dining halls).

Students, faculty and staff are seeing their classes, jobs, wages and rights severely cut. Tuition is increasing while decreasing scholarships are causing students either to graduate with about \$20,000 in debt to banks or not able to access an education at all.

Here at UNC-Chapel Hill, education seems to be an afterthought instead of a priority.

While ex-Chancellor James Mooser has been paid more than \$500,000 since retiring as chancellor just two years ago, introductory language classes are being moved online to save money. The administrators that still work here are paid like CEOs while some adjunct professors are getting paid as little as \$2,000 per class.

Tuition here at UNC-CH has increased by more than 100 percent since 2000 alone, with no end in sight.

Additionally, the people who build much of the infrastructure in North Carolina as well as keep the state running — working class people both documented and not — are being kept out of schools by tuition hikes more than ever. At the same time, more than 4,000 class sections have been cut since Fall 2007.

In 1960, the University of California system, today one of the most expensive in the country, had a commitment to tuition-free education. If the trajectory other public university systems have been on is any indication of where we are headed, we must act now to defend our schools!

The March 4 coalition demands that the University:

- Chop from the top.
- Stop privatization of public sector jobs.
- Use UNC system's lobbying power to increase corporate income tax.
- Use UNC system's lobbying power to push for public schools to be open to undocumented students at in-state rates.

Attend the "Funk the Cuts" event today at 4 p.m. in the Pit to take a stand to defend education!

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



*If only our vacation looked like this, with less ethical problems.*

## Grievances can be pursued

Surprisingly strong avenues in place for well-liked employee to clear her name

Whether or not former Rams Head Dining Hall cashier Angela Vargas was wrongfully terminated, it would be inaccurate to say that she has no avenues for recourse.

Aramark Corp., UNC's food services provider, is a private firm separate from the University. While cultivating a strong relationship with University officials, it has also offered significant avenues for employees to pursue grievances.

"Aramark has been a good partner," was the frank statement from Mike Freeman, director of auxiliary services.

"I work in this building. I see how Aramark interacts with employees 200 plus days a year," Freeman said.

Some students who have spearheaded a campaign to have Vargas rehired don't share this sentiment.

An online petition alleges that Aramark "fails to respect its employees, and fails to respect the relationships students build with them."

Angry students see this as a foregone conclusion, but this statement is inconsistent with the procedures Aramark has in place.

This is not to say that there is no room for healthy skepticism. While the University is not the employer, it has a huge stake in making sure workers on campus are treated fairly.

In the case of Vargas, that is not entirely clear.

The problem is that the University is legally limited in its ability to scrutinize Aramark's operations. Aramark hires and fires its own employees. And just like the University, it is obligated to protect the privacy of an employee's personnel file.

According to Freeman and Aramark human resources manager Abigail Kin, Aramark has explicit procedures it follows in dealing with employees, including consulting human resource professionals prior to reprimanding employees.

They both also mentioned that a toll-free number is clearly posted for employees to

complain to Aramark and have their grievances investigated by a third party.

While these options in no way exonerate Aramark in the case of Vargas, they at least show that avenues are in place for her to pursue an appeal.

And while Aramark cannot release information from a personnel file, Vargas can. The decision to make it public is hers.

Vargas might or might not have been wrongfully terminated. Regardless, the channels are in place for her to pursue her grievances.

It is certainly disturbing when an employee claims wrongful termination. And the University should not let its close relationship with Aramark cloud its judgment of that company.

But what can be said with certainty is that Vargas is at no real disadvantage compared to a UNC employee in pursuing her grievance. The proper tools are at her disposal for her to make the most of her fight.

## Making the grade

Schools should require minimum GPA for athletes

High school student-athletes should be held to the same academic standards as every other high school student.

So it makes sense that Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools is considering a 2.0 grade point average requirement for high school students who want to participate in their school's athletic programs.

Currently, the school system follows the standards set by the N.C. High School Athletic Association which only requires that students pass five courses the previous semester to be eligible.

The proposed policy would

be based on the student's performance in the previous semester, not on the cumulative GPA.

Guilford County and Charlotte-Mecklenburg school districts have already implemented this policy.

If the proposal is adopted, next year's crop of freshmen would follow these new guidelines.

It's important that students who want to participate in sports are able to do so. But their primary goal should be education, and it's essential that these students have a solid academic foundation.

The policy should also be

extended to include students taking part in other types of extracurricular activity, another possibility outlined in the proposal.

A student's grades are dropping because he or she is dedicating too much time to extracurricular activities, then it's time for that student to invest more in his or her school work.

Sure, some of these students are aspiring to play professional sports after high school. But most of them will not make it, and the school board owes it to every student to ensure they are prepared to join the work force or enroll in post-secondary education.

## Do good, beef up resume

Firm offers internship placement in nonprofits

Economic downturns have the potential to inspire creative problem solving and bring about greater efficiency.

A group of students and alumni have taken advantage of the Great Recession and accomplished just that. University students should take advantage of their work.

Micro-Consulting for North Carolina is an organization that lets students looking for internship experience work with nonprofits. The economic downturn has left many nonprofits scrambling for money, which of course means it's harder for them to pay for even basic functions.

Luckily, many students are

happy to work for free. And in today's market, students with real-world job experience are sought after.

Certainly, cash is always a plus, but what many students really need is the experience.

That's where the ingenuity of this organization comes in. Its student manpower seeks to help the more than 5,000 nonprofits in the Triangle area. The organization recognizes both parties' needs — the potential for productive students to help nonprofits and vice versa.

Micro-Consulting for North Carolina assists nonprofits in many areas: data management, grant assistance, information technology solutions, startup services, bookkeeping

and budgeting.

This experience can set graduating students apart in the job market. Working with a nonprofit through Micro-Consulting for North Carolina also provides the satisfaction of filling a nonprofit's needs.

And apart from the experience, it gives students a chance to interact with professionals and form those ever-important professional social networks.

Students who have appropriate skill sets should look into working with Micro-Consulting for North Carolina.

To find out more, students can go to [www.mcfornc.org](http://www.mcfornc.org). There's more information about the organization and how to get involved.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY:**

*"It is a peaceful, beautiful place for students to go and remember the good times that they had with those they might have lost."*

THOMAS EDWARDS, ON THE EVE CARSON GARDEN

**FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:**

*"You can f\*\*\* with a lot of things in this world, but if you f\*\*\* with B-Skis that's just wrong."*

"RACCOON," ON A STORY ABOUT HOW LATE-NIGHT SPOTS SOMETIMES HAVE PROBLEMS WITH VIOLENCE

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**Getting rid of runoffs would betray preferences**

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to Wednesday's article in The Daily Tar Heel, "Runoff elections could be discarded," (March 3), I thoroughly disagree with the measure now being considered in Student Congress. The decision to eliminate runoff elections would not only reduce the competitive spirit of elections, but it would also fail to uphold the democratic principle of majority rule.

Take, for example, the 2009 election. Many students found it strange that a runoff was necessary when Thomas Edwards obtained a plurality of 40 percent of the vote, 20 percentage points more than the second-place candidate, current Student Body President Jasmin Jones. But the fact remains that a majority of students did not vote for Mr. Edwards in the first round.

Theoretically, the new system being created would be able to "make" a majority by asking voters to list the candidates in order of their preference and then reallocate the votes of students whose first choice is eliminated.

But many students' preferences may change for the runoff. And some student voters have a single candidate of whom they are extremely supportive and are completely indifferent between the remaining candidates.

Thus, making them order nonexistent preferences would create an illegitimate outcome. Finally, given the technological problems of this year's election, do we really want to trust a computer to perform the complex vote re-allocation process that the system entails? Yes, campus elections may seem long and stressful, but they are an essential part of giving students a voice at this University. Student Congress should not approve this bill.

Ryan Collins  
 Junior  
 Political Science, Economics

ties and deliver. You didn't. I suspect that next time there is any griping from students about seating arrangements, some one will put up a photo of last night's empty student sections and laugh you right out of the office.

Jay Campbell  
 Adjunct Assistant Professor  
 School of Pharmacy

**McDonough misses the true meaning of lecture**

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm not typically one to defend others, especially The Daily Tar Heel, but Chase McDonough seems to have missed several points in his own letter to the editor published Wednesday, "Article on Horowitz didn't capture nature of speech."

He states that Horowitz was giving an argument for "why students are being defrauded of a proper education in a system where many classes only assign reading from the liberal perspective." McDonough then claims that the quote "You can't get a good education if you're only telling half the story" is an unrelated sentence. I was present for the speech as well and I believe most people would agree that is a suitable summary.

Additionally, when I read his extremely supportive and are "Conservative Heat" article, I assumed it was implied that he was pleasantly surprised that Horowitz's comments were not radical. The word "radical" when it comes to politics, has a fairly clear negative connotation. I understand that McDonough is going to be a little sensitive about having anything he says be representative of the Carolina Review, and I understand that the DTH wants to be as fair and balanced as possible, but I felt that publishing this letter was unnecessary.

Drew Millard  
 Junior  
 Communication Studies

**Cut back allowance to cut back on printed paper**

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to Tuesday's article, "New guidelines created to slash paper use," I must admit that I disagree with the request that the environmental affairs committee is making to professors. Part of being a college student is printing off large assignments and dissertations, but those are essential items that should not be limited in efforts to conserve paper. Logic tells me it may be more prudent to reduce the \$40 that students are charged each semester for printing paper.

Many people are not able to spend that much money on paper, and those who do are not spending it all because they are printing off assignments to turn in to professors, it's because they are printing off hundreds of pages that are available online.

If people have more money than needed, they will be compelled to print superfluously, justified by, "Well, I'm paying \$40, so I may as well use it." By reducing the amount of money allotted, we could reduce the amount of printed paper to the essentials: assignments.

Emily Williams  
 Junior  
 School of Nursing

**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 Suite 2409 in the Student Union.  
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**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 eight board members, the associate opinion editor, the opinion editor and the editor.