

## The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893, 122 years of editorial freedom

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A Time for Musing

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## Eminent domain can be abusive

When this campaign season began, I expected that there were going to be plenty of issues discussed. Arguments regarding the economy, criminal justice and cybersecurity were just some of what I was anticipating.

Never once did I consider eminent domain an item worthy of being discussed. Then again, I did not expect a real estate mogul to be leading the Republican presidential nomination race either.

One of the highlights of last Saturday's Republican presidential debate was when party frontrunner and eventual New Hampshire primary winner Donald Trump defended his stance on eminent domain, saying that the government's ability to seize property regardless of owner consent was necessary for the nation to function.

"Without it, you wouldn't have roads, you wouldn't have hospitals, you wouldn't have anything," Trump said. "You need eminent domain."

Trump then added that people whose property is taken under eminent domain even benefit, as they are given at least fair market value for their land which is being seized.

Eminent domain as a whole is not a new issue. The Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution says that the government has a right to take property away from owners if it serves a public use, and property owners must be provided "just compensation" as a result.

The problem — and what Trump did not mention — is while eminent domain is legal, it is an abused practice. Seizure does not solely happen in the name of public facilities like roads, but also anything that could result in an increase of economic activity or revenue.

From sports stadiums to upscale condominiums, eminent domain has been cited as motivation for governments to take private property for a private project in the name of economic development. This results in rewards for the project's stakeholders but rarely any benefits for the community.

Trump knows this all too well. In 1994, he convinced Atlantic City officials to assist in removing an elderly woman from her house so that the billionaire could build limousine parking for his nearby casino. Thankfully, New Jersey's Superior Court stopped the act before it reached completion.

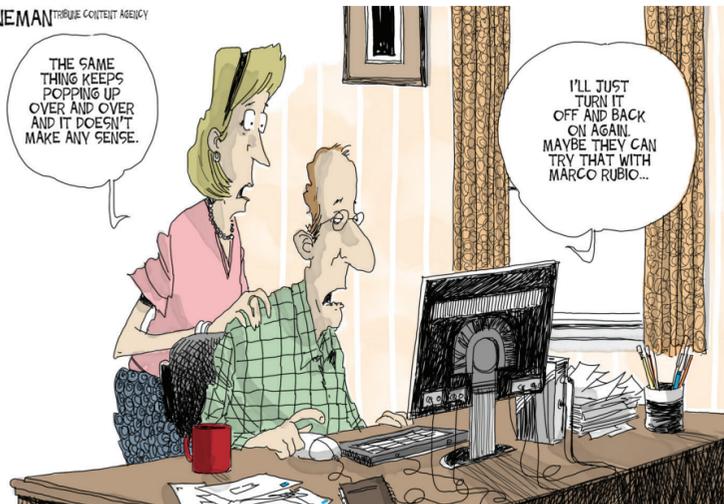
Even the payment is mismanaged. "Just compensation" does not mean what is determined fair between the developer and property owner's eyes, but often rather what is determined fair by a government agency, which often results in incompetent and low payments.

Governments taking private property in the name of one's private financial gain should not be an acceptable practice. Trump's stance on eminent domain not only threatens property rights but also says economic strength can allow parties the ability take the possessions of others.

By supporting eminent domain, Trump is supporting a misused practice that puts the freedom of all below the gains of a few. Instead of letting people live as they wish, Trump would be fine seeing power used to promote the success of the influential.

### EDITORIAL CARTOON By Drew Sheneman, The Star Ledger

SHENEMAN/THREE CONTENT AGENCY



## EDITORIAL

## Screw gender norms

### Mr. and Miss UNC reinforce gender stereotypes.

Every fall semester, usually in early October, we begin to see students in the Pit asking for signatures to get their names on the ballot for Mr. and Miss UNC.

If we're being honest, Mr. and Miss UNC is a popularity contest hidden behind the veil of "public service," all the while slathered in gender binarism. Let's reform it.

If Mr. and Miss UNC's biggest goal is to give students a chance to represent UNC and to complete

large service projects, let's do away with the gender binary. Instead of having males compete with males and vice versa, we should simply have students compete with students, regardless of gender.

Mr. and Miss UNC innately exclude a portion of the student body who refute the traditional gender roles and titles society places on them.

To those who suggest that this would be irrevocably changing a UNC tradition, this has been an evolving alumni aspect of Alumni Weekend. They invented the tradition of homecoming king and

queen in the late 1930s, "with the king being the most popular professor on campus and the queen being the most popular female student," according to the General Alumni Association.

It took the GAA more than 60 years — in the early 2000s — to realize that misogynist messages were being conveyed with their differential student/professor categories based on gender. As the GAA continues to evolve its homecoming tradition to reflect the state of our culture, it only makes sense to Mr. and Miss UNC and replace it with a less cis-gendered alternative.

## EDITORIAL

## Keep grinding

### The invisible hand should keep itself off the Grind.

As this board has stated in the past, we are wary of the process surrounding the privatization of UNC Student Stores. To add to our worries, the Daily Grind could be next on the chopping block.

While the Grind is already an independently owned coffee outlet, its contract may be in danger this summer with the possible privatization of Student Stores.

The Daily Grind employs students, and those jobs should not be put in jeopardy through the privatization process. We call upon the University to protect student jobs through this process. We do understand that the Daily Grind is an independently owned business and that its student employees are not employees of the University, but the University should still lobby to protect its students' interests.

The Daily Grind also serves as one of the only access points for students to get food and drinks from local vendors on campus.

Sure, students can patronize some of the local fare on Lenoir Mainstreet, but Mainstreet's hours do not work for all students' schedules. At 9:30 p.m. on a Wednesday, a student in Davis doesn't have that many food options. On central campus after 9 p.m., only Alpine Bagel, Wendy's, the Pit Stop and the Daily Grind are open. The Daily Grind is open earlier in the morning and later into the night, better serving student needs.

The Daily Grind has been on campus for 20 years, and we hope it stays that way.

## ADVICE COLUMN

## You Asked for It

### In which we get you ready for the most romantic day of the year.

*Kelsey Weekman (a lot like Cupid) and Drew Goins (stupid) are the writers of UNC's premier (only!) satirical advice column. Results may vary.*

**You:** I have to work on Valentine's Day, how am I supposed to celebrate?

**You Asked for It:** If you're trapped at the office without your Jim or Pam (or Meredith, no judgment), you can still feel the love.

Give valentines to your co-workers. There's only one day every year to use crappy candy to tell your colleagues "Be mine," "Fax me" or "Time to clean out the fridge, Jerry, your tuna is disgusting."

Try making your valentines out of office supplies. Nothing says "we have a casual working relationship" like a necklace made of red and pink paperclips or a monstrous ball of rubber bands and staples modeled off of their likeness.

If you're not into Pinterest, be subtle. Replace your regu-



Drew Goins and Kelsey Weekman

Senior writer and online managing editor.

**Submit your questions:** bit.ly/dthyafi

larly scheduled whining with Valentine's-themed whining. Let everyone know how much you miss your significant other or how tired you are of the love around you. If you can't be happy, no one can be!

**You:** I don't even wanna think about this Sunday. Give me some alternatives.

**YAFI:** There's always Galentine's Day. This festive occasion allows women to honor the females in their lives who would never leave them for their other friend Angelica who they thought

that they trusted, but now they know better, Angelica.

We're offering some really out-there alternatives to spice up your Feb. 14 (think the Mexican chocolate gelato from Sugarland).

Palentine's Day is a gender-inclusive option for those who want to revel in their platonic relationships. Not to be confused with Palestine's Day, observed by the war zone in a chronic relationship. The biggest perk of Palentine's Day is getting to use the word "pal" as if you were a character from "The Wizard of Oz."

Choralentine's Day is basically V-Day, but with an S.O. who earnestly sings to you. This is much, much worse than any of the other alternatives. Observe it by being grateful that you don't have to suffer through a rendition of "Wonderwall" this year.

Finally, show your affection for the local media in your life with WREALentine's Day. If you miss it on Sunday, you can catch it again weekdays at 6 p.m. and 11 p.m.

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"The price of oil is (at its) lowest in decades and the supply is high, so we don't know if it is economically feasible to do it right now."

Steve Ross, on the possibility of off-shore drilling in North Carolina

## FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT

"Everyone is beautiful, in their own way... What matters, of course, is what one does with the hand life has dealt. You build that."

NClaw441, on embracing one's identity and building their future

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Ways to vote in the upcoming primaries

TO THE EDITOR:

As the March 15 primary approaches, recent changes in state voting law are adding an extra layer of confusion for North Carolinians navigating the path to the polls. In addition, litigation over the General Assembly's 2011 Congressional Redistricting Plan may impact the primary schedule.

Whether the primary will go forward as scheduled remains to be seen. Regardless it is vital for voters to be prepared for an election on March 15. Under North Carolina law, the last day to register for the March 15 election is February 19. Students can register at an address on or off campus but will need to vote at the precinct that corresponds to their registered address on the day of the primary. You can check your registration and find your polling place at the North Carolina State Board of Elections website.

The early voting period during this primary is scheduled to last from March 3 to March 12. During the early voting period, registered voters can cast a ballot at any of the designated early voting sites in their county. The Orange County Board of Elections lists six early voting locations on their website. Early voting has the added benefit of allowing for same-day registration: voters can go to an early voting site, register and vote in one stop. There is no same-day registration on the day of the primary.

Although there is still litigation pending on the state's voter ID law, whether heading to the polls during the early voting period or on March 15, voters will be asked to present a photo ID. Acceptable photo IDs include a North Carolina driver's license or other DMV-issued photo ID, a U.S. passport, a U.S. military ID card or a tribal enrollment card. The address listed on the photo ID does not need to match the address on a voter's registration. However, student IDs — even those issued by UNC — will not be accepted. Voters who arrive to the polls without an acceptable ID can still cast a provisional ballot. Provisional ballots, and accompanying declaration forms that explain why a voter does not have a photo ID, must be available at all voting sites. Voters casting provisional ballots must also either: (1) provide their birthdate and the last four digits of their Social Security number on the declaration form; or (2) present a voter registration card, bank statement, utility bill or government document with their name and address on it.

Early voting begins Thursday, March 3 and runs through Saturday, March 12. There are

four early voting sites in Chapel Hill and Carrboro: Chapel of the Cross, 304 E. Franklin St. (right next to Morehead Planetarium); Carrboro Town Hall, 301 W. Main St.; the Seymour Senior Center, 2551 Homestead Road; and the New Hope Community Center, 4014 Whitfield Road. These early voting locations are open 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. on weekdays and 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Saturdays. On Election Day (March 15), the polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

If you encounter or observe any problems while trying to vote, call the national Election Protection hotline at 888-OUR-VOTE (888-687-8683). The hotline is available during early voting and on Election Day will be staffed by volunteer attorneys and trained UNC law students.

Even though the legal battles over voting rights continue, remember these important points, and exercise your constitutional right to vote: 1) register by February 19; 2) vote early if possible at any early voting location, but on Election Day go your assigned polling place; 3) bring your photo ID, but even if you don't have one, you can still vote.

Brent Ducharme  
Attorney-Fellow  
UNC Center for Civil Rights

Maryam Al-Zoubi  
3L Extern  
UNC Center for Civil Rights

### Bedford represents a top-notch educator

TO THE EDITOR:

We moved to Chapel Hill with three school-age children: two typically developing children and one special needs child. Little did I know that this was the beginning of a long and interesting relationship with the school district and their board members. From that initial start, Jamezetta Bedford became a lighthouse of inspiration for me. She never wavered on her through line of advocating for all students to access the best education services that Chapel Hill could provide, regardless of their circumstances.

Bedford gave 100 percent to her work with the school district and the community at large. In my opinion, it is her recognition of the importance of partnering with other agencies, her understanding of how every organization directly impacts and contributes to the complex needs of a vibrant and diverse community that sets her apart from others. Jamezetta understands the balance of politics, budgets and the need for transparency. We would be lucky to have someone of her caliber working for the entire county.

Adela Van Name  
Special Needs Advisory Council  
Founding Chairperson

## 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 or mail to our office at 151 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, NC 27514
- Email: opinion@dailytarheel.com

**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, which comprises 10 board members, the opinion assistant editor and editor and the editor-in-chief.