

# The Daily Tar Heel

## Columnist Application

**Applications are due by midnight on Sunday, June 1.**

\*Members of student government are not eligible to join the staff. Individuals planning to run for office or to serve on a campaign in any capacity this year are also ineligible.

Completed applications must be e-mailed to [saad@email.unc.edu](mailto:saad@email.unc.edu) by **midnight on Sunday, June 1.**

If you are selected for an interview and will not be around Chapel Hill, we will work something out by phone or online chat.

Questions? Feel free to call me at (919) 244-6860 or send an e-mail to [saad@email.unc.edu](mailto:saad@email.unc.edu)

### **Job Description and Expectations**

Columnists write one 650-word column each week; the pieces will be due one day before they are to run in the paper. Columnists are expected to come into the office the night before publication and read with Editor Allison Nichols and Opinion Editor Aisha Saad.

Expectations are high for columnist positions. We are looking for someone who can write on a relevant topic in a style that is both accessible and engaging to readers and that will take a clear stance while making a point. Columnists will be held to journalistic standards; this means citing all facts included in the column.

Four columnist positions will be assigned. Wednesdays will be guest columnists. Columnists are excused from writing only in the case of extreme emergency (i.e. death in the family); since life tends to be spontaneous and unexpected, always have an extra column on hand. This position takes about five hours a week.

Thank you for your interest in becoming a columnist for The Daily Tar Heel!

Aisha Saad  
Opinion Editor  
[saad@email.unc.edu](mailto:saad@email.unc.edu)  
(919) 244-6860 (cell)

Please answer the following questions as completely as you can. Be creative; take this as an opportunity to exemplify your individual voice and writing ability.

Name:

Year:

Major(s)/Minor(s):

Phone:

Email:

Hometown:

1. In your opinion, what is the purpose and goal of a column in The Daily Tar Heel?
2. What perspective will you bring to the opinion page and who is your target audience?
3. What is a continuous theme/philosophy that your column could carry over from week to week?
4. Please list five topics that you would like to address in your column. What are the underlying issues behind these topics?
5. How often do you check the news and what sources do you rely on?
6. What other organizations are you involved with? What is your position and time commitment within those groups?
7. Please rank the following focus themes in the order of your preference: University, Community, and At-Large? Why are you the best fit for writing on your top-ranked focus?
8. Please submit at least two sample columns of 600-650 words in length.
9. Write 200-400 words on what it means to be a Tar Heel. Be creative!