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Keep K-ville Duke blue

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The Duke-UNC rivalry has reared its head in the most unlikely of places-the Robertson Scholarship Program.

The program was designed to unify Duke and its Chapel Hill counterpart via academic and community collaboration; students in the program live and study at both schools for portions of their college careers.

Recently, however, "division," as opposed to "unity," has become a buzzword surrounding the Robertson Scholarship, as the program is a major point of contention in this year's Krzyzewskiville tenting policy.

According to the 2006-2007 policy, UNC Robertson Scholars-who lived at Chapel Hill for the Fall 2006 semester-will not be allowed to tent this spring. Head Line Monitor Mara Schultz, a senior, has said the UNC scholars living at Duke are technically not full-time students and thus should not be allowed in K-ville, which is meant for full-time Duke students only. The Robertson Scholarship website, however, states that the scholars "have full student privileges at both Duke and UNC." As a result, plenty of Robertsons are calling the tenting policy unfair, claiming that it is antithetical to the scholarship's unifying spirit.

And they're right. As members of the Duke community, even if only for a semester, it is only fair that the UNC Robertsons be able to appreciate all the privileges extended to Duke students.

But the tenting policy is not simply about students; it's about the nation's most intense sports rivalry and its most extreme manifestations: K-ville and Cameron Crazies. Thus, overarching fairness in a university context is not really the point.

The rivalry is the point. Keeping the spirit of competitiveness high is the point. And perhaps most importantly, making sure that K-ville is unified in pro-Duke spirit is the point.

Last year, several UNC Robertsons, posing as Duke supporters, tented, entered Cameron Indoor Stadium in Blue Devil garb and then, much to the surprise of fans, removed their gear to reveal Tar Heel-blue shirts, paint and wigs. They used the Cameron Crazy invention of K-ville to get into the game, get good seats and make a mockery of Duke's fans.

As such, the group of UNC Robertsons did two things: first, they violated the unifying mantra of their own scholarship and second, they lost the opportunity to tent because they violated the spirit of the process.

Tenting, at its most basic level, is not a student privilege-it is a Cameron Crazy privilege. It was created by the most enthusiastic of Blue Devil fans, and it should be reserved for them. Thus, questions about the "full-time" versus "half-year" status of the Robertsons aside, the scholars should not expect to enjoy a privilege meant for the sincerest of Cameron Crazies-particularly when they have previously shown no intention of respecting what K-ville was created to be.

The UNC Robertsons are not banned from the men's home game against UNC. They can still wait in line to see the contest. Moreover, they are not banned from K-ville. They, like many other students who don't want to tent, can make their way over to the tents on the weekends for camaraderie and fun.

In short, they still get the "Duke basketball" experience-and even a taste of the K-ville experience. They just don't get the full Cameron Crazy experience, which is fair because it is not a privilege they are due.

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