

the Seahawk

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Letter To The Editor

Campus Cleanliness: All need to be involved

Dear Editor:

I am a senior Communication Studies major in Mr. John Church's *Media Ethics* class. I am also a university employee, working for Landscape Services. One of my duties every morning is to pick up litter around the campus. I have a suggestion that I think may help keep our campus cleaner and at the same time keep maintenance costs down for the school.

I would like the University of North Carolina at Wilmington to consider a proposal making campus clean-up part of the orientation for every new incoming student. For a period of two weeks during their first semester here, the students would spend an hour a day picking up litter and emptying

the trashcans around campus. This suggestion has several benefits for UNCW. First of all, the school would save money by utilizing "volunteer" help. Second, Landscape Services would have more time available for its primary function, to beautify our campus.

Possibly the most important benefit of this proposal would come from its participants. Each student that goes through this program would take more pride in their campus, and would be less likely to litter in their time here. This is a beautiful campus we attend here. This is a beautiful campus we attend, and if we can get all students involved and considerate of its care, it will be more beautiful from our efforts.

Michael Borton

**You have an opinion.
You have the right to
speak it.
Do it HERE!**

Bring your letters to our office at the University Union,
room 205-E,
or e-mail THE SEAHAWK at:
shkeditor@hotmail.com

Editorial Viewpoint...

Food for thought: Listen to the students' concerns

Aramark has been UNCW's food service contractor for over a decade, providing food for students daily at Wagoner Hall, the Seahawk Grille, and Hawk's Nest. They also provide food service for special events on campus.

They are the nation's top-rated food service company. The company provides food service at many other schools in the region and nationwide. Culinary students who want to advance their careers look to Aramark for employment.

So - why are so many of our students unhappy with food service?

Some members of the *Seahawk* staff visited East Carolina University two weeks ago to tour their student newspaper, and they stayed on campus for lunch. They made some interesting observations: ECU's cafeteria staff seemed friendlier. The food seemed fresher and better tasting. Aramark is also East Carolina's foodservice contractor. Why the discrepancy?

Some reasonable explanations are that UNCW students who eat at Wagoner Hall time and again are simply bored, as they would be no matter who was serving our campus. It is a matter of course, from elementary school on, to complain about the food in the cafeteria. Some students wouldn't be happy even if we were serving crepes Suzette for breakfast and lobster for dinner.

It would be easier to dismiss the griping if students didn't keep saying the same things: the same dishes turning up at both lunch and dinner...leftovers from catered functions doled out for students' dessert... too

many dishes that are unappetizing. The result: a lot of students are simply not eating their meals.

Although Housing and Residence Life requires residents to buy meal plans, it seems many would rather order a pizza than go to Wagoner Hall. This might contribute to a healthy bottom line for Aramark's UNCW staff, but it is not healthy for students. Perhaps it's a sign that change is needed.

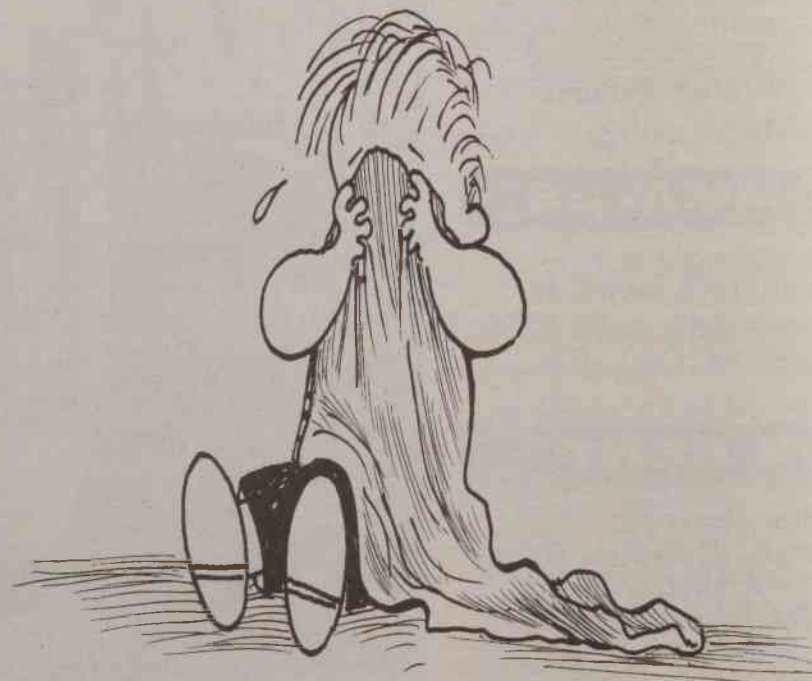
Enter Marriott Corporation, America's number two food service contractor. They presented a plan last week to students and staff who will vote this month on whether or not to renew Aramark's contract for next year. The key plank in Marriott's package: variety, including more individually prepared meals and a wider range of name brands, including Sbarro pizza.

Switching to Marriott would raise the price of meals, however - but that might not be entirely bad. More money invested means more students thinking twice before choosing junk food over the dining hall.

Also, it may be time to lobby for an end to the meal plan requirement for residents, especially when so many meals are going unused. Since campus housing is supposed to be cost-effective, why should students spend money twice for food?

No matter the outcome of the food service decision, the powers-that-be at UNCW need to listen to the students' opinions in making that choice. If students are unhappy with the quality of food service, it is their right to ask for a change.

SUMMERS THE ORLANDO SENTINEL
02/00



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