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# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Gasp! BOG wants us to graduate

The General Assembly and the Board of Governors are hot on the trail of lazy students who waste taxpayers' money.

After complaints from legislators, the BOG adopted a set of policies that could increase the four-year graduation rate of students in the UNC system. By doing so, the BOG is trying to reduce the amount of state money spent subsidizing the education of students who see undergraduate status as a five-year vacation.

Students on all the UNC campuses will be expected to enroll in 15 hours each semester. Expected, but not required. Each school will be required to print the expectation of a full course load in all catalogs and orientation materials. Many students live in a dreamworld where it is possible to take 12 hours a few semesters and still graduate in four years. This policy may dispel that fantasy.

The plan also will restructure "four-year" baccalaureate programs that require more than 128 semester hours. The BOG recognizes that it's unreasonable to expect a student to complete more than 128 hours in four years. That's an average of 16 hours per semester, clearly an unfair expectation.

By far the most constructive decision was to increase resources for on-campus employment throughout the system, which should help students with financial difficulties finish on time.

Of special interest to UNC students is the requirement that each campus review its course schedules dating back three years. The review will evaluate whether vital courses have been offered with enough sections. When courses only are offered once in two or three years and one section is available, it's nearly

impossible for students to complete all the requirements for their majors. Every semester, the course schedule booklet becomes thinner and thinner, and it becomes increasingly difficult for students to take the classes they desperately need.

Each system school also must adequately address the urgent need for helpful advising during the freshman and sophomore years. If this means increasing the number of advisers or lengths of advising periods, so be it. Students (especially freshmen) need to be told what is required of them, and should not be expected to receive this information from the stars.

The BOG's recommendations are sound and should boost the percentage of students graduating in four years, but they fail to ensure student cooperation. If students who unnecessarily take extra years to graduate were required to pay for the full price of their fifth year of education — another incentive to get out of town on time — four-year graduation rates would increase dramatically.

Of course, exceptions to this rule should be made for financial difficulty, study abroad, illness, extraordinary extracurricular involvement, etc.

But sheer laziness and ignorance are not excuses for students who continue to drain N.C. taxpayers' pockets after four years. Students must remember that for every one of them, there are 10 people who wanted their spot and didn't get it. Stretching out an undergraduate career to take life easy or sample the various sins Franklin Street offers merely denies educational opportunities for others.

Students who prolong the privilege of enrollment still would get away with it. But they — and not the citizens of North Carolina — should foot the bill.

## Helms and Gardner plant only sour grapes

The proud and the powerful of North Carolina gathered Saturday to inaugurate a new governor and share in the promise of a new era for N.C. government. But noticeably absent from the festivities were two of the state's top political leaders, two men who claim to be humble crusaders for the good of North Carolina.

Instead of swallowing their partisan pride, Sen. Jesse Helms and outgoing Lt. Gov. Jim Gardner chose to play the petty politics. It appears this dastardly duo couldn't deign to put in even a polite cameo appearance at the inaugural ceremonies.

Why the absence? Gardner, obviously still nursing his battered ego after his defeat to Hunt, mumbled something about a scheduling conflict. But Helms, for whom party has always meant more than principle, didn't even honor the affair with an excuse.

If the two empty chairs were not enough, the class act of retiring Gov. Jim Martin shamed the partisan pair. With a solid handshake and sincere smile, Martin handed over the reins of state government. In

turn, Hunt thanked Martin for his years of service and pledged to pursue many of Martin's pet projects.

In his inaugural address, the new Lt. Gov. Dennis Wicker said, "We may belong to different parties, but we are all North Carolinians." Had they been there to hear it, Gardner and Helms probably would have looked a tad uneasy.

Even the coziest of relationships must begin somewhere — usually with simple courtesy. The citizens of North Carolina rightfully expect their elected leaders to maintain proper decorum or at least avoid the terribly tacky. Helms and Gardner have proved themselves unable to build effective working relationships that cross party lines.

The christening of Hunt's term at the helm of North Carolina's government was not filled with promise of a new era of cooperation. Instead, Helms and Gardner chose to spoil the beginning of the new administration with sour grapes.

For the next four years, the greatest loss will be what might have been.

## Pizza delivery held captive by the Noid

Although the Gumbly's management is to blame for that company's absence on the UNC meal-card plan, Carolina Dining Services officials should consider revamping their crusty strategies.

As it currently stands, students may use their meal cards to order pizza only from Domino's and Pizza Hut, two of the most expensive vendors in town. It's no surprise that CDS, which makes a significant profit on pizza sales, isn't concerned about the mistake that left Gumbly's (one of Chapel Hill's least expensive pizza places) off the plan.

In addition, it's no shock that CDS didn't accept applications from Chanelo's Pizza, Oliverio's Pizza and Subs and PTA. CDS's decision to allow only two vendors on the meal plan is unfair.

But, like we said, it's no shock. After all, Marriott, which runs CDS, is trying to milk as much money out of its contract as possible. And if students had other dining services from which they could choose — that is, if Marriott didn't possess a monopoly granted by

the state of North Carolina — then such a strategy would be acceptable and understandable. Free enterprise is indeed the name of the game.

But the fact is that Marriott does have a responsibility to use its monopoly wisely and in the students' interests. Company officials do not have a free-market license to aim only for the bottom line in the case of UNC, which granted Marriott the right to provide the service.

CDS should rework the meal plan to allow a variety of off-campus vendors the right to join up. Gumbly's and other delivery businesses, such as sub shops, would be beneficial both for CDS and for the students who buy the a la carte plan.

Placing off-campus vendors on the a la carte meal plan is a creative way to serve the needs of students, local vendors and CDS. But Marriott's continued abuse of its monopoly isn't a light issue. CDS has a responsibility to give the students a choice and stop strangling local merchants.



## Woman angry to be living in a man's world

Erica Caldwell  
Guest Columnist

Nothing too horrible has happened to me. At least, not for a while. Not since fourth grade when my mother's boyfriend French-kissed me and then told me he was ticklish "down there." Not since I was twelve, when a man — a man I trusted — used our childish horseplay as an opportunity to grab my new breasts. Not since I was twenty-one, and my boyfriend chose to ignore my "no," and I chose to deny that I had been raped.

But tonight I feel a fear that is horrible, horrible because perhaps I am imagining it, horrible because maybe there is nothing to fear. There is a man outside who threatened me with interest, who has followed me through this tranquil apartment complex with words and looks. When he approached me at my doorstep, I politely said "good night" and continued along the sidewalk, past my glowing safe light and into the darkness beyond my neighbor's apartments. I did not want him to know where I lived. And I tell myself that surely he is a poor drunken man who means me no harm, that he presents no physical threat to me. But I still look toward my window, with shades now drawn closed, and worry that he is out there.

Recently, when a male friend spoke to me about the therapeutic effects of his solitary late-night walks, I realized that we people different worlds. For me, walking alone at night is anything but soothing; it is a walk through potential dangers. I used to think that admonitions of "walk in pairs," and "avoid dark areas," did not apply to me. I am tall, strong and have believed myself somehow invulnerable to the threats of those

who might hurt me. Now I see that I have been fooling myself, for my fear tonight is not new. It is deep and profound and stems partially from watching how this world works. We begin another year in a world that is an unacceptably violent place for women.

Women's fear is pervasive. Women recognize their own fear with varied levels of willingness. I know many women who, when feeling safe, have wrenching stories to tell of their own personal fear. Others, like my former self, chose to believe themselves invulnerable to the real dangers and the insidious effects of our society's many disempowering messages to women. We are harassed and threatened constantly, by photos in glossy magazines, by images on TV, by words on the street or in song lyrics. Every hour, every day, we are consciously or unconsciously assaulted by a variety of indignities, from secretaries in tight skirts to women being killed on the movie screen in subtly titillating ways. Violence is being done to women every time an actress is given a role which portrays a woman as nothing more than an extension of "her man." Violence is being done every time seductively clad women are used to sell perfume or cars. Every time a woman is made into an object instead of a person. We are told that these media images are somehow acceptable, or worse, desirable, and we fear what that means for us. We might

destructively embrace these images of women as our role models, hating our less-than-"perfect" bodies and starving and painting and clothing them until they fit the model that is perceived as desirable in our world. Perhaps we buy into the notion that we are little more than the decorative objects that women can be portrayed as all too often.

Strangers on a dark road, cultural images that objectify women; both strip half of the population of part of their human-ness. Women cannot be full participants in life while they worry about rape, nor can they be comfortable with who they are when the world's most beautiful models scream to them to become better, smoother and sleeker. I fight submission to these images every day. It takes up energy that I do not then have for other, worthier pursuits.

How can we lead rich lives if we cannot even cross a dark street without undergoing psychic stress? How can we concentrate on our life, loves, work, when so much energy is siphoned off by muted anger, frustration and fear? Now, my fear is turning to anger. Every time I see a woman's body selling a product, every time I read of a wife being beaten, I am angry. As are men, friends who grieve for their gender and who recognize that until women can live safely in society, our culture will remain enfeebled. For me, my fear needs to lead to anger or my life will not change. Nor will my daughter's. She and her daughters will also live with the unnecessary fear that surrounds women now.

Erica Caldwell is a graduate student in public health.

## Deal of a lifetime: This space for rent (free)!

The letters and guest columns already have begun trickling into the offices of The Daily Tar Heel's editorial department, and we're sure our filing cabinets and letter archives soon will be chock full of interesting opinions and ideas.

As most of you know, we're always in search of good, interesting, analytical columns for Monday's op-ed page, but this semester we're introducing a new twist to the editorial-page saga: "Wednesday to the Point," a regular special guest column.

For the most part, we'll let you be the judge of what should go in that space. That is, anyone interested in writing a

Josephine Campus  
Wednesday to the Point



guest column for a Wednesday paper on any subject — from religion to politics to humor to sports to campus issues to the environment to town happenings — may do so by contacting us.

If an issue pisses you off, or even if you want to give a worthy item some free press, this is your chance to grab the spotlight.

## READERS' FORUM

### Recipe for hypocritical DTH to mend its ways

To the editor:  
The editorial board and Eric Wagner filled Tuesday's back page with one basic point: Why aren't there any good people in student government?

One of the most significant reasons is quite simple. There is no encouragement for "sincere, selfless" people to run for office when they see that the label "politico" is attached to all in-

volved in campus government. Some don't mind this label since it is true, while others simply aren't deterred by the bad reputation.

Very briefly, there are two changes The Daily Tar Heel could make to show that it is sincere in its desire to see an improvement in campus government.

1. Take a few extra sentences to say whom you disapprove of and why. Sweeping generalizations are easy to make, but they ignore the fact that some people in Suite C don't fit the stereotype.

2. It is well-known in student government that the only way to make headlines is to do something scandalous. The DTH needs to start giving equal attention to the few good ideas and actions that come from student government if it wants to see more of them. By making these changes, the DTH can stop perpetuating the problems it so frequently complains about.

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