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# The Daily Tar Heel

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## Clean up housing, trash the Pit

Free speech. A bedrock of American society and civil liberties. One of the most jealously guarded rights of our democracy. Freedom of speech also is a shield that bigots of all varieties hide behind when vomiting their ignorant philosophies and ideas. And officials at the University allowed this to happen last month following two racial incidents in Morrison Residence Hall, which 300 black residents call home. In Morrison, a sign was posted in a bathroom stating that it was no longer desegregated and that "... no niggers are allowed, except housekeepers." In addition, a resident told a black resident assistant that he didn't like having "niggers in his dorm." But those in charge of making the residence hall a pleasant place to live weren't allowed to do anything about it. Thanks to directives by high-ranking University administrators, officials in the Department of Housing have their hands tied, seemingly ignoring the recent incidents. Some have speculated that UNC's legal guardians issued the directive in reaction to a U.S. Supreme Court decision over the summer that could change the Code of Student Conduct's statements on racial harassment. The University understandably is trying to walk the thin line between protecting minority residents

and accepting the free speech rights of hatemongers. But the fact that the recent incidents occurred in residence halls — and violated resident contracts — should be enough to prompt housing officials into action, especially considering they knew the perpetrators' identities. The racial slurs would be distressing if made in the Pit or elsewhere on campus, but they rightly would be above official response. But these statements were made in residence halls. Essentially, they were directed at students in their homes. Although it's clear that this is an outrageous violation of residents' dignity and housing regulations, University officials won't let the housing department take care of the problem. Free speech must be protected at all costs, but the principle of free and open expression in a public forum doesn't extend into other people's bedrooms and bathrooms. The University must realize that it has a responsibility to provide a secure environment for residents in their residence halls. Those responsible for the incidents must be punished. Expulsion from University housing is not out of the question and may even be justified. If bigots insist on talking such trash, they can sleep in the Pit — then they can clutter their own home with the garbage from their mouths.

## A taxing situation

A Chapel Hill resident has proposed for the sixth time in 12 years that the town impose a \$1 entertainment tax on all events at the Smith Center and Kenan Stadium. But placing an additional tax on entertainment at the Smith Center would hurt its already low chances of attracting concerts and other events from Raleigh's Walnut Creek Amphitheater or other arenas in the Triangle. Remember Paul Simon's annual visit to the Dean Dome? Some do, but now he plays at Walnut Creek. James Taylor is about the only entertainer who plays shows at the Smith Center annually or while on tour, and he, of course, originally is from Chapel Hill. Another tax on entertainment, in addition to already high service charges on ticket sales, would push away more high-profile entertainers from the Smith Center. The University's athletic department also could suffer from an increased tax, pushing alumni and out-of-town fans away from Kenan Stadium or the Smith Center because of high ticket prices. The University not only would have to increase ticket prices but also could increase student fees to make up for the loss in revenue. The town of Chapel Hill has a \$900,000 deficit in its upcoming budget. It is the responsibility of the

town to balance its own budget, not to impose a \$1 tax on concert-goers or athletic fans — most of whom are from out-of-town. In addition, the town gains high revenues from these out-of-town guests when they eat at local restaurants, shop at Franklin Street stores and stay at area hotels and motels. The hotel-motel tax already is in place to take advantage of big-game weekends or big events at the Smith Center or Kenan Stadium. Chapel Hill visitors should not have to contribute more to the town's coffers than they already do. The town of Chapel Hill has forgotten about Southern hospitality in its moment of financial crisis. The town has created its own budget deficit. The Chapel Hill Town Council, therefore, should come up with alternatives to balancing the budget by using sources within the town. Fortunately, Chapel Hill Mayor Ken Broun said he would only support the tax if it were applied statewide. It makes sense that Chapel Hill should not put itself at a disadvantage in attracting entertainment events. The town already faces tough competition from Durham, Raleigh, Greensboro and even Charlotte venues. The University has already provided the town with a small financial gold mine and should not have to carry the burden of increased ticket prices.

## TAR HEEL QUOTABLES

- "You're not going to stop Eric. They know how to use him so well."  
*Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski on UNC center Eric Montross.*
- "Coaches are in the soul business, cartoonists are in the soul business. We're all into our souls, our psyches."  
*Syndicated cartoonist Doug Marlette.*
- "The only thing causing a problem right now is the location of the site."  
*Tim Smith, co-founder of the Black Awareness Council, on the status of planning for a free-standing black cultural center.*
- "It was at first a little confusing, but the crowd was really good and worked with us."  
*Tracy Kirincich, Carolina Athletic Association president, on Duke-ticket distribution.*
- "I think this was a 'break the mold' kind of year, not for the executive branch, but for congress."  
*Philip Charles-Pierre, Student Congress representative.*
- "Don't trust us. Be very worried. We've got power."  
*Andrew Cohen, Student Congress representative.*

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Office: Suite 104 Carolina Union  
U.S. Mail address: P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515-3257  
Campus mail address: CB9 5210 Box 49, Carolina Union



## Now we know: French class made him crazy

Last semester, dearest readers, I was in grave peril of failing my French class, which would have caused me to repeat it this semester. This fact scared me enough to write the following, which, for various reasons, including there was no Friday paper that week, was never printed. I submit it now so that those of you trapped in the position I was in can find comfort in the knowledge that you are not alone, or maybe so that you can cut it out and hand it to your French TA, saving you minutes of tedious pleading and begging.

Open Letter to my French Instructor  
Dear My French Instructor,  
Food is scarce. Send what you can. No, no, I'm just kidding. Hold on, let me start over.  
Open Letter to my French Instructor  
Dear My French Instructor,  
I believe it was Plato who said "Ce dont l'homme a le plus besoin, c'est de savoir utiliser ce qu'il sait." I find this quote especially apropos to my situation as a French scholar because the fact that it is in French renders the quote completely unintelligible to me, despite the nearly three semesters of French I have had.  
"How can this possibly be?" you might wonder to yourself, provided you were someone other than my French instructor and had no idea of what a miserable job I have been doing in your class. But you are aware, and not all the gold in the forests can change that.  
Before I go any further, let me assure you that I in no way blame you for my abysmal performance in your class. You have proven yourself to be a conscientious and competent French teacher, whose skills are not just wasted, but actively destroyed on a student such as myself. It's not that I think I'm such a bad student either; in fact, my spoken French has been lauded in academic circles as "... clumsy and amateurish," and that "... the only way Jason can hold an intelligible conversation in

French is through a series of gesticulations so complex they resemble a game of charades."  
In short, my point is this: I realize that my average in your class is a number that, when preceded by a '19', usually conjures up images of the Fonze, the McCarthy hearings and huge Cadillacs with tail fins. I also realize that this poor grade is completely a reflection on my own inability and unwillingness to prepare for your class, and that in order to pass I shall probably have to make a 437 on the exam. That is why what I am about to ask you is so hard. Pass me. Please. Don't make me go through this again. Even if you must fail me, I implore you to find some way to just give me the 'F' without making me take another semester of French.  
Yesterday, as I was leaving class after I received a quiz that seemed to have become a device for storing red ink, the thought that I might be forced into taking French 3 again next semester forced its way into my head. I grew physically weak at the thought and collapsed on the front steps of Dey Hall, wallowing in my likely misery of next year as my face was ground deeper and deeper into the cement steps by the heavy shoes of my classmates, punctuated by an occasional kick to the ribs from a concerned friend.  
I can't completely understand why I have developed such a strong aversion to learning French. It's just not something I want to do right now, and yet, because, because of some horrible, out-moded university requirement, I am being forced into learning something I have absolutely no interest in. I do not want to do the work to learn French. I violently resent every minute I have to wrest my mind out of its comfortable,

native English and force it to think in some tongue where they refuse to pronounce any consonants in the last half of their words.  
French class has become the albatross around my neck, strangling me, keeping me from the things I love, rotting and surrounding me with the filthy stench of failure. I wear my French class like a shirt made of ball-peen hammers lined with broken glass that is secured to my body by means of a railroad spike through my heart.  
I realize that it is unfair of me to ask to be passed when, really, it's my own damn fault. I have no one to blame but myself. Fine. I'm willing to live with that guilt provided that I need never again be forced to take another French class. I'll even sign documents that make me pledge never to set foot in France, Côte D'Ivoire, or Quebec. Anything. I'll say favorable things about Jerry Lewis, I'll wear a beret and a striped shirt and pretend to enjoy pantomime, I'll eat Nutella by the truckload, I'll dress like Napoleon and drive throughout the city in a Le Car on Bastille Day, singing "Alouette" at the top of my lungs, anything, just don't subject me to my own private hell any longer. Please.  
I sincerely hope you do not take this personally. You'll fail me for sure, then. The situation would probably be the same with any language I was forced into taking. If, in fact, I must repeat French 3, I make this pledge: Each day, when I arrive in class, I will quietly go to my desk and sit down. As soon as the first French word passes through a pair of lips, I shall begin to shriek like a crazed monkey and will not quit until 50 minutes later when the class ends. Then I will leave.  
Once again, for the love of everything holy, I implore you to pass me. Pensez du les enfants! See you in class. Solidarity.  
Jason Torchinsky.  
Jason Torchinsky is an art history major from Greensboro.



## Serve yourSELF, don't desert your own needs

Help Your S.E.L.F. Vote for the libraries.  
The Student Endowed Library Fund is a proposal for bigger government that even a true fiscal conservative could support. The plan is to raise student fees by an amount less than a dinner for two at Time-Out, which would total over \$100,000 a year.  
This money would then be directed to the University's endowment, which is managed by UNC's Investment Office. The interest from this fund would then be spent on the academic affairs libraries. There are several reasons why you should vote for the Student Endowed Library Fund (S.E.L.F.).  
Getting more than you pay for — Who ever heard of a tax that gave back to its constituents more than was collected? This is exactly what would happen with this fund. Consider the following statistics: with a 10 percent rate of return, of which half would be spent and half reinvested, the libraries would receive more money than is raised by the fee by the year 2009.  
To assume that rate of return is a conservative estimate given the track record of UNC's investment office. The beauty of an endowment of this type is that it just keeps on growing. To spend more than is taxed without running a

deficit might seem to be a fantasy, but it is in fact the reality of the S.E.L.F. proposal.  
**Student control** — Americans fought a war over the problem of taxation without representation, and many are angered today over where our money goes. Neither of these will be an issue with the library fee, since students will be involved every step of the way. The legislation needed a two-thirds vote of the Student Congress before it became a referendum.  
Once in that form, the increase will need to be approved by the student body in the spring elections. A committee of five students, including three undergraduates and two graduates, will act as an advisory board for the fund's annual interest. Thus, S.E.L.F. is a democratically adopted, self-administered fee.  
**The need** — If you remain doubtful of the merits of the S.E.L.F. proposal, the following facts, (which are only a few examples among many) compiled by the Students for Educational Access, should at least convince you of the need.

During the last three years the cost of serials has increased 41 percent, and the price of books has gone up 29 percent; state funds for new library acquisitions have increased only 4.9 percent during the same period.  
During a six-month spending freeze in 1990 the library bought no books.  
If a book isn't bought when it first appears, chances of having another opportunity to purchase it are only 1 in 10.  
These numbers demonstrate what you probably already knew: Our libraries are suffering. One response to this is to say that we are not responsible for meeting this shortfall, that the state should fully invest in our education. While this is true in principle, the fact remains that the budget cuts won't allow for the level of funding necessary for maintaining the library system that we should have at UNC.  
Vote YES!  
While the S.E.L.F. plan won't solve all the libraries' fiscal problems, it will be able to enable students to continue, improve or create services that we deem necessary. It is essentially an investment in our education. Help your S.E.L.F.!

## READERS' FORUM

**Tuition hike will lower the quality of education**  
To the editor:  
M. Savage takes issue with the "readin' & ritin'" abilities of some of our students. I would, however, question this person's "rithmatic." I received a tuition bill in December for \$3703. A 50 percent increase would be \$1851.50 per semester, a little bit more than the \$200 M. Savage claims.  
Many of the graduate students at UNC are supported as teaching assistants. This is not a scholarship, but compensation for services rendered. These TAs are the juniormost members of the faculty. Raising tuition for these

students amounts to lowering their pay. UNC must compete with other schools for the best graduate students. Comparing UNC with a tuition of almost \$12,000 a year to some other schools where fees are waived completely for graduate students is going to make it very difficult to attract many students at all, regardless of Carolina's reputation.  
The kernel of M. Savage's argument for increasing tuition is that you get what you pay for. Without realizing it, this person is arguing that the undergraduates who receive instruction from TAs should get less, since the best and brightest will have gone somewhere else where the pay is better. And many of the students in the humanities departments are justifiably reluctant to as-

sume huge debts to finance their educations, as they cannot assume that they will find a job with a lawyer's salary when they finish. Some of these students are barely scraping by as it is.  
I know the folks in the law school are better at grammar than empathy (or math), but perhaps they should try to develop a little for students in other departments and realize that the sun doesn't rise and set on Van Hecke-Wettach Hall. I hope the legislature, and the lawyers, realize that increasing graduate tuition will affect the quality of undergraduate instruction at UNC.  
MICHAEL E. WEBB  
Graduate  
Chemistry