

# The Daily Tar Heel

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## BOARD EDITORIALS

### Pizza parties

Although students think there is nothing better than free pizza for dinner, RHA should stop buying so much pizza and start sharing their finances.

Ask most students, or even certain resident assistants, what the Residence Hall Association has done for them, and the answer you get won't vary much. Unless they happen to know who pays for the pizza that disappears within the first five minutes of those occasional RA floor parties, most students are unaware of any perks or services RHA can offer to campus life.

The student fees allotted automatically to this student-run body each year do not go through Student Congress. Some of the fee money goes directly to each residence hall, where it is spent on such things as vacuums, VCRs and board games for residents. The rest of the money goes to the association as a whole. It's not commonly known exactly what this money does, nor is RHA historically known for sharing that information.

One of RHA's biggest functions is publicity. We can tell this because it gives out a lot of pizza. And as any campus organization knows, the easiest way to get a mass of students to come to any particular location is to offer them food. The usual strategy is to offer the pizza as bait and then hook 'em with the cool part of the club. RHA organizers tend to abandon this idea and just hand out free food, hoping that residents will hang around and get to know each

other out of good will, and that somehow they will also figure out that their area desks have neat stuff they can borrow on their IDs.

Is this really the best use of the fee money? Is the money allotted an appropriate amount, and does it provide the kinds of benefits students want? A public accounting of expenditures without a large "miscellaneous" category would provide the starting point for looking at this important question. Can RHA do anything to help alleviate the current problem of some bathrooms remaining uncleaned? This is the University's domain, but until more housekeepers are hired some residents might be willing to cash in their pizza for healthier living conditions.

Much as we like to save on dinner occasionally, letters or flyers sent directly to each resident detailing exactly what is available at his or her area desk would be more effective and less costly. While they were at it, RHA could also send out a list of expenditures so all students can see where their student fee money is going.

The time has come for RHA to describe all the ways it benefits on-campus residents efficiently, and not just with a pile of pizza boxes. RHA uses student money, and the students should know where it goes, and why.

### Be reasonable

Some rules on Point-2-Point and P2P Xpress must be enforced more reasonably.

As of now, students cannot take food onto P2P vans, even if it is in a closed container, obviously not for immediate consumption. Therefore, students returning from any of the glamorous campus eateries or better local restaurants cannot take leftover food home with them. This rule is unreasonable in many circumstances.

The P2P drivers should sparingly enforce this rule. Food — especially food good enough to take home — is a precious commodity among students. They should not have to throw it away just so they can catch a ride on a van that their fees pay for.

Students also should be able to take their children on P2P vans, especially if they live in Odum Village or work late into the night. Not allowing them to do so creates some serious safety problems for obvious reasons.

Safety should not be sacrificed. Tired parents dragging their children miles across the darkness is not a good thing. Moreover, students who are parents cannot take advantage of certain opportunities simply because they do not have proper transportation. Lack of transportation can make nighttime employment out of the question.

Drivers should use sound judgement when laying down the law in their vans. They should not make students throw out food in closed containers nor prevent them from riding altogether because of this. They should also let parents take their children onto the vans, so long as the tykes are well behaved. Students rely on P2P for safe service for themselves and their dependents.

The purpose of P2P is first and foremost safety, not nifty rules. Students pay in order to receive safe and dependable service. This service should include reasonable enforcement of reasonable rules by reasonable drivers.

Students do not pay their student fees to be inconvenienced and occasionally harassed. Admittedly, rules are a necessary part of any transit system. However, some P2P rules must be sparingly and more reasonably enforced to better accommodate travelers.

Never should parents have to compromise the safety of their children and themselves. Nor should students ever have to throw away food that they have properly secured in a container.

As long as students are respectful to the drivers and courteous to their fellow travelers, they should be allowed to take their children and their food onto P2P.

After all, they are paying for it.

# Asking for life's lessons just not good enough

Last week two news items made me realize that a whacky thing college has turned out to be.

The University of California at Berkeley's history department will offer a course on the late rapper Tupac Shakur, his lyrics and unpublished poetry. To add to my increasingly skewed view of what college is about, I recently found out about a feminist group at the University of Wisconsin. Women there are intensely studying former Surgeon General Jocelyn Elders' policies. Every other Sunday at 2 o'clock, a chapter of Women Happily Advocating Masturbation (WHAM!) meets in a public park and happily advocates.

I wonder how the real world is for these women. (Are they George Michael fans, too?) If they weren't in college, would they have license to start such a group? We have space here to print our magazines, send some e-mail, write papers, study what we want to, live how we want to, pray for future employment, start up political groups without worrying about company policies and the like.

College is a huge group of people thrown together in a small space. It's a pastiche of classes, work, living, baking, eating, making out, cleaning up, throwing up, sleeping, staying awake. We're given some hazy rules from assorted sources of authority and told to behave. When we don't, unless we break a federal law, the world doesn't judge us too harshly. We're in college. Give us a break. And a discount.

Four years from now, I'll be trying to remember if I ever took an economics class (I did). I will have forgotten that Caroline consistently rejected my demands for social dance classes, even in my last semester. I'll be wondering if I should have taken the History of Rock and Roll, or if just reading a book would have done. I might be finally pinning down

the relationship between turn-of-the-century architecture and post-modern. Will I curse taking bowling? Will I be able to afford bowling or will I be the best bowler in the world? There's no way to tell.

It's a crazy world. Thank goodness for that. When I came to UNC, I wasn't ready. First year grades testify to that. But, that second year, I gradually grouped together some things I wanted to know before I left school. Postmodernism. Structuralism. Basically everything in the Dictionary of the History of Ideas. I swore I wouldn't graduate without them firmly tucked in the gray sponge that rules my world.

Now, a short time later, I'm graduating with vague notions of nations. What I learned most wasn't on my list, but is useful in every situation: how to use the library. That's the beginning of the framework you're supposed to take with you when you leave.

As I'm coming closer and closer to a head-on collision with the job market, I get the feeling that one of us isn't going to make it. It's either me or the market. Some huge monster, the "real world" is heading straight for me and it doesn't care that I threw away my high heels for Doc Martens, or that I'm not blond. I'm fed up with that dichotomy. College is real. There is no "real world," anymore than the MTV show is the "real world." Nearly the same rules apply to us in college than out, although we seem more likely to break them in school. School gives us space before we

face employment. We search for meaning beyond our class titles, reading lists and requirements. We search for it in school and out. With any luck we come out of college having looked for it, and then having found something meaningful in a subject — something we could think about everyday. With luck and discipline, we hold on to the creative space college offers us.

But it is a proving ground. Some people will take the work they've done in school and run with it, present their next schools with excellent scores, portfolios and résumés. Others will join what is jokingly and perhaps mistakenly referred to as the "real world," a Dilbert hell of lame office parties and stupid bureaucracy. Save us from that, oh, easy college life.

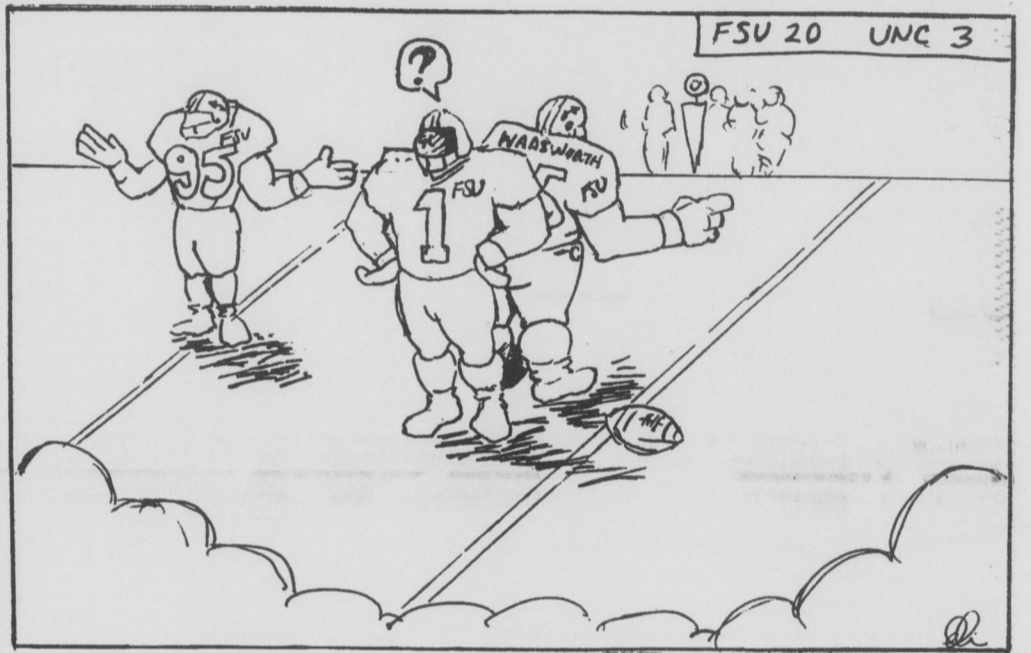
College is a blur really. The day after graduation we're all going to wake up and wonder how it ended. Was the ceremony right? Was it long enough? Did it fulfill our need for a formal and proper end to an not decorous four years? Did the commencement speaker talk about breaking campus while drunk on vodka? Was that more important than what she said?

Of course college is a privilege, and comes at a cost. We're buying a future, collecting debts, pissing off our old friends, outgrowing our hometowns, wrecking cars, losing clothes, growing freaky hair, flying, driving, spending. We work our way into a system with old and deep ruts. We grab for meaning when it flashes brightly at us. All I'm asking out of life is the time to think about things I care about, time to act on what moves me. I'm not sure that the best way to get it is to ask for it. You have to take it.

Sarah Corbitt is a senior American studies major from Charlotte.



SARAH CORBITT  
MINOR THREAT



Where'd they go?

### Changes with housekeeping reason behind poor services

TO THE EDITOR:

A recent editorial about residence hall housekeeping services ("Broken promises," Nov. 6) identified a two-part problem: 1) the responsibility of University housing to provide consistent and timely common area and bathroom cleaning services, and 2) the need for resident cooperation in keeping the residence halls clean.

The following is not an excuse, but an explanation. The Housekeeping Services Department is in transition. In a move to become more efficient, a focus group of housekeeping staff and others identified cleaning standards, staffing requirements and equipment needs for providing service to residence halls. From these discussions, housekeeping services reorganized its operations. University housing is assisting with this transition through the identification of issues and concerns, information sharing and involvement in smoothing out the rough spots.

The main challenge has not been vacancies or staffing levels, but rather the fine tuning of the reorganization and the subsequent coordination of existing resources. As with any change, this transition has brought about some improvements, while accentuating concerns in others. Housekeeping services is attempting to resolve these concerns as they arise. Admittedly, we fell behind in some areas, but over the past week have moved to resolve these bottlenecks to service. We will continue to focus our attention on these concerns until all are resolved to our residents' satisfaction.

For the most part, the issue is bathrooms in some areas. Simply stated, resident bathrooms and common areas are to be cleaned daily each weekday. Staff have followed up on the neglected exceptions. Where there are staff vacancies, other staff have been brought in to provide service.

Residents can also be of assistance, simply by not leaving personal items in the bathrooms. In addition, each resident is responsible for recycling and depositing personal trash in the dumpsters. Some have chosen to shortcut this responsibility by depositing trash in the hallways and/or bathrooms. This impedes the housekeeper's ability to clean these facilities. We ask that these residents be responsible.

It is our desire to quickly respond to problems. Our goal is to provide the quality service students have a right to expect. If your concerns are not addressed at the local



### READERS' FORUM

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticism. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 400 words and must be typed, double-spaced, dated and signed by no more than two people. Students should include their year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff should include their title, department and phone number. The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Bring letters to the DTH office at Suite 104, Carolina Union, mail them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 or e-mail forum to: dth@unc.edu.

level, please contact us directly through e-mail at: BarbaraD@fac.unc.edu and WayneKuncl@unc.edu. Thank you.

Barbara DeLon  
DIRECTOR OF HOUSEKEEPING ADMINISTRATION

Wayne Kuncl  
DIRECTOR OF HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL EDUCATION

### Small ethnic groups deserve as much coverage as others

TO THE EDITOR:

The University aims to promote cultural diversity on this campus. When The Daily Tar Heel failed to mention the Homecoming Step Show/Cultural Extravaganza, I felt a little bothered and worried by why they would do such a thing. It was a night where minority groups came together to celebrate their common bond between music and dance. If there is one thing that united us that night, it was every minority group's common bond in the expression of their cultures through song and dance. It was a perfect example of how pluralism is promoted. As a representative of the Hellenic Students Association, the smallest minority group represented there, I felt that the DTH had a sense of responsibility of at least mentioning that Memorial Hall was packed with supporters of cultural awareness. How else can we show that apathy isn't as big of a problem as many people make it out to be? It is events like this that enhance our intellectual climate.

But I figured we all make mistakes some-

times. When I picked up the DTH on Nov. 3, though, I felt the same disappointment. The previous Saturday, Sangam, the South Asian awareness organization, hosted one of its biggest events of the year, Range Sangam. Invited to make a special guest appearance, the Hellenic Students Association practiced hard once again to put on an excellent show.

Dancing is a big part of Greek culture, and with our new costumes, we have set it as one of our personal goals to become as culturally proactive as possible. It becomes hard though, when minority groups not receive the attention we deserve. We may not be as large as some of the other groups on campus, but we work just as hard and help to make our own contributions in enhancing the intellectual climate. Learning comes from many different sources, and small groups, like the Hellenic Students Association, contribute to it as well.

Takie Hondros  
HSA PRESIDENT  
SENIOR  
BIOCHEMISTRY

### Practices don't glorify Nike, damn our economic system

TO THE EDITOR:

Regarding your editorial ("Quiet riot," Nov. 5) advising anti-Nike demonstrators not to disrupt the big game: It seems to me you have it backwards. It is not the protesters who need to do more listening, but those who have not yet listened at all to the invigorating concept of social responsibility on the part of the University. You ask if there is no greater injustice to attack — I would say not. The fact that, without Nike's jobs, the children of southeast Asia would be on the street, is not a compliment to Nike's employment practices but a condemnation of the world economic system. If we face the fact that mega-corporations actually control the lives of the poor of the world, then we must ask why they are not accountable for their actions, as would be a government. If in fact corporations are actually governing the world, then who governs the governors? "Less developed nations," in your parlance, are not just less developed, they are plundered, daily, by such as Nike. To answer your question, for the thousandth time: we single out Nike because they are the ones with the \$7.1 million contract with us, the University. Those who are raising these questions should be lauded — and listened to.

Dave Lippman  
GRADUATE STUDENT  
COMMUNICATIONS

## THE DAILY TAR HEEL

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