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# First, Learn How To Fail: A Brief Lesson

Do you ever wonder what would happen if The Little Engine that Could failed? Would the preschool dropout rate skyrocket? Would we be left with a class of aimless 3-year-olds, too young to make peepee in the big-boy or big-girl potty yet too cynical to return to a classroom that could teach them how? how

All my life I have heard people say, "You can do anything you put your mind to." But I think we all know this is a load of crap. So, why do we allow this myth to be perpetuated? Because we don't feel inspired by effort alone. In the end we don't feel good unless we win

end we don't feel good unless we win. If Rocky had been knocked out in the second round only to dizzily awake to find Adrian sucking tongue with Apollo Creed, I doubt we would we leave the theater ready to take on the world.

**BEN DICKENS** SHAMPOOING PEOPLE, REPEATEDLY REPORTED

So what makes Rocky so great? He was a poor, regular guy with an impossible goal, but he trained like a champ and overcame adversity with heart – in other words, the American dream. The equation looks something like this: Big challenge plus lots of reasons you shouldn't make it plus trying like hell plus victory equals Academy Award. I would like to take issue with the last part in our equation: winning.

Our culture finds no value in effort unless it results in triumph. If we aren't winning, we feel as if we have to explain why or we just quit. Very few of us are comfortable with our shortcomings

Have you ever faced failure and later claimed that you don't care? I think we all do that from time to time. We say things like, "I didn't really have my heart set on being a doctor anyways," or, "I'm not really looking for a girlfriend or a date right now. I've really enjoyed doing my own thing for the past 2 1/2 years or so, and I would rather stay on

Furthermore, if I had a nickel for every time I heard someone at UNC say, "I'm smarter than most those people getting a 4.0 and stuff. I just don't care," I would have a

huge bag of nickels. While I'm sure this is true in a large number of cases, does it really tell us anything?

Most people's talents are inherent, not the result of any-thing they've done. The talent pool is completely arbitrary, along with most other fate-determining factors in life. What's not arbitrary is our will. In other words, the only thing we actually should feel good or bad about is the effort we put in.

I recently heard a speech to a group of college students that had the central message of "Go out and fail." I don't think I've ever heard better advice.

Now is the time to apply for 12 internships and get no callbacks. It's time to ask that special someone out and have he or she inform you that he or she would like you to leave and that he or she is already processing a restraining order. (I'm not alone in having heard this one a few too many times – right?)

I was attending church Sunday when the priest told us to raise our hands up when we pray to show reverence to God with our bodies, and I thought, "Do I really have to do this? I would feel like an idiot." (This is coming from a who wore no clothing and a pumpkin as underwear for Halloween.)

Almost everything we do is shadowed by a fear of social failure. When we let that fear affect our behavior, however, we miss out on so much depth in life.

Learning to embrace our failures is no small task, but I think we are up to it.

Maybe we could start by rewriting the story about the hard-working Little Engine.

Children might enjoy reading about The Little Engine That Tried Like an S.O.B. Yet Couldn't Quite Make it Up the Hill But We Applaud Him for Giving it All he Had Anyway

Or maybe I should stop drinking while I write my columns

Regardless, if you don't learn a thing in our studies of -isms and charts that scholars make up to get their names in a textbook, remember there's nothing bad about failure. In fact, it's the best thing you can do.

If you agree that what's needed to truly motivate the youth of today is more explicit profanity in children's books, e-mail Ben Dickens at bdickens@email.unc.edu. Together we can teach America's youth that life is just too ort to give a #\$%!



# **Board Editorials**

# The Daily Tar Heel

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**Readers' Forum** =

**Applications for** 

A Seat at the Table

### Students have a representative to the UNC-CH Board of Trustees - faculty deserve the same posed at UNC, an increase in faculty

salaries has usually been listed among the

lower faculty salaries as the main reason for

the University's decline in U.S. News & World Report's annual college rankings.

That decline did in fact affect the decision

to raise tuition, regardless of what admin-istrtors today would like students to believe.

It is true that in 1999, UNC lagged behind

its peer institutions in faculty pay. But it

should have been the faculty members them-

Back in 1999, the BOT cited UNC's

reasons for it.

For years, students have had a seat on the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees. But another important group in the University community has found itself left out of this august body. That group is the faculty, and they too deserve their own seat on the BOT.

The student seat on the BOT has been a valuable tool for communicating student needs. That tool becomes even more important when the issue of tuition comes up. Students are the people most affected when the BOT considers tuition increases, yet they often have the smallest voice in the matter.

The BOT seat allows students to at least bring their concerns directly to the deci-sion-makers. Now it is time to allow the faculty to do the same.

It is difficult to understand why the faculty have been denied a seat on the BOT for so long, especially when the students have their own.

Whenever a possible tuition hike is pro-

selves telling the BOT that they were losing potential faculty to other colleges because of comparatively lower salaries. If the problem of low salaries had been tackled in its early stages, perhaps such a drastic increase in tuition would have been unnecessary.

A faculty seat on the BOT would allow the group most able to assess faculty needs to directly communicate the group's needs to the board.

In the past, the BOT was able to play students and faculty off one another in a divide-and-conquer strategy to achieve its goals.

A faculty seat on the BOT could exacerbate the problem, but it could also let stu-dents and faculty members present a a unit-ed front against any proposals that would be detrimental to both groups.

Such cooperation would depend on the willingness of each group to compromise. But a student-faculty partnership could be a powerful weapon that the BOT would be unable to ignore.

The idea of faculty representation on the BOT is not a new one. Faculty members have been pushing for a seat for some time now, only to have their overtures rejected by the BOT on at least two occasions.

There is no legitimate reason to deny the faculty a seat on the BOT.

Their voice deserves to be heard - and the BOT should make room for them at the table

# Why They Hate Us

#### A new study raises disturbing questions about how the Islamic world views America

Why does the Islamic world view America so unfavorably? What U.S. policies could have triggered the kind of animosity that culminated in the most heinous act of terror on American soil?

These are difficult questions whose answers are often controversial. In fact, many people in America disdain such

questions. These people are blinded by idealism, convinced that there are peaceful solutions to some of the most violent governmental atrocities in the world.

This is no longer the Cold War. Our era encompasses myriad uncertainties in an increasingly hostile, multipolar world. This week a Gallup Poll of nine Islamic

countries revealed some alarming statistics. The Gallup Organization found that 53 percent of people in the nations polled view the United States in an unfavorable manner. Even though two-thirds believe the terrorist attacks were morally unjustifiable, 77 percent think the U.S. military campaign in Afghanistan is not morally justified. Perhaps the most shocking statistic,

however, is that 36 percent of Kuwaiti citizens considered the terrorist

These results are astonish-EDITORIAL NOTEBOOK ing to a country that promotes human rights and democrati-

> That commitment comes with the obligation to oppose repressive regimes. One cannot deny that the majority of Islamic lands are oppressive according to American standards of government. This makes the findings of the Gallup Poll seem more unsettling.

America is viewed unfavorably because of its prosperity, its individual liberties and its status as the supreme world power. The Islamic world appears to envy what America has. Because it is the lone world superpower, its role as a champion for

democratic ideals is vital. During the Cold War years many Islamic

regimes had Soviet support; their lands were provided with an ally that was an

equal to America in its power. The mutu-ally beneficial relationship was abandoned 11 years ago with the collapse of the Soviet Union. These countries have no security and what's more, America is condemning them. America is attempting to uphold its democratic goals overseas and an endeavor that necessitates a whole slew of interventions that are loathed by Islamic governments.

The dramatic increase in terrorist plots is a direct result of America's superiority in the world and its foreign interventions to preserve democracy. How long will this go on? A give-and-take relationship must occur in order to make peace a reality. These nations, as they stand today, are not willing to commit to such a proposition, making peace virtually impossible

BAROMETER

MARK SEELEY

attacks morally justifiable.

cally elected governments.

# **Student Government Now Available Online**

#### TO THE EDITOR:

Applications are now available online at http://ils.unc.edu/student govt/applications/ to be an officer in next year's Cabinet.

This includes the offices of student body vice president, student body secretary and student body treasurer.

All students are encouraged to apply, and applications, along with a résumé, are due this Saturday at midnight

General Cabinet applications will be made available before Spring Break and will be due by March 23 at midnight. More information will follow next week regarding these applications

Please contact me with any questions about the offices via e-mail (daum@email.unc.edu) or phone (260-3051)

Thank you, and good luck!

#### Jen Daum Student Body President-Elect

# Newspaper's Portrayal peppered with gendered language at the detriment to other candidates. For Of Jen Daum, Election **Incompetent**, **Biased**

#### TO THE EDITOR:

In my time here at Carolina, I have earned to live with The Daily Tar Heel's notoriously biased approach to the news and stories that it reports. Like most students here, I have always accepted it as a facet of the University. Accepted it as a fact of the University. However, I was especially disappoint-ed by the DTH's gross misrepresenta-tion of the campaign for student body president and Jen Daum's subsequent victory.

In my tendency to excuse the DTH's slanted reporting of the facts, I can almost excuse the blatantly wrong and gendered reporting found in its on articles, which declare on opini numerous occasions that Jen Daum, regardless of having the support of Fred Hashagen, Brad Overcash, Bennett Mason, and the majority of those students who voted, was only elected because "freshman guys ... think she's hot." However, not only have the opinions of the DTH been one-sided, but so have its alleged news stories which are also continuously

example, when Jen and Will won the initial election, Will was portrayed as composed and gracious, whereas Jen was said to be emotional and crying. I think it is sad that the DTH chooses to condemn a "real" person with feelings and emotions. I am not sure who should be more offended by your incompetence, Jen herself, or the dent body; who, according to the DTH are unable to recognize and elect the most qualified candidate, regardless of gend

gender and personal appearance. The DTH is given the privilege and responsibility to report the news and other stories to the students of this University. Instead of reporting the success of the democratic process and the election of only the third woman student body president in the history of our University, the DTH attempts to substitute their preference for the will of the student body and exasperate this by lampooning the duly elect-ed student body president and chastising the electorate

V

Lauren Cook Sophomore Journalism



department and phone number. The DTH reserves

the right to edit letters

the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vul-garity. Publication is not guaranteed. 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: editdesk@unc.edu.

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticism. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 300 words and must be typed, dou ble-spaced, dated and signed by no more than two people. Students should include their year, major and phone n ber. Faculty and staff should include their title,

Apocalypse Now Amy Fisher and Tonya Harding will square off in a boxing ring for a

Fox TV special this month. That sound you hear is the total collapse of Western civilization

**Of Human Bondage** 



Student leaders auctioned themselves off for charity at Masala's annual date auction. DTH staffers plan to do the same. Opening bid: 25 cents and a Tic-Tac.

# TAR HEEL QUOTABLES

I just want you to think big."

FORMER PRESIDENT RICHARD NIXON Discussing the possibility of a nuclear strike against North Vietnam on a 1972 tape released this week. And to think we got uptight about oral sex in the Oval Office.

"My job is pretty cool, drinking and hang ing out.'

**COMEDIAN DAVE ATTELL** 



**Under the Gun** The U.S. military will provide assistance to the lawless, backward land of Georgia. They also plan to assist other countries.

### Stayin' Alive

The beleaguered men's basketball team sent Clemson to its 48th M straight loss at Chapel Hill Wednesday night. Some things just never change.

"A bunch of rich white men in suits are determining what's happening in Iraq.

N.C. STATE GRADUATE RANIA MASRI ng at a teach-in Wednesday night. Wait, isn't what we fought the war for?

"Everything has to be looked at carefully, so there were delays in approval." **STUDENT UNION DIRECTOR DON LUSE** 

Commenting on the oft-delayed Union renovation project A campus construction project delayed? We are shocked, shocked at such a notion.

"The nuclear bomb. Does that bother you?