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## Sleep in your own bed, not on campus

I can't always spend much time on campus during the day; usually I'm taking buses back and forth to South Campus for business school classes.

But even so, I, like any undergraduate or graduate student here, love spending time on main campus any chance I get — grabbing a bagel in the Student Union, catching an iced Americano in The Daily Grind or relaxing in Graham Memorial while reading the morning paper. There used to be an aura on this campus during the day: A bustling of students, faculty and staff members rushing through the quads passing by historic buildings and trodding on the same bricks William Richardson Davie, Hinton James and Charles Kuralt once walked. It's this energy that fascinates visitors and attracts new students to our campus each year.

But lately — and I'm not sure if it's the colder weather or the midterms — the bustling is slowing down and the daytime campus energy is dropping.

Last week I walked into Graham Memorial holding my coffee and a book, ready to curl up in a nice chair and read only to be greeted by dozens of sleeping sacks of sweatpants, monopolizing every chair and every couch in the building.

I understand that as students we are tired and we are stressed, but why must you collapse all over campus like rotting leaves?

Graham Memorial is a piece of our University's history. Once the student union, it now represents a historic gathering room filled with inspiration from former Tar Heels who've passed through its doors over the past century.

Coined "The Most Beautiful Room in the South," the lounge is a key destination for most campus tours. And what do prospective students and parents see? You, conked out on the couch with the impressions of tapestry-covered pillows carved in your cheeks.

So, with coffee and book still in hand, I had to move on.

I walked to Davis Library, which holds more than 3.25 million volumes and usually is considered one of the best places in the state to research and study.

It was close to 1 p.m. and I walked into the periodical section, picked up a copy of the Charlotte Observer and looked for a place to sit. But there again, I turned around and found nothing but more undergraduates sprawled out over each loveseat with their hoodies pulled over their eyes.

I went to the UL, the Union and even the basement of the business school, but no matter where I went, sleeping students seemed to follow. I even caught one student snoring. And these students aren't catching a quick cat nap — I clocked one female at one hour and 15 minutes the other day in the Undergraduate Library atrium.

I'm sorry, but if you can't stay on campus for a full day without passing out halfway through, then maybe you're not cut out for this nationally acclaimed university. In fact, maybe you weren't cut out for life after preschool.

Go back to your dorm or catch a bus to your apartment, but unless you're homeless, there's no reason for you to spend your day sleeping on public couches and benches.

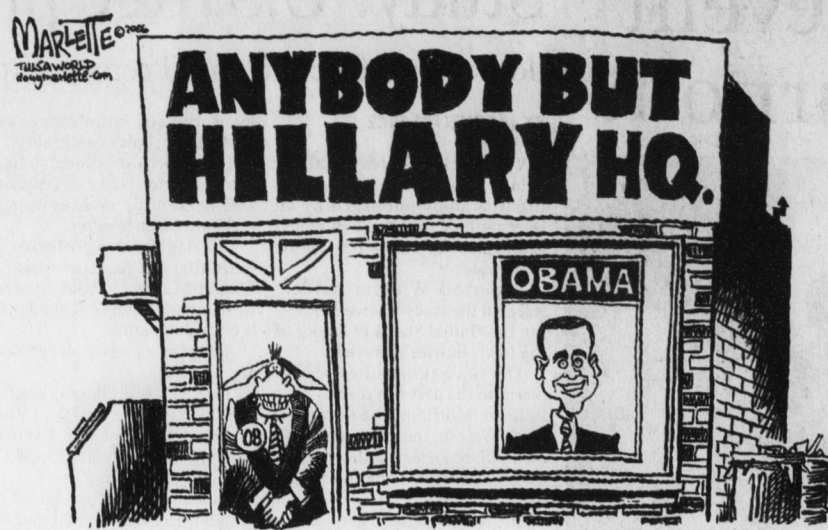
I understand you were up late studying, finishing a project until 6 a.m., but there's still no excuse.

If you had a midterm to study for, I'm sure it wasn't announced 24 hours ago; and few professors assign spontaneous term papers. So budget your time. Perhaps instead of taking that two-hour nap each afternoon in Graham Memorial, you should study.

And if you're still tired, get some coffee, espresso, or a taurine-enhanced energy drink.

This is a university, not a sleep clinic. Other students have found ways to make it through the day sleeping only in the privacy of their own homes. You can't take up the whole couch any longer. Wake up!

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Doug Marlette, Tribune Media Services



## Unethical behavior, part 1

### Congresswomen on the Board of Elections listserv?

Members of Student Congress should conduct themselves with dignity and honor. Unfortunately, this fact seems to have been lost on a couple of congresswomen.

Caroline Spencer, who represents Greek housing, added herself to the Board of Elections listserv on Oct. 17, the day of the special elections. Charissa Lloyd, who represents North Campus, added herself the next day. Spencer, the chairwoman of the rules and judiciary committee, and Lloyd, a member of the ethics committee, should have known better. Their actions were imprudent at best, and dishonorable at worst.

While there has been no formal investigation of the incident yet, we would like to see Solicitor General Robert Austin look into it to see if any actual rules have been broken. But even if they haven't, Spencer and Lloyd still need to apologize.

There is a very good reason the Board of Elections listserv should be off-limits to non-officials, Congress members foremost on that list.

E-mails are sent over the listserv with the names of those who anonymously report violations, often by Congress members or their political allies; these names are never publicly released. The listserv also carries information about where the Board of Elections will be looking for campaign violations.

Because Congress members support certain new candidates — and know they can count on helpful votes from them if they help them get elected — the members have a direct interest in delivering confidential information to candidates who may be under investigation.

There was at least one instance where the congresswomen knew about an administrative decision before it was made public and notified a candidate.

The candidate's counsel, Rep. Tyler Younts, also cited the listserv in a brief to the Student Supreme Court — meaning Spencer and Lloyd have been sharing information not just with candidates, but with other members of Congress as well.

The listserv accidentally was open at the time of the incident, which permitted the congresswomen to add themselves. This was a serious mistake on the part of the Board of Elections.

But Spencer and Lloyd should have known better. If you see a backpack sitting ownerless in the Pit, you don't just pick it up and take it home. Members of Congress should know that to add themselves to a confidential listserv and to share information from it is wrong.

The Board of Elections will be more careful in the future to be sure, but it's a shame they had to learn their lesson because of a couple opportunistic members of Congress.

## Unethical behavior, part 2

### Financial aid officers and bribes are a bad mix

Colleges and universities across the country have been caught in bed with the private-loan companies.

In an era when more and more people are taking out more and more loans in order to attend college, a system of disturbing and questionable ethics has developed. Financial-aid advisers who annually publish a list of preferred lenders are accepting extravagant and expensive prizes from lending companies. Free iPods, trips to the Caribbean and DVD players are only the tip of the iceberg.

The financial-aid advisers haven't even bothered to come up with a good cover story. They claim that the gifts and money acquired from the lending companies are not enough to make a difference. However, when asked what made them choose their preferred lenders, most admitted to not knowing the rate of interest their students paid.

Additionally, private loan companies wouldn't do it if they didn't see some financial advan-

tage. Let's face it: Loan sharks are out to make a profit, not give a pay raise to overworked financial-aid officers out of the goodness of their hearts.

Acquiring decent college loans is like making it through the fire swamp unharmed. It's a good idea for colleges to provide for students a list of companies that provide private loans, but financial-aid advisers should be telling students how to avoid the Rodents of Unusual Size not serving us up for dinner.

Financial aid officials are attempting smooth this over, but with the government and private-loan companies gouging us as is, advisers and universities should stand well to the side of any potential ethical issues.

UNC officials didn't return phone calls about this issue but it's always good advice to do some price shopping before taking out a loan. For many students this is their first time taking out a loan, and if they are unsure about the terms and fine print, University officials should be trusted to give

sound advice.

Students shouldn't have to worry that the financial aid adviser pushed the variable interest loan just to receive a financial kickback from Sallie Mae or Wells Fargo.

Students, the ultimate responsibility for finding and taking out the best loans is shouldered on you. Ask as many qualified people you can to be sure you are getting the best deal possible. It is just a shame that the university you are relying on to provide you with an education can no longer be trusted to give you sound advice when it comes to paying for that education.

It is in the best interest of the University to turn out well-educated and independent students, not ones who will be chained to private-loan companies for the first 15 years of their adult lives.

Kickbacks should be done away with immediately; corruption, ethical vacuums and price-gouging are for lobbyists, Congressional Representative and Enron, not the ivory tower.

## Don't draft Mark Foley

You, too, can be a party boss at [fantasycongress.us](http://fantasycongress.us)

The thrill of victory, the agony of defeat, the obsession of fantasy. Once solely the domain of sports buffs, the phenomenon is being extended to less trivial matters: the federal government. Yes, it's Fantasy Congress, and it's taking the water cooler political.

It's about time. The brainchild of Andrew Lee, a senior political science student at Southern California's Claremont McKenna College, Fantasy Congress works on many of the same principles as the more familiar fantasy sports leagues, with points awarded to members of Congress based on their performance during the legislative session.

So far this just includes successful completion of each step of the process in passing

a bill, but it is expected to be expanded to other measures of political prowess.

To make the leagues more competitive, there are some rules that govern team makeup. The 16-member teams must consist of four senators — two senior, two junior — and 12 representatives, who must be split evenly between senior, mid-range and rookie congressmen.

The idea of turning politics into a competition is an excellent step toward reengaging the U.S. populace, especially among youth. The percentage of 18-24 year olds who voted in the 2004 presidential election was an abysmal 58 percent — and the national voting rate among eligible voters of all ages wasn't much better

at a meager 64 percent.

This statistic must change.

Fantasy Congress might not create the needed change, but it will at least up the number of voters who are educated about the legislative process before heading to the polls.

As for the actual game play, unfortunately Congress is not currently in session, but they'll be back Nov. 9.

So, start thinking about your draft picks. Just make sure to avoid Missouri Democrat Ike Skelton and California Democrat Grace Napolitano: Both representatives have yet to break double digits.

Go to [www.fantasycongress.us](http://www.fantasycongress.us) to sign up and join the grassroots movement to return accountability to our elected officials, fantasy style.

### QUOTE OF THE DAY:

"Greenways are pathways that give us a warm sense of place and deepen our breath."

RANDEE HAVEN-O'DONNELL, CARRBORO ALDERMAN

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Due to space constraints, letters are sometimes cut. Read the full-length versions or post your own response to a letter, editorial or story online. VISIT [www.dailytarheel.com/feedback](http://www.dailytarheel.com/feedback)

#### Column promoted sexual objectification of women

TO THE EDITOR:

I am appalled by the utterly sexist Oct. 27 column written by Jordan Stone.

While calling on women to dress even more scantily and provocatively than in the past, Stone ignores the fact that Halloween on Franklin Street is an opportunity for men to sexually assault women and without consequence.

Stone's sexualized costume suggestions encourage UNC students to value women for their sexual desirability and bodies.

In an age when sexual violence on college campuses has become a national pastime, why do we continue to tolerate this kind of objectification?

Andrew Frost  
Junior  
Sociology

#### New Smith Center seating much too close for comfort

TO THE EDITOR:

Something has gone horribly wrong in the Dean Dome — an idiot (or two) has decided to add extra seats to the arena.

My question: Has the person who designed the new seats even attempted to sit in them?

Not only am I five foot two and without enough leg room to keep my legs straight in front of me, but my neighbor's legs inevitably end up in my lap.

What will happen this basketball season to our older alumni, those who paid for the Dean Dome in the first place? Many are too old to stand for extended periods of time and will have no choice but to do so.

I am well aware of the revenue this venture may be generating, but my personal space and I are personally offended by the new seating arrangements.

If I need to rest during a timeout or during halftime this basketball season, you'll find me in the aisle until we get to Atlanta.

Ashley Payne  
Senior  
Exercise and Sport Science

#### Board contradicts itself on government intervention

TO THE EDITOR:

In the Oct. 26 editorial, "The Gay Marriage Blues," the editorial board highlighted the issue of gay marriage.

The board lambasted the city council of Thomasville for "defining marriage as strictly a union between a man and a woman" and praised the state of New Jersey for ruling that "gay marriage should be allowed in the state."

The editorial criticized Thomasville, arguing that passing a resolution that affirms one side of the gay marriage debate was "a gross failure of the governing institution."

Near the end of the editorial, however, the board encouraged our state legislature to think about legalizing gay marriage.

If the editorial board thought such interference offensive when Thomasville argued against gay marriage, then why does the DTH encourage the exact same interference when its pro gay marriage?

Dominic Ruiz-Esparza  
Sophomore  
History

### SPEAK OUT

#### WRITING GUIDELINES:

- Please type: Handwritten letters will not be accepted.
- Sign and date: No more than two people should sign letters.
- Students: Include your year, major and phone number.
- Faculty/staff: Include your department and phone number.
- Edit: The DTH edits for space, clarity, accuracy and vulgarity.

#### SUBMISSION:

- Drop-off: at our office at Suite 2409 in the Student Union.
- E-mail: to [editdesk@unc.edu](mailto:editdesk@unc.edu).
- Send: to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27515.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Columns, cartoons and letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel or its staff. Editorials are the opinions solely of The Daily Tar Heel editorial board. The board consists of seven board members, the associate opinion editor, the opinion editor and the editor. The 2006-07 editor decided not to vote on the board.

#### Congress not to blame for grad student complaints

TO THE EDITOR:

Graduate and Professional Student Federation Chief of Staff, Ryan O'Quinn is quite mistaken about Student Congress (in his Oct. 27 letter to the editor).

It is not Congress' duty to publicize elections; that falls under the duties of the Board of Elections. So while they have done a great job publicizing undergraduate seat vacancies, if they have not done so for graduate seats, blame them, not us.

We have had one meeting last more than four hours, and most last fewer than three. They are held on Tuesday nights by tradition so that those running know when to plan to serve, and because no one with a life would come to weekend meetings except the one required weekend in February for Annual Budget proceedings.

Few of our proceedings are contentious and none are petty. What takes up the vast majority of our time are appropriation requests from student groups. But that doesn't get reported because it's not very interesting; only the disputed bills and resolutions are. Those are few and far between.

Graduate student complaints in the DTH's letter columns of late seem to suggest that it is pointless for Congress to represent grad students.

The problem is that all appropriations come from your student activity fees; without graduate voices in the body, undergrads decide how to spend your money.

If you're fine with that, don't run for Congress, but if you're not, then run yourself or recruit others to run.

Dustin Ingalls  
Speaker Pro Temp  
Student Congress

#### An open letter of thanks to Coach John Bunting

TO THE EDITOR:

Thank you, John Bunting, for all you have done for UNC. You have improved the graduation rate and the character of the students on the football team and instilled in them a sense of discipline.

It is truly unfortunate that the top administration of this University has totally abandoned the real mission of our academic university in favor of the almighty dollar.

One would have thought that at least at this university integrity, character building, and loyalty would be assigned significant value. Alas, such is not the case. I do not believe the administration of this university truly understands the significance of this mid-season firing.

Perhaps next year after a brawl at one of our football games, we can emulate Miami and suspend the players involved for one game along with a wink and a nod. It is indeed a sad day for the UNC and the football team.

Eugene Bozymyski  
Clinical professor  
School of Medicine

### The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,  
113 years  
of editorial freedom

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