

# COMMENTARY

## You can even take your own books swimming

By JEFF HIDAY

I'm lucky, I suppose. Because I went to the second session of summer school here on the Hill, I've caught a glimpse of Carolina life six weeks before most incoming freshmen do. The differences between high school and college are not spectacular, but close to it. Partying is rampant and serious: Tuesday night at Purdy's, Wednesday night at Zack's, Thursday night at dorm mixers and rush parties every night. And academics are a much bigger concern than in high school — except, of course, on party nights.

Another large difference: Whereas in high school you filled out all forms with your name, the UNC bureaucracy is much more concerned with your social security number. Memorize your "SS" because it is required on all forms, checks (note plural) and even determines to a large extent what classes you get into. When you borrow a book from the library, they ask for your I.D. And do you know what the nine dominating figures are on that I.D.?

The first test of your mettle as a collegian is registration. I'd heard all about how registration, even in the summer, was dreadful. Much of it is true. The greatest liability of registration is its uncanny ability to consume time.

Normally, registration is an all-day affair. But one variation of registration consists of just when you start your day. Many students begin their pilgrimage at 5 a.m. and others stay up all night. But if you think about it, even those early-birds spend a lot of time waiting. Thus, many people use this logic as an excuse to sleep in, and hit the lines around 10 or 11 a.m.

Most students who've been through freshman registration agree, though, that no matter when you start, registration brings about a feeling of total helplessness. I asked one junior how everyone felt at registration and she said she was "scared"

and didn't notice, or care, about anyone else's feelings at that time.

The things that overwhelm one the most (and take up all that time) are the long lines. It's difficult to explain exactly how it all works, but at each of the many buildings ("halls" they're called here) you're sent to, some sort of line is encountered. Each building and its respective lines serves a specific purpose and those purposes are supposedly explained by the abundant signs with arrows that are hanging everywhere. Thus, a great fear stems from any doubts as to whether you're in the right line. No one wants to wait an hour and then reach the front only to hear: "Oh, you've got to have some other forms filled out before we can see you," or "This is Bynum Hall, not Peabody."

Not only do the lines take time, but so does getting from one line to another. At the end of each line, an administrator will direct you to your next four or five destinations. And this is where the "miles and miles" of walking come in. Those "four or five destinations" are never right next to one another — they usually zig-zag across all of Orange County.

Your task is made easier by administrators who are generally very competent. They're very helpful, and best of all, they know why. They know why you are sent here or there, why you are filling out this or that form, why you have a headache. And they aren't all that impatient — even if you are. They don't get upset if you can't instantly remember your social security number, phone number, course code, school code and in-town address.

Bits of wisdom from upperclassmen:

"Bring a book and some aspirin."

"Ask questions." (This piece of advice comes naturally.)

"Use common sense."

"Eat a big breakfast!"

"Dress for warm weather — like a trip through the Amazon."

"Don't go."

"Bring your class schedule."

"Add a course, before you drop a course." (This piece of advice should be taken to heart.)

Another common piece of advice concerns what you do after registration. I heard the best thing to do is make a bee-line for the bookstore and buy your books, hopefully used books, because they're cheaper. Well, first off, buying one's own books was a new experience for me. When you've got your own books, you can scribble in them, tear out pages, take them swimming, or whatever — without worrying over fines or the wrath of a teacher. It's not like high school. There, every book came with a stern warning at the bottom of the inside cover: *Do not mark or otherwise deface any portion of the contents herein — or you'll be shot!*

But if you haven't even been to class, how on earth do you know which books to buy? "Oh, easy," a lofty, experienced upperclassman will tell you. "Just go up to the store where a list of books for each class is posted." Well, first, the list is often not posted, and second, if it is posted, your teacher may change his mind and your efforts would be for naught.

Better book advice is this: Wait until you've attended the first class meeting. Then, instead of hightailing it up to the bookstore, visit the APO (service fraternity) book co-op upstairs in the Union. At APO, prices are competitive and you stand a good chance to save some bucks.

Actually, whatever you do as a freshman at registration, it's bound to be wrong. Somehow, I believe we'll make it — but only after paying the dues.

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## THE WEEK AT A GLANCE

### Legislative victories

President Ronald Reagan won another victory on Capitol Hill last week as his tax cut plan was approved over a Democratic alternative. Hard work and intense lobbying by the President swayed uncommitted Democrats in the House to give the administration's plan the needed votes to overcome the alternative plan 238-195.

The plan now awaits final approval from the House. But Rep. James Shannon, D-Mass., has attempted to slow that approval with an amendment that would reduce the benefits to the oil companies provided in the bill. The bill calls for a 25 percent cut in taxes at all income levels over the next three years plus various forms of tax relief for industry and businesses.

In addition to his tax victory, the President's budget cuts received final approval. The reductions which total \$35.2 billion affect many federal programs and will begin in 1982.

### Back to the ballparks

The major league baseball players and owners finally settled their disagreements and ended the seven-week strike. Late last week baseball announced it would resume the 1981 season on August 9 with the playing of the All-Star game. The regular season will start again the following day.

Estimated losses during the strike were \$28 million in players' salaries,

and \$116 million in gate receipts and concessions for the owners. The owners' losses were lessened, however, by the payment of \$44 million in strike insurance. Also included in the losses, but not able to be totalled, are the lost revenues of businesses, restaurants, bars and employees who depend on the summer games for business.

The two sides were able to agree on the issue of free-agent compensation, the major obstacle of the 50-day walk-out.

### New government

Prime Minister Menachem Begin overcame last minute snags to reach an agreement with his coalition partners on the formation of a new government.

The new government may be one of the most hawkish in Israel's 32-year history.

Begin has chosen Ariel Sharon, a former general and war hero, as his defense minister. Sharon was the driving force behind Israel's program of building Jewish settlements in occupied Arab territory, a policy that was internationally condemned.

The moderation influences of former Cabinet ministers like Moshe Dayan and Wzer Weizman were absent from Begin's new lineup.

Eleventh-hour jockeying for Cabinet seats forced a one-day delay in building a ruling coalition. The agreement among the four partners cleared the way for Begin to seek parliamentary endorsement Wednesday, the last day of this three-week time limit.

### Dangerous mistakes

Results of a recently released study by Critical Mass, an anti-nuclear group, reported that there were 3,804 "mishaps" at nuclear power plants last year. The incidents, which ranged from improper monitoring devices to leaks of thousands of gallons of radioactive coolant, totalled far more than the goal of "near zero" set by the plants. The study attributed 57 percent of the incidents to equipment failure, 20 percent to human error, 16 percent to design flaws and 7 percent to other causes.

Richard Udell, the study's author, felt that the number of incidents was even more alarming when added to the fact that the plants operated only 66 percent of the time. The nuclear regulatory commission's office reported that many of the mishaps were due to more stringent standards of operating and reporting.

### Out of hiding

Former Iranian President Bani-Sadr appeared in France after six weeks of hiding. The deposed leader made his escape from Iran in a borrowed military jet.

Although he had promised French officials that he would remain quiet, Bani-Sadr began talk of an eventual triumphant return to Iran just hours after his arrival. But little support seems to remain with the former president in his native country, other than some residual military aid which allowed him to escape with his life in the borrowed jet.

