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The Daily Tar Heel

92nd year of editorial freedom

Smorgasbord or soup du jour?

By KATHY HOPPER

The proposed curriculum retains a substantial degree of student choice. The proposed curriculum is compatible with the requirements of all departmental and curricula degree programs, and is compatible with those of double majors. The new curriculum makes a more definitive statement about general education and will allow students to pursue a broader program in their own disciplinary areas.

—The Thornton report on Undergraduate Curricular Reform.

The College of Arts and Sciences has designed a "new curriculum" that Dean Samuel R. Williamson describes as "both more general and more specific." This new curriculum has sophomores scrambling in a maze of department offices, Steele Building and Hanes Hall. We are all trying to figure out which way to go, what classes to take — looking for the piece of cheese that could mean graduation.

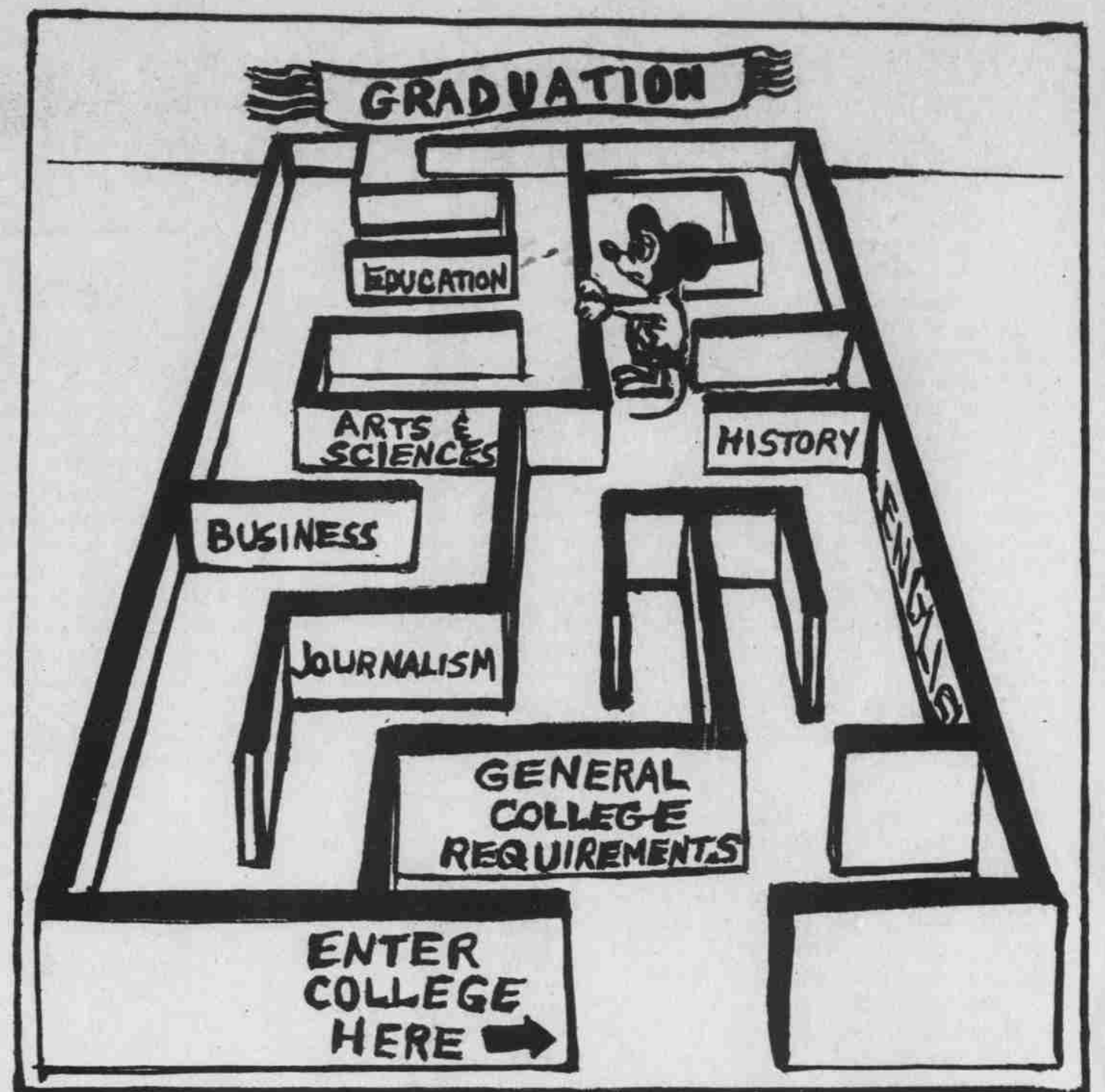
The class schedule tells us one thing, the undergraduate bulletin says something else. And so we sit in our adviser's office sifting through the facts and fallacies, trying to figure out what it all means.

I don't like being a guinea pig.

The class of 1986 has been chosen to be the first to graduate under the new curriculum. The administration does not understand why we feel like we've been given the shaft. Maybe it's because we have the feeling no one knows what's going on here. Advisers admit that they have not fully figured out all the ins and outs of the new curriculum, and some students have not even realized that they are affected by it.

William H. Graves, associate dean for general education, the man in charge of implementing the new curriculum, said it is "dynamic, always changing." He is right. Students do not know from one semester to the next what classes will fulfill the requirements because classes are always being added to the list. The only way to know for sure is to check out the latest handout in Steele Building. Sophomores might want to think twice before registering for that geography course if they would rather wait a year in hopes of taking an economics course that would fill the same requirement and be more relevant to post-college plans.

Williamson said that advising under the old "Merzbacher" curriculum was difficult and frustrating. "I found it almost impossible to work with a curriculum that was like a Chinese smorgasbord — you took two of this and two of that without really knowing why." But students see the new curriculum as difficult and frustrating. It is true that it requires five less classes, but it forces the students to choose from a faculty-approved list instead of formulating their own list of allied and non-allied course electives.



We are forced to take five courses because faculty say it will make us well-rounded individuals. Yet, we have to choose from a confining course list that limits what we can take. Instead of having a diverse smorgasbord, we get the soup of the day.

The 1984 fall class schedule lists only 13 classes that will fulfill the philosophical perspective. Why is this number so small? The schedule lists only one political science that will fulfill the social science perspective, and there is no economics course. Aren't these considered social sciences?

Graves said, "We asked all the departments for a list of courses that could fulfill the perspectives. Some departments didn't respond." So until all departments decide to cooperate, sophomores must choose from the skimpy list of approved courses.

The new curriculum further limits students by allowing only upper-level courses to fulfill the perspective requirements. This means students are tied to the introductory courses they took in General College. Students without a background in anthropology (Anthro 41) would not be prepared for upper-level anthropology courses like 117, 121, 125 or 139. Instead, they would have to continue in the same departments they were in as freshmen and sophomores.

The new curriculum does have worthy, though idealistic, goals. The Thornton committee's goals were to help "students to become self-educating individuals," to help them "make responsible value judgements" and to enable them to "work and live creatively in a technological world." The administration believes students cannot do this on

their own. Graves said, "Students see the University as a place to pick up job skills." While it is true that some students are only interested in getting a job, some also want to get a taste of many different areas. The important thing is that the students should decide the areas they want to explore, not the administration. Maybe students will regret not taking a philosophy course, and maybe they won't. The decision should be their own.

On April 30, 1969, an editorial in *The Daily Tar Heel* supported the Merzbacher reforms. "Each individual man must be allowed to formulate his own concept of the educated man in the course of his own education." The new curriculum with its limited course offerings ignores this point. It also depends too heavily on these five perspective courses to adequately achieve the goal of a balanced education.

Bill Harmon, a UNC English professor, said it best in a handwritten note to the administration on Feb. 15, 1980. "It seems devoted — addicted even — to inane folly and superstition. Anybody who knows or does anything knows that there is no such thing as a skill and certainly no such thing as a perspective. To hang our program on these two superstitions will unavoidably introduce such distortion and hypocrisy into what we do that the poor students will leave our program even more depressingly laden with mumbo-jumbo than they were when they entered."

Kathy Hopper, a sophomore English and journalism major from Greensboro, N.C., is assistant features editor for *The Daily Tar Heel*.

No substitute for water

Nearly half of the nation draws its drinking water from underground supplies. Perhaps that doesn't sound very important. However, when a person considers that there is no nationwide system for monitoring underground water pollution — and that there are 2,000 landfills, pits, ponds and lagoons that have already been filled with billions of tons of hazardous wastes over several decades — the gravity of the problem becomes apparent. A recent study prepared for Congress found that where ground water is at risk, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 is insufficient to prevent landfills for toxic waste from becoming uncontrolled areas which will require cleanup. In light of these findings, the Environmental Protection Agency should take immediate steps to make such regulations more stringent.

Perhaps people think it is less expensive to simply dump now and worry about cleanup later. Nothing could be farther from the truth. Because of current cosmetic cleanup rules, the waste sights will have to be cleaned up in the future at heavy costs. The congressional report found that it would be far less expensive to monitor waste sites now than to purify water after it has already been polluted. In addition, experts agree that it is difficult if not nearly impossible to reverse the con-

tamination process of water.

Also contributing to the problem are waste disposal sites that were in operation before a comprehensive toxic waste act was enacted in 1980. These sites have been permitted to continue operation under regulations for monitoring and cleaning that are less strict than those for new disposal sites. The numerous pits, ponds and lagoons still receive billions of tons of hazardous wastes, as they have for several decades. Many sites are already leaking, and many others are expected to leak. More water sources will become contaminated.

Internal reports submitted by the EPA have agreed that efforts to monitor underground water supplies are inadequate, yet the waste continues to be dumped. Since the EPA has recognized a reaction, one must wonder why the organization exists. With the acknowledged severity of the problem, and the recognized increased cost for the inevitable recognized increased cost for the inevitable future cleanup, it is disturbing that nothing is being done. It is the responsibility of the EPA to strengthen the current regulations and to enforce the policy changes it makes. These regulations must be stricter if our nation is to avoid losing yet another natural resource. For water, there is no substitute.

Printer's ink in their blood

What would you think if we told you, via a screaming front-page headline, about a "Headless Body in Topless Bar"? Would you be offended? Or intrigued?

Most New Yorkers would be neither, their answers instead being in the vicinity of "non-fazed," "so what" and "who cares." For years they've been teased to tedium by headlines like the one above and others, such as this one in *The New York Post* that prompted a lawsuit: "Pulitzer Sex Trial Shocker/I Slept With A Trumpet!" Nothing less, however, seems to stir those "non-fazed" residents of the Big Apple to dig for change like they do to buy the *Post*, Rupert Murdoch's successful entry in the New York market for yellow-journalism style tabloids.

In coming weeks, though, those same New Yorkers are likely to become more selective in deciding for which "street sheet" they're going to throw down two bits. Jim Hoge, who only three months ago was ousted as publisher of *The Chicago Sun-Times* by Murdoch, is about to take over *The New York Daily News*, chief challenger of the *Post*. His move to New York promises the advent of a nasty newspaper war.

Mostly it will be a battle between the two tabloids over circulation and advertis-

ing, but in this case there's more at stake. Neither general has been keen to admit it publicly, but in this news war Hoge and Murdoch will be vying to retain their reputations and power, as well as their money. Personal animosity between the two goes beyond Murdoch's recent acquisition of the *Sun-Times*, whose main rival is *The Chicago Tribune*. It just so happens that the Tribune Co. owns *The New York Daily News* (Hoge's new baby), thus making two battle theaters in the same war.

Curiously, the outcome of all this might be increased hustle from reporters and a quieting of the *Post*'s screaming headlines. As *The Washington Post* points out, Murdoch may take note of recent declines in the competition's circulation and "decide that the time has come to put more news under the headlines at the *Post* and win back some of the classic advertisers." Most observers would already admit that Hoge is certain to make his *News* a paper that "has something for people who look beyond the big print."

Most Americans relish a good fight. In New York City, where scrappy tabloids are involved, it doesn't get much better. Here at the *DTH*, we'll watch and we'll enjoy. But we won't take notes.

The Bottom Line

Is Noah one of your heroes? Do you dream of becoming a veterinarian, but despair because veterinary schools are even more competitive than medical schools? Then maybe you should try to establish in this country what Bernd Grundmann has already launched in Hamburg, West Germany — an animal taxi service.

Rubber mats, plastic tubs, small cages and even first-aid kits — such would not attract human passengers, but seem to reassure pet owners without cars. Instead of shepherding their furry or feathered charges in and out of buses and regular taxis, these animal lovers can call for one of the 14 specially equipped vehicles.

Dogs, cats, birds and even horses can catch a cab to the vet at the same cost to their masters as a regular cab. Owners can ride for free to soothe their beasts. Rates and volume are so low, however, that the animal taxi business is "not very profitable," said Grundmann, 45.

Drivers cannot be too tough to find, however. "The animals are always very quiet," Grundmann said. "And not one of our drivers has been bitten yet."

Out of the poorhouse.

For a while "Here's Johnny" took on a new meaning — advertising an economy line of outdoor toilets. Johnny Carson did not

find the slogan as humorous as the owner of Porta-John Inc., Earl Braxton, did. Carson filed suit in 1976 against Braxton, but Braxton did not seem to mind: he enjoyed the publicity.

"I'd be lying if I said I didn't enjoy this," he said.

A federal judge ruled the company was trading on Carson's name and ordered Braxton to pay Carson all profits earned while using the slogan. Braxton said he would appeal the decision.

People can not convince Braxton that outhouses are a thing of the past, and with good reason: his outhouse business in suburban Detroit has made him a rich man getting richer.

"Everybody laughed at me at first," Braxton said. "I was just another street kid from the west side of Detroit. What were the chances of my making it big?"

A former accountant, Braxton quit his job out of boredom and purchased Porta-John Inc. in 1970 when it was a \$60,000-a-year business. The company has since expanded to a \$7-million business, the nation's largest supplier of portable toilets for such things as construction work, outdoor sporting events and concerts.

Braxton is currently concerned with developing his new business, Enzymes of America Inc., which will collect urine-based proteins for resale to drug companies and universities for chemical production and research. His slogan? Perhaps "P is for protein."

And that's the bottom line.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Accentuating the positive of negative ads

To the editor:

I am writing in response to the grossly inaccurate letter from Sandra Boyd ("Defense Spending," *DTH*, April 4), concerning Sen. Jesse Helms' campaign advertisements.

Boyd was incorrect in stating, "None of Helms' campaign ads reveal any positive aspects of the senator." In fact, Helms has aired many television ads which have stressed some of his positive attributes.

For example, remember the television and radio ads entitled "A Salute to Jesse" that appeared a few months ago? In these commercials, President Ronald Reagan, Sen. Howard Baker and others spoke of Helms' moral dignity and praised his will to stand up for North Carolina.

Additionally, ads showing Helms

seated at his desk speaking on his positive aspects have been aired recently. In these ads, Helms mentioned his drive to curb massive government spending and strong support for agriculture in North Carolina. Is this negativism? Clearly, not all of Helms' advertising has been "negative," as Boyd claims.

It is quite common for Gov. Hunt's supporters to complain incessantly about Helms' advertising practices because Helms' new ads reveal Hunt's true hypocrisy. For example, Hunt said Helms was guilty of not protecting interests in North Carolina. But the latest Helms commercials showed that a committee to elect Jim Hunt exists in New York. This is not negative advertising. Rather, it is the plain truth about Hunt's campaign.

Denounced denial

To the editor:

The political science department's denial of tenure to David Garrow makes mockery of our claim to want better undergraduate teaching at UNC. I could understand the denial if Garrow had published nothing; universities routinely sacrifice teaching to scholarship, and one could hardly expect this University to be different. But Garrow does publish, and he's publishing the same kind of work now he was publishing when the department was so eager to hire him. To suddenly say that his work does not fit within some narrowly defined limits of a discipline that is itself fuzzily defined raises questions about the real reason for

denying him tenure.

All those in the chain of appeal above the department have stood behind the lower managers, like a good hierarchy should. But what about the students? The fact that hundreds of them last year signed petitions asking that Garrow be granted tenure should tell us something, though it's not clear anybody's listening. My daughter was lucky enough to have a course with him before he goes. What a loss for the hundreds of others who won't have him next year or after!

Elizabeth Tornquist
Lecturer in nursing

Rape no joke

To the editor:

Monday, March 26, Dan Rather reported the outcome of the New Bedford rape trial. Two of the men found guilty of rape were sentenced to six to eight years in prison. The other two convicted men were sentenced to ten to twelve years. He further reported that there was community protest that these sentences were too severe. Frankly, I am enraged by this outcome. This has far-reaching implications for both our justice system and social infrastructure.

I think it is a slap in the face of our justice system that a man convicted of a violent crime that robs a woman of her dignity and bruises her soul could be given such a short sentence. The sting of this slap is more sharp in light of the fact that considerably longer sentences are being given for victimless crimes, such as the possession of nonsalable amounts of narcotics.

The shortness of these sentences could have the effect of negating the work of women's groups in encouraging rape victims to come forward to report and prosecute criminals. A rape trial is no walk in the park. In addition to having to relive the event, the victim must undergo an extreme scrutinization of her character. No one can deny that rape inflicts a deep emotional wound. The same is true for the trial that follows. For many women this emotional stress is enough to deter them from prosecuting a rapist. The likelihood that a convicted rapist will serve only six years will further deter women from prosecuting criminals.

If a man accused of rape is found to be innocent, by all means he should be free. But, please, let us avoid making rape a bad joke.

Carol D. Haworth
Chapel Hill

The Hunt for Senate Committee knows trouble is on the horizon because of tremendous gains by Helms in recent polls. As a result, Hunt supporters appear jealous of Helms' generous out-of-state support since they are unable to obtain as much of it themselves.

Boyd mentioned Helms' "issued-avoiding statements" in her letter. This erroneous accusation is absurd, for anyone who knows anything about Sen. Helms is aware of his positions on a broad spectrum of issues. It is Hunt who frequently dodges issues and focuses primarily

on agenda such as education which he hopes will benefit his political ambitions. Hunt is a man of politics; Helms is a man of principles.

I hope I have successfully dispelled the notion that so-called negative advertising cannot have positive connotations. These ads can educate the public on significant issues, provided they are truthful. The primary reason Hunt's camp dislikes Helms' ads is because they depict the facts about Hunt's policies.

Christopher C. Sanders
Granville

Sexually interdependent

To the editor:

Although I admire Ashley Royal's and M. Wall's commitment to the cause of women's rights, I feel that their extremist views do a great disservice to men ("Red Ribbons of Awareness" and "Men, media oppress women," *DTH*, March 14 and 26). To state that rape escort services "promote the patriarchal system which encourages women to look to men for protection" is ludicrous at best. A woman who walks alone at night is a prime target for a would-be rapist. To ask a man to escort her back to her domicile is not a sign of weakness or a concealed desire for male domination. Rather it is merely good judgement. I certainly do not object to a woman being accompanied by other women, but in many situations this is not possible and often does not afford adequate protection against rape (particularly if the group of women is a small one).

To claim complete independence from men as a goal of the women's movement is naive and unrealistic. Men and women cannot be independent of each other but rather must be interdependent. It is time for feminists to concentrate on truly pressing problems (e.g. equal pay) rather than analyzing every aspect of traditional male-female interactions in ridiculous attempts to concoct evidence of discrimination and male domination. To walk a woman home, to open a door for a woman or to treat a woman to dinner are not medieval vestiges of male domination. On the contrary, such actions are demonstrations of courtesy, kindness and respect. To interpret them otherwise reveals an underlying anti-male bias and a universal suspicion of the motives of men in general.

Eric M. Parker
Department of Pharmacology

Staying mum

To the editor:

I applaud M. Wall's letter, ("Men, media oppress women," *DTH*, March 26), concerning the issue of "the current system of male supremacy" that characterizes our society even today. I do not agree, however, that the blame should be entirely placed on the media and men when it is women who tolerate the pressures of "any form of domination...verbal, physical or psychological."

Certainly, it is disturbing that women have been the victims of rape and other violent crimes throughout the centuries. But that is all part of the patriarchal system which is alive and well and sends

regards from the top of the totem pole. What M. Wall failed to consider was the attitude of the oppressed: the women.

Women like their passive roles; we are comfortable because we do not have to think for ourselves, much less protect ourselves. If we keep our mouths shut, shave our legs and smile demurely, we'll be able to get married and have babies in no time at all. Heck, if anyone gives us any trouble we can just call Daddy.

I don't think the people in the media are the only ones keeping quiet.

Amy Simmons
Granville