

Rookies are OK, just try not to act like one

By JOEY HALL

There is no stigma attached to being a freshman here. You are probably coming from a high school with a rigidly hierarchical class structure: freshmen groveling under the feet of nearly everyone else; seniors on top, proud, defiant and arrogant. College seniors are too preoccupied with their futures to be any of these. Consequently, freshmen are simply students like everyone else, all playing the same game. Here's the rub: you are a rookie. And no one likes to be thought of as a rookie. With that in mind, here are some thoughts to make you an aware (and thus less obvious) rookie:

1. Don't bring your high school yearbooks to grace your dorm room. This reeks of rook. First of all, you have already seen them. Second, no one will truly be interested in seeing a picture of the girl you dated in 11th grade.
2. A sure way to spot rookies is through their appearance. Shiny and brand new shorts, tennis shoes, and shirts, deep dark blue jeans, cotton shirts with creases from the store shelf, glossy black hightops: all are dead giveaways. If you really feel like you need a brand new wardrobe to come to Carolina (and you don't), then at least dirty everything up a little before you arrive. You don't want to look like you just stepped off the pages of an L.L. Bean catalog.
3. Don't be cool and think you can skip the mandatory meetings during Orientation week. There is no cool in explaining to your adviser in December that you should be able to drop Chemistry 11 because you didn't know how firm a "drop" deadline was.
4. On the subject of Orientation, take advantage of all the offerings you can — you'll know what the deal is a lot more quickly if you do.
5. Don't worry about the dorm you got. The size and location of the dorm have no bearing on whether or not you will like it. You should be able to figure out what does have bearing.
6. Don't be quick to tell everyone on the

hall that your father has a jet. By the same token, don't tell everyone that mom and dad had to mortgage the trailer to send you to Chapel Hill. Neither will elicit respect or sympathy, and neither goes a long way toward winning friends and influencing people.

7. Don't come expecting to have five "close" friends by the time classes start. Friendships — male and female — are a long time cementing.
8. Don't fall into the habit of hanging around with your friends from high school or your hometown. This gets dull pretty quickly.
9. Do come expecting to like and appreciate your roommate.
10. Do take a class or two that you are genuinely interested in your first semester. Don't say, "I'm really not genuinely interested in anything," because if you were that dull you could never have been accepted here. In other words, don't be a masochist and try to "get all the requirements out of the way." You have four years to fulfill everything.
11. If you decide to go through rush, don't feel ill at ease in the fraternity or sorority house. It is the member's job to be a good host. They want to meet the "real you," and a lot of them have had a good deal of experience recognizing a facade. Be careful when girls start hugging you and crying that they want you to be a sister so much that they don't know what they'll do if you pledge elsewhere, or when the guys lead you into a cramped room with the brothers whom you know the best and tell you that their frat is the only frat for you. And if you don't get an invitation to join the one you want, so what? You can always try again if you like. No one is going to sew a scarlet "B" for "black-balled" on you. It's really no big deal.
12. Take any advice given to you by an upperclassman with a grain of salt. You know yourself better than we do, and in any case, you aren't the average freshman. See you in the fall.

Joey Hall is a senior Spanish and economics major from Raleigh.

Balance key to success

By PAUL PARKER

Enjoy the rest of your summer. Like many of the people before and after me, I spent the summer before my freshman year worrying about what college would be like and trying to imagine all the ways in which I would be overwhelmed by this great intellectual monster. Do not worry about it. College was nothing like I had imagined it to be nor was it like what people had described it as being. Though we all come in and leave through the same door, no two college experiences are the same. The one thing that can be said is that it is good!

I had always been in awe of universities, and what they stood for seemed to tower over me as if on a great pedestal. Nice surprise: once I got here reality set in and college life taught me to climb on top of the pedestal and look around. I soon figured out that my fears were just fears of the unknown.

Nice surprise number two: familiarity starts on day one. You may feel like you are coming into this all alone, but that won't last more than 24 hours. During Orientation, you will be surrounded by people who will be the first in a long line of friends and relationships, many of which will last long after you have graduated.

Now that you know not to worry ... at Carolina, you will experience a new dimension in the way you perceive life and people. You will be introduced to the new and unusual, and "diversity" will become prominent in your vocabulary (so will "awesome!"). Going through college is difficult at times, but you will learn to handle and adapt to the pressures. You

Now for some practical advice: Balance. That word is the key to a successful "Carolina experience." You don't need to tackle the whole world in your first semester — there's plenty of time for that later. On the other hand, you don't want

This time will be incredibly busy and will go by so fast, but at its end there will be no four years of your life which you will remember and love so well.

to come in and just study, either. So get involved; just don't overdo it. You need the break, the experience and, most of all, the balance. Your first semester is important — do all you can to make a good start because it will really help you along the way. But don't be too worried if you haven't chosen a major or if your grades aren't what you would have wanted — all that will come. Remember, what you are really here for is to get an education. Academics, social activities, sports and extracurriculars will fuse together to create a total educational experience. You are going to love it.

I guess I'll go ahead and put a plug in for Student Government. When you get here you will have all kinds of questions. We can help find the answers, just come by and see us!

Last, but not least, bring an umbrella. It rains here all the time.

Paul Parker, a senior international studies major from Jacksonville, Fla., is student body president.

This special issue of The Tar Heel, the largest issue in the summer, is being sent to all in-coming freshmen, junior transfers, and grad students — about 7,500 all told. So, for the benefit of our new readers this issue includes stories and columns that might serve to familiarize them with "the Carolina experience."

Enjoy the issue, the rest of the summer and welcome to UNC!

Doris Betts on freshman year survival

By ALLEN MICHIE

The Tar Heel asked Doris Betts to offer a faculty perspective on the issue of incoming freshmen. Betts has long been one of UNC's most eloquent and popular professors. She is an Alumni Distinguished Professor in the English department, chairperson of the Faculty Council and is the author of several successful novels and short stories, among them *Heading West*, "Beast of the Southern Wild," "The River to Pickle Beach," "Astronomer," "The Scarlet Thread," "Tall Houses in Winter" and "The Gentle Insurrection." *The Tar Heel* spoke to her by phone at her home in Hillsborough.

Q. What are the most important lessons a student should have learned before leaving home for college?

A. The most important ones most of them have not learned. One is how to survive on their own with the chores that are involved: laundry, managing a check-book, all of that. But the second thing is how to study, and the high school students are not learning that.

Q. How can people learn these skills on their own if the high schools aren't teaching them?

A. There are any number of good books on how to study which are available in the library, and there's also some help over in Nash Hall with the Student Counseling Service.

Q. What do you see as the best frame of mind or perspective with which to begin college?

A. Optimism, I would think. It seems to me that many freshmen come to Carolina and find it overwhelming. They find it large, and they are afraid it is impersonal. So they don't make an effort to get to know the teachers. I think that if they expect the best, they will find that most people are willing to talk to them.

Q. Is there a problem at UNC with students not getting to know their professors?

A. I think there is some problem. I don't think there has to be. Most of the advisers are chosen because they are very good at

talking with people. Most of the people teaching freshmen are accessible, hold office hours and don't mind students coming to knock on the door. But freshmen are often afraid to do that. It's very important that they exercise some initiative. Nobody here is going to beg them for conferences. Nobody's going to come to them. They have to make the first move.

Q. As a faculty member, what do you see as the greatest strengths and weaknesses of being a freshman?

A. I teach freshmen every semester. Certainly one of their strengths is that they are still positive and eager to learn. That's a joy to work with. There's not the cynicism or the boredom that you sometimes get with upperclassmen. The disadvantages are that they are simply not very well-read, and they don't have a large enough context in which to place what they learn. They tend to treat their courses as if each one was an isolated box instead of making them a synthesis.

Q. Do you remember your own fresh-

man year very well?

A. Yes, I do. And that place seemed as large to me as Carolina. [Betts attended Women's College, now UNC-Greensboro.] I had never lived away from home before. It was a good year for me. Two ways, particularly. One, it was the first time I had met a great many bright women, and two, I did learn to study for the first time. I never had to study in high school in order to get by with A's and B's. A third thing was that I did very well scholastically, so I stopped feeling as stupid as I did for the first two months.

Q. Is there anything else you would like to add?

A. I think Orientation looks like one big party to freshmen, and I think it's very important to tell them not to get behind in class, to get off to a good start and then to be consistent. By the time midterms come it is panic time.

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