

# The Daily Tar Heel

93rd year of editorial freedom

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## Avoiding speed-reading days

The days get shorter and the nights get longer and Coke machines gather lines. Final exam time, and things are as well as could be expected.

### board opinion

Well, not exactly. Reading day, usually scheduled on a Friday or Monday to create a three-day period of respite and study, does nothing but mock students this semester.

After Tuesday's 20-page term paper and Wednesday's five-page poem analysis, the lone Thursday for reading fails to give students the necessary time to prepare for the harsh winds of Friday and Saturday exams.

The problem, says University Provost Sam Williamson, lies in the late Thanksgiving.

By design, this semester started later and ends earlier than usual. The last day of finals falls four days earlier than last fall. Williamson said the desire to get students home earlier and to have a longer Christmas break had been a major concern in scheduling. The late Thanksgiving reduced the number of days before finals, he said.

Such modest attempts to compact the semester and lengthen Christmas break are admirable when it sometimes seems friends at other universities spend full

Editorialists' columns

## Making the grade

Well, the Chicago Bears met their match last night against Miami. This doesn't bode well for the beginning of exams. After all, here you've been sailing along, like the Bears, knocking a few heads, turning the academic world on its ear — right? (Well, something like that, you mumble.) And now you're heading into the "exam experience." Well, listen up, those of you who are new to the game.

Look for tricks during exams. Tricks for studying; tricks for staying awake; tricks for meeting all the really cute guys and girls. Don't rely on the tried and true. Like the Chicago Bears, you need to innovate the game plan.

First, don't rely on carbo-loading and caffeine. You need inspiration, not anxiety attacks. Springsteen might be your bag — or maybe the Violent Femmes. (Depends on the course.) Try watching *The Paper Chase*. Guaranteed to inspire. But beware of too many luxuries. *Late Night with David Letterman* goes without saying — it's almost a staple. But how 'bout tractor-pulls on ESPN? (Fresh air and all). Be aware of the image you present. It's the fashion-

weeks less in school. But the problem rests with reading day scheduling itself, not Thanksgiving. Finals usually account for 30 to 40 percent of course grades, and one day doesn't allow students time to properly prepare for as many as two exams.

Williamson said the short reading period was surprisingly unquestioned at the time of scheduling. The same situation holds true for fall 1986: A Thursday reading day will be followed by Friday and Saturday exam days.

A proper reading period must be maintained. Students surely would benefit more from an extra day before the finals' onslaught than afterward.

Here the exam period's length must be considered. Williamson said shortening the long exam period by instituting three finals a day was under consideration. This seems like a responsible means of shortening the semester, since students often find themselves with four or more days between exams. Such a procedure would be acceptable if students are still able to reschedule exams if they have three in a row.

Christmas break last longer this year, but the one-day reading period is not an acceptable trade-off — unless the University can put more hours in the day.

able time of the year — respectable people dress well. Specifically, scientific evidence assures us that an overcoat raises an individual's IQ by anywhere from 15 to 25 points. Overcoats just look smart. (Consult physician if rash occurs).

General tips: limit yourself to 10 trips to the water fountain per hour; don't shave; save tomorrow's crossword puzzle for as long as humanly possible (preferably until the eve of your last exam); stay in constant motion physically and mentally (better to spew out gibberish than to spew nothing at all — you're bound to hit on something during the course of three hours); count yourself lucky when your prof enters in running shoes and tells you the exam shouldn't take more than 30 minutes; avoid the second floor of Davis; don't even try to find an open copier; buy as many bluebooks and pencils as you like (there's no such thing as "too many"); make friends with someone who's worse off than yourself; and call home often, collect.

Oh, and . . . need I add, good luck?

— ARNE RICKERT

## Their talent is undebatable

Resolved: to give praise where praise is due.

One harm now exists in the status quo — that two local heroes have gone unlauded for months, which poses the following inherent dilemma: If two debaters speak at Wake Forest and no one hears them, do they really win?

To correct the aforesaid harm, I propose to implement the following three-plank plan.

**Plank I:** I'll tell you who they are. They are senior Jeremy Ofseyer and junior Mike Egues, both from Dallas, but whose lightning quickness of speech belies any Southern origins.

**Plank II:** I'll tell you how good these guys are. In one eight-minute speech and one four-minute rebuttal, they say more than most people manage to mumble in their entire lifetime. They are involved in a sort of verbal gymnastics that consists primarily of barrages of witty, urbane — far-fetched at times — but always intricately logical arguments. For example, here's a mundane paraphrasing of the ingenious argument that won last week's tournament at Wake Forest:

In the finals, the team from Baylor proposed a plan demanding that every schoolchild in the United States should read *Huckleberry Finn*. They argued that the book is the greatest American novel, would promote feelings of patriotism and would give its readers a heightened sense of individuality.

Hell, sounds good to me.

Wrong. Egues and Ofseyer provided ample evidence that the book would

hamper progress in the United States. Focusing on the word "individuality" they showed how our nation is moving toward a more collective state, so Huck Finn is a reactionary book.

**Plank III:** I'll tell you what to do next. Try to say witty and urbane things as quickly as you can. When you find out that you can't keep it up past two or three witticisms, you'll realize how good these two are. Then become a groupie. Go by Bingham Hall and find out the comings and goings of the debate team. Memorize the National Debate Topic — which, as you may have gathered, concerns education. Above all, seek out Ofseyer and Egues, and talk with them a few moments. Enjoy the poetry of nimble tongues and limber minds.

I think that my plan will accrue the following advantages: first, it will create a universal consciousness of an ancient artform. Should we not be aware of these, our modern Ciceros? Second, my plan will create a heightened interest in the educational system, not only through the national topic itself, but also by listening to Egues and Ofseyer.

Last, and most important, my plan will answer the call of the resolution: to give credit where credit is due. Yes, whether you heard them or not, these two won the Wake Forest Debate Tournament and have proved themselves to be the best debaters in the nation. Put a star at the top of that and pin it up on your refrigerator.

— SALLY PONT

## READER FORUM

### This court's against textbook cases

To the editors:

At the end of each semester, the Office of the Student Attorney General receives numerous reports of students who have stolen textbooks and attempted to sell them back for cash at the Student Stores. Book theft is a Campus Code offense, as it harms the educational opportunities of those in the University community; students without textbooks cannot adequately prepare for exams.

The Student Stores routinely checks used books against a stolen-book list before buying them back. Students who are caught attempting to sell stolen books are reported to the student attorney general. As a precautionary measure, it is advisable for all students to mark their textbooks for identification.

In recent years, there has also been an increase in the theft of student papers. We strongly encourage students to keep a Xeroxed copy or the rough draft of any submitted work. If your paper is lost or stolen,

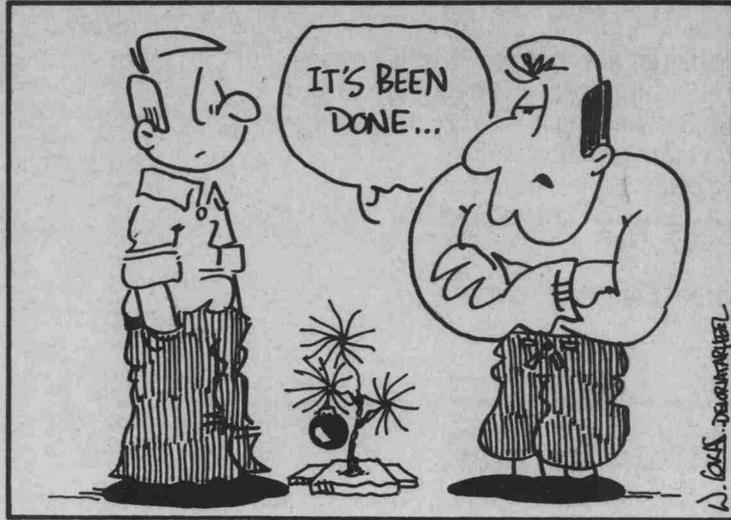
a copy can verify your work and save you a great deal of worry and inconvenience.

The end of the semester brings with it a large amount of academic and emotional pressures. Final exams are particularly important for seniors who are anticipating December graduation. Although the exam period can be an especially tense time for students, it is important to keep academics in perspective.

The basic premise of the Honor

System is that we conduct all academic work with honesty and integrity. If you are faced with questions or unexpected problems, please clarify the situation. In addition, we will be holding scheduled office hours during the exam period; if we can assist, feel free to contact us.

Mary Evans,  
student attorney general  
Suzy Adler,  
Undergraduate Honor Court chair



### A real poet-taster has a full bard plan

One of the things that is hard to ignore is the food served inside the Hall called Lenoir. They manage to take our vital resources and turn them into disgusting morsels. The food quality's bad, yes, but there's more. That the student will encounter in the Hall called Lenoir:  
As one goes through the line to make the difficult choice,  
He is greeted by a frown and discourteous voice. To pay for a drink and plate of spaghetti, One needs the wealth of J. Paul Getty. After one's through, he streaks like a comet To the nearest toilet, so that he may vomit. Will I return to this Hall called Lenoir? To quoth the Raven, "Nevermore!"

Jim Suiter  
Apex

## ARA employees get no service points

To the editors:

"Whaddya want?" If you have an ARA meal plan you probably hear these words about three times a day. This introduction to ARA is only the foreshadowing of what's to come. These words illustrate the growing insolence behind the scenes. If our cafeteria system had any consideration for the individual customer, this attitude would not exist.

I am a junior and have been in the restaurant business for seven years. This is not to mention serving on an ARA advisory committee at UNC-Wilmington for two years. My opinion, therefore, is far from unsubstantiated and is based on many incidents, not just one isolated incident. It is now clear to me that the ARA employees on this campus are underpaid. This is evident by the general discourteous and incon-

siderate nature and arrogance they display toward customers. At times, it even seems the employees feel like they are performing favors, not services. These assertions may not be fair, and it crosses my mind that maybe these employees just don't like their jobs. Perhaps there is some other skilled position they would rather occupy, possibly a job in which they would not have to deal with people.

Furthermore, the only way to get a customer to return is by having consistency in quality and service. This, a golden rule of restaurateurs, seems to go unnoticed by ARA at UNC. Could this be because of the "captive clientele" they enjoy? This is evidenced by a bacon-cheeseburger price of \$3. How they calculate their food costs is beyond me. High prices do not bring about better quality and service. Finger

holes in bread, greasy hair in food and employee inefficiency typify the situation.

Contemplating further on, I wonder if it is just the employees who have gone stale or if their lack of initiative simply arises out of being poorly managed and untrained. Try calling ARA pizza for delivery some night, and I'll be there. I called at 10:30 one night, and the person on the other end of the phone tried to tell me they were closed. I then informed him that they were in fact open to 11 and if I was not served, I would report the situation to his manager. (Whether or not this was a blatant lie or just ignorance, I may never know.)

After a talk with a manager, who sided with me and presented me with two free pizza coupons, I thought the problem was over. However, the following night

brought on a similar situation, even though that day they had held an employee meeting.

Rectification has failed. ARA did bring in a new manager, but with the old crew he can be of little help. Even a superb coach has little hope of achieving anything more than a mediocre season if his team has no talent. Only by training, assessing the situation and getting rid of the "dead weight" will our cafeteria situation improve. We customers will then be satisfied and reinvest our money in ARA.

Until then, exercise your right to "eat out." It costs the same, runs more smoothly, and, since they care about the individual, you'll find they serve you instead of the other way around.

W.J. McMichael  
Lewis

## There is a degree of hope for English Ph.D.s

To the editors:

I appreciate Jane Gabin's letter in the Dec. 2 *Tar Heel* ("English grads still face it alone"), and I am glad to have this opportunity to address once again the issue of employment of English majors. It is complex.

The interview I had with Lorry Williams (*DTH*, Nov. 20) involved both our undergraduate programs and graduate programs. The department believes that the English major is good training for several pre-professional programs. Most of all, we think it makes major contributions to an enlightened citizenry. English majors repeatedly prove us

right as they proceed to careers in many fields — law, medicine, business, education and other areas. We like to think that the training in English has enriched the lives of our students even when they work in professions not professionally "English."

The training of M.A. and Ph.D. candidates, particularly the latter, is more problematic. Most of these people wish to teach. Ten or so years ago, these people indeed faced an excruciatingly tight market. Many of them took their Ph.D.s and headed to programs in business or law. As I told Ms. Williams, that pattern has been reversed. In the

past few years, the department has been pleased to see its Ph.D.s getting the positions that were not formerly there.

Our experience at Chapel Hill reflects the national picture. Carl Lovitt, assistant director for the Association of Departments of English, reports that the improvement is "dramatic." He notes that the October 1985 Job Information List has an increase of 37 percent in the number of positions advertised during 1984. This is the largest number of advertised vacancies since the list was first published in 1971.

The market is still not a seller's

market, to be sure. Connie Eble, the department's director of graduate studies, and I have been very frank with our entering graduate students about that market. We create no illusions for them. Similarly, George Lensing, director of our Undergraduate Literature Program, is equally frank in dealing with undergraduate majors who are contemplating graduate work in English. Of course, all of us take pleasure in the improvements on the national scene.

Joseph M. Flora,  
English department chairman

## Some after-words on Zionism

By GARY HERION

This past semester has witnessed a lively and at times emotional debate about Zionism. My purpose in writing this is first to attempt to bring some closure to this debate by pointing out what I believe one of the underlying issues to be. Tomorrow, I intend to suggest some possible ways that we on this campus can contribute positively not only to the security that Israel so desperately needs, but also to the peace that the whole Middle East so desperately needs.

At the heart of the debate about whether or not Zionism is "racist" is a great deal of confusion about definitions. Jews and non-Jews alike are not always certain about what Zionism is. Those who have arisen to defend Zionism have been essentially correct in arguing that Zionism takes many different forms. In fact, the most prevalent form of Zionism on the UNC campus is probably not even held by Jews but by fundamentalist Christians who feel that Israel's presence in the Middle East is a necessary prerequisite for Christ's return.

Among Jews there are different types of Zionism: spiritual, cultural and political. Political Zionism itself (like the Democratic or Republican parties) contains a wide spectrum of governmental philosophies and policy goals. On one extreme, there are political Zionists who favor peace with the West Bank. On the other extreme, there are self-avowed racists who wish for nothing less than the total destruction of Palestinian identity — and even of Palestinian people, should it come to that. Between these two extremes are numerous other positions, differing from one another mainly on the issues of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank territories, the use of military force in neighboring Arab countries and how best to present Israeli goals favorably to the American public.

In light of this diversity, one can see how erroneous and counterproductive it becomes to label all Zionism as racist. Zionism's defenders — both Jewish and non-Jewish — have repeatedly provided quick and correct testimony to Zionism's diversity, and yet this testimony seems to have had little effect in convincing large

numbers of relatively well-informed people. Why is this so? The charge that Zionism's critics are "hate-filled" (and therefore not open to reason) has been made, but I think this is premature, at least as far as the UNC debate is concerned.

I would suggest that ultimately there is another reason: Everyone hears that Zionism is diverse, but almost no one sees that diversity at work. What most people see is a widening gulf between the (sometimes pious) rhetoric of many Zionists in this country and the (often ruthless) "facts" created by other Zionists in Israel. These "facts" most recently include the ongoing illegal settlement of the West Bank territory, military raids that kill hundreds of Arab civilians in neighboring Arab lands (Beirut, Tripoli) and in the last two weeks the distressing news that Israel has been stealing military secrets from the United States.

Generally speaking, these "facts" correlate very nicely with the Zionist agenda of extremists, such as Meir Kahane, who refuse to compromise on the West Bank, who urge any military action to terrorize and intimidate Arabs and who view the United States as an untrustworthy partner to be used or even abused as it accommodates their vision for Israel. The only difference is that these "facts" are not being created with the speed and belligerence that Kahane and other extremists would prefer.

Certainly many Zionists disagree with these extremists. Many have spoken out against the West Bank settlements, against Israel's sometimes wanton use of military force (Israel has the third most powerful military in the world), and some perhaps will criticize Israel's acts of espionage against the United States. But they have only spoken. Some (but not many) Zionists — mostly Jews — go so far as to sponsor Arab-Israeli dialogue and to hand out anti-Kahane pamphlets, and this is commendable.

But when it is time to act, many of these types of Zionists seem to disappear. For example, when the question arises, "Should the United States refuse to continue financing Israel's illegal settlement of the West Bank?" Zionism seems to appear monolithically to answer with: "No, do not withhold this portion of the economic aid to Israel." When the question arises (as it arose in Congress two years ago), "Should the United States compensate Israel for the money

and the military hardware it expended in the invasion of Lebanon?" Zionism again seems to appear to answer monolithically (as it did two years ago): "Yes, let the United States pay for Israel's invasion of Lebanon." One fully expected that when the question is raised, "Should the United States castigate Israel for stealing some of its military secrets?" Zionism will again appear monolithically to assert that this was all a misunderstanding and should be quickly forgotten. (How many readers remember the Israeli attack against the USS Liberty on June 8, 1967, when 34 American sailors were killed and 171 others were wounded while Israeli jets and torpedo boats spent an afternoon repeatedly trying to sink this American naval vessel? Probably very few remember; this event has successfully been "forgotten.")

The distressing point is this: Time and again, when moderate peace-loving Zionists have had an opportunity to take an active and public stand against this agenda, most have chosen not to and seemingly acquiesced to the advancing agenda of the extremists. Thus, the growing gap between sanctimonious rhetoric (of which we have seen so little on this campus) means that the rhetoric loses much of its credibility and that the public continues to view Zionism monolithically, associating it with the extremists who continue to "create facts" uncontested (and with little apparent regard for the morality of their actions).

The question may be fairly asked: What have Zionists — whether Christian or Jew — done to demonstrate convincingly their disapproval of the "facts" created by the extremists? Is Zionist rhetoric designed to help affect peace in the Middle East? Or is it designed to enhance Israel's image in the eyes of Americans? Such penetrating questions as these cannot be answered convincingly with words (or by letters to the *DTH*), but only by deeds. And as long as the only effective deeds the public sees are the "facts" created by those extremists who pursue an admittedly racist agenda, so long will it continue to hold a very simple view of Zionism that fails to distinguish it from racism.

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