

The Daily Tar Heel

97th year of editorial freedom

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Changing perspectives Strengthen math and foreign languages

The administrative committee considering ways to separate the General College math and foreign language requirements is on the right track, but if the University wants to maintain prestige as one of the best, it needs to up the ante. America's education system is failing miserably, as an education summit highlighted in Charlottesville last week. The United States lags behind other countries in math and science technology, and our students are hardly proficient in foreign languages. The trend must stop somewhere; stiffer math and language requirements at UNC would be a much-needed step.

UNC now links math and foreign language requirements, although the two are unrelated. Students must take either one math and a language through the fourth level or two maths and a language through the third level. Some students place out of both and take no courses in either department before graduation. A better plan may be to make all students take at least two maths and a language through the fourth level, if only to take a step toward improving American education.

Of course, it's easy to argue for these reforms because few of us at UNC now will be affected if changes are made. We have already met, or are in the process of meeting, the math and language requirements, and there aren't many students who would prefer stiffer course loads. But students may be cheating themselves. Upon leaving UNC, they may have a less liberal

board opinion

education than the diploma suggests. As people in foreign nations usually speak at least two languages, and technological advances are making the world more science and math-oriented, American students must get moving.

Most top universities in the nation have math and foreign language requirements similar to or tougher than UNC's. But with the talk about improving the quality of American education, the curriculums at universities across the nation will probably be toughened. Universities such as Harvard already have tougher requirements for students in math, foreign language and science, though the requirements vary from department to department. Duke University may not have requirements as tough as Harvard, but it does require students to take upper-level courses in math or foreign language. Students may opt out of either math or foreign languages, but not both.

University committee members considering separating the math and foreign language requirements are not sure whether they will "intensify any requirements" if the areas are separated. But if the matter is a choice between more student autonomy and bettering American education, the choice should be clear. More stringent requirements may not sound very inviting for students who have difficulty with both math and foreign languages, and departments may have trouble finding the faculty for extra courses, but in the long run, the change would only bring respect to UNC. It's like the medicine that tastes horrible—eventually, it will make you better.

NOW THAT STUDENT CONGRESS' RESOLUTION ON ABORTION HAS PASSED, OTHER GROUPS ON CAMPUS FEEL COMPELLED TO SPEAK OUT—



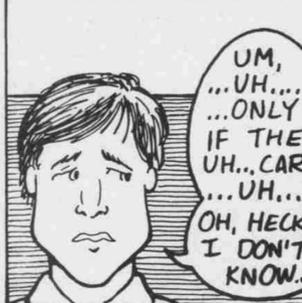
THE SURFING CLUB ON EAST GERMANY:



THE HECTOR'S CROWD ON FLAG BURNING:



SAFE ESCORT ON CLEAN AIR STANDARDS:



THE GOBLIN CORPS ON REDUCING THE DEFICIT:



THE CAROLINA COMIC BOOK CLUB ON SDI:



It's time to find better role models

Today I was asked whether I was an athlete of some sort for the fifteenth time during my time here at Carolina. I wasn't asked because I have the body of an Adonis or have reached the esteemed height of 5 feet 12 inches; I'm just supposed to be athletic. It's in my genes (see *Origin of Species* by Jimmy the Greek).

There are several other things that I'm supposed to be and there are several other things that I'm supposed to do.

I'm supposed to dance to and know every rap song that comes on the radio. If I'm deficient in reciting the "poetry of the urban masses," I receive that "you're not really black" look (a look that is rather ironic coming from a white person).

I'm supposed to only drink malt liquor. Malt liquor is my drink. My mother started me on Colt 45 when I turned 13; it's a ritual.

I'm expected to converse in black colloquial English with my white friends. A typical conversation goes like this:

"I bet you be sayin' yo' whatsup my brother," he says.

"Yeah you be illin'," she says as she stretches out her hand to demonstrate that obsolete "give me some skin" gesture.

I say, "Hi guys! Did you study the poli sci?" They give me that Cleaveresque "Aw you're not playin' right" look you give someone when they refuse to die in a game of Cops and Robbers.

No, this isn't an "it's not easy" being an African-American column. This is a dissertation on the reality of America today. Besides, it must be easy for African-Americans—the government caters to their every wish. We run guilt trips on patronizing liberals and they fall into our money pit like lemmings. In job interviews we quote Dr. Martin Luther King and wax poetical about present-day injustices to increase our chances of filling that quota. Legislation has made our lives a bowl of cherries.

But let's get something straight: Every

Dana Lumsden Dream Variations

position that I acquire in life is not the result of some secret minority quota. If I beat you, it's because I'm better. With affirmative action being eaten away by a paranoid, mediocre majority (National Association for the Advancement of People Who Have Managed to Rule the Earth) and by African-Americans who attribute every success to their ability to "play the role," one has to be better than the rest.

Now, one father is suing UNC because his daughter, who had a C average in high school and a score of "around 900" on the SAT, did not get admitted for this school year. The suit says that the admissions policy is biased in favor of black, male athletes. The man, his daughter and their attorney should be flogged in public by a bunch of retired postal workers for filing the suit. First of all, the woman should be enrolled in some type of pre-school to help distinguish herself from the many applicants just like her. And even if she had made it into UNC, she'd probably be among the mindless groupies who defy the very athletes she's crying about.

Americans send blacks mixed messages; on one hand, they praise the athletes and entertainers among minorities and fail to publicize those who prosper in political and economic circles. They concentrate on all that is negative about African-Americans. The same people who whine about the free ride blacks are given continue to crank out voluminous amounts of negative statistics about blacks. No one is more guilty of this hypocrisy than the "politically correct" (the latest euphemism for liberals) who cry about South Africa, live on North Campus and brag about attempts to feed every open mouth in some

obscure foreign country.

These same people fawn over the spiritual leader of all black people on campus: Billy at Time Out. For example, candidates for the 1989 senior class president and vice president posed with Billy for their campaign posters. Billy is probably a decent, hardworking man who is just trying to earn a living.

When I called the manager to find out a little more about Billy, the day manager said simply, "Well, he works the third shift and has been here—lessee—about nine years I believe."

Here's a man who is a bonafide Chapel Hill celebrity who still works the third shift like a regular guy! Imagine all the business that Billy draws from students who after a long night of partying and cavorting, just want to "go holler at Billy."

I figured that I'd call back and see what Billy's position at Time Out was after nine years of distinguished service in selling chicken to inebriated citizens.

"He's a cashier—third shift," said the day manager. I don't want to appear hyper-sensitive by saying that students who want a black man from some chicken joint to pose with them for pictures are setting back the race, but that's precisely what's happening. People don't care about Billy's well-being. The politically correct don't care about the message they're sending through their publicity of Billy.

America should work on some more positive role models, and this campus should work on some more positive role models. It's time to give celebrity status to the mother-of-three, dorm housekeeper, who is working hard to get through night school on a salary that just keeps her above the poverty level. Maybe this year a candidate for senior class president will pose with her: "Friends Who Deserve Respect!"

Dana Clinton Lumsden is a journalism and political science major from Boston, Mass.

'King Arthur' is dead But Chapman and Python will live on

Fans of Monty Python and the comedic genius of its members are in mourning this week over the death of Graham Chapman, one of the founding fathers of the British comedy troupe begun in 1968. Chapman, 48, passed away Wednesday after a long battle with cancer. Although the group's last major endeavor was in 1983, most of the group's members were with Chapman at the time of his death. Ironically, Monty Python recently celebrated its 20th anniversary, which the group commemorated by filming a television special to air later in the year. While there is no cause for celebration right now, we can be assured that the brilliant work of Chapman and associates will remain a favorite throughout the world.

Chapman is probably best known for his role as King Arthur in the group's first—and classic—film, "Monty Python and the Holy Grail." The popularity of Graham and Monty Python, and especially of this film, appears to be as strong in Chapel Hill as anywhere else. For example, a local theater's midnight screening of "Holy Grail" last week sold out. This is no surprise; most students have seen the film at least once, and many can probably quote several of its immortal lines verbatim. Take this remark, for example:

ARTHUR: "No, on second thought, let's not go to Camelot. It is a silly place."

Or this exchange with the Knights of Nihi (however it's spelled!):

ARTHUR: "Who are you?"

KNIGHT: "We are the Knights who saay... Nihi!"

ARTHUR: "No! Not the Knights who say Nihi!"

KNIGHT: "The same."

ARTHUR: (aside) "Those who hear them seldom live to tell the tale! ... Oh, Knights of Nihi, you are just and fair, and we will return with a shrubbery."

KNIGHT: "One that looks nice."

ARTHUR: "Of course!"

Well, you get the idea, not to mention other memorable scenes such as the "hilarious dis-

membering" of the black knight or the king's idiotic galloping to the sound of two coconuts. But Chapman's work in other Python endeavors is equally as memorable, such as the role of Brian, the reluctant Messiah in "The Life of Brian," and countless characters in "Monty Python's Flying Circus." Chapman's work, similar to that of his associates, was characterized by great versatility, such as the ability to play female roles as well as, if not better than, male roles.

The world of comedy will greatly miss Graham and his talents. Although Monty Python could never be the same without his valuable contributions, the group's work will maintain its popularity for years to come. This is obviously what Chapman would have wanted; even in "Monty Python's Meaning of Life," when the grim reaper tells him that he is dead, he scoffs, "Well, that's cast rather a gloom over the evening, hasn't it?" —James Burroughs

The world of comedy will greatly miss Graham and his talents.

Readers' Forum

Letter's vicious tone obscured its point

To the editor:

On Oct. 4 the DTH printed a letter by Alecia Cole ("Insults to southern state are getting old") that complains about Matt Biven's Sept. 28 column. She states: "I am sick and tired of jerks who, for some unknown reason, are allowed to take up space in the DTH ridiculing and insulting my home state." Ms. Cole, I wholeheartedly agree. Bivens' column was irresponsible and out of line. I liked your letter so much that I have to quote more of it. You speak of manners: "...obviously not taught up there in Olney (?), Md."

Yes ma'am, this Maryland resident certainly agrees that such people "obviously lack the brainpower or the journalistic creativity to come up with anything of socially redeeming value" to put in their articles (or perhaps, dare I add, letters).

I regret, however, that Ms. Cole's letter lost so much credibility through its vicious tone: What might have been a responsible and credible complaint became little more than a personal, vindictive retaliation against Bivens and Marylanders who don't claim responsibility for him.

the other perplexing conditions of the human situation. A non-binding resolution on Third World debt, perhaps?

Cleaning up national dilemmas feels so much better than slogging through all those pesky little local problems such as declining library budgets, an underpaid faculty, a slave-wage scale for TAs and an administration so strapped for state money that it agrees to whatever whim pleases our richer alumni. Considering the alternatives, I'd probably propose something on abortion, too.

On another weighty subject, as a North Carolinian, I wish to express my deep resentment at being lumped into the same category with South Carolinians by C. Glenn Wallace ("Columnist's words were way off base," Oct. 4). There is a great difference between the two groups, most notably the fact that North Carolinians have a sense of humor.

I do not know to which body part South Carolina most accurately relates, but I do know the only way I would travel to South Carolina for a vacation would be if someone tied me up and mailed me there. But that's probably only because of my tragically small mind.

DANIEL CONOVER
Senior
Journalism

Editorial stance not grounds for recall

To the editor:

It sickens me to see the cheap political posturing that Mr. Jeffrey Beall is indulging in. His campaign against the DTH editor is pure personal vendetta. He wants her out of office because the DTH board opinion did not support his bill for a revote on the SRC. The editors of the DTH do not have to support every cocka-

mamy bill that comes before Student Congress. It may come as news to Mr. Beall that the DTH is run differently than Pravda, where the editorial line closely follows the official party line.

Even more dangerous are the veiled accusations of racism and sexism against the DTH. Racism is a serious and potentially inflammatory issue, and it is a shame that Mr. Beall has used it to settle personal scores. It is quite clear what Mr. Beall is doing. He is pandering to various groups on campus that he feels may have a gripe against the DTH. I do hope that these groups have the good sense not to be taken in by a third-rate politician.

G. RAMACHANDRAN
Graduate Student
Environmental Engineering

Beall's actions don't serve constituents

To the editor:

Re-vote? Jeffrey Beall is trying to make that a campus catch word—much to the dismay of many students campus-wide. After having been defeated in a move to bring about a re-vote on the SRC issue, Beall seemed to have left Lisa Frye, the CAA and DTH readers some peace. Well, we thought it ended with the CAA—it didn't.

Now Beall has resurfaced with the same basic idea, only with a different organization and individual as the object of his obsession. Beall is leading the movement to recall the election of DTH editor, Sharon Kebschull. Kebschull, just as Frye, has shown Beall's beliefs and judgments of both the CAA and DTH to be lacking in factual content. Reporters haven't been forbidden to interview certain students and yes, students were told there would be

no bathrooms in the SRC. Whether they chose to listen is another issue. To respond to his claim that the DTH stirs "controversy to raise circulation and advertising revenues," the DTH is a NEWSpaper. Newspapers contain controversy.

Neither of Beall's two attacks seems to be directly benefiting the District 7 constituents. In fact they appear to be attempts to "stir controversy" to increase awareness of Jeffrey Beall. In this light, it is interesting that Beall accuses the DTH of stirring controversy.

Just who exactly is Beall representing? This question is aimed at District 7 constituents in the hope that they will ask themselves. Then maybe we can give Jeffrey Beall the re-vote he is searching for so intensely.

Perhaps it is time to start a petition to recall the election of Dist. 7 representative Jeffrey Beall.

Something to think about.

LISA SALA
Junior
Journalism/English

Letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticisms. When writing letters to the editor, please follow these guidelines:

- All letters must be dated and signed by the author(s), with a limit of two signatures per letter.
- All letters must be typed and double-spaced, for ease of editing.
- Most letters run from one to two pages, but longer letters may be run as guest columns.
- Letters should include the author's year, major, phone number and home town.
- The DTH will make every effort to contact writers to verify their letters, so please be sure that both a daytime and evening phone number are listed.

The Daily Tar Heel

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