

# The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

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## Students work wonders Minor is major accomplishment

Frustrations and setbacks are constants at any university. Students are continually trying to be heard and get their programs instituted, but too often find themselves the victims of some administrative decision made in some building far removed from any student, while angered and frustrated they beat their heads against a wall of alumni and state legislators.

Every so often, however, a miracle occurs; the students are well-represented and their concerns are heard. Such is the case with the academic minor as passed by the Faculty Council last Friday: starting next fall UNC students will have the same option to minor that most college students across the country have. What makes this program unique, however, is that it was initiated by students.

Students' involvement with the administration is usually reactionary; the administration makes a decision and the students find out too late to do anything but protest, like the location of the new Alumni building or the mandatory \$100 meal card requirement. But this program came from the students, by the students and for the students.

Two years ago, Sandy Rierson, chairwoman of the Academic Affairs Committee under former Student Body President Kevin Martin, polled students to determine if any demand existed for a minor program, and the students said yes.

The committee found in October 1988 that 77 percent of the students who declared or anticipated declaring a double major said they would have chosen to minor in the second field if they had been given the option. They also cited that 311 students left UNC with a double major, about one-tenth of the graduation class. Those numbers, of course, missed the number of people who worked toward a double major but came up short in time and requirements. Unfortunately, these students had worked long and hard, but had nothing to show for it. Realizing the demand for an academic minor program, the Academic Affairs Committee made a proposal to the

Faculty Council. This year the committee has urged the council to follow through. And last Friday they did just that.

Just as it was the students who initiated this program, it is the students who will benefit. Those who have worked toward a second major but have come up short in time or requirements will now receive formal recognition for the hard work they put into another field. Many students who have vigorously structured their schedules to accommodate a second major will now opt for a minor. This will allow them to enjoy the broader liberal arts education that this University purports to offer.

Members of the University Career Planning and Placement Services contend that neither a minor nor a double major are appreciated by an employer. But students who have extra electives could be using those hours more constructively toward a minor, which would accomplish two things at once: they are able to explore an area of interest to them, and they are getting credit for it. An employer can hardly turn a student away for choosing to use his or her time more constructively.

Because many academic departments have not yet committed themselves to the program, students should be persistent in their efforts to make the program comprehensive and to give all students the opportunity to explore their intellectual curiosities.

This success should serve as an example of what students can accomplish when we go about it the right way. Student government identified a need, devised a reasonable solution and presented it to a faculty that also recognized the need. Together they were able to correct a glaring omission.

The administration has often looked down on student government and students of this University as being part of a reactionary group, and sometimes we deserve it. But students have rewarded themselves this time by initiating a program that aims to serve them. They should be commended for it. — Jessica Lanning

## Best of intentions

### Student Congress bill falls short

Striving for racial and cultural diversity in student organizations is a worthy goal — one that all groups should aspire to reach. Student Congress has initiated a drive to recruit more minorities in campus groups with the passage of BRJ 71-135. This bill requires campus organizations requesting student fees to submit a written statement committing to the active recruitment of minorities. But before the bill goes into effect on May 16, clarifications need to be made for student groups to understand and fulfill its goals.

"Active recruitment of minorities" is difficult to define, especially when campus groups are left to hash it out for themselves. As it stands now, the results might not resemble the intentions of the bill's sponsors. One group may "recruit" by sending representatives to residence areas with high minority concentrations, while another may "recruit" by casually mentioning an upcoming event to an acquaintance who happens to be a minority. If the bill offers no clear definition of recruitment, it will produce no clear results.

Organizations that specifically serve minorities are not addressed in the present form of the bill. How are the Carolina Indian Circle, the Black Student Movement and the Carolina Gay and Lesbian Association to recruit minorities, and what constitutes a minority group in relation to these organizations? Career-specific organizations may also face problems in recruiting minorities because they draw from a specific major or school. Why should their budgets be jeopardized if low minority enrollment limits "recruitment?" And how does Student Congress, whose membership is dominated by white males, propose to increase its own minority representation?

tation? Congress members cannot force minorities to run for office if they don't want to.

The bill also lacks enforcement methods, making it difficult for Congress to achieve positive results and adherence to the rules. While the Rules and Judiciary Committee can investigate an organization and retract or freeze its funds, the committee can act only if it receives a complaint from students at large. Few students would go around analyzing campus organizations' recruiting efforts, and even fewer would make an effort to report it. At the same time, the chance to freeze or retract an organization's funds for any reason is a powerful political tool that might appeal to some of the more manipulative members of student government.

The bill's supporters argue that requiring organizations to formulate a statement of active recruitment will force organizational leaders to think carefully about how they can diversify their membership. But how long will they think about it? If the issue is raised only during budget allocations, will it really have a deep effect on student organizations? It is easy for groups to promise to change, but good intentions are much more effective if the organizations are held accountable more than once a year.

BRJ 71-135 is more than a little toothless at this point. If Student Congress can go back and establish some practical definitions and structures to accompany the bill's grand goals, this legislation could be a positive force on this campus. Without it, however, the bill is just a well-meaning gesture that will cause many headaches in the years to come. — Crystal Bernstein

## Season of Superheroes, Slides and sleep

Boy, do folks desperately need a spring break around here or what? Maybe it's the bizarre weather fluctuations, maybe some sort of heavy-duty laxative leaked into the water supply, or just maybe everybody peed in everybody else's Corn Flakes all month, but there seems to be a burr in the britches of every person I've seen lately. A more logical explanation is that it's Happy Magical Mid-term Season here in Chapel Hill, and us kids are having to spend these blustery days memorizing stuff that is looking pretty inconsequential at this junction in our careers. If November is the "roommate trouble" month, when you start having vicious thoughts about the roommate you grew to hate, February is the "angst-filled God-where-art-thou depression" month, when we start to question our futile existences on this planet and question why we need to know what the 'paradox of phenomenology' is in order to get a diploma.

But I assure you, these academic things are purely transient — professors mess up February because it's their job. Although I have an infinite amount of respect for someone who was smart and caring enough to devote their life to professorship — and although I think that the "those who can, do — those who can't, teach" quote was made up by a bunch of disgruntled welders who hated second grade — I still feel a primal urge to purge my list of The Five Kinds of Professors at UNC.

**The Ramblin' Man** — Professors become professors for a reason, and the Ramblin' Man did it because he knew more about his subject than anyone else in the solar system. He can't teach for the same reason good musicians can't dance; they know way too much about something to express it naturally. Also known as "Mr. I Wrote the Book," he quotes long, delirious passages from his own textbook in a monotone that would put eighteen-wheel trucks to sleep — and when asked a question, he will ramble on a long, delirious tangent that will send most students into the stratosphere, drooping on their desks with sugar plums dancing in their heads.

**Quote:** "And if you'll turn to page one thousand seven hundred and fifty in the textbook, read along with me as we take a voyage through the wondrous world of didactic relation."

**Mr. Everybody's Buddy** — This teacher spices his lecture with frequent references to the students' alcoholic and sexual passions, in a vain attempt to "relate" to us kids in our obviously pleasure-driven lives. He'll set up office hours at He's Not Here on Friday evenings, where he'll suck down a brewski and make thinly-veiled sexist comments relating the subject material with boob size, and then get angry when we don't take him seriously as a professor.

**Quote:** "I'd schedule a quiz for Friday, but I know you'll be out pillaging all night ... (winks) ... right. Gloria? Heh heh heh."

**Madame Slide** — This professor's classroom has a living room quality to it because you talk about the same stuff you would at

**Ian Williams**  
Wednesday's Child

**Anal Retentive T.A. from the Ninth Circle of Hell** — There are professors in this world who seem to delight in the academic flogging of their student captives, but much, much worse are their Igor Teaching Assistants, the Grad Students

**With Very Serious Attitude Problems.** These guys probably had a crudload of sand kicked in their faces in grade school, and now carry this primal sandbox grudge to the poli sci classroom, where they finally have the power over us durn bratty schoolkids. With snake venom spewing from their lips, the T.A. tears through a paper like an angry tiger through a gazelle, knowing on bad punctuation and flawed argumentation with cackling glee.

**Quote:** "Let it be known that attendance to the 8 o'clock recitation section counts as 47 percent of your final grade ..."

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**Quote:** "I'd schedule a quiz for Friday, but I know you'll be out pillaging all night ... (winks) ... right. Gloria? Heh heh heh."

**Madame Slide** — This professor's classroom has a living room quality to it because you talk about the same stuff you would at

three in the morning with drunk housemates. The text for the class is usually a coursepack that consists of three or four newspaper articles vaguely related to each other, all stapled together. Students either get in deep philosophical discussions or sleep, and the teacher gets in trouble every semester for giving out too many A's; unfortunately, Madame Slide's class never fulfills anything close to being a perspective, so it is commonly known as "Two for One at the Pass/Fail-o-Rama."

**Quote:** "I really don't believe in the conventional grading system ... how do y'all feel about that?"

**The Academic Superhero** — This professor is the veritable god among men, the one teacher that successfully combines his own personal intellect with a working knowledge of our own attention span. Passionate yet not a freakazoid, our Superfriend casts off the common shackles of regurgitation list memorizing and lets us learn tough material without leaving us feeling like we just got our teeth cleaned. The Superhero comes along every two years or so in our college career, so look out for them!

**Quote:** "I've got a convention in Boulder, so there'll be no class on Thursday ..."

Anyway, good luck on all these midterms, and don't let them stop you from looking up at the beautiful trees this February. And as my Mom says, if everyone does badly, it's the teacher that fails — even though I do have the worst academic attitude west of the Atlantic Basin, and my G.P.A. would almost be legal on a breathalyzer, and these horrible weather fluctuations are killing me, and the whole world can just go to hell for all I care ...

*Ian Williams is a music and psychology major from Los Angeles who assures all his professors that they are Superheroes. Greg Humphreys, a December graduate, ain't so sure in retrospect.*

## READERS' FORUM

### African-Americans need cooperation, unity to survive

To the editor:  
African-Americans wake up! We are slowly but surely killing ourselves and our race. We are seeing an increase of black-on-black crime. What is even sadder is that we are becoming oblivious to the hate and violence that has surfaced within our race.

In South Africa, Nelson Mandela pleads for peace among the black South Africans. Mandela urges blacks to stop fighting each other and to fight apartheid instead. In our own back yard, we are also fighting. Our problem is that we are not fighting to abolish apartheid or any other worthy cause — we are fighting each other. We are damaging ourselves instead of improving standing conditions.

When we have brothers and sisters struggling against apartheid — what can be so important to take arms against another brother? When we have brothers and sisters addicted to drugs and alcohol — what can be so important to take arms against another brother? When we have brothers and sisters living in poverty and unemployed — what can be so important to take arms against another brother?

If there is a logical answer to these questions, please let me know. We have a definite problem when more college-age black

men are in jail than are enrolled in college. An incident this weekend when two black men fought against each other at a UNC social event may explain why some college students here are not in much better shape than some of those in jail.

We have been calling each other brother and sister for years; it is now time to act like brother and sister. I hope this letter will open the eyes of a few individuals. We must learn to unite and work together for the advancement of our people. Wake up and stop fighting each other. Love your brother and your sister for they are each a reflection on you.

KIMBERLY ELLINGTON  
Sophomore  
Political Science

### GSU concerned with more than just salary issues

To the editor:  
"UNC's main mission is to educate, not to employ" conveys a provocative insight far beyond what Jeffrey Beall ("GSU fails to represent grad assistants," Feb. 27) intended. Education is the foundation of our nation's health, wealth, and well-being. Take a look at nations without strong educational systems if you have doubts. If the state fails to support educational issues — even a "living wage" for graduate students — then the state has taken another step toward failure.

Graduate Students United

(GSU) advocates issues of far greater importance than some may realize. Issues of pay raises and health benefits are only representative of the problems confronting this University today. Take a moment to read the headlines in the Feb. 27 issues of the DTH and The (Raleigh) News and Observer. Nursing school students protest budget cuts (DTH, 1; N&O, 1B), UNC-system library budget cuts threaten institutional reputations (N&O, 2B), the senior class at UNC works to endow a teaching position (DTH, 3), and an editorial places blame for a poor U.S. educational system on apathetic parents (N&O, 9A).

Collectively, these articles should tell students, faculty, administrators and legislators that something is amiss with N.C.'s educational system. How can anyone, especially graduate students, be content to allow UNC to deteriorate before their eyes? As our nation's first state university we have too strong a tradition in support of education simply to let it happen.

Do you care what happens to your education? Do you realize that UNC's reputation has a direct impact on your future employment? Although it may be "common knowledge ... that the best professors are leaving UNC for other universities," should it remain common practice for faculty or graduate students?

GSU is not the ultimate answer to these problems, but it is a beginning. Join us at the next GSU meeting to find out if we "sit in a circle and agree how miserable (we) are," ask us about our "thinly

veiled scheme to unionize," and ask us why we stay in graduate school instead of "enter(ing) the work force."

I am afraid it is your logic that is bogus, Beall, not the existence of GSU. The future stares you straight in the eye. Don't blink.

DAVID M. EGNER  
Graduate student  
History

### Letters policy

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticisms. We will attempt to print as many letters to the editor as space permits. When writing letters, 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.

■ Letters should include the author's year, major, phone number and hometown.

■ The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Remember, brevity is the soul of wit.

■ If you have a title relevant to the topic of the letter, please include it.

■ We will not print responses to responses. "Letter Tag" tends to get confusing.

■ Place letters in the box marked "Letters to the Editor" outside the DTH office in the Student Union annex.

## Honor Keith Edwards with street name

Editors' note: This letter is addressed to the mayor of Chapel Hill.

Dear Mayor Jonathan Howes:  
Once in a lifetime our lives are touched by the wisdom, foresight and courage of a particular individual. A person who is so filled with the love of self, God and her people that she will even defy threats against her own existence to bring freedom indeed to a community who have hungered so long for it. We all know of the tremendous heroism of Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks and Ms. Daisy Bates and their uncompromising stand against oppression and tyranny, but sometimes we forget that right in our midst we have soldiers who are just as strong as the sisters of the fifties and sixties. I speak of Keith M. Edwards of McDade Street — the heart of the black community in Chapel Hill.

I intend that this lady is being used by God himself for a divine purpose — to lead a people out of spiritual and mental bondage and bring them into a land flowing with milk and honey just as the Scriptural Moses and the late, great Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., did. The courageous stance of Edwards against UNC is not an individual stance, but it is a stance coming from a strong voice who is willing to speak for all of those who suffer in silence. This city must honor this lady with the most honorable reward possible.

### Bruce Korriem

#### Guest Writer

Historically, we find that whenever there have been people who have suffered continually and longed for a change, that nature has produced a change for that people. Edwards was born into the world to do the work that she is doing now. She is going to make life better for her beloved community of Chapel Hill.

This is a bold, scholarly and Christ-like work. Indeed, a revolutionary work. And this is why we must honor her. Here is what I propose:

In the black belt of New York City known as the village of Harlem, Malcolm X was honored in 1987 when Lenox Avenue was renamed Malcolm X Boulevard. For many years in Harlem, Seventh and Eighth Avenues have been known as Adam Clayton Powell Boulevard and Frederick Douglass Boulevard. There is now a proposal before the Chicago City Council to rename Stony Island Avenue for the Honorable Elijah Muhammad.

I think that the black community as well as the whole city of Chapel Hill would burst with pride if McDade Street were renamed Ms. Keith Edwards Boulevard. What better way to create pride and self-respect in black children

and Edwards' own granddaughter if they grew up seeing a street named in honor of a courageous freedom fighter. Edwards, you are one powerful sister and you have made a profound impact on my life in the short time that I have known you. I would like the world to know and honor you as I honor you myself. Mr. Mayor, thank you for reading my humble words, and now, here are the words of Martin Luther King Jr., written from a Birmingham jail:

"One day the south will recognize its real heroes. They will be the James Merediths, with the noble sense of purpose that enables them to face jeering and hostile mobs, and with the agonizing loneliness that characterizes the life of the pioneer. They will be old, oppressed, battered black women, symbolized in a seventy-two year-old woman in Montgomery, Alabama, who rose up with a sense of dignity and with her people decided not to ride segregated buses, and who responded with ungrammatical profundity to one who inquired about her weariness: 'My feet is tired, but my soul is at rest.'"

On this Freedom Day and King Day of 1990, let us do it right this time by honoring and hearing from the people that Dr. King, Jesus and Edwards love so much — the little people of Chapel Hill, McDade Street and, eventually, Ms. Keith Edwards Boulevard.

Bruce Korriem is from Durham.

### Editorial Policy

The Daily Tar Heel's board opinion editorials are voted on by the board, which is composed of the co-editors, opinion editor, forum editor and three editorial writers. The opinions reflect the board's majority opinion. Signed editorials do not necessarily reflect the entire board's opinion.

The Daily Tar Heel has three regular staff columnists who write once a week. Their opinions also do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the board.