

Opinion

Comps prove little

It's beginning to look a lot like competency time.

Everywhere we go people are breaking out in cold sweats in anticipation of the test that will make or break their college careers.

On top of final papers, senior level courses, projects and internships, the individual departments hit their students with a test designed to suck all the information a student has absorbed from four-years of college.

At least **some** departments will be giving competencies. Other majors get off scott-free with a senior level class, while others are bombarded with projects and certification exams.

For example, while poor chemistry students are struggling with competencies, an advanced level chemistry course and the Graduate Record Examination, drama students only have to participate in theatre productions.

These discrepancies are not only unfair, but they also discourage students from entering majors with tough graduation standards. The university needs to gather department heads together and develop a uniform standard to test competency, just as the faculty senate determines general education requirements.

Better than that, do away with competency exams all together. UNC-Chapel Hill, the motherhead of our 16-school system, does not have a competency test system. And its graduates are certainly not considered uneducated or unworthy of graduation.

Perhaps Chapel Hill's administration realizes the futility attempting to test what a student has gotten out of school. If a student sticks through four years of college, comes to class and passes his exams, he has earned that diploma. He does not need a test to prove whether or not he has learned the material; those who did not and were never going to learn, probably dropped out as sophomores.

Rather than gauging one's knowledge, the comps usually result in frantic cramming, ulcers and nerves stretched to the limit. At a time when advisors should be helping their seniors find jobs and start the careers they have prepared for, they are throwing a pointless test before them, challenging them to prove they deserve to graduate.

Everyone makes a mistake - even court

Editor, The Blue Banner:

During the student court session held Sunday (Nov. 24), the justices incorrectly followed trial procedure for one of their cases. The defense counsel called for mistrial and the court granted it.

All of those involved have felt very disappointed. "What good is a student court system if it can't even follow procedure?" one wants to ask.

But the fact is that procedure was followed. The whole incident really attests to the value of

our newborn student court in that it identified a mistake and cut it short that very instant. The court was designed with checks and balances to serve this very function.

We poor humans make our mistakes. Nothing new there. But here's something that might be: "the system" passed -- and with flying colors. Hopefully we will have the foresight to prevent its being tested like this in the future.

Bruce Franks
Asst. Chief
Justice
Student Court

Student court: a breeze but ...

By Anna Wilson



It was a dark and stormy night. I was to appear before the court -- not a real honest-to-goodness circuit court. I had to go before the dreaded student court. (May I have the **People's Court** music please?)

Defendent: Anna Wilson.

Plaintiff: UNCA.

Case: Alcohol policy violation.

Was I terrified? Oh yes. I was afraid I wouldn't get out in time to watch **Murder She Wrote**. Somehow I just couldn't get worked up about appearing before a court run by students.

However, judging by the looks of things, the students on the judicial court were very serious. Each student wore what I consider church clothes. Here I was decked out in jeans and a regular shirt. My roommate, along for moral support, was even worse. She wore sweats. Imagine!

It all started, your honor, when I was on my way back to the dorm after checking out Kier at the One-Night-Stand. The alcohol permit was approved in the snack bar. But in my haste to get to my room, I mistakenly carried a light beer (tastes great) through the lobby. Now those of you who know journalists know we have a fondness for booze -- after all creating news is a high pressure job.

But I was not presenting myself as a drunkard and hollerin' obscenities in the lobby. I was just passing through. I was caught redhanded, though, by the Highris Patrol, also known as Nazi Vice. I could have very easily avoided a confrontation. I could have guzzled the beer the way my daddy

taught me or I could have hidden the beer in my coat.

But that would be promoting guzzlement and concealment! And I for one do not want that type of behavior on our campus. I tried to

weasel through it by pointing out I was only going up one floor. The Patrol said it didn't matter.

Well, I wasn't about to pour out beer I'd paid for with my hard earned money so I told the Patrol to write me up.

I figured I could get written up once before I graduated. I was still a little sad inside to think I wouldn't escape UNCA with a clean record but if I had to go down I'm glad it was for something like alcohol.

But to get back to the story, my court appointed lawyer argued on my behalf that I had never been written up and I was a senior set to graduate in December. The prosecution pointed out I knew the rules and I should have known beer was not allowed in the lobby. Both councils recommended a judicial reprimand. (As I understand it, this is a letter from the judge, Doug Griffin, telling me what a bad girl I have been.)

But I wasn't to get off that lightly. The judicial board voted to give me judicial and administrative reprimand. (I think this is a letter from Iovacchini, the vice chancellor, telling me what a bad girl I have been.)

Was I devastated? No. Now I would have two letters to put in my scrap book instead of one. However I was a little p.o.'ed no one told me I would have to pay a \$5 court fee. I could have bought a 12-pack!

So if you get written up, remember to take \$5 with you in case you're found guilty and don't sweat -- student court is a breeze but a pain in the....

The Blue Banner

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The BANNER welcomes letters to the editor and articles, and considers them for publication on the basis of interest, space, tastefulness and timeliness. Letters and articles should be typed double-spaced, or printed legibly. They should be signed with the writer's name, followed by year in school, major, or other relationship to UNCA. Please include a telephone number to aid in verification.

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