

# the Seahawk

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**The Seahawk welcomes inquiries  
and encourages letters to the editor.**

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The Seahawk encourages all readers to submit letters to the editor for possible publication. Please limit correspondence to 300 words. The Seahawk may edit letters for space. The Seahawk reserves the right to refuse publication of any letter. Libelous, false and misleading material will not be considered for publication. All letters must be signed by the author. Letters to the editor are the individual opinions of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Seahawk staff or the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Letters can be submitted in person at the Seahawk office located next to the Bookstore, by mail at the Seahawk Newspaper, 601 S. College Rd. Wilmington, N.C. 28403-5624 or by e-mail at editor@theseahawk.org.

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# Seahawk Viewpoints

November 10, 2005

## Letter to the Editor

### Registration woes continue to plague students

I'm registering for my classes today. I've done it the same way for the past four years. Every time registration comes around I make my schedule a few weeks in advance of my registration date. In the past I've planned on taking the classes that I needed for my major, my minor, and for my basic studies. Spring 2006 will be a little different for me, however. I have completed my major, minor, and all of my basic studies, yet I have seventeen hours left to take. So, for all my hard work I decided that I would find "gravy" classes to fill my schedule. I have golf, tennis, and canoeing all lined up. I have my schedule made and it is perfect. The classes aren't to late and there not to early. Only one problem: I haven't registered yet and I won't be able to get these classes. Only a couple of days into registration and there filled up, section closed. I don't know why this surprised me. I have experienced this every semester since coming to UNCW. So, I will do the same thing I have done for the past four years. I will remake my schedule on registration day, trying to find the classes that I want, that are still open. The class selection here has been measured and found wanting. Sure, I might be able to go talk to the teachers at the beginning of next semester and convince them to let me in, but it shouldn't be this way. I will be leaving UNCW in the spring with a bitter taste in my mouth and all the university would have to do of done was add a few more classes or a few more openings. Many things have changed here at UNCW, but one thing remains the same: registration bites.

Quincy Phillips  
UNCW Senior

What is this space missing?  
**YOUR OPINION!**

Send us your letters at  
[editor@theseahawk.org](mailto:editor@theseahawk.org)

## SEAHAWK STAFF OPINION

### Riots in France offer an opportunity for compassion, not revenge

On October 27, rioting began in the suburbs of France when two youths were electrocuted and killed as they hid from the police in a power station. The riots, motivated by what French citizens see as an extreme case of racial inequality, have raged on ever since, practically crippling the country. Even as curfews are imposed and greater security measures are taken, the riots continue and only grow worse with each passing day.

While these events are horrifying, the response from other countries to France's plight has been less than praise-worthy. Governments all across the world, including our own, are using these riots as an excuse to take cheap shots at France. The United States, who most recently disowned France to the point of renaming "French Fries," have made their position official. State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said, "This is a matter for the French government and the French people to address." Fox News, always the epitome of sensitivity, have been broadcasting headlines reading "Paris Burning!" over pictures of the Eiffel Tower set against a backdrop of flames.

One can understand why many countries would be less than sympathetic towards the French government. After the events of 9/11, France refused to take part in the war against Iraq. Many saw this as a cowardly act, one that proved the French were a selfish government out only to protect themselves. Admittedly,

this was entirely possible.

But is the response from the US government one of mature thinking or simply a chance to "get back" at a country that wouldn't come to our aid when it was believed we needed it most. In the past, the US has always done its ready best to defend to the poor, the threatened, the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free," (as stated on our Statue of Liberty, a gift from France.) Will we now ignore the problems facing another country and sit contentedly while France implodes on itself?

Right now, with all of the scandals in the White House and the dissension over the war in Iraq, there is nothing our country needs more than to show a little compassion. There is so much hatred and anger over our current position in the war, that even many of those who once supported it are changing their views. Why then, should we continue to hold animosity towards a country that chose to remain neutral? While France may never ask for help, nor we ever offer it, the very least the government could do is express concern over what is truly a horribly tragedy in a beautiful country.

There is nothing wrong with believing a country should take care of their own. But now is not the time to be bitter. The time has come to be the "bigger" country. France may not be perfect, but neither are we.

## Know how to use it?



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