

Effective Student Advising at UNC

Undergraduates Must Play Their Part in the System

Oscar Wilde once quipped, "All advice is bad; good advice is worse."

Those of us who work in the junior/senior advising office on the third floor of Steele Building sometimes suspect that too many students share Wilde's view.

For a variety of reasons, a few no doubt well founded and others a bit exaggerated, some students believe we have little interest in helping them navigate the maze of requirements and options lying between them and a Carolina degree. Worst yet is the notion that we delight in giving students bad news ("Oh, about that last course you thought you didn't need for graduation ...")

Popular opinion notwithstanding, the office staff, faculty advisers and deans in the College of Arts and Sciences actually do want students to graduate on time, and we feel frustrated when we so regularly see students coming by too late for our advice to help, or who don't believe what the catalog says or what we told them last time.

To help convince you that the third floor of Steele Building is serious about top-quality advising, we are offering a new Electronic Advising Service this semester.

We now have an e-mail address you can use to ask any question you wish. Understand: I'm not promising we can answer any question you ask. But do drop me a line at a&s@unc.edu with general questions about various majors or career options, or with specific questions about your

own requirements or any problems you are having with UNC administrators — even advisers or staff in our own office. If you want specific questions about your record answered, please include your full name to be sure we consult the correct student folder.

I cannot promise that I can solve your problem or that you will be happy with what I find out, but I can promise to answer your inquiry promptly. If students find this service useful, we may expand it to the General College or selected departments next year.

In the meantime, I have put together two Top 10 lists for your amusement: "The Top 10 Reasons You Should Go See Your Arts and Sciences Adviser" and "The Top 10 Reasons You May Not Graduate On Time."

Just because these lists are intended to be humorous does not mean we in Steele Building do not take our advising responsibilities or students' problems seriously. Unfortunately, we encounter the misconceptions and hear the comments illustrated here far too often. Perhaps publicizing them in an entertaining way will help prevent them in the future.

Top 10 Reasons You Should Go See Your Arts and Sciences Adviser (Background Music: The Beastie Boys, "Ill Communication")

10. It's raining, so you might as well kill some time hanging out with the other students on the third floor of Steele Building.

9. Any problems you are having with courses at Carolina won't seem so bad after eavesdropping on other students talking among themselves about THEIR problems.

8. The view of South Building and Polk Place from the third-floor windows is great!

7. If you come by during the slow times — most any time except during the first few weeks of the semester and around preregistration — you can take a nap or meditate in the quiet waiting area. Alternatively, you can brag to your friends about how easy it was to see your adviser.

6. The SRC's full but you can always get in your afternoon workout by making a couple of trips up and down the Steele Building Stairmaster.

5. If you are lucky, one of the staff members (or deans) will break out in an aria from some Italian opera.

4. You can enjoy listening to the staff get frustrated by their fancy new computers. (Be a pal, offer to help them find what they want in Windows.)

3. You may find that you DO NOT NEED the course you thought you were taking to fulfill a perspective requirement after all. (Of course you may find that you DO need something else you don't have — what suspense!)

2. Your Arts & Sciences advisers can help you avoid the many self-advising pitfalls that can keep you from graduating on time. (Do you really want to have to explain to your Aunt Agnes why your name isn't in the program on Commencement Sunday?)

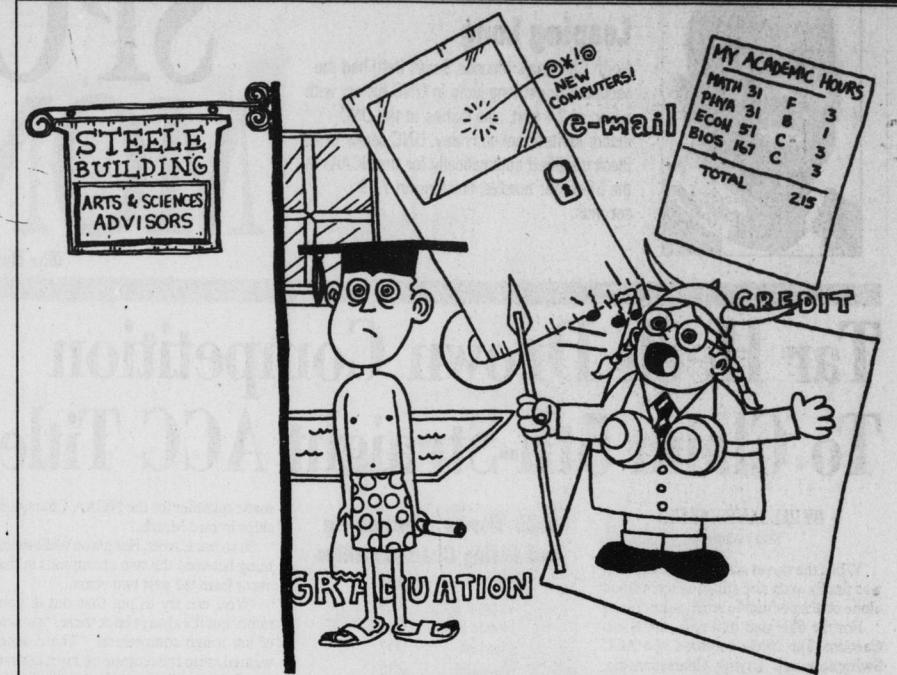
1. Your mother would want you to.

Top Ten Reasons You May Not Graduate On Time

(Background Music: Smashing Pumpkins, "Blue")

10. You regularly take an overload (say 12 hours a semester for 8 semesters) and then come by during the spring of your senior year to say, "What do you mean I need eight more courses after this semester? That's a whole year!"

9. You never really understood the non-Western/comparative history requirement and figured that if you didn't understand



the rule it couldn't really be THAT important.

8. You knew you had flunked a Math 31 course freshman year but hoped you'd get some credit for at least trying such a hard course.

7. You took Spanish 1 at UNC even though you had three years of Spanish in high school ("Hey, I thought this would be an easy way to pad my GPA") and didn't realize you would not receive graduation credit for a first-semester language course if you had studied the language in high school.

6. You thought you could still take a course at your local community college after completing 64 hours and have it count for graduation ("What do you mean the credits are no good? The course I took there after freshman year counted.")

5. You counted your two one-hour PE activity courses in the 120 academic hours required for graduation ("What? I have only 118 hours toward graduation!")

4. You knew you took Chem 61 again after making a D the first time, but you never realized the hours from both times wouldn't count toward graduation.

3. You assumed we'd know you were ready to graduate and you never stopped by Steele Building or Hanes Hall early in your last semester to apply for graduation.

2. You never went to see your Arts and Sciences adviser and listened instead to what your friends told you ("But one of my friends said he was sure you could take extra courses in your major pass/fail.")

1. You never took the swim test.

Joseph Lowman is a professor of psychology and assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Broke and Bleeding: How the Proposed Budget Cuts Will Affect Graduate Students

Needless to say, this past week has been a stressful one. After my faithful 226 votes swept me to President "elect" status, the phone has yet to stop ringing. The basic question: "Did I feel that Gov. Hunt's budget proposals would affect graduate students at Carolina?" Uh, yeah.

The governor's proposal calls for an increase in in-state tuition by 3 percent and out-of-state tuition by 10 percent for each of the next three years to help pay off his \$483 million tax cut. While I understand the desire to cut taxes, education is a poor choice to absorb the blunt end of the blow. The only cuts that will occur will be the quality of education the state receives and the only breaks will be the banks and backs of already undersupported graduate students.

Way back in 1992, Gov. Jim Hunt was actually concerned about the effects his proposed tuition increases would have on the UNC system. So concerned that he established the Government Performance Audit Committee to gauge public perception and make recommendations to the governor on such issues. According to its report, "The State's potential to raise tuition should be used in the future only for

the purpose of strengthening the higher education systems' service to North Carolinians." Its predicted results, "Students and potential students will receive increased or improved services in return for increases in tuition." What a difference a year or two makes or is it an election year or two. Gov. Hunt, you are not cutting taxes, you are cutting the state's access to higher education and a more profitable life, profit and service to this state and your coffers.

Gov. Hunt, the "Education Governor," evidently does not realize the benefit that graduate and professional students provide the nation, state and university communities, regardless of their origin. We are involved in 40 percent of the teaching of undergraduates. Some may be full professors, recitation leaders or graders, yet all are important components of an efficient and thorough curriculum.

We perform a large bulk of the research that brought in \$244 million in contracts and grants to the state. We, along with an excellent and deserving faculty, have UNC in the top 20 of total federal support dollars, No. 1 in the Southeast. How many magazines must be printed that have UNC and its graduate programs ranked among the nation's elite?

placed second. As well, he has a dream to be a powerful lawyer, someday.

Secondly, myself, I am a white, deaf, soon to be blind teenager. I by no means have the facilities to live the endowed life that you have. I cannot serve in the military, nor could I ever be an airline pilot, or an entire host of things. Yet, I zealously pursue life with a love for every part of it.

The key to success in life is not noticing the hidden imagery in UNC's mascot, or how society persecutes you, but rather, marching forward past your grievances, and making the most of every single thing you have. I for one, hope to attain the level of education that you have, and if I stop to listen to everything that society tells me I can't do, then I never will. It is obvious that society can never fully accommodate you, Hakem, or I, but it is important what they do for us, or what we show them we can do?

Dru Bryant
FRESHMAN
EDUCATION

Hall's Logic Depended Upon a Crutch of Racism

TO THE EDITOR:

I felt compelled to respond to Fred "X" Hall's amazing critique of the Tar Heel logo ("Fred X Hall: Racism Remains 'Sugar-Coated' at UNC," Feb. 16). Step aside Plato and Socrates, Mr. Hall has perfected an increasingly popular type of logic, one that is based entirely on the crutch of racism. This branch of thought allows the black man to pull examples of racism and oppression right out of thin air, even if the end result clearly doesn't make any damn sense! This new type of logic can be used to point fingers at everybody without consequence. Move over, Red Scarf!

Season Coleman
FRESHMAN
BIOLOGY

Focusing on Race Imagery Wastes Hall's Talents

TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Mr. Fred Hall,

This is in response to your column concerning white attitudes concerning blacks, within this university, and around the world ("Fred X Hall: Racism Remains 'Sugar-Coated' at UNC," Feb. 16). Though I know little about you or your background, I truly respect what you have to say. I just have a few things to say to you; which, perhaps, can enlighten your life.

To begin, my best friend in Atlanta, Ga., is Hakeem Brock, who attends Morehouse College. Hakeem is a proud African American who esteems every part of his heritage. He has grievances against society, but he is not full of hate towards it. He makes the most of what he has, as every man, woman and child should. He entered a white corporate speech contest, and

The UNC system, and especially UNC-C, should be rewarded for its efforts. Someone should also explain to the governor that we pay state income tax just like everyone else. Over 60 percent of graduate students remain in the state to work and pay taxes upon graduation. We are the future doctors, lawyers, teachers and business leaders of this state. Many of us take on additional jobs to pay our rent, loan debts and health insurance. The average TA at UNC gets \$6,656 and research assistants \$9,830. This ranks last in comparison to schools we directly compete against for the best students. Most of these schools also offer full or partial tuition waivers as well as health insurance coverage. UNC has had 1,120 tuition remissions since 1984. There are still 385 graduate students in some teaching capac-

ity that do not receive remissions to the instant tuition level. Even outstanding undergraduates will now be looking toward less costly and more supportive graduate schools in other states decreasing our preferred applicant pool as well as the quality of teaching, research and service they would have been able to provide at UNC. In two years, out-of-state tuition will cost over \$10,000. I guess we can just borrow more. Unfortunately, that is where the federal government steps in.

A major provision of the Republican Party's "Contract With America" is the elimination of the in-school interest exemption subsidy on guaranteed student loans now paid by the federal government. Students with subsidized loans would be able to defer interest payments until they leave school, however, this additional interest would be added to their loan principal. Under this proposal, the total debt of a graduate student borrowing the maximum amount for five years would increase by 28 percent, from \$42,500 to \$54,000. This estimate does not take into account those who already have undergraduate loans. Nor does it represent most professional schools where loan amounts are much larger. On Feb. 14, President Clinton vowed

to the American Council of Education to keep the interest subsidy as well as work to restore the tax deductibility of interest paid on student loans eliminated in the 1986 Tax Reform Act. Currently, there are both House and Senate bills in committee with provisions to restore the tax deductibility of interest paid on student loans. Contact your congressmen; voice your support!

Another college aid battle emerging between Clinton and GOP leaders is over the Department of Education's new direct lending program. Clinton proposes that students attending a college participating in the program can bypass banks entirely and get loans from the federal government through the campus financial aid office.

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Leading the state into the next century is, no doubt, a daunting task. The state constitution states that North Carolina provides free public education, "as far as practicable." Practicable means feasible, useful and level-headed. The short-sighted disrepect for the teaching, research and service provided by the graduate students at Carolina have left blood and pain on the future scholars of this state. Mr. Hunt, please remember, without graduate and professional students, we would not be the University of North Carolina, just another college.

Steve Hoffmann is the president-elect of the Graduate and Professional Student Federation.

wisdom of your Friday-Saturday-Sunday ticket distribution scheme. I am a Senior. I am an angry Senior who is writing this letter as a cathartic measure to prevent me from venting my frustration with CAA policy (that I hold the co-presidents responsible for) in more ugly ways. The following list outlines my understanding of this weekend's fiasco that has resulted in the fact that I will see my last home basketball game as a student from section 205A row S!

1) Friday 6 p.m. Seniors have been informed that they must be present at this time in order to pick up ticket vouchers. (We learn Sat. that we had wasted our time. The vouchers mean nothing in relation to the quality of your ticket and additionally are made available on Sat. morning to anyone who hadn't taken the time to pick up vouchers on Friday.)

2) Saturday 8 a.m. A random selection of names is announced and we begin to form lines of 100 to receive our "best tickets" that will be distributed at random to Seniors ... no need to camp out." By my count I was one of the first 200 students to pick up a ticket and received upper-level seats. (As did the gentlemen in front of me (Section 205A — What a coincidence in a "random" distribution!) and my best friend who walked up the hill about 3 groups later, Section 215. I'm sure their memories of their Senior game will be almost as fond as mine (note: sarcasm).

3) Sunday. After camping out, two Freshman classmates of my room mate (who is kicking himself for not going with them) were presented with lower-level seats to the "Senior" game! I guess this must be more of the "fairness" that my CAA presidents wrote of in their Friday DTH column ("CAA Presidents Explain Why Ticket Distribution Is Random"). Monday. Walking down to the Dean Dome this morning, two freshmen procured a pair of tickets to Section 215 row L — 7 rows closer to the game than myself. Hmmm, should I be angry?

Rather than go on and on with what I suppose you will view as my "sour grapes" whining, I wish you would attempt to explain this issue to me in order to quench my fury. Failing this, as I anticipate you will, I insist that the CAA provide the Seniors of this school with a public apology for failing horribly as elected officials and representatives of a proud and otherwise competent institution. As a final note, on Saturday morning a CAA official attempted to placate me by explaining, "Well I'm sorry but you actually had a better chance of getting good seats than we had

Keith LaTore
SENIOR
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

originally expected. Since fewer Seniors are here this morning than we anticipated, you had a better chance to get lower-level seats." Either this yellow-jacketed gentleman was a fool or assumed that I was. What "fewer Seniors than expected" meant is that because tickets had been randomized, more underclassmen would get seats (that's OK) and be seated in lower-level seats (an outrage to those Seniors who will be bringing binoculars to the game).

Now that I have informed you of where I have had my seat relegated, why don't you make public where the CAA co-presidents will be seated so that we may know where to direct our anger and protest. (I'll bet it is quite far from the rear of 205A.)

David Neill
SENIOR
POLITICAL SCIENCE

Duke Distribution Showed Positive Improvement

TO THE EDITOR:

I am writing in response to the letter to the editor by Michael Karanovich and Matthew Guma about Dook ticket distribution and the CAA ("CAA Botched Distribution of Tickets for Duke Senior Game," Feb. 15). I am tired of students bad mouthing the CAA and its leadership. For the first time in the four years that I have also braved the cold, I feel that the distribution was fair, making people play by the rules instead of finding ways to get around them. Every Dook distribution previously has pissed me off. I go a few hours earlier than the announced time, and there would already be a thousand people in line; the CAA breaking its own policy. This year, with the double-random system for the Wake and Clemson tickets that enforced the 6 p.m. time, was perfectly fair. I slept in the Dean Dome and still got crappy upper-level seats. The point is that I had the chance to have front row. For the Dook game nobody spent more than several of hours in line, and everyone had the chance to have premier seats. The friend I was with was complaining about the CAA and that heads would roll if he got upper-level seats. He was unsurprisingly appeased when he got second-row seats and praising God. He deserves those seats no less than the pissed off Michael and Matthew, but they had the same, equal chances as all of us seniors, and for them, bad luck sucks.

review the minutes of the Friday, Jan. 27, 1995, Board of Trustees meeting or the Thursday, Jan. 31, 1995, edition of The Daily Tar Heel ("Research Triangle Firm to Design Freestanding BCC"), you will discover that the Freedom Group of Research Triangle Park has been approved for the project.

If Mr. Cunningham, or anyone else for that matter, would sincerely like to help the BCC in any of its endeavors, please contact Vice Chancellor Harold Wallace, BCC interim director; Dean Harold Woodard, chairman of the BCC Advisory Board; Michelle Thomas, program director for the center; or Michelle Johnson, vice chairwoman of the Advisory Board at the BCC. Thank you.

Daniel Niblock
JUNIOR
JOURNALISM

Cunningham Mistaken About Need for Architect

TO THE EDITOR:

At the Black Student Movement Candidates Forum on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 1995, Calvin Cunningham, a candidate for student body president, announced that he'd like to help the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center find an architect. The Daily Tar Heel repeated Mr. Cunningham's statement as a quote in the Thursday, Feb. 9, 1995, story on the Black Student Movement endorsements ("Brandenburg Gets Nod From BSM for Experience"). I'm pleased to inform Mr. Cunningham, The Daily Tar Heel, and its readers that the Sonja H. Stone Black Cultural Center has already hired an architectural firm to plan the freestanding center. I'm sure if you