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# The Daily Tar Heel

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BOARD EDITORIALS

## South Campus Slum

Morrison residents have little respect for their residence hall. With the conditions inside it, who can blame them?

It is generally understood and accepted among Morrison residents that Morrison Residence Hall never has been, and never will be, as aesthetically pleasing as, say, dirt. But the fact still remains that students have to live there.

Newly elected Residence Hall Association president Robin Yamakawa should definitely make the sad condition of Morrison, as well as other South Campus residence halls, one of her top priorities.

Time and again Morrison residents have been faced with one adverse living condition after another. That's been especially true this year, as residents have been witnesses to fires, facilities that are often broken and countless acts of vandalism.

Rumor has it that a very large man sat on the water fountains on floors two through seven, ripping the bolts from the wall and leaving the units on the floor.

If you have any information concerning the water fountain bandit please contact Morrison's area director, Lynn Ellison.

In the meantime, Ellison has no idea when the fountains will be replaced. She told The Daily Tar Heel earlier this week that it depended on when she'd be able to get in touch with a maintenance supervisor.

Heard of a telephone, Lynn?  
Remember the fires of last November?

Fortunately, all of the damaged lounges have been repainted. However, some still do not have furniture in them.

Despite the fact that there really is no quiet place to go to study on South Campus, it's adding insult to injury to make residents sit on the floor.

How 'bout them elevators? So it takes half an hour to get to the eighth floor and another 15 minutes for the doors to open, but really, who cares about time?

But what is interesting is the amount of time it took for maintenance to throw a piece of faded blue plastic paneling up over the bare, nasty plywood that had been exposed since last year.

A lethargic administrator could argue that students should treat the residence halls with more respect if they would prefer better conditions.

How could students be expected to respect Morrison when their water fountains have been ripped off the walls and they don't have any furniture in some of their study lounges?

Honestly, people respect nice things - they don't respect crap.

Morrison exemplifies what is wrong with housing on this campus.

If students are to respect their living conditions, they must be provided with livable accommodations.

## Sink or Swim

The swim test at UNC treats students like infants. The University should grow up and get rid of it.

Attention kiddies! Grab your towels and head over to the pool.

It's UNC Swim Test Time.

For all those seniors who have busted their tails in the classroom for the past four years in order to earn their degrees, now is the time to mosey on down to Bowman-Gray Pool and fulfill a final slap-in-the-face graduation requirement.

Let's stop treading water. The University's mandatory swim test is illogical, irrational and highly unjustifiable.

Consider the following statistics. Drowning is not even among the top five causes of accidental death in the United States. In fact, the average American citizen is more likely to die due to a transportation accident, fall, suicide, severe burn or suffocation.

If the University is so bent on providing its students with some useful modes of self-preservation, it should at least scroll to the top of the list.

Surely, it would be much more logical to require the completion of a defensive driving class, a fire safety course or a class in detecting the classic signs that a friend might be suicidal.

However, is it really the responsibility and

mission of the University to require its students to be tested on surviving potentially dangerous situations, such as swimming?

Of course not.

Certainly, students who do not feel comfortable in the water should have the option of taking a swim class. This way, Billy Bob - the fat kid who never learned to swim during high school because he was embarrassed to bare his breasts at the beach - can receive a little tutoring in the art of swimming while at the University.

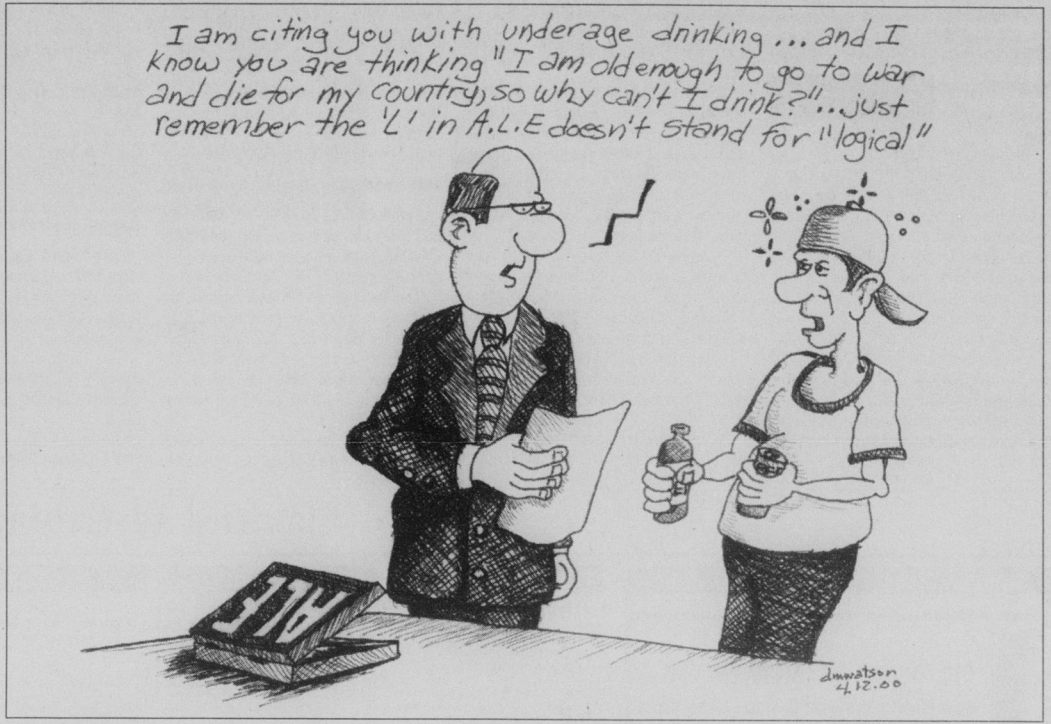
However, to impose a swim test on the entire student population, including those who swim better than some people walk, is absurd. It's unfair, and at the same time, pretty insulting.

College kids aren't little kids. They are old enough to decide whether they are capable of staying alive in the water.

If they deem themselves competent, that's just peachy.

If they know they can't swim and want to sign up for a University-sponsored class, that's great too.

It is not right, however, for the University to remove the students' right to self-evaluation, and make the passing of a swim test an across-the-board requirement.



## Officials Turn Communist Spies?

The communists are still among us. They can be found in the usual places: Hollywood, college campuses and high school social studies classrooms. But haven't we forgot about the biggest population of communists in the world? The Russians?

You're not buying that whole glasnost thing are you?

Recently, two young journalism students from Russia, Dmitry and Elena, spent a week in Chapel Hill.

No doubt they were communist spies, as all spies work as tourist couples.

Dmitry said he wanted to write a book about America. I asked him about what specifically and he couldn't answer me. I mean, he's not just going to say, "I'm writing a master plan to overthrow the American government."

Before he left, Dmitry gave me a note that he had written. He wanted it published in the paper.

Ha. It's a good thing we live in a country where only journalists have access to the printing presses.

But, in the interest of helping you detect Communists on our campus, I'll publish his notes, with a few of my comments, of course.

"How are you doing, America?"  
A friendly greeting. That's the first sign he's up to no good.

"Great, fascinating, excellent, nice, fine..." That must be code. Who else would write a string of words such as this, other than a teacher grading an essay? Wait a minute, call the school board.

"Tell me gentlemen, where could I find words describing such a beautiful country. So, let's try together, I hope you'll help me." Could he be any more blatant in his Marxist recruitment?

"Fine, nice, excellent, fascinating, great!" Same words, only reversed. It has to be code.

"Tell me, ladies, where to find words to describe such a beautiful state. Birds, squirrels, dogwoods!" Have they eaten all the birds and squirrels in Russia?

"My fair lady told me the other day that the weather here is changeable like woman. I don't disagree." Actually, neither do I.

"I didn't expect American people would be



BRIAN FREDERICK  
ON TAP

so hospitable. For instance, Dean Richard Cole. He is the most prominent dean of North Carolina and of Moscow State University for International Relations where we had left our Russian friends to come here and to meet you all." Ah ha. The dean is working in both Moscow and Chapel Hill. There's a good chance he's the ringleader. (Especially if this column upsets him.)

"Or Professor Stone. His kindness and friendship are unique in this world. Do you know that? Chuck Stone is a hero of our times, an American hero." Good God. They got to Stone? Hoover wouldn't be surprised.

"What could I say about Professor Don Shaw, who showed us Chapel Hill and Raleigh and who took us to the country talking about history, journalism and people?" There must be a secret Communist hideout in the country. Somebody follow Shaw.

"Cathy Packer, Richard Elam, other different professors, including the untiring David Pike, our friend..." Is there any department left uninfected by communism? Please tell me I can still count on the last bastion of capitalism: the business school.

"... and Brian..." Uh, I was, of course, escorting them around Chapel Hill to keep a close eye on them and their associations.

"... and Nate." Nate, aren't you glad they didn't write your last name?

"I just can't stop remembering all these unforgettable meetings that influenced greatly on me and her." No doubt they were discussing recruitment of UNC students. And right here in Jesse Helms' backyard.

"If you come to Russia one day, be sure that you come to the country where people are not American, they are Russian, and they

look differently at the same things." If they're not American after 10 years of having McDonald's, nothing will break them.

"For instance, one may think that America is too far away to think about." Actually, it's only 50 miles across the Bering Strait.

"Another will speak about Americans with a hidden envy." A future mole. See if you can find him.

"The third one will tell you everything about your economy, policy and culture, acknowledging that he is not against you visiting." Of course they're well-read in what to destroy.

"The fourth won't tell you anything particular, keeping in mind all things above." Ah ha! All things above? Such as a hidden totalitarian regime?

"Probably, I will say that you are happy people. You live in a rich country and I think that I wouldn't take it for granted." God bless capitalism.

"I mean, for me, it's like to come to a kingdom where people smile and shake hands, even if they are not familiar." They don't even hug their mothers in Russia.

"Where trucks are like in a tale. It looks like a big ship which gradually moves through an ocean with engines working rationally. And other ships try to join but they can't even if they almost kill their energy they can't."

You got me. Even top American officials can't figure this one out. A Marxist metaphor full of code, no doubt.

"And we, Russians, go slowly to meet you again in the end." Ah, pulling the old tortoise and hare routine on us. Can there be any more doubt of the sinister actions of these people?

"Best wishes to you all,  
Dmitry and Elena"

Dmitry and Elena,  
Better dead than red.  
Brian

Brian Frederick is a graduate student in journalism from Lawrence, Kan. He is not now, nor has he ever been, a member of a godless conspiracy controlled by a foreign power. Reach him at brifred@yahoo.com.

## BAROMETER

**Passed Over**  
Looks like former UNC Executive Vice Chancellor Elson Floyd will have to keep waiting for his dream job. The current Western Michigan University president would have made a great chancellor.

**Booze Blues**  
A lot of good beer went to waste last weekend during the Alcohol Law Enforcement's downtown crackdown on alcohol violations. Individuals cited now have an even better reason to get drunk.

**Blind Leading Blind**  
There's a proposal afoot to allow students to design and teach their own courses. Who needs increased faculty pay? Let's get students to teach!

**One More Week**  
Thumbs up to Carmichael Residence Hall for deciding against kicking seniors out one week before graduation for planned renovations.

## TAR HEEL QUOTABLES

"I feel sad the night is over because I didn't get laid."  
ANONYMOUS UNC STUDENT  
After partying on a Thursday night. Should that night be different from any other?

"At least having females will make the dorm more social. Hopefully it will create a better environment overall."  
FRESHMAN CUTLER ANDREWS  
On the integration of Old East and Old West residence halls. Get ready for Mary Kay, boys.

"You can run from any district, then if you don't live in that district by the start of the semester you just resign and there will be another special election."  
ELECTIONS BOARD CHAIRWOMAN  
CATHERINE YATES  
Just another reason Student Congress is meaningless.

"It's not like we're going into a pristine garden to start a quarry."  
STONE COMPANY OFFICIAL PAXTON BATUM  
Dismissing residents' concerns about Orange Water and Sewer Authority's plans for expanding a water quarry. Isn't every square acre of Chapel Hill a "pristine garden?"

## READERS' FORUM

### General Assembly Right to Cap Awards in Tobacco Lawsuits

TO THE EDITOR:

As a lifetime nonsmoker and no fan of the tobacco industry, I still feel compelled to dispel some of the drivel that came up about the tobacco appeals bond limitation.

To paraphrase The Daily Tar Heel's own editorial, sometimes the stupidity of the DTH editorial staff is so overwhelming that it's almost unbearable.

Do you really believe that trying to prevent companies from going bankrupt from an overzealous lawsuit means that the legislature is in the pocket of big tobacco? That Daughtry's somewhat crass attempt into bullying the companies into buying more N.C. tobacco protects workers more than saving the companies themselves?

\$300 billion would be an unprecedented punitive (and possibly exaggerated) damage award, but this is an

unprecedented lawsuit. It is the first class-action suit ever to be brought to trial against big tobacco, and overwhelming what in hindsight look like silly punitive damages are rather common these days. What this bill does is simply guard against irrationality.

What the editorial failed to mention is that Florida law requires any company to post a bond equal to the amount of the judgment in order to appeal a verdict. If the judgment is anywhere near the amount feared, just the posting of this bond would possibly bankrupt the industry, regardless of the outcome of the appeal.

If you don't think this will have a terrible impact on the 100,000 tobacco workers in North Carolina then you must be living on a different planet than the rest of us.

Republican (I know, I know, it was said by a Republican so it must not be true) state Rep. Rex Baker, representing tobacco factory workers and farmers by the way, simply states that the financial risks "are so high, we

can't take a chance of a judge being irrational."

As far as it being unconstitutional, the only quote I could find on CNN this morning was from Richard Daynard, a law professor (read lawyer) and director of a group that encourages lawsuits against tobacco companies. Sure, no bias from this source.

In plain English, please start using more than the far left side of your brains, guys. Tobacco's in trouble, and if it goes down it will hurt everyone. Whatever the evils of smoking, people know the risk, and whatever the bad behavior of the industry, it does not deserve to be wiped off the face of the earth.

Besides, like it or not, tobacco subsidizes our education, so would you rather that the legislature do nothing and let these companies fall?

Dominic Mancini  
Graduate Student  
Department of Economics

The length rule on letters was waived.



The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments and criticism. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 300 words and must be typed, double-spaced, dated and signed by no more than two people. Students should include their year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff should include their title, department and phone number. The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Publication is not guaranteed. Bring letters to the DTH office at Suite 104, Carolina Union, mail them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 or e-mail forum to: editdesk@unc.edu.