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The Daily Tar Heel

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Campus (In)convenience

Campus facilities' hours of operation must be changed to accommodate students' unconventional schedules.

The University is not a 9-to-5, go-to-bed-after-dinner kind of place. Students keep strange hours, and that fact should be reflected in the availability of University facilities and services.

Instead of cutting back on hours of operation for facilities such as computer labs and laundry rooms, as is happening on South Campus, officials should be looking for ways to increase them to accommodate students' unusual schedules.

Ehringhaus Area Director Ross Bryan said that area offices in his region are closing two hours earlier than last year's schedule during the week because of the lack of student traffic. In many of those residence halls, when the area office closes at midnight, so do the facilities.

While it might not cause much inconvenience for a resident who goes downstairs to check out a broom or a movie to find the office closed, when that same student goes downstairs to print out a paper or do a load of laundry, he has good reason to be frustrated.

Many residents choose to use residence hall facilities at odd times because they are simply too crowded during "normal" times. Therefore, it makes no sense to reduce their hours of operation.

Do the math. With hundreds of people living in each South Campus residence hall, keeping facilities open for fewer hours will

increase the number of students trying to use them at any given time, exacerbating the original problem.

Area offices could avoid this problem by assigning student employees to on-call nights. That way, the facilities could stay open longer because there would be someone responsible for making sure everything goes smoothly.

Although facility hours in residence halls are the most recent examples, facility hours not quite matching student schedules is not a new problem on campus.

At this time of year, perhaps the most noticeable example is Lenoir Dining Hall, which serves dinner in its all-you-can-eat facility from 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday, leaving thousands of students a mere two hours and 30 minutes to fight the crowds and grab a bite to eat.

To reiterate, many students do not adhere to what people in the "real world" would consider a normal schedule, so it is completely illogical that a student dining hall would have such limited hours.

The best main campus option "after hours" is Ram Cafe, but for hungry students, coffee, pastries and salads don't quite suffice.

Computer labs, laundry rooms, dining halls and other campus facilities are there to serve students. But it is useless to provide a service that people cannot use when they need it.

Playing It Safe

The tragic deaths of two high school football players last week showed that safety measures for young athletes must be improved.

When most people think of high school football, they have fond memories of crisp autumn Friday nights. Sadly, for the families and friends of two regional high school athletes, scholastic football will be linked forever with the loss of loved ones.

This past week, the tragic deaths of Edgar William Johnson of Harrells Academy and Anthony Craig Lobrano of Richmond (Va.) Varina High School serve as somber reminders that sometimes high school athletics are more than just fun and games. The deaths are just the latest in a series of tragedies that have occurred on the playing field, signaling that even greater precaution must be taken to protect athletes, specifically football players, at the high school level.

To begin with, the proper fundamentals of blocking and tackling must be emphasized by the coaches of these football teams. Last year alone, six high school football deaths were attributed to improper tackling and blocking techniques nationwide, The News & Observer reported Sunday.

In the case of Johnson's death this past Friday, he was struck in the chest by a ball carrier's helmet while making a tackle, probably causing a cardiac concussion. Although the practice of lowering one's head while running a football is common among athletes, and sometimes even wrongly encouraged by coaches as hard-nosed, it is simply dangerous.

While proper technique is essential, many

of the football deaths that occur nationwide aren't even a result of actually participating in a game. In these instances, the deaths occur as a result of problems that has been undetected in preseason physicals.

This is thought to be the case in Lobrano's death, as he died of heat stroke during a practice Sept. 5.

Lobrano's passing is particularly disturbing because it occurred on a relatively mild 77-degree day, when his team had already taken two water breaks within 30 minutes. Although it is inconclusive whether a more extensive physical could have prevented this tragedy, there is no doubt that most physicals given to high school athletes are barely adequate at best. This must be changed for future instances such as this one to be prevented.

Finally, even the best coaching and expert medical attention cannot prevent fatalities or injuries if common sense isn't used. It is of great importance that players keep their trainers informed of any medical conditions. Hiding an injury or illness isn't something that should be applauded as "taking one for the team," but instead shunned as the dangerous practice that it is.

Although nothing will bring back the young men who have been lost, it is time to improve the playing conditions surrounding high school athletics to prevent more needless deaths. Perhaps then the only news coming from the football field will be that of gridiron glory.



Compared to Reality, College OK

Believe it or not, college won't last forever. For those of you, who, like me, like to keep your GPA higher than your blood alcohol content, getting an education can be like dragging a ball and chain through quicksand.

And now as a senior, I am faced with giving an Academy Award-worthy performance that could match our president's any day.

Lying through my teeth on job interviews about how much I "want to work" is not something I look forward to. So my dad's favorite phrase is still, "Maybe you'll decide to go to law school." And maybe I'll decide to become an astronaut.

The only way dear old Daddyskins is going to see me in graduate school is if the working world really sucks. My objective in life is to be retired by 28. People always ask me what I want to do. I don't want to "do" anything. I'm just waiting for the job offer that has "chill" listed as a skill requirement.

After my first semester at UNC, I was bored. We did the same thing every day of every week of every year.

Monotony is the cornerstone of mediocrity. And yes, I thought that one up myself. By my junior year, I thought about dropping out of college, but what do you do when you have a Ph.D. father and a master's degree mother, both of whom paid for every penny of their schooling? What would they have said to everyone if I hadn't finished college? "Here's our slacker Generation Y daughter who's decided to skip the whole education thing and retire with us."

I came to college because it was the natural progression, not because I had some intellectual thirst. I did, however, want the respect that this little piece of paper represents.

I could've majored in anything, but I chose business because I like to make myself miserable. During my high school prison sentence,



ANNE MARIE TEAGUE
GLAMOROUS TRASH

I listened to my mother like a bad song on repeat saying, "Major in something you can get a job in." To put it nicely, that meant pre-law or business school. Apparently Mommie knew with my taste for Gucci and Tiffany's, being a starving artist wouldn't quite cut it.

UNC isn't such an outstanding place for academics, although that's what all of the administrators would like you to think. Going to college has been one of the best experiences of my life, because in this vastly imperfect environment, I found my ideas and myself challenged. But please let me pour more syrup all over this mushy display of sentiment.

Being at UNC made my convictions stronger. Universities are runways to spread your wings. And the best part is, in our weird little town there are a million avenues to take off of.

Opportunities aren't in Religion 24 or Accounting 71 but in the chance to meet people, chill, take a few interesting classes (and a lot of miserable ones, in my case) and to travel where you might discover and change one grain of sand in the world for the better.

College isn't about what you learn, but who you become from it. I always thought it was for a piece of paper, but it's more about a journey. (Of course, we won't mention exactly how I feel about the journey during exam weeks.)

So Mom, Dad and I made an agreement. I graduate from one of the best business schools in the nation, and then I do my own thing. Being a senior forces me to confront something very scary - taking care of myself.

But an even scarier word for me is "retirement." What? *Did not have salary anymore? Me not understand!*

Now my only option for contemplating this whole idea of a job a little longer is to do a work-study in some exotic, developing country. They have Tiffany's in Ghana, right?

This past summer I worked at the law school, and it was a great place to work, but it was still work. I never realized how beautiful college life could be until I worked and realized just how early 6:45 a.m. really is. And bills, I'm learning about those, too. Apparently electricity isn't free.

The average salary upon graduation is something like \$36,000. I'm still trying to figure out how I'm going to afford a Porsche, a Harley and live in a nice two-bedroom condo beside a pool in L.A. on that. Luckily, I've invested in stocks, but I don't think even my superior market-playing skills will turn my minuscule investment into gold by graduation. Reality bites.

The closer graduation looms, the more I realize college hasn't been such a bad place after all. (Thank God I'm graduating a semester late.)

And believe it or not, college is a pretty cool place. One day it will be over, and you'll be contemplating how you're gonna live in the real world. So enjoy every second of it now, because I am.

Anne Marie Teague is a senior business administration major from Lumberton. Anne Marie's dad and anyone else can feel free to reach her with donations to the Porsche Boxter Fund at teague@email.unc.edu.

Something Lost in CCI's Translation

If you trust your Reuters wire reports, usually a safe bet, a gaffe at last week's United Nations Millennium Summit proved that technology still has its limits - an important lesson for UNC students blindly leaping into the technological future with bold plans like the Carolina Computing Initiative.

According to the report, numerous world leaders listened Friday through their high-tech earpieces to interpreters' versions of a speech delivered in Arabic by the president of Sudan. Things were going fine until the real-time translation system went awol.

If you were President Clinton or anyone else important enough to have an earpiece tuned to the English station, you heard something like this as the translator struggled to keep pace with the fast-talking Sudanese president:

"We in Sudan shall spare no effort to achieve these noble goals and to cooperate with all member states on the basis of the principles of ... oh f--!"

Most folks trying to lead the world, save George W. Bush, would avoid such turns of phrase. Something was lost in the translation. And it's similar technological mistranslations that plague us here at UNC, the CCI springing rapidly to mind.

Laptop computers for everyone! The idea screams "future" and "possibility" and "cutting-edge." But it whispers, "cost."

Translation: "Oh f--!"

One advantage heralded by the initiative's supporters is the "deal" through which students can save big bucks on IBM computers.

BRANDON BRISCOE
GUEST COLUMNIST

"Lie" seems to be more appropriate than "mistranslation" in this case, as it's not difficult to find lower prices for the same IBM laptops through major online computer outlets, not to speak of more powerful computers offered elsewhere at better rates.

Granted, the technical support, warranty and software packages might be better if you buy through UNC, but plenty of folks around here would be happy to lend a technical hand to fellow Tar Heels.

You can play with the numbers all you like, but in the end students are not getting much of a "deal." And regardless of whether students buy computers through the University or another presumably law-abiding retailer, the little devils are still rather pricey.

It's a significant cost that ought not be taken for granted. You'll likely never hear a professor claim that the laptops are a waste of students' money. After all, the professors aren't paying.

But it will be equally rare to find professors successfully incorporating the machines into their teaching styles.

It's not a question of whether the computers are useful. But the University has invested heavily in computer labs, and plenty of students will buy computers without a mandate. The distinction to make - a \$2,000 distinc-

tion, that is - is between *useful* and *mandatory*. Though innovative, the program isn't flawless.

And clearly the program is struggling if an entire recall is under way because folks couldn't figure out the difference between their Ethernet and modem ports.

Indeed, handy as laptops might be, it's likely that computer labs will suffice for students' academic needs for years to come, meaning many students could save their money.

Student leaders should take a hard look at the program this year. Ultimately, it will be students' responsibility to help future generations if the program is flopping.

Perhaps changes in the implementation process can make it all worthwhile, but it's probably unnecessary to require next year's freshmen to kiss away a summer's worth of baby-sitting and lawn mowing for a computer.

The day will no doubt come when laptops are as essential to academic life as books, but that day lies years down the road. There's no sense getting ahead of ourselves and footing the sizeable bill for it.

Don't expect administrators to understand that, however.

They might have grand dreams of the future, but students are the ones paying the price of translating those dreams into reality.

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The Daily Tar Heel

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