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The Daily Tar Heel

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BOARD EDITORIALS

User Glitch

This week's CCI laptop recall shows that freshmen need more help before they can take full advantage of the program.

Freshmen, it's time for the first life lesson of your college career: If the cord don't fit, you must quit.

On Tuesday, Academic Technology & Networks officials announced a recall on all A20 IBM laptops because of a problematic part.

But the "problematic part" that needs fixing is not to be found on the computer. Simple user error is causing the first bump in the road for CCI. Obviously, training classes at C-TOPS aren't enough, and officials should consider requiring future freshmen to take more in-depth courses on computer use.

Tim CoyneSmith, IBM project manager and CCI coordinator, told The Daily Tar Heel that some students had ruined the networking, or Ethernet, port by forcing in telephone cords.

There is an obvious size difference between a telephone cord and Ethernet cord, and it is assumed one can acknowledge the difference.

Thus, if the designated jack does not appear to be accepting the telephone cord in a suitable fashion, something must be wrong.

At this point, common sense would tell you to stop and get someone who can help.

That's where ATN comes in. Remember, ATN is your friend. For computer-related issues, ATN is the Dr. Ruth of

the computer world. Don't feel embarrassed about dialing 928-HELP; you can remain anonymous. And besides, the people on the other end probably have heard the question before.

Unfortunately, this recall points to more serious problems than the need for students to consult ATN.

If freshmen are having problems setting up their laptops, how can they be expected to have the skills to use them productively?

But for the time being, freshmen shouldn't blame their computing problems on CCI. However much anxiety the new laptops cause, the program is here to stay, and you need to learn how to deal with it.

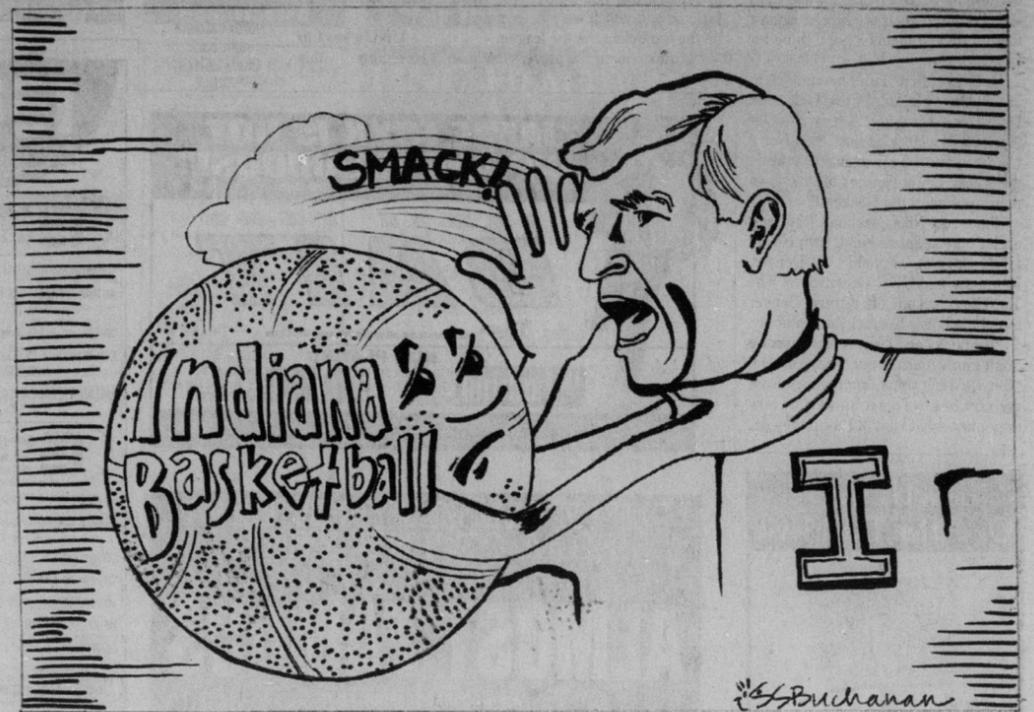
For the past two years, officials have prepared for the onslaught of CCI-related laptop issues.

And this week, they showed they are ready for the challenge.

The unexpected recall is only ATN and IBM responding to problems that might occur in the future.

It is not indicative of the demise of the program. The University should be commended for its commitment to making CCI work.

Now it's time for freshmen to take a cue and do their part by taking advantage of available resources the next time they have problems with a "problematic part."



How to Build an American Icon

I'm well aware that this is a liberal arts school, and therefore, we don't particularly care to use our hands or learn how to build things.

However, this is also America, and if there's one overriding principle that has held this nation together for more than 200 years, it is, without question, our unwavering national devotion to the construction of tool sheds.

That's right. Tool sheds. Like the Stars and Stripes and the majestic bald eagle, tool sheds always have been a symbolic reminder of what makes this nation great. These pressure-treated palaces of plywood signify the ability and the right of all men, regardless of race, religion or color, to accumulate more lawn mowers, weed-whackers and grub control products than the grounds crew at Fenway.

Thus, in a patriotic attempt to preserve the very integrity of this great land, I present "Shed-Building Made Easy."

And it really is easy. Honest. The first step to building your shed is to look down and check your chest for mammary glands. If you don't have any, there's a high probability that you're a male and should immediately place your tape measure, level and T-square in the garbage, as they will not be needed for this project.

Next, you will need to carefully select the location for your tool shed. Because your shed inevitably will turn out to be an embarrassing heap of firewood that you will not want to claim as your own, I would suggest a flat, partially shaded patch of earth somewhere on your neighbor's property.

Great. We've disposed of all measuring devices and selected the perfect spot. Now we're ready to build.

Start by mixing a good amount of concrete in a large wheelbarrow. If you have O.J.'s bloody knife, Jimmy Hoffa or anything else in your garage that you would prefer the authorities did not find, this is a good time to mix them in with the concrete.



JOE MONACO
TRAILING AT THE HALF

The concrete will be used to pour the shed's foundation.

The word "foundation," incidentally, is derived from the Italian "fundazione," which translates roughly to "don't even think about eyeballing this."

After eyeballing your foundation, smooth over all the rough parts with something perfectly flat, like the back of your hand. Make sure none of Mr. Hoffa's limbs are sticking out of the concrete, as such exposure would attract bugs and stray cats to the area around your shed.

It is of the utmost importance that the foundation be given ample time to dry. A good way to estimate how quickly the foundation is drying is to have your youngest daughter stick her arm into the concrete and leave it there until she is no longer able to pull it out.

At this point, you can be sure the foundation is solid and may continue with the construction of your shed.

The next step is to make a few basic geometrical computations on a napkin. After throwing the napkin in the garbage with the tape measure and T-square, build a rectangular frame that sits squarely on top of the foundation. Avoid standing on your daughter while building the frame, as she may throw off your measurements.

At this point, you'll want to call on your teenage son who, at the age of 13, has a significantly better grasp of right angles, quantum physics and European monetary policy than

you do. Have him check your calculations, and if he points out a mistake you have made or offers any suggestions, stick him into the concrete foundation with his sister.

Excellent. You're almost there. Certainly, your shed now needs some windows on either side for ventilation and light. Oftentimes, purists prefer to use a jigsaw or a traditional handsaw for this task.

I would suggest a few dozen pounds of well-placed dynamite. Be very careful, however, with the explosives, as they could hurt your two children, who are still firmly embedded in the foundation.

Your shed should now be structurally sound, unless the lumber you used was imported from Russia, in which case it will soon plummet to the bottom of the Barents Sea.

If you decide to go all-out and paint your shed, be sure to choose a neutral shade that matches whatever color your kids are wearing.

While you're at it, you might even want to weatherproof the little rascals. Children don't hold up too well when exposed to the elements.

And that's all there is to constructing a tool shed. There's nothing left now but to sit and wait for the town sheriff to arrive, because your neighbors all called him right about the time the dynamite exploded.

Sure, you'll have a lot of explaining to do. There's no way that this man of the law is going to look at your foundation with two kids and a Teamster sticking out of it without getting a little bit suspicious.

You'll have no choice but to answer him honestly.

"Yes sir. I did eyeball the foundation."
Joe Monaco is a junior journalism and mass communication and political science major from Long Island, N.Y., who would like to see Bob Vila elected president in November. E-mail him at jmonaco@email.unc.edu.

Shame on Charlotte

The Charlotte City Council's proposal to run mug shots of people convicted of certain crimes on TV is unfair and likely won't work.

Tired of those nights where there's just nothing on television? If you happened to be in Charlotte, you could check out the latest drug users and prostitute solicitors in the area on a program creatively dubbed "Shame TV."

A proposal by the Charlotte City Council would run mug shots of people convicted of possessing illegal drugs or soliciting prostitutes on a city-run channel.

While the council has good intentions, a show like "Shame TV" would prove to be an ineffective deterrent for these crimes, place undue strain on families of the offenders and heap excess punishment on people who have already paid for their wrongdoing.

The fact that a potential offender could be shown on a city-run television channel would do little in the way of stopping a potential drug possessor or prostitute solicitor. Someone who might commit one of these crimes already knows that his name could be mentioned in a newspaper's police blotter if caught. And he also knows that he could lose his job if his employer finds out.

Television is a much larger medium than print, so local residents would be more likely to see the face of a perpetrator and match it to someone they see in their daily lives. But it is not fair to increase the chances of unemployment for just one specific kind of criminal.

And reaching a larger proportion of the city population has the potential to shame not only the offenders, but innocent family members as well. Imagine facing your peers after they have seen a relative's face on "Shame TV."

In addition to being an ineffective deterrent, the show's policy of only showing drug possessors and prostitute solicitors is unfair. In Charlotte, only 5 percent of the men caught with prostitutes serve jail time. The rest either pay a fine or are assigned community service.

People also pay fines for speeding, ticket scalping and littering. These offenders are not subjected to the same public humiliation as that proposed for people convicted of prostitute solicitation and drug possession.

Charlotte has not reported any recent sharp increase in the rates of drug possession or prostitution, and there are set punishments for the crimes in question. Once the offenders have served out a sentence or paid a fine, they already have paid their debt to society.

Running mug shots on public television is not a punishment fit for people who commit what are generally regarded as victimless crimes.

BAROMETER

Benches: BOLO
Seems like someone on campus wants to follow in the hallowed footsteps of former ASG President Cliff Webster: A memorial bench was stolen from Coker Arboretum on Monday night.

Fat 'N' Happy
According to a health report card released Monday, North Carolinians are inactive, fat smokers. That might be true, but we'll die with smiles on our faces.

Feelin' the Pinch
If your pants have been feeling strange lately, it might not be because you're a fat North Carolinian. It's just UNC-system officials reaching in your pocket for more tuition money.

At Least It's Safe
As if to prove once again that nothing happens in the metropolis of Carrboro, the Board of Aldermen spent Tuesday night discussing vending machines.

TAR HEEL QUOTABLES

"If we do four (dog parks), maybe three of them should be dog parks and one should be a puppy park."

CHAPEL HILL TOWN COUNCIL MEMBER PAT EVANS
Debating yet another important town issue. Seems like the Town Council has been taking lessons from the aldermen.

"It's a horrible thing to do, but a memorial bench especially - I think it's sacrilegious."

ARBORETUM CURATOR ANNIE PRESLER
When did bench stealing go from being a prank to being the eighth deadly sin?

"My head started to rev and rev. I felt like something much greater than myself was offering me a chance to see myself."

BUSINESSMAN AND ZEN PHILOSOPHER AUGUST TURAK
Either that, or he was just experiencing a killer buzz.

"I'll be careful not to touch anything and to always wear shoes."

EHRINGHAUS RESIDENT JOHN DERRICK
Explaining the change in his behavior since housekeepers there started cleaning his bathroom once a week. John, were the bathrooms really that pristine before?

READERS' FORUM

Students Encouraged To Cheer Lacrosse Team This Weekend

TO THE EDITOR:
I would like to personally invite all UNC students to Henry Stadium this weekend for the two biggest field hockey matches of the season. Your No. 2 Tar Heels need a packed stadium full of crazy fans as they take on No. 3 Old Dominion at 1 p.m. Saturday and No. 7 Virginia at 1 p.m. Sunday. (Admission is free.)

Saturday you can cheer on the Heels and be a part of Fan Appreciation Day. The first 300 fans get free hot dogs and soft drinks, and the first 150 students get free T-shirts. Also, you can win gift certificates to The Rathskeller, Michael Jordan's 23 and other local businesses.

Be one of the first 75 fans to the Virginia game on Sunday, and you'll get a free Wachovia water bottle.

We need your help, so please come! Be rowdy, wear blue and we'll see you there!

Karen Shelton
Head Coach
UNC Field Hockey

Walk in Memory Of Chancellor Hooker Saturday Morning

TO THE EDITOR:
Saturday morning, the Carolina Athletic Association will hold the second annual Michael Hooker memorial 5k run/walk to honor the former UNC chancellor.

Chancellor Hooker's visionary proposals and unmatched dedication to UNC impacts every student on our campus. Chancellor Hooker addressed the future challenges of our University by proposing the Carolina Computing Initiative and proposing the Master Plan, enabling UNC to intelligently face growing enrollment and stay at the zenith of technological innovation.

Chancellor Hooker enthusiastically supported all of Carolina's sports programs, especially our amazingly successful Olympic sports. Whether diving into the pool with our women's swimming team, crowd surfing at a basketball game or virtually never missing a women's soccer game, no one supported Carolina athletics or the UNC community with more fervor than Chancellor

Michael Hooker. The CAA can think of no better way to honor his memory.

We invite all UNC students, faculty and community members to participate in this great event. Last year's race raised more than \$5,000 for Chancellor Hooker's Memorial Scholarship Fund. The race starts at 9 a.m. at the Old Well. Registration begins at 8 a.m. Cost is \$10 with a T-shirt and \$6 without a T-shirt. All proceeds go to the scholarship fund.

We hope you will all attend. Send any questions you may have to songer@email.unc.edu.

Michael Songer
Special Projects Coordinator
Carolina Athletic Association

Get It Off Your Chest

If you're feeling the need to put your thoughts on paper, submit a column for the Monday Viewpoints page. Guest columns should be 800 words, written by no more than two people and discuss an issue relevant to DTH readers. E-mail your columns to editdesk@unc.edu. Publication is not guaranteed.

Questions? Call Editorial Page Editor Kelli Boutin at 962-0245.



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.