

# The Daily Tar Heel

76 Years of Editorial Freedom

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## Calendar Change A Must

The University Calendar Committee met Thursday to discuss the feasibility of changing the academic calendar of the Consolidated University so that exams would fall before Christmas.

Such a change in the calendar has been needed for some time as many students can attest to. The major disadvantage in having exams after a long vacation is that it is hard to resume studies and prepare for exams using the same material which was studied as far back as late September or early October.

In other words, it is hard for the student to get back in the groove after two weeks of relaxation and study for exams which count upwards from 25% to 100% of the final grade received in the course.

The Chapel Hill campus was the last of the four Consolidated University campuses to express a desire to change the academic calendar. This is mentioned not as a condemnation, but stated as a fact.

Now that the Calendar Committee has been formed, it is up to those representing the Chapel Hill campus to push for the best possible revision in the calendar.

Several proposals have been offered as a substitute for the present calendar. The discussion Thursday centered around moving the start of the semester up so that exams would fall before Christmas.

Other proposals include the introduction of a tri-semester system, a quarter system and a division of the year so that each semester would last four months with January being designated as a month for independent study, seminars, in short, a total academic environment.

All of these programs have advantages and disadvantages. I feel that in all cases except the experimental 4-1-4 proposal, the disadvantages outweigh the advantages.

For instance, the tri-semester program was introduced at the University of Florida several years ago. Approximately three years later, the quarter program was substituted, because of several problems.

The main hang-up with the tri-semester system was that it tried to crowd a semester's work into too short a time span. Students found that three months was simply not enough time to cover the material contained in a course.

Compounding the problem was the fact that books used for the course were designed for a semester and could not be applied effectively to a tri-semester program.

For these reasons, I feel that the tri-semester program is not the answer to the change.

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The quarter program is somewhat better but has the fault of chopping up the course too much. Because of the time limitations, instructors under the quarter system have to divide their course up into three segments. Often times, the time is too short to cover the material planned so the normal rush is to finish the material before the term ends is introduced.

Because the material in a quarter system is chopped up, it would be difficult to maintain the continuity needed for a course to be most effective.

The proposal of moving the semester back has one main disadvantage—in that it would throw off summer schedules for many activities related to areas outside the university which draw their members from the University ranks and rely on an approximate June 1 to September 1 schedule.

One instance of this is the ROTC summer training programs which have sessions from the first of June to the middle of July and from the middle of July to the first of September.

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This leaves the 4-1-4 proposal which I

feel is the best answer to a calendar reform. The four month semesters allow ample time to complete the work scheduled for a course. In fact, the second semester as it stands now is from the first of February to the end of May, a period of four months.

The main disadvantage of this program is its experimental nature and the planning of that middle month.

However, I feel that those disadvantages are perhaps blessings in disguise as they would allow the

University the opportunity to exercise its prerogative in deciding just what type of study and what type of seminars would be most effective to their purpose.

The University of North Carolina has long held the reputation of being a progressive institution. In light of this, an experimental, modified calendar reform is a great opportunity to express its progressiveness.

I would hope that the Chapel Hill representatives to the University Calendar Committee would push strongly for the adoption of the 4-1-4 proposal.

## President Johnson— Down And Out

President Lyndon Johnson leaves office in a few days and there probably won't be many tears shed over his vacating the office.

Despite all the bitter hatred of him that is present in our society because of his policies, he has been, in our opinion, an excellent President. In the same breath, we'd like to emphasize, however, that we are glad to see him go.

Johnson has done an excellent job in getting the United States partially committed to the alleviation of poverty in our country, both black and white. He has used his crude political tactics that cause so many persons to dislike him to get many progressive laws passed. These include the Civil Rights Bills of 1964 and 1965, the Open Housing Law, Medicare, the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, the Appalachian Regional Development Act, an expanded aid to education program, and an expanded housing program—to name just a few.

Most of these acts he urged through Congress despite the fact that many Americans were opposed to them at that time. In addition, many of them established the groundwork for the gradual dissolution of his power base. For instance, the Economic Opportunity Act with its community program made it possible for powerful organizations to spring up in cities and states independent of the local political moguls. It is for this reason that the community action programs will probably be eliminated this year.

The one affair everyone believes he failed miserably at is the Vietnam War; however, the blame for that lies not with him so much as it does with the American people. In this instance he did not try to lead the American people into a better life but pursued the course of action the American people and the State Department, in their paranoid fear of communists, dictated. He should be blamed for not being intelligent enough to recognize that what was happening in Vietnam was revolt by the native South Vietnamese (not North Vietnamese) against the tyranny of the Diem regime. Unfortunately, all of America's leaders probably would have done

the same in such a situation because they have all been indoctrinated to fear such things as the National Liberation Front, and anyone who did not fear such would never have had the chance to become a leader.

We say that we are glad to be rid of Johnson because his foreign and domestic programs should be a thing of the past: the country needs to advance to new levels of action. Johnson should be credited for bringing the U.S. to a point where it is capable of progressing to this new level. He brought us to this point first, in foreign affairs, by showing that our policy of paranoid fear and containment threaten the moral and financial fiber of our nation, and secondly, in domestic affairs, by making a commitment to eliminate poverty and racial discrimination.

Unfortunately, in getting rid of Johnson for Richard Nixon, the nation, rather than progressing, is regressing. Again unfortunately, the American voter was presented no chance of voting for someone who would have tried to push the nation forward.

Exactly how do we think the nation should be pushed forward? First is the matter of foreign affairs. The U.S. should recognize that it's policies of the past are obsolete and rather than trying to settle the Vietnam war with a negotiating strategy based on old policy, should conduct it on a new policy of reasonableness towards liberation movements in nations.

Domestically, the nation must move beyond the narrow commitment made by Johnson to a broad commitment to give all persons in the country an equal go at life, through improved education in America's ghettos and rural areas and through increased political power for the poor, which could help America become a truly pluralistic society.

Lyndon Johnson was a good President; we find it hard to appreciate the scars on his stomach or his barbecue, but we do appreciate some of the policies that have been enacted in the five years he was President. However, they are far from being all that America needs to meet the demands of our modern complex world.

### Support APO Book Sale

Want to make some money on those text you used this semester? Something more than the measly half the original price that you would get from the Book Ex?

If you do, don't sell them right now and wait until the first week of school for the Alpha Phi Omega Book Sale, where you'll get the chance to set your own prices on the book without having to worry about losing money to a middle man or paperwork, which is generally what happens with the Book Ex.

This year the APO Book Sale should be a greater success than any in the past;

instead of being held in Gerrard Hall it will be in the snack bar of the Carolina Union, which will make it as accessible as the Book Ex.

In addition because there will be many more books for sale there will be a greater opportunity for students to get the books they need for next semester at a reasonable price, rather than what they have to spend at the Book Ex.

If this is the year you want to stop getting rooked at the Book Ex save those texts until the first week of February and sell them at the APO Book Sale where you'll get more for them.

## Trouble With Exams Is...

Good luck studying for exams. You'll need it, especially if all your exams fall at the first of the exam period or if your instructors insist on giving tests the last week of classes. Maybe one of these days someone will realize the crying

need for reading days before finals in order to give the student with exams at the start of the week a chance to compete with the student whose exams are at the end of the exam period.

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Being the world's greatest admirer of my own views, the exam will naturally consist of a regurgitation of the notes I have given you over the semester.

STRAIGHT  
DAILY TAR HEEL

### Letters To The Editor

## MLA—A Value Question

"Great lux and libertas,"  
O. Bennett Hardison  
speaking for M.L.A.  
colleagues declares,

"scholars would think it quite unhumanistical  
wasting research time on  
human affairs."

Obviously, the above is not a real quote from Professor Hardison; to be honest, he simply has a high-glydey-piggledy name. However, I think that the jingle gets at one of the real issues in the M.L.A. fracas which is currently being obscured by secondary discussions about who has the right to speak for whom about what.

As the discussion the other afternoon in Bingham Hall made clear, many of the younger members of the literature departments feel that the M.L.A. members whom Dr. Hardison represents are trying to maintain a false separation between their professional and moral-political lives. To these men, (I'm speaking now of the group and not of individuals), "professionalism" usually means maintaining a neutral attitude toward the moral, political, social, or religious values in the works of literature which they teach. This attitude allows them to deal objectively, even brilliantly, with what one might call the formal or aesthetic aspects of the works they examine.

Unfortunately, one can't treat a work of art in this rather abstract manner and really take it seriously. To give an obvious example of what I'm getting at, the man who reads Paradise Lost looking for its structural and poetic beauties (or worse yet, its "historical importance") and doesn't ever grapple with the question of whether or not Milton has actually justified "the ways of God to men" is not taking Milton or his work seriously.

It is here that the question of the relevancy of literature courses in the university curriculum enters in. Students come to the university hoping to listen to the wise men, the "gurus" if you will, of our culture; they hope to learn from them what it means to be a man and to lead a good life. In other words, the students come to the professors searching for human values, searching for a life style, searching for truth. The shame of the whole thing is that they are sorely disappointed in three cases out of four because the man teaching the course thinks of himself as a scholar and not as a guru (which means "teacher").

Now scholars have gone to great pains to model themselves after the scientists, who we all know are not, in their professional lives, concerned with values but with facts and formal relationships. In the end, then, the literature student winds up getting facts and formal relationships but not the values he came in search of, simply because his professor

thinks that facts, and facts in chronological arrangements (which he calls "history of literature"), are his professional concern. From the student's point of view, such a course is clearly irrelevant to his needs.

Until this century, the men called humanists have always been the teachers and purveyors of the moral and spiritual values of our culture. They passed on these values in their teaching of such subjects, among others, as grammar, rhetoric, and poetry. These subjects are still taught in our literature departments, and the courses could still be relevant to the needs of the students if the professors would only abandon their arid, pseudo-scientific professionalism, which the world doesn't want or need, and commit themselves to taking their humanistic calling seriously.

Sincerely,  
A Graduate Student

### Test Demise

By FREDDIE FULLER

Last week my math professor killed my last test. With a bit of grotesque humor, he had cut the age of the test, 27, at the top of the body. It was a gruesome sight to see the dried blood which had once flowed over my test. It appeared as if the murderer had used a sharp instrument to commit the ghastly crime. He had destroyed my own creation with uncontrollable and brutal malice. It was like a part of me had died along with my butchered test.

Silently, with deep sorrow, I carried the body back to my room. It was a pitiful sight to see my test, lying in state on my desk. Then, in a completely somnolent attitude, I lifted the lifeless being into my arms. Ever so gently, I placed it in the coffin I had made ready. With a tear in my eye, I cremated the body. In seconds, only a few ashes remained as the Doors finished playing the funeral march ("Light My Fire"). With due respect, the maid came in and silently took the remains away. I stood there until she left. Then, I could fight back the tears no longer.

But remember, math students, the murderer is still at large. Be cautious!

### March, Protest, The Whole Bit

## Mobilization Requested

By RENNIE DAVIS and  
PAUL POTTER

(CPS)—The war in Vietnam: we are all tired of hearing it. It has been on our minds and a part of our lives for too long now.

Working against the war, talking against the war, or taking direct action against the war by refusing to be inducted or refusing to pay taxes is really two things at the same time: it is educating other people by our personal example, and it is a way to free ourselves from the personal prison that is inactivity.

The Mobilization came into being and has continued to exist because there was a simple, powerful sense of urgency about the war that was strong enough to bring into a working coalition working groups who had never had contact before with one another but who shared a conviction that the government's war policies must be crushed.

The Chicago demonstrations happened because Americans, many of whom had been in Vietnam and had experienced the

war itself, refused in large numbers to give up the objective of ending the war. The actions at Chicago dramatized to all Americans that the peace movement will not be silenced even by a peace riot—especially when the Democratic convention had determined against all popular opposition to ratify Johnson's policies once again.

Now we are asking people to gather in Washington. We are going to Washington at a time when the authorities are using the conference table to deflate anti-war sentiment while buying time for the military to "win" on the battlefield.

We are going to the inauguration of a President who has publicly professed willingness to use nuclear intimidation in Vietnam and whose opponents suggest there may be a drastic extension of the war.

We are calling for a counter-inauguration, an inauguration of the opposition to four more years of Johnson under a new name. We will begin Saturday January 18, with a conference

on the Movement—some 50 workshops on G.I. organizing, women's liberation, Vietnam, law and order under Nixon, imperialism in Guatemala, underground media, guerrilla theatre, and so on.

Sunday afternoon we are asking civilians to join behind G.I.s coming from all parts of the country in a massive march to the Capitol to bring home the troops. Sunday evening, in a giant circus on the Mall, we celebrate—not like the staid celebration of the social elite, but with Phil Ochs, the Fugs, Judy Collins, with the life-style of the Movement.

On Monday, Inaugural Day, we go to the Nixon coronation, not to celebrate America's consensus around Nixon's vision of law and order. We will be at the Inauguration to remind the government, with flags and peace pennants, banners, slogans and chants, that we intend to put the next President in the same crush of public pressure that became too much for Lyndon Johnson, until this country turns away from the racist and violent policies of the past.