

COLUMN



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We need to place a premium on writing

There are few things I dread more than group papers. Even in classes where every assignment feels like a punishment, being asked to write a paper with other people is nothing short of cruel and unusual.

It isn't the logistical nightmare of coordinating four randomly selected college students' schedules that makes the process so frustrating. It isn't even the awkwardness of trying to make four different writing styles feel cohesive.

Instead, the problem with group papers is the inevitable 4 a.m. moment when I find myself scrawling all over a supposedly final draft in red ink wondering how my group members managed to get into this college without knowing the difference between "your" and "you're" (or why they're using the second person in this research paper to begin with).

The problem, in short, is the writing. Though I admit my evidence is anecdotal, I feel like I've peer-edited enough papers and read enough of my classmates' emails to safely say that most of the students I interact with here were never taught how to write.

I do not mean to imply that this is my classmates' fault. Quite the contrary. I see this as a failure on the part of the University. Grammatical quibbles aside, the consequences of this widespread incompetence are serious. It is unfair — not to mention hugely inefficient — to fail to ensure that students have the tools they need to make full use of their intellect.

I'm always amazed when I read a classmate's paper and come across a genuinely good idea buried under baffling mixed metaphors and botched syntax. I can only imagine that for a professor with a stack of these essays to grade, this amazement would quickly turn to irritation.

After all, it is not the responsibility of say, an economics professor to teach his or her students how to structure an argument. Some students were lucky enough to learn this stuff in high school, but even if they didn't that's what English 101 is for, right?

Perhaps not. Given the number of students allowed to place out of English 101 and 102, and the inadequacy of the average freshman's writing skills, it seems that standardized test-based placement has failed.

UNC must work harder to ensure that its students are prepared for the work they're asked to do. Unfortunately, the Faculty Council's latest solution probably won't do the trick.

The council's proposed class, English 105, would teach basic writing skills and would be mandatory for all freshmen. In theory, this is great. But in practice, forcing students with such a wide range of capabilities into the same classroom seems sure to end in frustration.

I'm sure that, as a student, I don't fully appreciate how complex this problem is, and I don't purport to have an answer. But it would be heartening if those who claim to have the answer could come up with a more convincing one. Whatever form the solution takes, it needs to have teeth and it must be something students will be able to take seriously. This is, after all, a very serious problem.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Nate Beeler, The Washington Examiner



EDITORIAL

Truck it in, Chapel Hill

Confusing regulations make operating food trucks difficult.

The Town of Chapel Hill looks like it is continuing the liberalization of regulations on food trucks within town limits.

Although the trucks — or "mobile food units," as they are more officially known — are not banned outright in Chapel Hill, regulations are currently so confusing and prohibitive that they often act as an effective ban.

This board has been consistent in its support of food trucks in Chapel Hill, but a number of issues remain undecided.

We hope the town will not favor too-restrictive regulations that solely serve to protect traditional brick-and-mortar restaurants from increased competition.

There are already approximately 95 bars and restaurants in downtown Chapel Hill and they could serve as a sizeable lobby against food trucks.

Of course, students do not

want to see more of Franklin Street's restaurants go out of business, but late-night options can sometimes seem limited in an otherwise student-friendly town.

The rush in the few open restaurants at 2 a.m. in Chapel Hill could be alleviated and students' options expanded if food trucks were allowed within town limits.

In Carrboro, it seems most food trucks are parked near bars at late hours, when many traditional restaurants are closed.

There is no good reason to prevent local entrepreneurs from starting innovative businesses that can satisfy the needs of a legitimate market.

The town just has to decide how to regulate this new industry.

Few would want sidewalks or all of Chapel Hill's parking lots littered with food trucks, but the Town Council cannot legally establish quotas of food trucks within town limits, only the locations they are allowed to operate.

Opening hours, taxation rates and health and safety

regulations must also be decided.

Food from trucks ought to be as strictly regulated as in their building-bound counterparts. Consumers should not have to sacrifice safety for the convenience and variety food trucks can offer.

The food truck movement is not just limited to Chapel Hill and Carrboro.

Raleigh has similarly restrictive regulations on food trucks and is also considering moving to open up its streets to the mobile food units.

But other college towns like Durham and Athens, Ga., both have some version of food trucks.

And while traditional restaurant owners might be worried their monopoly on dining in Chapel Hill will be threatened, the reality is that food trucks will have to compete with them as well. Building a new customer base in Chapel Hill can be difficult for anyone.

Regardless, we hope Chapel Hill continues to move forward.

Let us eat!

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Aside from lacrosse, there was no real reason for me to be back here. It was either come back and just hang out and get drunk or go do something else."

Ryan Flanagan, UNC defenseman, on why he chose to travel to Uganda

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Stand with students; help fight budget cuts

TO THE EDITOR

On Tuesday I will return to Raleigh for another day of meetings with key State Senators to discuss the ongoing budget negotiations.

As it stands, the State Legislature is proposing cuts to our budget that would severely compromise our University's ability to provide a high-quality and accessible education to every student.

The Cooper administration has been — and will continue — fighting for our University and the UNC system as long as cuts of this nature remain on the table.

However, our efforts can only get stronger with your help. While I promise you that my team will continue to do everything we can to advocate for student interests, we need you to share in that responsibility. The consequences of inaction will be dire, but together our voices can be multiplied to great effect.

There is nothing stopping you from picking up the phone right now and calling the Senators and Representatives that represent you. However, you can also join student government's multifaceted advocacy efforts. Pick up the phone and call us, or go to unc.edu/studgov and read about how you can get involved.

Mary Cooper
Student Body President

Organizational funding for summer available

TO THE EDITOR:

Congress has \$2,500 to allocate to student organizations that have a certified treasurer. Furthermore, organizations (or their executive officers) that have questions, comments or concerns about any and all things regarding summer funding should review Title V of the Student Code located on the Congress website. Individuals who still have questions should direct them to me.

Student Congress truly enjoys investing student fees available for allocating into student organizations. With hundreds of organizations ranging from political to cultural interest, Congress is pleased to show its support through funding. You pay student fees so reap the benefits of fees and apply for funding today!

Kristen Johnson
Summer Speaker of Student Congress

SPEAK OUT

WRITING GUIDELINES

- Please type: Handwritten letters will not be accepted.
 - Sign and date: No more than two people should sign letters.
 - Students: Include your year, major and phone number.
 - Faculty/staff: Include your department and phone number.
 - Edit: The DTH edits for space, clarity, accuracy and vulgarity. Limit letters to 250 words.
- SUBMISSION**
- Drop-off: at our office at 151 E. Rosemary Street.
 - Email: opinion@dailytarheel.com

Kvetching board™

kvetch:

v.1 (Yiddish) to complain

Friday mornings are just not the same at home. I miss the kvetch board, alpine, even my hangover.

To the 'college kids' studying in Davis: Your acne, braces, and talk of getting wasted at prom is a dead giveaway. Go back to Orange High.

To the person asking whether the guy wearing the "I heart the female orgasm" t-shirt knew that the ones he watched on the internet were fake: as his ex, I can assure you he wouldn't know the difference.

To the dude sleeping in the Undergraduate Library at 3:00 p.m. on the second day of the first session of summer school: giving up on girls is one thing, but wow.

To the guy waving a flag on top of your frat house, as much as you wish you were, you are not a Navy Seal.

While all the summer cleavage is great, we still have to see frat boy legs covered in four inches of pastel shorts.

To the girl who told me to "shoo" at La Rez on Friday night: if you were any more shallow you would evaporate.

To Sean Hannity: listening to you analyze Common's rap lyrics is absolutely hilarious.

To the ladies who ride the FCX bus, this is UNC transit, not Southwest Airlines. One carry-on bag per person, please.

Trying to find a job is like trying to find a decent guy in Chapel Hill.

Nothing like summer school to reconnect with one's lesser friends.

To the girl who just stated that, "no one else knows she has one:" your camel toe isn't THAT concealed.

The summer kvetching board, where even someone with the creativity of a communist uniform designer can get published.

To the lady at the soft serve machine in Lenoir, chocolate and vanilla is called 'swirl' not 'squirrel'.

To the people in my apartment complex: if you're not more respectful about your smoking habits, I'm going to kick your butt (pun intended).

Is it just me, or did the girl-to-guy ratio switch this summer?

Send your one-to-two sentence entries to opinion@dailytarheel.com, subject line 'kvetch.'

The Daily Tar Heel

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The Daily Tar Heel

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Columns, cartoons and letters do not necessarily represent the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel or its staff. Editorials reflect the opinions of The Daily Tar Heel editorial board, which is made up of board members, the opinion editor and the summer editor.

EDITORIAL

Davis draws the line

Davis' dismissal of McAdoo is appropriate in turbulent times.

Sophomore defensive lineman Jared McAdoo has been released from the UNC football team after violating team rules, according to a statement released by head coach Butch Davis.

Faced with evidence of misconduct and disregard for team policy, Davis' dismissal of McAdoo is the right move at a time when UNC football cannot afford to make any more mistakes.

Davis' decision is reminiscent of UNC basketball coach Roy Williams' dismissal of senior guard Will Graves from UNC's basketball team last October.

Although seemingly contrary to UNC's winning tradition, Graves' dismissal was necessary to uphold the more important moral code that dictates UNC's mission as an institution.

McAdoo had been arrested twice prior to this incident: once for selling Percocets at his high school in 2008, and another time for carrying a BB gun on campus during sum-

mer school (a charge that was eventually dropped).

In light of what was expected to be a promising football career at UNC, Davis made the right decision by appropriating higher value to the ethics of his program rather than the efforts of a single individual.

Last fall, Davis' role as head coach was called into question and numerous players were deemed ineligible after the NCAA began investigating the football program for multiple violations.

Many, including The Daily Tar Heel's editorial board, believed Davis should have been fired for allowing such offenses to pile up on his watch.

Last Monday's announcement of McAdoo's dismissal is a positive step toward reinstating what we already knew to be true: UNC places a higher premium on the Carolina Way, playing the game by the rules with integrity and fairness, than it does on winning.

Although in doubt last fall, Davis has reassured Tar Heels that integrity is a top priority for UNC football.

McAdoo's violation — the

specifics of which have not yet been disclosed — underscores a larger trend that has plagued collegiate athletics in recent decades. And this punishment is exactly what this program needs to move forward.

The football team could have used McAdoo next season. So many defensive players were lost to graduation and the NFL draft that McAdoo's presence on the field will be missed.

McAdoo's violation is not only frustrating for UNC's football team, but also for the image of student athletes at our University.

We know most student athletes at UNC follow the rules and represent our school well. But McAdoo's dismissal is a reminder that a few exceptions can disrupt the efforts as well as the perception of the whole.

Davis has done well to uphold the integrity of UNC football and athletics in general by acting swiftly and appropriately.

Despite the disappointment of losing McAdoo's athletic talents, Davis' dismissal of McAdoo is an illustration of strong leadership in a time when accountability is needed most.

Weekly QuickHits

Donald Trump
The Donald announced this week that he won't seek the presidency in 2012. Note to Trump: when your candidacy can be completely defeated by a long-form birth certificate, you're probably reaching.

Plagiarism
NCCU's commencement speaker plagiarized significant parts of his speech last week. We knew something wasn't right when he opened with, "We hold these truths to be self evident..."

Coach K
The Blue Devils' coach pulled in \$4.7 million last year, making him Duke University's highest-paid employee. Shocking, mostly because we thought that the refs were Duke's highest paid employees.

Women's Lax
The Tar Heels are just one win away from a third consecutive final four appearance. They will have to beat Loyola (Md.) at home on Saturday. Be sure to get to Fetzter this weekend to support the Heels!