

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893,
117 years
of editorial freedom

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No such thing as an ideal situation

Love your body. At least that's what the National Organization for Women says you should do. Its ongoing campaign for positive body image encourages women to see through the smoke and mirrors and Photoshop used in the media, and to celebrate their own natural bodies. But has anyone told you lately to love your vagina?

As the demand for genital cosmetic surgery rises, it is growing clearer that body image no longer applies to just breast size or waistline.

Some women are now feeling pressure to change their genitals to conform to an ideal.

And now the \$64,000 question: What are these ideal female genitals?

Vanessa Shick of Indiana University sought to answer this very query in the latest Journal of Sex Research, and where else could she turn but fellow journal Playboy Magazine?

Schick analyzed 647 monthly centerfolds from Playboy, dating back to their first issue in December 1953. In addition to scoring each model's general physique, she assessed visibility of the mons pubis (pubic mound), the pubic hair and the labia majora/minora.

At first, none of the centerfolds showed the mons pubis or the labia, but in the 1970s, this started to change as the magazine displayed the mons pubis with natural pubic hair. Then the 1990s saw a shift toward pubic hair partially removed by shaving or waxing.

Since centerfolds with visible labia only appeared recently, Schick had to narrow down her search to photographs between 2007 and 2008 which show the mons pubis.

Out of 185 pictures, 19.5 percent showed altered but visible pubic hair, and 61.2 percent did not show any pubic hair: It was completely removed.

Less than half had visible labia majora, and within these, 82.2 percent showed no labia minora. The labia minora were visible in only 13 photos, and they were all colored pink or light red except in one.

It seems that the standard of female genital beauty, as advertised to Playboy's mostly male readers, includes minimal or no pubic hair, invisible labia minora, and pink color. The problem lies in the fact that these features which are seemingly normative in the models are totally unnatural in the real world population.

Women's genitals vary greatly in size, shape, color and amount of hair, and they even change over time.

The promotion of these unrealistic images — and a lack of education or exposure otherwise — can cause some women to think that their genitals are abnormal or ugly, and that they need genital cosmetic surgery like labiaplasty or vaginoplasty.

These procedures are not medically necessary, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and they carry risks like infection, scarring, pain or dryness which can later compromise sexual health and function.

I am not saying that no one should be allowed to get genital cosmetic surgery; it's not my place to make that call. But women should not be fooled into believing that there is a typical or ideal form to the female genitals. Let's appreciate their diversity.

After all, how boring would a one-vagina world be?

FRIDAY:
Mark Laichena talks Chancellor Holden Thorp and innovation.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Guile Contreras, gcontrer@email.unc.edu



Write and wrong

Mandatory writing classes for all students is the wrong way to ensure their skills are up to par

Plan to require all undergraduates to take a writing course in an attempt to remedy a perceived lack of ability among students would be inefficient, ill-timed and undermined by its own breadth. The problem could be better addressed by making exemptions by exam more difficult.

Currently, 60.5 percent of freshmen test out of English 101 while 29 percent test out of English 102 as well. The proposition to eliminate these exemptions comes in response to concerns from faculty that students can't perform the writing that is required of them.

The purpose of the writing class is to teach students how to write at a college level. However, many students have demonstrated their ability to do so on exams designed specifically to test student writing ability, such as the SAT and AP exams.

The University shouldn't reward mastery of Calculus AB or U.S. History with exemptions and not do the same for writing. Students should not be forced to pay thousands of dollars to relearn something that they have demonstrated they have already learned.

Additionally, if the University now requires all undergraduates to take a writing class, it must find a way to accommodate the increased demand for seats in these classes.

This means either creating new sections, an unlikely proposition in a year dominated so strongly by budget cuts, or existing sections must be made larger, which would make individual attention more difficult to come by and would sacrifice the education of those students who truly need help writing — all for the sake of redundant education.

If the University is that concerned about whether those students who are exempt by exam deserve their exemptions, it ought to make the qualifications for exemption more stringent. If the current exams do not test what the University feels is important, it ought to mandate its own.

And if professors still don't feel that a student is writing well, they shouldn't be afraid to let the student's grade reflect that fact. There are numerous resources that students can turn to for help in the form of the Writing Center, peer tutoring or even choosing to take a writing class.

The tools are available to ensure that those who need instruction get it. There's no need to punish everyone.

QuickHits

N.C. favors UNC

A poll shows that North Carolinians favor UNC over Duke by a nearly two to one margin. Hating Duke really is a pastime that permeates all walks of life. How distinctly American.

Marijuana

Speaking of peace-loving citizens of Earth, a medical marijuana institution of higher (haha) learning is coming to Arizona. It's only a matter of time before selling weed at UNC leads to a bachelor's degree.

Peace Corps

UNC ranked third among large schools to send students to the Peace Corps. Not only are Tar Heels exceptionally good looking and exceedingly intelligent; we're compassionate, peace-loving citizens of Earth.

Duke

Again, we are sincerely sorry for the disgusting portrait of Kyle Singler we had to run below. But we honor our commitments, and we did make a bet after all (maybe you heard about it). Better luck in game two!

Kidney donor

Wake Forest's baseball coach donated a kidney to one of his players. What an incredible act of selflessness. I wonder if Coach K would donate his heart — if he had one — to be scientifically studied.

Campus elections

Not to beat a dead horse (sorry, Brooklyn), but this year's campaigns were abysmal. If student government is a microcosm of real world politics, this period must represent the Nixon years. Come on, everybody — play by the rules.



QUOTE OF THE DAY:
“We were very close to the top right now, so it was a total shock to hear about it.”
EDDIE ABABIO, FORMER UNC SOCCER PLAYER, ON THE DEPARTURE OF COACH ELMAR BOLOWICH

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:
“This whole election is like Bush vs. Gore, except the only thing at stake is a law school application.”
LOVIN IT, ON THE INJUNCTION ON SBP ELECTION RESULTS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

This year's SBP election disgraceful, must improve
TO THE EDITOR:
After four wonderful years here, UNC has found a large corner in my heart, so as a graduating senior, I would like to express my concern for the future of this great university. The strength of our university lies within our student body, with our student government and student body president acting as our representatives.
However, the past few days of election drama has shown that our student government is in shambles. We have a lawsuit brought against the Board of Elections and SBP candidates blatantly breaking rules and using disgraceful tactics to run campaigns. One of my housemates commented today, “Look how far we’ve come from Eve Carson. She was the best student body president we’ve seen in our four years.” And I must say I wholeheartedly agree with this statement.
Eve was an SBP who fought and cared for the student body and acted with integrity. She earned her votes from the student body and brought respect to student government. So look at where we are today. It's disheartening to know that this is the last SBP election I will participate in and it leaves me wondering, with a lack of confidence, if the future SBP will do anything for the student body.
We deserve and demand an SBP who will make promises he or she can keep, someone who will act for and with us. This election has been disgraceful. So to the future student leaders, student government and student body president: watch yourself.

Hilton “Butch” Davis as a symbolic gesture representing my displeasure with the ridiculous nature of this year's campaign for student body president.
After reading The Daily Tar Heel's coverage of the campaign, I could not cast a ballot for any of the SBP candidates in good conscience. A number of the ideas tossed about by all of the candidates, per usual, are ridiculous and are not feasible.
Further, I read about the Board of Elections hearing at which the disqualification of Rick Ingram was considered. The hearing was described as “bizarre” and was centered on the candidate campaigning in a “malicious and harmful manner.”
My sincere hope is that the article is a parody of actual events; this is not a middle school popularity contest. Frankly, we're all adults and need to act like it. I find it difficult to take any of these concerns seriously and I am fearful for the future of my country if these are the political leaders of tomorrow.
Additionally, I read that candidate Ian Lee is in direct violation of the Student Code. The incompetence of the BOE continues a trend of ineptitude stretching back for years.
Candidates: thanks but no thanks, I hope you resign on your first day and appoint Butch Davis.

Jason Sutton
Senior
Political Science

John Eick
Senior
Political Science, Public Policy

Sophia Duong
Senior
Health Policy and Management

It is time to overthrow our student government
TO THE EDITOR:
It is time all students get on up, get into it and get involved by overthrowing student government. Clearly this campaign season is a mockery of any democratic voting process. Student government's paternalistic and elitist attitude toward the University community is unacceptable. No longer shall we stand by the wayside while they demand rooms in the Union, ride around on horses that defecate in the Pit (UNC Housekeeping loved that), choke our freedom of choice down to a set of pre-screened options and fail epically at achieving a civil representative government. As BOE does not take its own bylaws seriously and frivolous lawsuits are filed (misogyny is not frivolous by any means, don't get misconstrued) only to steal an election, it is time for the students of UNC to end this mess and take our university back. Oh, and go to hell Dook!

Help children by being a counselor at Camp Kesem
TO THE EDITOR:
This week you have the opportunity to change your life and the lives of countless children. You have the chance to apply to be a Camp Kesem counselor.
Camp Kesem is a free one-week camp for children whose parents have or had cancer and is run entirely by Duke University and UNC students. It's also the best thing that I've done with my college career.
Last summer 117 campers and 60 counselors spent the week having fun playing messy games, going on dinosaur egg hunts and doing all the other things every kid should get to experience at camp, no matter what's going on at home.
As one camper described it, “Camp Kesem is more than just a camp ... it's a time to laugh, smile, cry and share each other's deepest fears. When I think of Camp Kesem, I couldn't describe it better than a place of true joy and love and friendships to remember forever.”
Camp Kesem is tabling in the Pit today. You can stop by and ask previous counselors about their experience and get more information.
Applications are due Monday at 6 p.m. For more information and to access the application, visit our website at www.camp-kesem.org/northcarolina or follow us on Twitter at @camp-kesemnc.

Will Warren
Senior
Philosophy

New SBP should resign and appoint Butch Davis
TO THE EDITOR:
Tuesday, I cast my SBP ballot for UNC football head coach Paul

Laken Rush
Camper Care Coordinator
Camp Kesem

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.
 - **E-mail:** opinion@dailytarheel.com
 - **Send:** to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, N.C., 27515.

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. The board consists of nine board members, the associate opinion editor, the opinion editor and the editor.