

The Daily Tar Heel

Established 1893, 123 years of editorial freedom

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Look for peace within the pages

Arriving back at Chapel Hill is a lot. It's fun, don't get me wrong. I've already been on lunch catch-up dates with around 300 people — I'm super popular, don't be intimidated — and have had some version of the same small talk conversation with about 300 more.

It's exhilarating and bustling and engaging and interesting and all the other positive social adjectives. It's also exhausting. It can feel, at times, impossible to be fully alone on this heavily populated campus we call home.

Given the omnipresence of social interaction at school, I have found myself, in the past week, being drawn more forcefully than usual toward the self-reflective solitude that is inherently accessible in any journal. (An important distinction: I will never call it a "diary." Honestly, the whole "Dear Diary" thing makes me uncomfortable. Stop talking to your book. It's weird. Anyway.)

I have found clarity and comfort in the act of expressing my thoughts in words, for myself and by myself. Arguments become tangible; emotions are dealt with concretely; interactions are summarized and interpreted.

Putting words to the intangibles of daily life forces journalists to grapple with them in a way that is, I think, liberating and healthy.

My English major status might introduce some bias, but I do genuinely believe that self-reflective writing is an essential step toward leading a thoughtful and genuine life. "The unexamined life is not worth living," and all that.

If for no other reason, journals are thoroughly worthwhile for their commemorative aspects. Trust me, your first-year journals will be invaluable reads a year later.

Remember the boy in your English 105 class that you were madly in love with for a month? And that time you spent eight hours in Lenoir for no apparent reason?

It's all there, captured in real time, intensified by the deeply personal act of writing down your thoughts, feelings and activities. Few things are more entertaining than reading over a detailed account of your own life. Plus, when you're wildly famous one day, you can sell all your past journals for millions. Your fans will be so grateful.

Feeling inspired by this heartwarming testimonial to the powers of writing?

Join me! Grab a blank notebook, buy a nice pen and find a comfortable place on campus. Your bed is the obvious choice, but there are several noteworthy spots for the more adventurous.

The Arboretum provides plentiful flora and fauna to inspire some Walden-esque musings. Or venture onto the rooftop of Venable Hall, where you can bake in the blazing August sun on a comfortable slab of concrete.

My personal favorite, the Old Chapel Hill Cemetery, offers a particularly peaceful atmosphere, assuming you can ignore the fact that you're hanging out alone in a graveyard.

Regardless of location, journaling provides an easily accessible escape, allowing for moments of valuable solitude amid a persistently social campus.

EDITORIAL CARTOON By Emily Yue, emyue@live.unc.edu



EDITORIAL

Goodbye, Student Stores

All we can do now is hold Barnes & Noble accountable.

Though UNC Student Stores has kept its 100-year-old name, much has changed inside since Barnes & Noble took control. Registers have moved, new faces have smiled from above new name tags and familiar faces have moved on.

The privatization process began with an unsolicited request in July 2015 from Follett to lease the Student Stores. This board has discussed at length the swift and opaque nature of the decision.

As we say goodbye to what we loved about Student Stores, we must hold Barnes & Noble accountable to its promises. Indeed, the differences between the rhetoric and actuality of privatization are already coming to light.

One of this board's favorite parts of the Student Stores, the Bull's Head Bookshop, has seen massive shifts in stock and employees. It seems that Barnes & Noble has kept its promise of adding thousands of new titles. But by adding thousands of copies of the Unofficial Harry Potter Cookbook and pseudo-scientific self-improvement books, Barnes & Noble

is turning its back on the academic nature of Bull's Head, something important in a college campus bookstore. Because Barnes & Noble predetermines display table selections for all its bookstores, thought-provoking and critical texts have been swapped for whatever books best sell, regardless of educational value.

We understand the need to generate a revenue source for student scholarships, which Barnes & Noble has promised to increase. We just miss when that revenue came from funder puppets of our favorite historical thinkers.

The beloved manager of Bull's Head moved soon after the takeover, prompting many Bull's Head student employees to quit. Some remaining student employees are being scheduled for two to three times as many hours as they have had in the past with less flexibility in general.

Barnes & Noble's promise to maintain a similar work environment has gone unfulfilled as employees continue to quit. This, in turn, has pushed remaining employees to cover long shifts with few options.

Indeed, the emphasis on hiring student employees as a means for student revenue seems to have dissipated. More and more

employees come from outside the University, even when Barnes & Noble's pitch relied on helping students first.

But despite these problems, we recognize that Barnes & Noble was by no means the worst possible option. While we might have been happier with Amazon only controlling textbooks, and commend them for pulling out in protest of House Bill 2, price-matching on textbooks will certainly result in lower prices for students. And while we think that the missing "Barnes & Noble" and "Starbucks" logos might lack transparency, we appreciate that UNC still appears across the stores.

In the end, things always change. We can be upset that we as a student body had little say in the decision and we can be angry that our peers who are employees are not being treated as promised. But we can also hope that Barnes & Noble does add what it claims it will to the community.

If it creates millions of dollars of scholarship funds, we will welcome the socioeconomic diversity those scholarships can promote.

We all must hold Barnes & Noble accountable to its promises. If not, we will have lost a unique place at UNC for nothing.

EDITORIAL

Know your judges

In the midst of elections, the ball is in your court.

The potential for an ideologically bent United States Supreme Court has become a rallying point for presidential campaigns and their supporters. And in North Carolina, the battles over House Bill 2 and voter-identification laws have mostly been fought through court systems.

Given some of these positions are appointed for life, judges are a major part of an outgoing president's legacy. And even when elected, their time in power can forever change a state for the better or the worse.

The court system is a large part of the checks and balances that keep our nation running, and it deserves more attention from the public since significant civil rights advancements and failures have come from all levels of the system.

Pivotal court decisions ranging from *Roe v. Wade*

to the recent repeal of North Carolina's recent voter ID law demonstrate the necessity of a balanced and competent court system.

While the aforementioned court cases were important, the United States' and North Carolina's judicial systems would not be what they are today without historically unjust cases that spurred several crucial social movements.

Federal, state and local judicial systems are the teeth of the legal system, and they ideally protect minority voices from the tyranny of the majority.

The only reason North Carolina was not one of the last states to recognize marriage equality was because of a circuit court ruling.

Civic engagement is necessary to avoid the darker sides of courts.

North Carolina is one of 16 states that allows the democratic, nonpartisan election of state judges. The election makes it even harder to determine a candidate's position from

the ballot box.

Many voters and members of this board have stood at the polling station, not knowing one judge from another. That is not okay.

This board always encourages informed voting, and the practice takes on new meaning in this context given the power courts hold.

All students and community members ought to research each judicial candidate's values and ideologies before electing someone to the court. And when judges are not elected, it is equally important to pressure politicians to spell out what they are looking for in a potential judge.

Courts exist to keep the legislative branches in check, but all that relies on a knowledgeable and vigilant population holding them (and those that appoint them) accountable.

If you find yourself in court, ignorance is not a defense. It shouldn't be in the ballot box either.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"For the most part, I think everybody here works together. It's like children or brothers and sisters — we're a family."

Pam Oakley, a vendor at the Carrboro Farmers' Market, on the market

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT

"What do you care? You aren't a UNC alum. Your opinion is irrelevant."

Jeff Grady, to another commenter on Coach Fedor's hiring of Beckman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Let us unite against Donald Trump

TO THE EDITOR:

Thanks for the thoughtful editorial on student activism in today's *The Daily Tar Heel*. My plea for the next 10 weeks is for activists to unite around the necessity of defeating Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

Pick a domestic progressive issue: climate change, race relations, women's rights, tolerance of gender identity or religion, medical coverage, the justice system, economic and education opportunity — all of these will suffer under President Trump.

Wake up every morning until November thinking, "What can I do today to defeat Trump?"

And if you don't love Hillary Clinton, there are other avenues to pursue. Help with voter registration (and make sure yours is set) and get-out-the-vote efforts.

If you have a car, I promise it's a fantastic feeling to help someone who otherwise couldn't get to the polls.

We have an excellent chance to retire the governor who defends HB2 and a fighting chance to do so for the senator who blocked full release of the investigation into torture. Congress member David Price is a treasure, and there are a slew of N.C. elections up for grabs.

And on Nov. 9, we can celebrate — and on Nov. 10, the issue closest to your heart will still be there.

*Joe Swain
Carrboro*

Consider giving your auditor a chance

TO THE EDITOR:

I was told a horror story last semester starring an "audit troll."

Per the professor, the audit troll entered the classroom and took a seat.

However, he did not remain there. He jumped up. He clamored for space. He sucked out the oxygen and he filled the air with his own voice.

The professor was polite. The professor was tolerant. The professor was willing to give him another chance.

The troll sat. And then stood again another day for all to see and hear.

Fortunately, most auditors are not trolls.

They are decidedly different, however. They are older. They have different life experiences.

As a student at UNC, you may have shared space with an auditor — possibly even with me. To all of you, faculty and students alike, I wish to thank you for allowing alumni to audit.

One day, another alum-nus will request to join your class, to contribute and learn from you — faculty and students alike.

*R.M. Barnette
Class of '78*

Wings Over Chapel Hill screwed me over

TO THE EDITOR:

I believe Wings Over Chapel Hill is a negative force on our campus community and must be stopped.

The other day, I ordered four pounds of boneless wings: two pounds of Jamaican jerk and two pounds of level three buffalo.

Before ordering, I asked whether the four pounds would be weighed before or after cooking.

I was given a firm answer that the wings were to be weighed after cooking.

Just for crystal clarity, I verbally confirmed:

"So, you are hereby claiming that I shall receive four pounds of cooked wings with my order, and if I weigh them upon delivery they shall weigh no less than four imperial pounds."

The employee confidently responded:

"Yes, I hereby claim that you shall receive four pounds of cooked wings with your order."

Lo and behold, I find myself staring at the menacing figure of three-and-a-half.

Three-and-a-half pounds of wings.

For the price of four, I felt lower than a snake's belly in a wagon wheel rut. I had been the cruel subject of a diabolical deception.

Please, call this amoral company out on its poor practices with the most noble public platform of the DTH.

It is your responsibility to ensure a well-informed public and Chapel Hill community to help build a better world.

*Derek Fulton
Junior*

Quantitative Biology

UNC is committed to inclusivity

TO THE EDITOR:

An article in Tuesday's *The Daily Tar Heel* ("House Bill 2 played a role in Angel Collie's decision to leave UNC for Duke") gave the impression that UNC President Margaret Spellings may take steps to enforce this new state law.

To the contrary, President Spellings has repeatedly stated that House Bill 2 does not contain enforcement provisions and that neither she nor the University has the authority — or the intent — to enforce its provisions with respect to bathrooms on UNC campuses.

The UNC system has not changed its nondiscrimination policies, which prohibit discrimination based on sex and gender identity, and remains committed to being open and welcoming to individuals of all backgrounds.

*Joni Worthington
UNC Vice President for
Communications*

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 or mail to our office at 151 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514
- Email: opinion@dailytarheel.com

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 comprises 11 board members, the opinion assistant editor and editor and the editor-in-chief.