

ELC Welcome

Welcome to the English Learning Community's inaugural issue of our newsletter. After successfully surviving the fall semester, we are now ready to share some of our insight and knowledge. Okay, maybe we're not ready to lead SOAR sessions, but together we've tried to amass some advice, insight, and creative

tidbits that you may find entertaining and even informative. This newsletter developed from our desire to not only share our work, but also touch base with our fellow students interested in English and in the College of Arts and Sciences. Yes, we do manage to step beyond the walls of Fretwell and the Atkins Library. Sure, UNCC is great, but

sometimes you've got to put down the post-it notes and highlighters and find out more about a world in which the Belk Tower does not dominate the horizon.

The journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.

~Lao Tzu



*Writing in the real world
by John Cochrane*

While you may think writing an explication to some yahoo's poem is a bore, don't think it's assigned just to give your teacher his/her jollies. Language impacts us on a daily basis, whether you're filling out a deposit slip for your paycheck or reading a late-night menu at a drive-thru window. We're up to our ears in language, and it's a critical we learn how to understand the way it works.

Have you ever been assigned in class to write fiction? Remember those students that would pick and pry at their imagination, straining to come up with a cool or exciting story? Maybe you've been that person. I know I've been there before, but a recent episode of *My Name is Earl* has taught me a valuable lesson when it comes to writing.

If you've been watching the show, you know Earl's stuck in prison. He joins a creative writing class, and his first assignment is simple: write a fiction story. Earl has trouble coming up with what

he calls a "cool story." Even late into the night, Earl is found to be fighting writer's block. Throughout the episode, we see what the supporting characters write, such as Randy's adventure as a James Bond-type character. Catalina's is a Telemundo daytime drama, and Darnell's showcases him singing a song about cooking. At the end of the show, when Earl has to turn in his story, he realizes that he didn't need to write a cool or exciting story—he could just think about what his life was like and write about that.

Being a huge fan of the show, I take the lessons *My Name is Earl* teaches close to

heart. Being a writer, I couldn't help but heed Earl's words. We don't have to be flashy or in-your-face when it comes to our writing: as long as we have something to say, what we write is what matters. Earl may be stuck in prison, but writing is an outlet for him, even if it's just another day at the Crabshack.

Next time you're in class and the professor wants you to write, don't feel trapped! Life is in your writing, and writing is in your life.

ELC at Festival in the Park



A writer is somebody for whom writing is more difficult than it is for other people.

~Thomas Mann

**The cure for boredom is curiosity.
There is no cure for curiosity.**
~Ellen Parr



Think There's Nothing Going on at UNCC? Think Again! And They're FREE!

An Evening with Morgan Spurlock: Creator and host of the reality program 30 Days on the FX Network, he became his own guinea pig in the Academy Award nominated 2004 hit documentary Super Size Me.

Tuesday, April 8, 7:00 PM-8:00 PM
Cone Center, McKnight Hall

Invisible Children Screening: What started out as a film-making adventure in Africa, transformed into much more when the three young American's original travels took a divine turn, and they found themselves stranded in northern Uganda. They discovered children being kidnapped nightly from their homes and forced to fight as child soldiers.
Tuesday, April 15, 8:00 PM-9:30 PM
Mceniry, 124

Charlotte 49ers Baseball vs. Xavier
Friday, April 11, 2008 6:00 PM
Robert & Mariam Hayes Stadium

Seminar/Workshop
Tame your Mind and Rule your Body: Yoga and Meditation Tuesday, April 15, 12:30 PM-1:30 PM
Fretwell , 310

Charlotte 49ers Softball vs. NC State
Tuesday, April 15, 4:00 PM-8:00 PM
Phillips Softball Complex

Just a few offerings listed by Campus Events. For more information and other activities, check out http://www.uncc.edu/campusevents/event_query.asp?time=7days.

Case of the Mondays? Diagnosis: The Evening Muse. By Kyle Nafekh

The setting is dimly lit. I've arrived early enough to claim an old but comfortable couch in the corner. As I sit, I listen to live music from a variety of genres by local artists. What still surprises me is that it's a Monday night, and for \$3 I've found the best strategy for forgetting what day it is.

I'm talking of course about Open Mic night at The Evening Muse. To my right is a bar at which several of the acts sit, lit only by Christmas lights. Around the seating area are various tables, patio chairs, and a chaotic plethora of instruments carried, balanced, and leaned carefully by their charges. The intimate feel of the setting starts to grow on you, and a feeling of kinship to the artists taking the stage can't be helped.

All along the left wall is a showcase of acrylic paintings done by local artists, lit by dim spotlights. The random, dada-esque decorations surrounding the stage include old cymbals, hubcaps, and bicycle spokes all stuck to the wall over a muted blue background, and in places, exposed brick. More importantly, however, are the sounds of the night itself. Once you work past the introductions that are more-often-than-not at a volume too high for calling out band names, you'll find a surprising variety of music.

In just the last two weeks, I've heard a word poet, a young songwriting prodigy, a considerably impressive solo electric guitarist, a couple from Tennessee combining a double bass with a semi-acoustic guitar, and a jazz musician losing himself to his music in the middle of a song on his steel drums. Really, it's impossible to know what to expect when you head out for the night, which only serves to add to the appeal.

"Yes, but what does this have to do with English?" you may ask. Well, I've prepared an answer just for you. Playing almost every night is a solo artist by the name of Bob Doherty, who I've found has grown on me increasingly. Sitting on stage with his acoustic guitar, he fingerpicks and strums chord progressions reminiscent of Simon & Garfunkel or The Everly Brothers, and does it remarkably well.

Here's the kicker: as a high school English teacher, he sings about and makes reference to canonical works and pop culture of the past. The first time I heard him play, he sang about famous essayists such as Ralph Waldo Emerson and how their legacies have become little more than questions on a high school exam. Now, don't get the impression that his music isn't accessible; I found it poetic and entertaining even without prior knowledge as to who Emerson was. And he doesn't exclusively stay on topics of English literature either.

Maybe you've seen The Evening Muse, maybe you're heard of it. Located in the center of NoDa, it's not terribly easy to miss. Open Mic Night occurs every Monday night at 8 pm, on the dimly-lit, atmospheric stage. Sure, it's Monday, arguably the most stressful day of the week with deadlines looming. But as the new week approaches, there's no better Relaxation technique than welcoming it with an inexpensive and entertaining night out. So, I implore you: kick back on some patio chairs or a couch, expand your musical horizons, and support local artists by coming out to the Evening Muse Monday nights, for only 3 dollars. You'll be glad you did.

The Muse is located in the NoDa Arts District in Historic North Charlotte at 3227 N. Davidson Street (corner of N. Davidson & 36th). For more information: 704-376-3737 or <http://www.queencitymusic.com/theeveningmuse/default.htm>.





UNC-Charlotte Won't Ask, But It Certainly Tells

By Teshera
Kimbrough

Have you ever been discriminated against due to who you are? I ask this question to all of you who are reading this article because, believe it or not, everyone has been discriminated against in some way. Being on a college campus you would expect there not to be any discrimination due to the diversity of this campus, but sadly there is discrimination on the 49er campus. It is not by fellow students, but rather by a department. The Army ROTC program here at UNC-Charlotte is discriminating against those who are of a different sexual orientation. The program consists of a diverse array of people, males and females of different backgrounds and races. Yet the program is not as diverse as one would think: they forbid those who have homosexual relations to be who they are as people.

To be free and to be able to love who we want is an American right. It makes me ask, who are you to deny us, the American people who are of the very orientation you are trying to keep out, who are you to govern us and tell us who and how to love? Many of us have to settle for "serving in silence" which states that we can serve in ROTC only if we adhere to the military's policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," it states, "A member of the armed forces shall be separated from the armed forces under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense if one or more of the following findings is made and approved in accordance with procedures set forth in such regulations:

(1) That the member has engaged in attempted to engage in, or solicited another to engage in a homosexual act or acts unless

there are further findings, made and approved in accordance with procedures set forth in such regulations, that the member has demonstrated that—

- (A) Such conduct is a departure from the member's usual and customary behavior
- (B) Such conduct, under all the circumstances, is unlikely to recur;
- (C) Such conduct was not accomplished by use of force, coercion, or intimidation
- (D) under the particular circumstances of the case, the member's continued presence in the armed forces is consistent with the interests of the armed forces in proper discipline, good order, and morale; and
- (E) The member does not have a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts

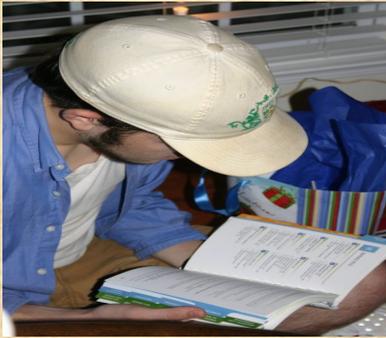
Along with this policy, there is another called the "Homosexual Conduct Policy" which says the same thing as the DADT policy, but for SROTC Cadets, "Although you have not been asked nor will you be asked about your sexual orientation, you should be aware of the DoD Homosexual Conduct Policy. Homosexual conduct is grounds for barring entry or continued enrollment in the SROTC Program. Homosexual conduct is a homosexual act, a statement that demonstrates a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts, or a homosexual marriage or attempted marriage. A homosexual act means any bodily contact, actively undertaken or passively permitted, between members of the same sex for the purpose of satisfying sexual desires and any bodily contact that a reasonable person would understand to demonstrate a propensity or intent to engage in such an act. I understand I will be disenrolled from the SROTC Program if one or more of the following findings are made:

- a. I have engaged in, have attempted to engage in, or have solicited another to engage in homosexual act or acts.
- b. I have made a statement that demonstrates a propensity or intent to engage in homosexual acts.
- c. I have married or attempted to marry a person of the same sex as myself (DoD Homosexual Conduct Policy Briefing CC Form 139-R). Here is the thing: for the first two

years, ROTC is considered an elective class. Therefore, there shouldn't be any standards that would not allow a person who just wants to see what the program is about to take the class, because people on college campuses are getting the wrong idea about what ROTC is about anyways. They say things like, "Oh I don't want to go to Iraq," or, "I don't want to join the military." ROTC is a great elective to those who want to know what real-life soldiers go through. It is a stepping stone to the U.S. Military; however ROTC itself is NOT the military. Therefore, it should not be allowed to say who can or cannot participate.

I am not just a woman who is writing about her own experiences with ROTC. Speaking as a woman of color and even a woman of lesbian identity, I feel that this form of discrimination should be dealt with. We as human beings are here to learn, and to expand our minds, which is why we strive and go to college, to expand our horizons. Who are we as people to deny the rights afforded to us by those who paved the way for us to make it happen in the first place? Shirley Chisholm, Sally Ride, Angela Davis, Dr. Martin Luther King, the women of the suffrage movement; these are just a few of the people who introduced the way for me to be able to do what I am able to do today. Yes, I am a lesbian. Yes, I am an African American woman. Yes, I deserve to be treated like everyone else, for I am not what you make me to be, I am what I make myself to be with my own mind. I do not need to be torn down and rebuilt; I am built and equipped with knowledge to know that discriminating against someone just because it's a law, is nothing but pure bigotry. To say that homosexuals have to be silent is pure ignorance, for what if the policy was to be read "Heterosexual Conduct Policy," to say that heterosexuals can not engage in acts or talk about their partners openly? Do you find it absurd? Why live in a world that is being torn apart by ignorance and discrimination?

Teshera is a second-year ELC member. We are proud to say that excerpts of this article can also be found in the March edition of QNotes at <http://www.q-notes.com/>



*How wonderful it is that
nobody need wait a single
minute before starting to
improve the world.*

~Anne Frank

Rewarding Experience By Jennifer Williams

As a member of the English Learning Community at UNCC, I participate in community service projects throughout the semester. Many of the ELC members have chosen to get involved with *Hands on Charlotte*, a non-profit volunteer organization that helps in various service projects in the Charlotte community. Many of us chose this organization because of its wide variety of service opportunities including pet therapy, ribbon walks, office help,

feeding the hungry, tutoring adults to get their GED, visiting Nursing homes, playing bingo with the elderly and, helping the environment with "Day at the Park." This organization provides a variety of projects on almost every day of the year to fit anyone's interests and schedule. I highly recommend Hands on Charlotte if you have a desire to benefit the community of Charlotte.

Recently, I volunteered for the "Cradles to

"Crayons" service project through Hands on Charlotte. This project was located at The Summit House which provides housing for non-violent women offenders and their children. Two of my fellow ELC members and I spent time with the children while their mothers attended parenting classes. We had the opportunity to engage in fun activities such as coloring, reading books, and watching movies with eight children ages ranging from infants to toddlers. It was a rewarding experience to get to help mothers committed to improving their lives and the lives of their children. Even though it was such a simple thing to do, it gave these mothers an opportunity to attend parenting classes with the comfort of knowing their children are going to be well taken care of. All of the children were a delight and I am so glad I had the opportunity to be part of this project. It's amazing how the one hour I spent with these kids lifted my spirits and put a smile on several children's faces.

For more information on Hands on Charlotte, go to www.handsoncharlotte.org

Nature's Way: The Easy Way to Eat Right

By: Rachael Woodward

Let's face it; the word "health" sells. Every advertisement presents its viewers with the latest "healthy alternative," whether it's a vitamin, cookie, or vacuum cleaner. We pat ourselves on the backs the body digest and absorb nutrients in food and are primarily found in uncooked vegetables and fruits. The secret to gaining all the benefits of "Live Food" is resisting the urge to cook it. Cooking removes the enzymes from the food leaving it with little beneficial value. The lack of enzymes forces the body into a state of toxicity. When the body is toxic, the metabolism not only works slower, but stores the indigestible food resulting in obesity

Next let's return to the term "natural" in order to construct a clear guide when shopping for "Live foods." "Live foods" are found in nature. In other words, all vegetables, fruits, sprouts, nuts, seeds, grains, sea vegetables, and organic (or natural) foods that have not been processed provide adequate nutrition for the body. Stay away from food in cans, bottles, or prepackaged items usually found in the aisles of your local grocery store.

Healthy eating boils down to providing the body with enzymes for digestion through eating foods found in nature: vegetables, fruits, etc. Although people disagree about the extent to which one should allow organic meat in addition to raw produce compared to remaining on a purely vegetarian diet, the right choice inevitably depends on the individual. Altogether, people who eat food grown or raised the way Nature intended acquire more energy and better health from their food because they have learned to provide their bodies with the necessities it needs to function properly.

If you want to learn more about "Live Foods" or how diet affects the body read *Maker's Diet* and *Patient Heal Thyself* by Jordan Rubin. You can also look online at "Live Foods and Raw Foods" located at <http://www.living-foods.com/faq.html>. "Live Foods and Raw Foods" provided some of the information and definitions found in this article. Recipes to help jumpstart your journey toward eating can be found both in *Maker's Diet*, *Patient Heal Thyself* and at "Live Foods and Raw Foods" as well as other books or websites about healthy living.

*Some not so healthy eating
at The Renaissance Festival*



*The first two
years of college
are vocabulary
lessons. The
second two
years are spent
learning who
to ask and where
to look it up.*

~ Bill Austin

First-Year Fears By Lauren Bongers

I arrived with my parents, lugging various items (many more than I needed) up to the third floor of my second home, my first dorm room. The first reality check I encountered was the realization that my thirteen stuffed animals would not be sharing my miniscule twin bed and would instead be carpooling back home with my grief stricken parents. However, this would only be one of the many challenges I would face as an UNCC freshman.

Another interesting fact of life would inevitably learn to find very true was the lack of appeal in campus dining. I was less than pleased to be corrected by an upperclassman for saying Residence Dining Hall instead of the more popular title, "Rather Die Hungry." Could the place where I would be eating most of my meals really be so bad? Well, it's now second semester and I can count on my two hands how many meals I have (attempted to) enjoy there.

I came across various other encounters which all molded me into the confident student I am today. Some of which hold

more importance than others. I became aware of the importance of studying and keeping up with classes, even when no one is there to tell you to "do your homework before you go out". I also learned the importance of making the right decisions based on your own intuition. With the freedom to do whatever you please, you learn quickly that you must make decisions that will affect you positively.

After I had learned these trivial shall I say "tricks of the trade" early on, all the pieces started to fall into place. I learned little things like where and where not to eat on campus and which building to go to in order to declare a major or pay a parking ticket (which most freshman seemingly tend to attain). But, more importantly, I learned how to manage a social life along with an eighteen credit hour semester.

Being a freshman in college is one of the most overwhelming experiences one may ever have to come across. During one's first year of college, it seems that change is inevitable and adjustments are necessary. However, these changes are well worth the wait and struggle. In my case, they have helped me to discover my purpose for being at UNC Charlotte, and also to gain the perseverance and confidence I need to pursue my goals. I can safely say that I have evolved from a nervous freshman student with nothing but thirteen stuffed animals as a support group, to a well-rounded college student with enough confidence to succeed.



Lauren Bongers and Travis Misenti

What I learned during my first year of college...

1. I work best when I plan ahead.

Man, I have two English papers, a Spanish vocab quiz, and a micro thesis due tomorrow morning.

Want to watch a movie?

Sure.



Comic by
Ashley Owens

ELC Top Ten List

Tips on Escaping the Nightmare of Registering for Classes

- 1. MEET WITH YOUR ADVISOR.** Even if you think you've got it covered, you may have an advising flag and can't register until you meet with him/her.
- 2. Speaking of flags, check BEFORE your registration date to make sure you're not blocked from registering.** That book fine from last semester could keep you from scoring a seat in a high demand class.
- 3. Sure, go on "Rate My Professor," but know that most comments are either from really good students or really bad (and usually disgruntled) students.** In other words, don't solely base your choice on professor rating sites.
- 4. For the first two years, experiment a little. Sign up for courses that interest you, even if they're outside of your intended major.** Rarely do students stick to their first chosen majors.
- 5. Pay attention to those little letters beside course numbers/descriptions.** Notice which ones are **Writing Intensive** or fulfill other requirements. You may be able to "kill two birds with one stone."
- 6. Sign up for at least one class in college that involves physical activity.**
- 7. Don't take all your Math and/or Science classes in one semester, especially if you're only trying to get the courses out of the way.** You may be setting yourself up for failure.
- 8. If you're not sure about a class, e-mail the professor and ask for a little more detail.** Just remember that like you, they're swamped towards the end of the semester; so look at course descriptions when they come out and e-mail your questions early.
- 9. Check out departments' websites to learn more about professors' interests.** Often, they will include course syllabi or more information about the professor- all of which can help you choose classes.
- 10. If a course is closed, try to meet with the professor to express your interest in the class.** E-mails from random, anonymous students will often get deleted, especially towards the end of the semester when professors are busy with their current students.