

# "ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL"

## Student Body Candidates 1988\*

### Brien Lewis

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1988 — a new year, a new semester. Now it's time for new faces in the recently opened political offices. Campaign posters are up everywhere and some of the candidates have already begun talking with students; with election day right around the corner, the choice will indeed be a difficult one. There are currently seven candidates running for Student Body President, each with his own style, experience and assessment of needs.

One of the candidates in the SBP race is Brien Lewis, a sophomore Political Science major from Toronto, Canada. He may bring many positive ideas to the UNC Governmental system, having served as District 16 Representative on the Student Congress.

His aim will be: "Working to improve student life on and off campus, protecting education by fighting cost increases and keeping opportunities open, and making government work better for students."

Lewis' platform targets many worthwhile issues including academics, housing and its lottery system and the parking policy, stating, "A never ending problem at UNC is parking. We will not solve all the problems in a year to be sure, but we can fight for some basic priorities — keep the cost down!"

The security of students is another of Lewis' main concerns: "Student government must act to ensure the safety of any individual on campus. It must stress more awareness education, better lighting and the installation of more emergency phones. Making SAFE escort more available and widely known is a high priority, and I would like to see the SAFE program expanded to provide escort services for people who would otherwise drive home drunk."

Lewis goes on to talk about many other campus issues including South Campus and the food service, saying, "I don't think that living in a dorm should mean you automatically pay \$100 on Marriott's food. It is basically and fundamentally unfair. Why not institute a board program option?"

Lewis has several additional planks in his platform, but let me conclude by mentioning his support for the black community. He believes the Black Cultural Center is a great idea and hopes that it will help increase minority enrollment.

"It is obvious that we must beef up the efforts of this administration, government and students: the numbers, time and money are not there and it shows."

If you would like to discuss any issues further, Lewis is willing to answer all questions.

### Jody Beasley

Our next Student Body President should be dedicated to Student Development. All students are here for basically one reason: to study, to get an education that will develop them toward a pro-

sperous and satisfying future. I am concerned about that development — Student Development.

First, it is about academics. Knowing classroom, department, and school policies and procedures, establishing services that can assist students in their classes, and starting relationships with professors, department heads and deans of the various schools on campus. Secondly, it is emphasis on practical experience for each student. Education is never better than when it comes through experience, and student government has the ability to offer any student practical experience in his/her preferred academic area and a title for his/her resume. This will not be done if students must apply to work on my committees, but instead I will provide an avenue, through the Caucus Board, for students to become active on personal concerns, with all of my support regardless of my personal feelings on the issue. We will become the most active student body that Carolina has ever seen. Student government should be concerned about Student Development. I am concerned about student development.

I will pursue a new openness and direct communication with all campus organizations toward and "Open Door policy" that should directly impact how minorities are supported on this campus. When I speak of open door, I mean not only my door, but the doors of all figures and offices that must deal with students on any level: faculty, administration and town. I believe that a person who actually lives and feels an issue daily will be much more effective in speaking, negotiating, and promoting thier specific concerns than any Student Body President. I owe you the chance to walk in the Chancellor's office, any Dean's office, and my office to express the personal insight that you can share. This is the only way that we could ever come to fully understand each other and work together toward the ideal of plurality on this campus.

Why will all of this come true? For the past two years, in roles as the Student Body Treasurer, Finance Committee Chairman, and Vice-Chair of the *Daily Tar Heel* Board of Directors, I have done more day to day, face to face service to students than anyone else on the ballot. I know who to look to and who to look out for in being Student Body President. That is why, from my very first day in office, five students, our advisor from Student Affairs, and one faculty member will serve as the Performance Assessment Committee (PAC) to focus solely on accountability.

Presently, when a Student Body President serves, there is no one to make sure that campaign promises and student services are actually delivered. The PAC, as an autonomous group, will make sure that if people call or come into my office, we will have answers. If committees are formed to address an issue, they will deliver positive results. If any part of student government seems to be faltering, they will be alerted and, with my support, be rejuvenated. The Student Body President and all of student government owes

students a good job; Performance Assessment says that we will deliver.

These three concepts: Student Development and Open Doors for you, and Accountability for me, are things that I live for everyday in being the best choice for your Student Body President.

### Bill Yelverton



Why is this election important? A new chancellor will lead Carolina into a new era, and the next Student Body President will set the precedent on how students will figure into this new beginning.

The next Student Body President must have an understanding of where Student Government has been and have a vision of where Student Government and this University should go.

I have the experience and innovation necessary to see that vision clearly.

As an Executive Assistant for former Student Body President Bryan Hassell I coordinated the Student Government Voter Registration Drives and was one of the chief organizers of the UNITAS Program in Carmichael Dorm.

This past year I was a Co-President of the Campus Y, the largest student organization on campus. Along with the Executive Committee, I helped rewrite the constitution and expand programs to include and reach more people.

Next year we will have the opportunity to make significant changes in the following areas.

In **Academics** I will work to see students involved in deciding the undergraduate curriculum, including the perspective system. By getting students back on the Educational Policy Committee of the Faculty Council we will strengthen our voice in the decisions made. A student voice should also be heard in the Faculty Tenure Deliberations process to look at the quality of prospective professor's undergraduate teaching as well as the quality of their research.

On **Campus** I will give a monthly State of the Campus Report to increase awareness of what student government is doing for you. One of the things we will be reporting on will be the creation of The Student Activities Resource Center (SARC). SARC would serve as a way for students interested in working on an issue to find out which groups are addressing it, and for organizations to see where they can work together to reach similar goals with less overlap. SARC will provide up to date information to get students involved all over campus.

Another area we will be able to report progress in will be minority concerns.

Minority recruitment and retention are two areas where I will focus the energies of my Administration. First of all, it is important that we realize that the concerns of a minority — any minority — are necessarily the concerns of us all. That we at UNC-CH pride ourselves on the strong academic and athletic programs offered here means the cheating of ourselves and others until those opportunities are extend-

ed to everyone. To that end I will address the crisis on three levels. First, we must educate ourselves and the residents of North Carolina about the services offered at Carolina. Second, we must work with the faculty and Administration to establish a firm commitment to cultural diversity on campus — in the student body, in the faculty, and in the Administration. And third, we must do everything in our power to keep those minorities who enroll at Carolina in college. I believe that we must work together to accomplish these goals in the following concrete steps:

I. With a coalition of student organizations, enlist the assistance of Dean Hayden Renwick as a resource at Fayetteville State (we will make sure there is a replacement here), Vice Chancellors of Gary Evans and Donald Boulton, and University System Vice President for Public Affairs Jay Robinson (former Superintendent of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System, the national model in achieving racial balance) in providing the backing and support to reach out to high school students before their senior year in recruitment.

II. We must make the commitment to minority students at home. This means being certain that a replacement for Dean Renwick is chosen as soon as possible. This also means being certain students are a part of this search. Minority Recruitment Weekends and the Black Cultural Center need to be expanded; the first is an opportunity to express our convictions, the second an embodiment of them. We all need support systems away from our families. Minority support systems are notably lacking on this campus. We can change this.

III. Academic Assistance Program/Minority Advising Program: Minority students have the ability to succeed at Carolina; we know that because they're here. So something here, within the University, is keeping these students from realizing their potential. I propose a combination of the current minority tutoring program with the tutoring program for credit set up by the executive branch this year. This would provide more tutors in a broader subject area. I would strengthen the Minority Advising Program separately so that the support offered to freshmen today is extended to sophomores who may be slipping through the cracks and leaving Carolina. To guarantee these changes we demand a capable person to try and fill the shoes of Dean Renwick.

I have referred to this situation as a crisis, but this is also the ideal time to act. If we work together and present the administration with workable plans we can make significant changes.

In the **Community** I will work to increase the student voice in town government. One way to achieve this would be the creation of an On-Campus Poll Site. The other is to appoint responsible students to serve as liaisons to the Chapel Hill Town Council and the Carrboro Board of Aldermen. A student voice is important not only for issues such as the noise ordinance, but also for issues that should concern us. One example is growth. I will appoint students to be liaisons to the planning boards of both communities to address these problems at their roots.

On the **State and National** level I will concentrate the effort for student financial aid on this campus while extending it to other college students in N.C. to strengthen our voice in Raleigh and Washington. I will also work to see that tuition is not raised.

Along with spearheading these efforts, worthwhile programs begun this year need to be developed further, such as the campus Shuttle System, the Student Cooperative Education Program and the Academic Advising Program.

Student Government gives us in-

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\*Information on other Student Body Presidential candidates was not submitted.