

Media Issues: CABJ Explains Endorsement of Wallsten

The Carolina Association of Black Journalists' endorsement of Peter Wallsten for Daily Tar Heel editor was a landmark in the organization's history. The act was a re-affirmation of the view that blacks are not a monolithic people, despite what the media would like for people to think.

Since last year, CABJ has strived to be a voice not only for blacks but more importantly, black journalists. Such an opportunity was presented Feb. 4 at a DTH editor candidates' forum, sponsored by The Daily Tar Heel, Society of Professional Journalists and CABJ.

While the Black Student Movement had already endorsed Wendy Bounds and Dacia Toll for editor, CABJ also had an obligation. As an organization dedicated to good journalism, it was essential to follow its own lead. Which candidate could best represent both the journalism and black communities collectively and accurately?

The endorsement of Wallsten over Toll and Bounds illustrates that although two organizations may have the same goal—fair representation of blacks in the media—each have their own respective agenda for achieving such a goal.

During the forum, CABJ's responsibility was as journalists and blacks, two equally important obligations. Each candidate was first judged on his or her knowledge and respect for the field of journalism. Issues such as accuracy and journalistic integrity within the newsroom were at the forefront.

Once this was established, CABJ then looked for the candidate who would take it upon him or herself to increase black (and overall minority) representation in the DTH's newsroom and retain these individuals. The organization wanted to support the candidate who was in touch with the black community.

Peter Wallsten possess all these qualifications.

Journalistically, Wallsten is aggressive. It takes aggressiveness to head a newsroom. In addition to

being a (City) editor, he is also a teacher. CABJ members who worked under Wallsten verified that he works closely with reporters. This act is very important in that many of the problems with the DTH have been inaccurate information (such as the now-infamous "Kappa Alpha Psi Sorority" mistake) and bad reporting.

Wallsten's commitment to working with reporters, and his other proposals, such as creating liaisons between the DTH and BSM, demonstrate a concern for accuracy and the training of students to become better reporters. Better reporters make better news coverage, no matter what the subject.

In addition, the forum was an opportunity to see how each candidate addressed his or her concerns, plans for the paper and journalism experience. Where some were defensive and vague, Wallsten was relaxed and specific. He had done research and presented an outline plan of his intentions.

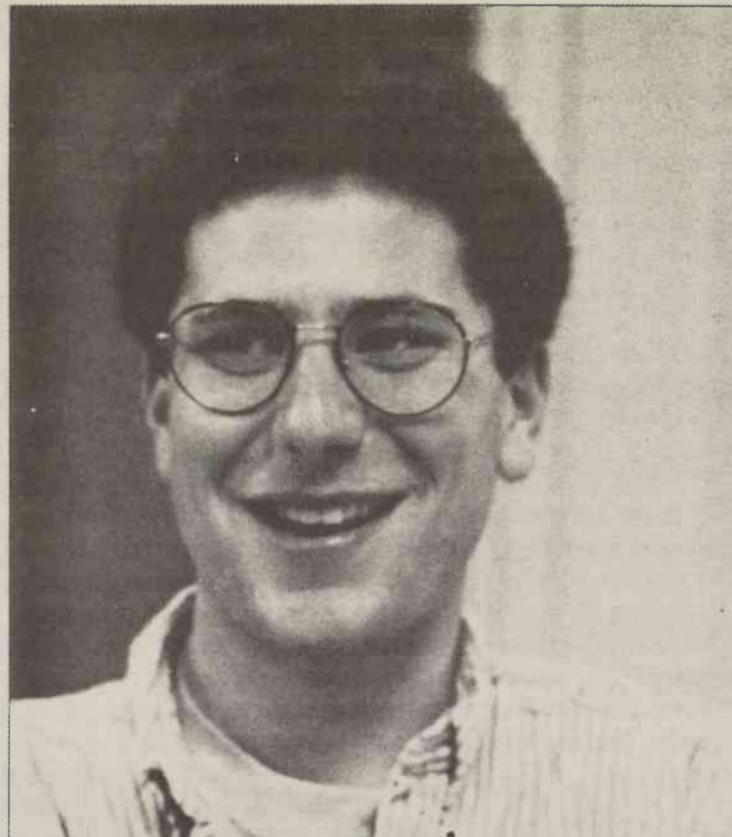
There was more than an

endorsement at stake during the forum. There was an organization's credibility. Because of its two-fold mission, CABJ was able to go beyond the campaign posters and promises. Our knowledge of the field enabled us to ask the right kind of questions and pass accurate judgement on each candidate's qualification.

Again, while the media try to make us feel something is terribly amiss when there is division in the black community over a particular issue, we cannot allow the media to wedge a permanent partition of divisiveness through our unity. CABJ and the BSM's different endorsements prove this point.

Blacks have never been a monolithic people. As a diverse community, we should recognize that it is okay to disagree. We also must learn to go beyond the political rhetoric and empty promises. It is essential that blacks themselves begin to choose their allies with more consideration.

The Media Issues writer was Jacqueline Charles.



Myron Pina/Black Ink

Wallsten (above) received the CABJ endorsement because he fulfilled all their requirements.

Carolina Brothers Assume Too much

By Valerie Fields
Guest Columnist

I wonder if professors enjoy watching us struggle. I wonder why bobsledding is actually considered a sport in the Olympics. I wonder if (heaven forbid) polyester will ever come back in style. I wonder why the sexes can't get along. I wonder why we don't ski. I wonder why I'm talking to myself, and what people are saying while I am. Just wondering...

I wonder why guys on this campus believe that once they get to Carolina they "got it like that." First, let me say that I had topics a lot more interesting and thought-provoking than guys. But due to recent demand and the need for a rebuttal to Wonderboy, this age-old discussion must persist.

Again, I noticed that Wonderboy had the audacity to make reference to us beautiful black sisters with the B-word (Feb. 4). Well, it's obvious that he is oblivious to the fact that it is disrespectful, and that we don't appreciate it. As they say, you can't teach an old dog new tricks. OK Wonderboy, we'll play by your rules this time. But if we're all b—s, what does that make you the son of? Thought so.

Now, that is settled, let's move on to the matters at hand. It is beyond my comprehension why if you speak to a guy on your way to class (or anywhere else), you are suddenly "on his tip." Somewhere I missed the connection between "Hey, Hi'ya doin'" and "Oooh baby, you are so fine, I want you to be mine—do me."

Those phrases don't sound alike, and they certainly don't mean the same thing. So, why do guys think they do? Trust me guys... "Hey, Hi'ya doin'" means just that. If a female is interested in you, she will come up with something more creative... 'cause we got it like that.

For the sake of argument, let's say that this girl is actually interested in you (for argument's sake only). Why do guys immediately assume that she wants to settle down into a deep, meaningful relationship, get married, have kids and live happily ever after? I mean, doesn't that seem a bit far-fetched?

So then, as the story goes, the two begin to 'talk.' And for the most part, there is a little genuine interest on both sides. But there's a difference.

If the girl is interested, she might actually CALL you or stop by to say, "What's up"—a simple gesture of courtesy. It doesn't mean that you two are committed to each other for life, or that y'all can't talk to other people. Trust me, she is doing just that. But no, y'all try to come off like the Mac Daddy 2000 and start trippin'. And then, the infamous question comes up? "Why is she sweatin' me so hard?"

But of course, I forgot, y'all got it like that. I-I-I-I don't think so. It only seems like you got it like that because by the time you're an upperclassman, you're outnumbered six to one by females on this campus. Trust me... it's only the numbers working in your favor.

Moving on.

So... Mike Tyson finally got his. I must confess that during this whole ordeal I was kind of rooting for Mike—hoping that by some weird twist of fate he was innocent and it was all some pathetic publicity stunt. Why? Because I honestly hate to see another brother go down. But, you've got to admit he's been asking for it. I'm sure that had he gone to Carolina (or any other institution for that matter), he would have been among the multitude of guys who "got it like that." And I'm sure he would have taken advantage of that six to one ratio.

I can imagine that the scenario that landed him a verdict of guilty for

See TYSON, Page 5