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# The Daily Tar Heel

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BOARD EDITORIALS

## Vote Songer/Walters

Student seating at the Smith Center has become one of the primary issues on campus, thrusting this year's Carolina Athletic Association presidential race into an even more important place than it has held in the past.

Keeping the importance of this race in mind, Michael Songer and Adam Walters are the best candidates for CAA co-presidents.

In the two weeks since the controversy began, they have established an impressive plan to redistribute lower-level tickets so that students will sit behind both baskets and the visiting bench.

The enthusiasm and hard work of Songer and Walters would buoy the fight surrounding student seating to a new level without losing any of the momentum surrounding the debate.

Student seating is, however, only one of many issues tackled by the CAA, and Songer and Walters have a diverse platform supported by thorough research.

The duo's commitment to all sports at UNC - beyond men's basketball and football - is especially impressive, along with their enthusiastic plans for Homecoming. They plan to publicize all sports at UNC with an updated listing of events and scores on a ticker in the Pit.

To be sure, current President Tee Pruitt is also a solid candidate and has worked hard

during his tenure in office. CAA president is a difficult job, and accomplishing things within the bureaucracy of the athletic program is difficult - as Pruitt learned when he tried to line up Outkast, Eminem and Sankofa for a Homecoming concert.

But Pruitt seems to have settled into his job as president and lacks the vision and enthusiasm necessary to improve a system that is in desperate need of fresh blood.

Also running for CAA president is Corey Bell. Extremely personable and friendly, Bell unfortunately has little to no substance in his campaign.

He says students already have good seats and therefore has no formal plan for improving seating. He also lacks specific, researched proposals for CAA improvements.

CAA president is a post that has a significant impact on who sits where, what sports get attention and whether any of us remember Homecoming the week after it happens.

Songer and Walters have made a lot of very bold promises, such as guaranteeing that UNC ONE Cards can be used for concessions at the first football game next year and refusing stipends for CAA officers.

Whether or not these things get done will be the real test.

But the pair deserve a shot at accomplishing their goals. One year from now, let's make sure they've kept all their promises.



Michael Songer



Adam Walters

## Yamakawa for RHA

The Residence Hall Association needs a strong voice and new ideas to truly serve the students at UNC in 2001. Presidential hopeful Robin Yamakawa has true potential to become that advocate for change and therefore deserves your vote.

This year, RHA President Murray Coleman has been more than a little silent on too many issues. Yamakawa has the right ideas to change RHA for the better.

The recent fires in Morrison Residence Hall have sparked controversy as to exactly who should be held responsible for student safety during such times of panic.

Unlike challenger Gaffney Gunter, Yamakawa thinks UNC shares part of the blame. She says the University owes it to students to meet them halfway when it comes to improving fire safety in residence halls.

She proposes making RHA members more aware of fire safety concerns throughout all the residence halls on campus. To get this important task done, Yamakawa said she and RHA leaders would tour the halls with town fire marshals for potential hot spots.

But Yamakawa also needs to ensure that something will actually be done to fix those problems. With the advice of fire marshals, RHA can make both students and UNC officials more aware of what needs to be fixed - be it adding sprinklers to residence halls or fixing old alarms that go off too often.

Yamakawa understands that with compromise, fire safety can be improved. Even as University officials try to sneak all the blame onto supposedly reckless students, Yamakawa points out that the Department of University Housing should be held more accountable for safety issues.

Yamakawa also hopes to improve the relationship among housekeepers, the University and students. She points out that housekeepers are not maids and should be treated with more appreciation.

However, she also says RHA's exact role in the issue is a little sketchy. Yamakawa needs to work on defining that role. RHA could be a strong voice in pushing for more money to improve housekeepers' salaries.

Yamakawa promises to serve as your advocate for residence hall improvement. She has the experience she needs. After serving on the RHA executive board this year, she knows firsthand ways to improve the association.

Vote Robin Yamakawa on Tuesday.



Robin Yamakawa

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## Student Congress Platforms

Sarah Tully Miller (District 4)

My mission in Student Congress next year would be threefold. First and foremost, I want to represent the graduate students in District 4 to the best of my ability. The primary responsibility for any Student Congress representative is the representation of his or her district.

Second, I want Congress to develop a funding philosophy, preferably in writing. This would be something for each year's Congress to do anew each year, but would allow groups to understand the funding methods, which would expedite and simplify the appropriations process.

Lastly, I would like to see UNC become a member of the United States Students Association. In saying, I want to see this fairly voted upon. I hope that students get the opportunity to vote on all the possible options, not only a few selected for them. I think being a representative means that I should take into account the opinions of my constituents first, before all else.

Matthew Duffey (District 6)

All too often on this campus, graduate students live in their own separate world, cut off from the undergraduates who are the lifeblood of the University. With stronger interaction between graduate and undergraduate students I envision a more unified campus.

More can be accomplished by the general student population and student government if we are all unified. One of my goals as a Student Congress representative is to help accomplish this unity.

As a Student Congress representative my goal is to specifically address the following issues:

1) Inadequate parking for graduate students on days of home football games.

**Solution:** Set apart one parking lot solely for graduate students who work on Saturdays.

2) There are events held by organizations funded through student fees that are not beneficial to the general student populace.

**Solution:** Student government must be more frugal and selective in distributing funds to student organizations.

3) Inadequate student seating at the Smith Center.

**Solution:** An increase and strategically placed lower-level student seating would provide a better home court advantage for the Tar Heels.

David Ruddell (District 6)

I have been very pleased with the performance of Student Congress this year. We have largely managed to avoid the bickering and squabbling that characterized Congress in previous years.

In other words, Congress has acted professionally. As an incumbent, I am well-positioned to ensure that this attitude will continue for another year.

Another aspect of this year's Congress that was very encouraging was the respect that was given to student organizations that appeared before Congress to request funds.

This was especially true of graduate and professional student groups who were often treated very badly in the previous years. With one exception, which was quickly remedied, that did not occur this year, and I will keep working hard to ensure that Congress continues to grant all student organizations the respect and consideration they deserve.

Robert Joseph Sullivan (District 9)

Sullivan did not turn in a platform.

John Clark (District 10)

In summary, my platform consists of improving the campus and my congressional district in ways that improve the students' educational and living experiences at UNC. I plan to do this in the following ways:

■ Propose legislation that will allocate money to the improvement of certain lecture halls.

■ Discuss the possibility of providing Marlock keys to the residents of Old East and Old West residence halls for entrance to Mangum Residence Hall in order to allow them easier access to their area office.

■ Explore the possibilities of placing personal computers in the library of Old East in order to make Internet access to Old East and Old West residents more accessible.

■ Interact extensively with the residents of the Spencer Triad area so their concerns of the campus and their area will be heard in Student Congress and then act accordingly.

My plan upon being elected to Student Congress is to tenaciously research the necessary steps to achieve the aforementioned goals

in order to bring these ideas to fruition as soon as possible.

Heather Yandow (District 10)

As a member of Student Congress, I will work for:

**Accessibility**

■ Of Student Congress, by creating a District 10 listserve and holding office hours in the residence halls.

■ Of those who make decisions that affect students' lives, by pushing for a visible decision-making process that involves students at all levels.

■ Of education at this University, by fighting against all tuition increases.

**Safety**

■ Of all students, by pushing for improved Point-2-Point service.

■ Of women, by working for a mandatory rape awareness and prevention class for all students.

■ Of pedestrians, by pushing for more enforcement of existing pedestrian safety laws.

**Improved Transportation**

■ For students with cars, by fighting for more student parking.

■ For students without cars, by working for better bus service.

■ For bikers, by advocating for more bicycle lanes on campus.

Bharath Parthasarathy (District 11)

**Accountability**

■ Mid-session report with all work done during the session up until that point.

■ Bi-weekly legislative update with voting record.

■ Office hours in Suite C, all the District 11 residence halls and the Pit.

■ Go door to door to get opinions and ideas on campus matters.

■ Inform students about the workings of Student Congress.

**Appointees**

■ Continue to push for diverse, knowledgeable and capable appointees for University committees.

**Student Fees**

■ Continue to advocate student fees in a fair, representative and diverse manner.

■ Work to better inform student groups about the budget process and all steps involved with asking for funds.

**Safety**

■ Advocate for better lighting and more emergency call boxes.

■ Consult with student groups concerned with campus safety when writing legislation.

**District 11**

■ Ensure easy access and maneuverability into all residence halls and buildings for students with disabilities.

■ Support integration of international students into the area and the University.

John Michael Vollmer (District 11)

Student Congress needs to work toward improving the safety of everyday life for students. This will allow all students the right to make the best of their time spent at Carolina.

Student Congress should focus its attention only on those issues dealing with the student body and the UNC campus. Student Congress should also become more visible on campus, taking initiative to inform students on issues the Congress is dealing with which will ultimately affect them.

Urenna Lekwauna (District 13)

Lekwauna did not turn in a platform.

Kia Scott (District 14)

Scott did not turn in a platform.

Sandi Chapman (District 15)

**Be Accountable to Students**

■ Update students about issues in student government that affect them by going door to door, e-mailing and using fliers.

■ Keep regular office hours so constituents will know where to place them to express concerns.

**Fight Proposals That Limit Financial Access to UNC**

■ Continue to serve on the steering committee of the Campaign for Educational Access and make sure students stay informed.

■ Support organizations like the United States Students Association that fight for financial aid increases for students at the federal level.

**Build a Cohesive Campus Community**

■ Support programs that work to meet the needs of non-traditional students, women and students of color.

■ Work in student government to develop

solid communication within campus community - students, faculty and staff.

■ Maintain support for projects and organizations working to unite students from diverse racial, religious and cultural backgrounds.

**Create Concrete Improvements in Students' Lives**

■ Keep night parking accessible for employees and nontraditional students without forcing the student body to pay more.

■ Improve safety for pedestrians on campus.

■ Oppose cutbacks in the Point-2-Point program.

Brandon Sessoms (District 15)

**Making Student Government Accessible to Students**

■ Student government should reach out to students and students should reach out to student government.

**Exploring New Ways, if Possible, to Improve Students' Quality of Life on Campus**

■ Always searching for methods and means to help students.

**Representing All Students**

■ Not just working for one particular part of the student body, but all students.

Alexandra Bell (District 20)

If re-elected, there are a number of issues I want to bring to the attention of Student Congress. These issues include Student Congress accessibility (this includes raising student awareness on pertinent issues), book prices, Point-2-Point fee increases and unfair city ordinances. I plan to be visible and as accessible as possible to the students in any district. I have already made great strides in informing students about important issues in student government.

Another issue is book prices; they are outrageous and something must be done. Several solutions such as book rentals, photocopying or sales to other schools are possibilities.

I would like to see increased service on the Point-2-Point van in student residential areas surrounding campus. After all, everyone would be paying the increase in fees, so everyone should receive benefits.

I also plan to address the recent moves by the town of Chapel Hill to restrict student living arrangements in area neighborhoods. These issues and more are my concerns for the 2000-2001 year.

Meghann Shinner (District 20)

The Point-2-Point van service should run for areas extending one mile outside of campus. All student fees cover the expense of this service, and therefore all students should be entitled to receive the benefits of it.

There should be more 24-hour computer labs that off-campus students can have access to. With the rise in popularity of mandatory discussion forums for classes there is a growing demand for access to the Internet, and busy students cannot always do their work during allotted computer lab hours.

Student groups should be funded in proportion to the number of members they have. Every group should be entitled to a designated minimum once they achieve the status of a club, but the more support a group garners from the students the more of the student fees it should receive.

An interactive Web site to gain student feedback on important issues that are facing Student Congress. This would help us as representatives truly understand and reflect our constituents' needs. I believe it would also increase awareness about the workings of Student Congress.

Anthony Larson (District 23)

**Improve Student Safety On and Off Campus**

■ Lengthen the Point-2-Point Xpress route to service off campus students who live near campus in high crime areas.

■ Begin a reverse P2P Xpress route or increase the number of shuttles on the existing route.

■ Maintain student accessibility to on-campus parking spaces after 5 p.m.

■ Work with the town of Chapel Hill to increase the number of streetlights in high-crime areas with student populations.

**Increase Student Awareness of How and to Whom Student Fees Are Appropriated**

■ Publish a list of student fee recipients and how much they receive in The Daily Tar Heel.

**Oppose the Tuition Increase**

■ Encourage administrators to find funding sources for the University other than students' pockets.

## The Lowdown on The Daily Tar Heel's Endorsement Policy

The Daily Tar Heel editorial board endorses candidates in all student races.

The editorial board consists of Editor Rob Nelson, Editorial Page Editor Scott Hicks, Assistant Editorial Page Editor Kelli Boutin and eight editorial board



members. The board's endorsement is completely independent of the DTH's news coverage of the candidates.

To be considered for endorsement, candidates must submit a platform, personal statement and resumé. Candidates for student body president, Graduate and Professional Student Federation president, Carolina Athletic Association president, Residence Hall Association president and senior class president and vice president must also interview

before the editorial board. Instead of an interview, Student Congress candidates must respond to a questionnaire decided on by the editorial board. The editorial board relies on that information to make its endorsement.

Candidates were required to turn in that information after the Elections Board held its official candidates meeting. Candidates who fail to meet all the requirements are not considered for endorsement. The endorsement reflects the consensus of the board.