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ROB NELSON
EDITOR
Office Hours: Fridays, 3 p.m. - 4 p.m.

The Daily Tar Heel

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BOARD EDITORIALS

Representative Voices

The Daily Tar Heel is endorsing several students who are bold and caring enough to aim for Student Congress seats.

Student Congress provides a voice for all students and allocates student fees to campus organizations. Congressional elections give students the chance to choose who will represent their concerns.

The DTH endorses the following Student Congress candidates based on platforms, personal statements and responses to survey questions.

Districts 1 (Two Seats), 2 and 3

No one sought these graduate student seats. The editorial board recommends writing in responsible candidates.

District 4

Sarah Tully Miller earns the DTH endorsement for this seat. Sarah believes that students should vote on all available options for United States Student Association membership and has expressed excellent ideas about improving training and pay for teaching assistants. She also wants to raise student fees to increase the number of activities made available to students.

But her belief that Congress should be involved in world and national issues, especially at a time when there are so many pressing University concerns, proves to be a negative aspect of her candidacy. In addition, her plans for allocating more student funds for transportation and lodging for student groups could put a severe strain on Congress' budget.

District 5

No one sought this graduate student seat. The editorial board recommends writing in a responsible candidate.

District 6

The Daily Tar Heel endorses David Ruddell. Ruddell, who is the incumbent in this district, has experience fighting for students' best interests. For example, as a member of the Committee on Student Conduct, Ruddell helped to stop an administration effort to include drug use as an Honor Code violation.

He also realizes that Student Congress is supposed to address issues of importance to students and admits that when Congress considers issues outside its jurisdiction, it damages Congress' reputation, making students think that the body has nothing better to do.

Ruddell serves as president of the DTH Board of Directors, which has no say in the paper's editorial content.

Districts 7, 8 (Two Seats) and 9

No one sought these graduate student seats. The editorial board recommends writing in responsible candidates.

District 10

Heather M. Yandow secures the DTH endorsement. Heather has expressed good ideas about requiring rape awareness and defense classes for students and will be an advocate for pedestrian safety if elected.

However, like Miller, she has said Congress needs to address problem outside the University. If elected, Yandow should make sure she addresses constituent concerns first.

District 11

Bharath Parthasarathy receives DTH approval for his concern for the disabled, a group of students whose concerns are often underrepresented. Parthasarathy will serve as a much-needed advocate for this constituency. He also has suggested improving the fee allocation process so that student groups better understand how to ask for funds.

Parthasarathy is a member of the DTH Board of Directors, which has no say in the paper's editorial content.

Districts 12, 13 and 14

No one sought the District 12 seat, and candidates Urenna Lekwauwa (District 13) and Kia Scott (District 14) failed to turn in the required materials. The editorial board recommends writing in responsible candidates.

District 15

The DTH endorses Sandi Chapman for her defense of groups that get shafted by the budget process.

However, her support of Congress' recent tendency to debate issues outside its jurisdiction is disheartening. She needs to focus on student concerns, not outside issues. In addition, the extent of her commitment to other activities leads the DTH to endorse her with reservations.

Districts 16 (Three Seats) and 17 (Two Seats)

No one sought these on-campus undergraduate seats. The editorial board recommends writing in responsible candidates.

Districts 18 (Three Seats) and 19 (Two Seats)

No one sought these off-campus undergraduate seats. The editorial board recommends writing in responsible candidates.

District 20

Alexandra Bell gets the vote of confidence from the DTH. She is very well-versed on transportation issues, which are especially important to her constituents, and she has displayed a willingness to fight town ordinances seeking to restrict student living arrangements.

Opponent Meghann Shinnars also provided the DTH with some good ideas, such as providing more 24-hour computer labs that off-campus students can access, and Bell should try to integrate them into her plans.

Districts 21 (Three Seats) and 22

No one sought these off-campus undergraduate seats. The editorial board recommends writing in responsible candidates.

District 23

The DTH supports Anthony Larson for his desire to keep the student body informed about Congress' actions. His ideas to improve student safety, such as lengthening the P2P Xpress route and increasing the number of streetlights in high-crime areas, are also commendable. In addition, Larson will prove to be a strong voice in opposition of a student fee increase and, if elected, he could help to ensure that any such increase would be reasonable.

Districts 24, 25 and 26

No one sought these off-campus undergraduate seats. The editorial board recommends writing in responsible candidates.



Write In Brian Bersticker for SBP

"Politics are now nothing more than a means of rising in the world."
- Samuel Johnson

"I am all about the Party Party."
- Brian Bersticker



BRIAN FREDERICK
ON TAP

Student government has always been more of a ladder for ambitious, egocentric students than an effective means of instituting change. Everyone knows real change comes from the University administration, and thank goodness. We don't really want to have to worry about consequential matters. We're in school. We want to have a good time and focus on our own education.

So when student elections roll around, the only people who give a damn are the candidates, their stooges/supporters and The Daily Tar Heel (case in point).

Student politicians act like real politicians. They all discuss the same issues. First, the candidates will all work for better food and prices in Lenoir Dining Hall. Folks, it's a school cafeteria: Get over it.

Second, they will work to prevent tuition increases. Tuition will always go up. It happens on every college campus. Look how successful previous student body presidents were at keeping it low.

Next, student politicians make numerous promises, attempting to appease all the concerns of the stooges who run their campaigns.

Of the six candidates running for student body president, Brad Matthews tops the list of shameless vote pandering. He made 42 promises in his recent platform in the DTH.

There are some gems. Matthews seeks to "institute a life-skills seminar" because "we all need to know how to prepare our own taxes, save for retirement and mortgage a house." A seminar on taxes? More people would attend a seminar on taxidermy. Matthews also promises a clock in every classroom. (Wear a watch, Brad.)

Some candidates come with a built-in voting base: their fraternity/sorority. Matthew Martin would appear to be that candidate, as he will sponsor a "Greek Service Day." Do we really need a day for this?

And given the common argument that fraternities/sororities are so philanthropic,

shouldn't there be more than one day a year?

Candidates like to make vague statements that seem to address serious concerns. Martin promises to "form a committee whose job is to inform students of programs and services that the University provides." (That would be one overworked committee.)

Erica Smiley promises to "make student government laws more understandable." (As if the reason we don't know student government laws is because we aren't smart enough to understand them.)

There's always a fringe candidate. Preston Smith and his campaign cronies meet at Jimmy John's. Guess I'll never run into them. Smith claims "the student body is currently at a huge disadvantage on campus." Really? "We are unable to control our own destinies or future within this University." Maybe you should pick a new major, Preston.

Let me think me too cynical, I will admit that I have seen leadership this year. Like many of you, I cheered my ass off at the UNC-Duke game.

As did one player on the Carolina bench: Brian Bersticker. The tall blond guy dressed in street clothes, Bersticker urged on the crowd throughout the game and had he been able to play, would have undoubtedly provided the lift we needed.

Hmm... Brian Bersticker for President. President Bersticker. He's the perfect write-in candidate. The UNC student body president and senior forward on the Tar Heels. Think about the story it would make on SportsCenter. And all the highlights next year. (Stuart Scott: and President Stick vetoes that shot. Boo-yah!)

And think about the morale boost we could give the team if we elected Bersticker as presi-

dent, especially going into March Madness.

It could let the team know that despite their struggles and the ugliness regarding student seats, we're still right there behind them. (Incidentally, who better to lobby for better student seats than Bersticker?)

His Cabinet could consist of Capel, Haywood, Lang and Owens.

In case you're wondering how Bersticker stands on all the "real" issues, he has only one promise: a bitchin' block party in the fall. I'm talking about shutting down a block of Franklin Street for a night and having a national act play on stage. We'll worry about the bands and the logistics later.

Just take a moment and imagine a night of unrivaled celebration in the early fall. We could hold it on the Friday night before the N.C. State game. Everyone would have a grand time.

Now, here's how we elect Bersticker. You're going to have to vote. I'm sorry. I normally don't do it, either. But I promise you that if you find just five minutes on Tuesday, they will be worth a whole evening come this fall. The easiest places to vote are the Student Union, Granville Towers, Chase Hall, the School of Law or Hanes Art Center. Write in "Bersticker."

(Perhaps you're supposed to be voting for one of the other candidates. Well, you're in luck. Fortunately, no one will ever know how you vote. Write in Bersticker, the Party Party candidate. You know a big party sounds a lot more exciting than anything your candidate is proposing anyway.)

All, make sure you tell your friends. At parties tonight, discuss who you'd like to see play the big block party. E-mail all the listerservs supporting Bersticker. How about some signs at the Wake Forest game? Keep that spirit going through Tuesday.

This could really be fun. And who would have ever thought voting could be fun? Write in Bersticker for student body president on Tuesday and we could be celebrating throughout March and next fall.

Brian Frederick is a graduate student in journalism and mass communication from Lawrence, Kan. Reach him with questions and comments at brifred@yahoo.com.

GPSF Write-In Candidate Platform

Why write in Thad Woody?
■ Experience and dedication to UNC ...

As an undergraduate at UNC, I served as senior class president in 1996 and two consecutive terms in Student Congress. While serving in these positions, I had the opportunity to network with the University community and state legislators.

I returned to UNC for law school because I genuinely enjoyed my time here and the opportunity to serve the University community. I hope to continue this tradition of service by advocating for graduate and professional students as Graduate and Professional Student Federation president.

■ An advocate for graduate and professional students ...

Serving as GPSF president requires you to be in the spotlight at various times, addressing what are now unknown issues.

Whether opposing a tuition increase in the state legislature or representing

graduate student concerns to a new chancellor and provost, the issues that may materialize during next year's presidency will require adaptability.

I have experience working with both University administration and state legislators to stop a proposed tuition increase and have established relationships that would allow me to attack a variety of issues.

■ Housing ...

One of the biggest concerns affecting graduate and professional students in the upcoming year is housing.

Although the numbers are not large, for some students, student housing is a necessity.

In my role as a member of the committee, deciding what to do with the



Thad Woody

Horace Williams tract of land, I will work to have new graduate student housing included in the design plans.

■ Childcare ...

The availability of childcare has been a complaint among graduate and professional students for several years. The University provides very limited childcare services, but the communication between graduate and professional students and those opportunities often falls short.

I will highlight the problems of student parents to the new chancellor and ask him or her to address the pressing needs.

Also, the lack of childcare for toddler-age children and for school-age children during public school holidays and cancellations is a problem which I will lobby to alleviate. Further, the opportunity for children of students in family housing to access University facilities and attend sporting events should be reevaluated.

■ Helping Teaching Assistants ...

As a TA in the UNC School of Law, I can attest to the fact that we are underpaid. TA stipends seem to be the last thing the University supports during years of budget crunches, which inevitably seem more often than not at a state university.

Although I cannot promise better pay for all TAs, I will advocate strongly for better pay.

What the University can do, however, is express its appreciation to TAs, which begins by restoring full funding to the TA Appreciation Barbeque. TAs play a tremendous role in the teaching process at UNC. That should not go unnoticed or un-rewarded.

Also, I will lobby vigorously for the funding needed to implement the recommendations of the Task Force on Teaching Resources so that no TA has to pay out-of-pocket expenses to teach classes.

■ Institutional pride and social interaction ...

Graduate and professional students

are often left on the perimeters of University life. As a past member of the UNC General Alumni Association Board of Directors, I believe that graduate and professional students would be interested to learn more about the history of the University and the opportunities that are here outside of their respective departments.

Sponsoring an evening at the Alumni Center that highlights University life and the history of the University would help promote institutional pride among graduate and professional school students and would hopefully make their time at the University more meaningful.

Also, I will continue the popular GPSF-sponsored socials that began this year.

■ And about those basketball tickets ...

I'm a fan of all Tar Heel sports, but I have to mention basketball. The recent debate between undergraduate students and the Department of Athletics regarding decent student seating at men's bas-

ketball games has been exhilarating.

Almost every year since I have been at Carolina (and it's been a while), the debate has taken place. Never before has there been so much student enthusiasm.

As an alumnus and a person who has worked with the Educational Foundation on other issues in the past, I would throw my support to the students and the Carolina Athletic Association.

I would also work to preserve and expand ceiling fan seats for graduate students who might not have time to wait in long lines but who are serious fans nevertheless.

Please share your thoughts and remember to vote ... I welcome your comments and feedback about this platform.

Please e-mail me at twody@email.unc.edu. I look forward to hearing from you.

Please remember to write in Thad Woody for GPSF president on Tuesday.