

Dees: Editorship Longtime Goal, Wants Paper to Go Back to Basics

Matt Dees, candidate for DTH editor, uses comic relief to handle the daily stresses of working in the media.

By **STUART CRAMPTON**
Staff Writer

Some students choose to attend UNC because of the oft-cited quality of education and the worth of a UNC degree. Others can't resist the rich Carolina tradition.

Matt Dees, on the other hand, became a Tar Heel so he could land a thankless job — one requiring long hours, thick skin and an appetite for stress.

The Daily Tar Heel's State & National editor, Dees said he wanted to be the DTH editor since he was a senior in high school. "It's a lot of work, and the pay's crappy, but the DTH is the reason I'm here," said Dees. "I want to give back to the paper and get back to more objectivity and balance in everything we do."

"We see ourselves too often as a student paper, but we need to be a paper for the whole University."

A junior from Fayetteville, Dees understands the value of comic relief under merciless deadlines. One

moment he might argue the semantic accuracy of a front-page headline. Give him a minute though, and he'll sing South Park songs off-key while spinning full tilt around the newsroom.

A journalism and political science double major, Dees said he owes his precision as a writer and editor to his mother, Beth, a middle school English teacher. But it was Dees' father that nurtured an interest in politics and the media.

"My dad and I are basically political junkies — that's how we bond," Dees said. "And he makes a lot of criticisms of the media that I've picked up, and so whenever I'm doing something for the paper, I ask myself if my dad would think this was fair."

Dees plans on a career in newspapers and will join the editorial board at the St. Petersburg (Fla.) Times this summer.

"I've always been opinionated so I might as well get paid for it," Dees said. "My dream job would be to write



DTH State & National Editor **Matt Dees** seeks to make the paper's coverage more objective.

columns in my boxer shorts from home by age 30."

Friendly and driven, Dees has one friend at the DTH who can relate to more than just his love of the news.

Managing Editor Cate Doty and Dees were born just 12 hours apart in Fayetteville — friends since the seventh grade, when their lockers were only feet apart. A decade later, the two friends are the candidates for the helm of the DTH and prove that opposites attract.

"We have our political differences — she is more of a free spirit, and I'm more conservative," Dees said.

"I can remember giving her a Rush Limbaugh book as a joke before she gave me a book by (British feminist) Mary Wollstonecraft. Neither one of us read the other's book, but it's funny because we've always kind of challenged each other."

Challenging his fellow staffers and writers is something for which he has a knack, knowing when to push for improvements and when to push harder.

"It really does pain me to hear people criticize the DTH," he said. "I can understand where it comes from, and that's why I want to improve community perceptions and take us to a new level."

The Features Editor can be reached at features@unc.edu.

Doty: Staffers Need More Training; Continue Outreach to Community

Cate Doty, candidate for DTH editor, de-stresses by attending local jazz concerts and heading to the beach.

By **STUART CRAMPTON**
Staff Writer

Adhering to an accepted tribal lingo in the office, she sometimes punctuates her sentences with a charismatic "yo."

She has also been known to dance shamelessly to the Sanford and Son theme song in front of fellow students. But behind the laid-back demeanor, Managing Editor Cate Doty is a driven sophomore who's eager to take the helm of The Daily Tar Heel.

A native of Fayetteville, Doty's position has afforded her an overarching insight into the daily grind of the DTH. Although she'll openly joke about why she would want "less of a life and more stress," Doty's decision to apply for editor of the DTH is one that's fueled by a sense of accomplishment each time she helps put the paper to bed.

"I get to see UNC history while it's happening, and that's the incredible part of working for the paper," Doty said.

A natural people-person with a disarming smile, Doty said her work at the DTH this year has taught her how to

edit with each staff writer and adjust how she gives criticism.

Doty recognizes that the DTH is one of the best college dailies in the country, but she knows there's room for improvement. Some areas she aims to work with are the quality of writing, the depth of reporting and the up-to-the-minute capabilities of the online edition.

"One of our weaknesses is that we know we're a good news source, but we could be a 24-hour news source online," Doty said.

A jealous mistress for Doty, the DTH consumes a large part of her day and deprives her of several hours of sleep each week. She doesn't mind though. Nor does she fail to keep a life outside the DTH.

Majoring in history and journalism and fluent in French, Doty takes refuge from school pressures and the newspaper by catching live jazz shows at Weaver Street Market in Carrboro and heading to the beach when she can.



DTH Managing Editor **Cate Doty** said she believed the DTH could be a 24-hour news source online.

"I also try to make sure I keep good friends outside the DTH," Doty said. "I love my friends at the paper, but outside friends help keep me sane."

Doing everything from reporting to designing ads, Doty interned as a jack of all trades at a community newspaper in Spring Hope last summer. After all that she learned there, Doty is more sure than ever that she wants to be a journalism professor and possibly a publisher.

Doty took a year off from school before transferring to UNC from Barnard College in New York City. She made the move because she liked the feel of the campus and knew friends who were enrolled at UNC.

Doty continues to look for a job for this summer, but said if she was selected editor she would get to work immediately to prepare the DTH for next year.

Citing the 22 seniors who will leave vacancies at the paper after graduation, Doty said next year would be particularly challenging, but it's an adventure that she's ready to take up.

"It's intriguing to me how you can pull the less-experienced people up to another level," Doty said. "It's rewarding to help them see what they do because the DTH is a learning experience about working with people."

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Parking 2000

The Department of Public Safety is offering parking pre-registration for the 2000/2001 academic year Tuesday, April 4, 2000 through Friday, May 19, 2000. Visit the Department of Public Safety's website to pre-register and find out more information about student parking for next Fall:

"www.dps.unc.edu"

The pre-registration process is a lottery; all those who pre-register between April 3 and May 19, 2000 have an equal chance of receiving a permit. So, pre-register online, and put yourself in the driver's seat when it comes to parking next year.

For more info, call the Department of Public Safety: at (919) 962-3951
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"I learned that change is not easy, but it is possible."

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For more information, visit the AmeriCorps booth at the Spring Job Fair on April 5, 2000 or contact Mary Bratsch at: americorps@email.unc.edu

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Campus Calendar

Today

7 p.m. — The Peer Mentoring Program will hold an interest meeting in 111 Murphey Hall for all students who would like to serve as mentors to incoming freshmen.

7 p.m. — Lee Sutar, member of the International Socialist Organization's National Steering Committee, will give a talk on "Why You Should Be a Socialist," in 431 Greenlaw Hall. The event is open to the public.

Wednesday

3 p.m. to 6 p.m. — There will be a last-chance tax seminar for all international students and scholars in 104 Howell Hall.

3:30 p.m. — Dr. Ned Block from New York University will deliver a lecture on "The Harder Problem of Consciousness," which is co-sponsored by Department of Philosophy in 112 Davie Hall. Admission is free.

5 p.m. to 6 p.m. — **Donate Life: Marrow Typing Organization**, will hold an informational meeting for minority campus groups in Union 208-209.

For more information, please contact donatelife@listserv.oit.unc.edu.

6 p.m. — The **Management and Society Association** will hold its meeting in Union 212 to elect officers for next year. The meeting will also feature Chanda Douglas, director for human resources at Piedmont Health Services, as a speaker. Refreshments will be provided.

For the Record

In Monday's article titled "Game Crowd Floods Downtown," the restaurant 23 received a citation for overcrowding, not 23 Steps. The Daily Tar Heel regrets the error.

Planet in Crisis: Sustainable Development Solutions

A free public lecture by **Charles Secrett**

Executive Director of Friends of the Earth UK and one of the world's leading environmentalists

Thursday, April 6, 2000
7:00pm

Kresge Commons Room, James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence in Graham Memorial
Beside the Morehead Planetarium on Franklin Street

Carolina Environmental Program
UNC-Chapel Hill

Sponsored by the Carolina Environmental Program, in cooperation with the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence, the Honors Program, the Morehead Foundation, the Burch Fellows Program and the University Center for International Studies.

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The Princeton Review

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SPORTS SHORTS

UNC Spring Football Game

Saturday, April 8, 2000 - 3:30 pm
Kenan Stadium
April 8th is Super Saturday!

Catch the excitement of 2000 Carolina Football!

Come preview the 2000 Carolina Football Team in the annual UNC Spring Football Game on Saturday afternoon, April 8, 2000 at beautiful Kenan Stadium! Admission is Free, and kick-off is at 3:30 pm with a post-game autograph session!

Before the football game at 3:30 pm, come support...

- UNC Softball versus Virginia at 12 pm at Finley Field
- UNC Men's Tennis versus Georgia Tech at 1 pm at Cone-Kenfield Tennis Center
- UNC Men's Lacrosse versus Virginia at 2 pm at Fetzer Field

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