

Board Editorials

Vote Tepper for SBP

Matt Tepper's lengthy experience in student government and beyond, coupled with a platform of innovative ideas, make him the clear choice for student body president.

Earlier this month, The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board faced a major problem – members couldn't decide which of two candidates for student body president to endorse.

After hours of debate spread over several days, the issue came to head Feb. 6, when board members spent more than four hours in a small room in Greenlaw Hall exchanging increasingly barbed comments. A bare majority eventually voted to endorse former student body president candidate Nathan Cherry instead of Matt Tepper.



Matt Tepper

With Cherry out of the race, the DTH editorial board enthusiastically endorses Tepper for student body president.

Tepper has the necessary experience in dealing with campus affairs from his service in former Student Body President Justin Young's Cabinet and the successful campaign to fight night parking permits. Tepper also is versed in the inner workings of state government from his past involvement with the Young Democrats and with efforts to register students to vote. This experience will come in handy for lobbying legislators not to hike tuition or drastically cut UNC's budget to make up a \$2 billion budget shortfall.

Throughout the campaign season, Tepper demonstrated a strong ability to relate to small student groups – being able to both joke with them and also to share meaningful ideas.

Although he often appeared awkward or uncomfortable at first before large groups, he soon relaxed, and his passion for the University's future and for students' welfare came shining through. This problem could be solved easily by brushing up on public speaking skills.

Tepper has assembled a strong platform that would benefit most students. His promises are a good blend of simple ideas – including bicycle pumps for students – and the long-term – registering students to vote and increasing student voice on the Chapel Hill Town Council.

Tepper shows a clear understanding of the difficulties that Student Body President Jen Daum has gone through this year – especially with the Town Council's attack on duplexes – and has proposed

concrete solutions to solve them. Out of all Tepper's proposals, however, the one that stands out both for originality and knowledge of campus affairs is the student wish list.

Tepper wants to assemble a list of students' wants and put them on the Internet for potential Carolina First donors to browse. Tepper hopes that the items will strike donors enough for them to contribute money – ensuring that the \$1.8 billion fund-raising campaign has a tangible effect on the student body.

As for Shin ...

Sang Shin is extremely likable and charming – someone you'd love to talk with while sharing a pitcher of beer. But that's just not enough to fulfill the myriad responsibilities of student body president.

Shin's platform is next to impossible to accomplish – that's why he lists many items as proposals rather than promises. For instance, his proposal to increase the number of out-of-state students would require permission of N.C. legislators – a group notoriously antagonistic when it comes to out-of-state students.

Additionally, his proposal for the University to rent off-campus apartment buildings and treat them as a campus residence hall – complete with resident assistants – would raise cries of protest from local landlords and create a logistical nightmare for housing department officials.

Shin also failed to address many of the challenges facing campus – such as not even mentioning women's issues or the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

Shin lacks the experience in student government necessary to fully understand the role of student body president – making for a very real danger that Shin doesn't comprehend what the position entails.

Shin does have a good concept of diversity – reaching out to minorities on all campus topics including tuition – that Tepper should adopt. But that doesn't make up for Shin's shortcomings.

Cast your vote for Matt Tepper – an experienced candidate capable of bringing worthwhile changes.

Vote for Leamon-Melton

Senior class officer hopefuls George Leamon and Doug Melton have the experience, drive and dedication necessary to lead the class of 2004 to success.

If any students can talk about how cold it's been the past two weeks, it's George Leamon and Doug Melton.

That's because Leamon and Melton, who are campaigning for senior class office, have been living in tents out on the quad to show their dedication.

The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board endorsed Leamon and Melton for senior class president and vice president for that level of commitment during the general election, and we heartily do so again for the runoff.

When candidates came in for interviews two weeks ago, Leamon and Melton were sharp, motivated and ready to go, like many of the others. But the pair's lengthy record of service and personal friendship set them apart. These guys aren't pulling cheap tricks to win an election.

Board members were particularly impressed when Melton told members that he moved to Morrison Residence Hall his junior year to be a resident assistant and serve as a role model to black underclassmen.

Doing community service, giving your two or three hours at a time is one thing. But living on South Campus your junior year to help your community is off on another world.

The board is confident that the pair will continue to serve as role models if elected to office.

Leamon and Melton have very modestly shied away from flaunting their résumés, but they are both stacked and equally impressive. We can't list all their accomplishments here, but we urge you to check them out at <http://www.unc.edu/george>.

Leamon and Melton won a 10-point lead in the general election by no accident. They've shown juniors that they

really care and convinced students one on one that they're the right guys for the job.

At the risk of sounding cliché, we urge you not to take our word on it. Talk with George Leamon and Doug Melton yourself. Ask about their qualifications and their ideas for senior year.

You know where to find them. We're sure they will be more than happy to see you.



George Leamon and Doug Melton

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above editorials are the opinions of solely The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board, which were reached after open debate. The board consists of eight board members, the assistant editorial page editor, the editorial page editor and the DTH editor. The 2002-03 DTH editor decided not to vote on the board and not to write board editorials.

READERS' FORUM

Shin's Radical Approach To Student Government Could Boost Involvement

TO THE EDITOR:

Today, I'm going to vote for Sang Shin in the student body president runoff. I believe that Sang has the ability to get things done while in office. In addition to his open and welcoming nature, he has a new approach to student government. Rather than presenting a platform with countless ideas, many of which have been tried before unsuccessfully or are already in the works through other campus offices, Sang has a concise and well-researched platform that focuses on the most pressing campus issues.

From tuition to student apathy, Sang plans to attack the major issues first, ensuring that these problems will receive the attention they deserve. Once the major issues have been dealt with, Sang will use his ability to communicate with students and administrators to begin working on other projects to be determined by student feedback. With this new approach Sang will be a very effective student leader. Past student leaders have spread themselves too thin, starting many projects but completing few because it is not possible to solve every campus problem in one year.

The Shin administration will start a new

era of student government marked by success, achievement and student involvement. If you want to see real improvements in student life at UNC, vote for Sang Shin today.

Zoey LeTendre
Sophomore
Communications

Tepper Has Experience Required to Fill Student Body President Position

TO THE EDITOR:

Nathan Cherry's slogan for his student body president candidacy was "experience matters." I completely agree, and that's why I hope his former supporters will join me in voting for Matt Tepper today.

Matt has extensive experience in student government dating back to his freshman year, when he was the co-chairman of the Freshman Focus Council. Last year he was an executive assistant to the student body president. In these roles he has worked in many facets of the executive branch, giving him a very good sense of what issues need to be addressed and how to go about addressing them. It would be extremely difficult to run student government if you had never been in it.

One of the biggest issues for students this

year was the ban on duplexes by the Chapel Hill Town Council. It is possible for that body to work without taking into account student interests. Matt says he's going to change that, and his experience as director of voter registration for Young Democrats gives me every reason to believe he can.

Nathan Cherry and Ben Pickett ran admirable campaigns, and I thank them for their willingness to serve our University. I hope that as their supporters think about who to support today they will go for another candidate with extensive campus leadership experience and a well-thought-out platform. Matt Tepper is the man for the job.

Tom Jensen
Freshman
Political Science and History

Protesters at Basketball Game Should Be Expelled For Embarrassing Antics

TO THE EDITOR:

To the students who ran on the court during the basketball game, I have the following message. Each one of you should be expelled. Not only did you embarrass our school, the fans and the nation as a whole, you could have cost us the basketball game. The momentum was swinging

in our favor, and that despicable display could have swung the momentum in Virginia's favor. Your love for UNC and UNC basketball should be much greater than you have shown.

Nick Carr
Graduate
School of Information and Library Science

Putting Yearbook on CD Poses Difficulties Leamon, Melton Didn't Consider

TO THE EDITOR:

I would like to address the platform of senior class president and vice president candidates George Leamon and Doug Melton. In their platform, they state that they would like to work toward, "creating a CD-ROM version of the Yackety Yack." I am the editor of the Yackety Yack. I feel that the student body should know that George and Doug do not have the authority to accomplish this.

In their platform, they also state that they would like to make the yearbook cheaper. The Yackety Yack is only \$60, which is probably about what most of us paid for our high school yearbooks. The money to produce the book comes solely from our sales and the fund-raising that the

care and higher education. The people suffer from limited access to medical care and high unemployment. Higher education is virtually free, but it involves a lot of specialization. These obvious differences between Spain and America were telling and informative, forcing me to crystallize my notions of what makes for sound economic policy and successful higher education and tempering some of my views about the necessity of a national health care program.

It is impossible to describe the Spanish ethos in this column, but what is certain is that every nation a Carolina student could visit through the University's extensive study abroad offerings has its own peculiar character and idiosyncrasies. The only way to truly understand this and learn to appreciate the many things we take for granted here in America is through prolonged immersion abroad.

I wish more students studied abroad in countries where the native language is not English. Obviously, certain programs are only possible in places like London, and that's wonderful. But there's something to be said for the thrill (terror?) of having to express your needs in a foreign tongue. Not only that, but bilingualism is an extremely powerful asset in today's global market.

Besides, in addition to being a valuable experience, studying abroad is probably the most fun you'll ever have.

Reach Rachel Gurvich at gurvich@email.unc.edu.

The Daily Tar Heel

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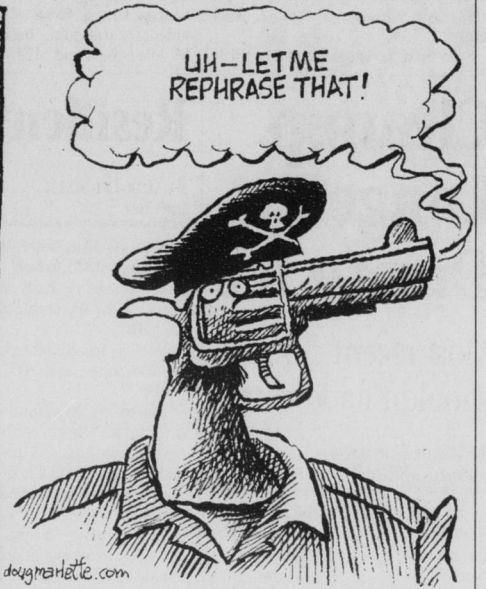
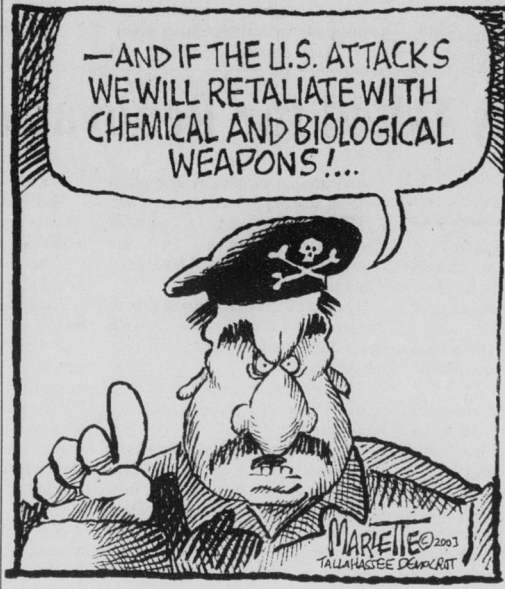
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Studying Abroad Offers New, Unique View of U.S. Culture

Last spring, I saw processions of hundreds of people clad in what looked frighteningly like Ku Klux Klan robes. It was disconcerting even though they used the costume first, hundreds of years ago.

Many of them carried elaborate statues of crying virgins or images of Jesus on the cross, others held incense, and still others formed part of the band that accompanied every group. The hooded adults passed out candy to the children looking on, and foreigners like me were baffled to see well-dressed, sophisticated women, clad in tight black clothes, with tears in their eyes at the sight of the beautiful, historic images of the Savior's mother.

I spent that semester in Sevilla, an amazing city in the south of Spain. I did things I never thought I'd do. I had my gazpacho stolen from me by a gypsy in a pigeon-filled plaza to the faint sounds of the strumming of a guitar. I traveled to Andorra, a tiny country in the Pyrenees that no one else has ever heard of, let alone hiked in. I sipped an ancient aphrodisiac brew in an Arabic teahouse in Granada and took flamenco lessons.

Study abroad is an integral part of the college experience. When else would you get to spend a few months in a foreign land, young, carefree and (if you're lucky) on your parents' dime?

I know a lot of people reluctant to spend even a semester away from the Southern Part of Heaven. But time away from the University and out of one's country is an integral part of a complete education.

As cliché as it might sound, spending time abroad teaches you an incredible amount about yourself. Learning to thrive in a place with different rules and norms allows you to evolve and grow. The experience of being a "stranger in a strange land" forces you to re-examine your own behavior and discover a lot about who you are and what you like.

When I was abroad I had the unique opportunity to view my own country through another lens. Reading about the American government and the Bush administration in *El País*, a left-leaning Spanish newspaper, and watching the daily news programs offered valuable insight into one country's perspective on our government and policies. I observed what could be called instinctive disdain augmented by a lack of understanding of what we're about and the logic behind our actions.

Talking with foreign students, you'll gain insights about the way Americans as a people are perceived. Perhaps you'll even manage to dispel some of the nasty rumors circulating about us.

In Spain, the government controls health

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 300 words and must be typed, double-spaced, dated and signed by no more than two people. Students should include their year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff should include their title, department and phone number. The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Publication is not guaranteed. Bring letters to the DTH office at Suite 104, Carolina Union, mail them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 or e-mail editdesk@unc.edu.

staff does. If we went to this form of publication, we would lose significant money.

The Yackety Yack is also a nationally ranked yearbook. By changing the format to CD, it seems that the quality of the book is reduced in a way. Though I feel that the CD could be something sold in conjunction with the actual book someday, I do not feel that it is something to be sold separately.

George and Doug did not take the time or effort to look into the feasibility of this proposal. I do realize that proposals in platforms are tentative ideas. However, when making a platform, it seems as though the candidates would want to include things that they would actually be able to accomplish.

I am not saying that George and Doug would not be good officers; however, from this example it seems they need to work harder to fully represent the senior class. I do not want the junior class to vote for something that could not be accomplished during their senior year without knowing the facts.

Sandy Greene
Editor
The Yackety Yack

Editor's Note: In an interview with the editorial board, Doug Melton said he discussed the issue with a representative from the Yackety Yack, who maintained that it was feasible and a good idea.