

BOARD EDITORIALS

PICK CALABRIA TODAY

Matt Calabria is best suited to represent students, given his thorough understanding of the important role of the student body president.

The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board consistently has been of the opinion that the single greatest challenge facing the student body president in the coming year will be representing the student voice beyond the bounds of the UNC-Chapel Hill campus.

For this reason, vote for Matt Calabria for the office of student body president today on Student Central.

He is well-prepared to argue on behalf of students as a member of the UNC-CH Board of Trustees, before the Chapel Hill Town Council and in the halls of the N.C. General Assembly.

Calabria's best quality is that he knows his stuff. His well-researched, comprehensive platform and his extensive experience confirm that he is an extraordinarily knowledgeable candidate. When he takes up student interests before the trustees, council members or legislators, he will have his facts straight.

And he is sure to spend plenty of time presenting those facts. From his plans for municipal government outreach to his UNC Lobby Corps, Calabria's plans for external relations include a number of ideas that will strengthen students' involvement in

state and local politics.

But Calabria is no slouch as far as campus affairs go. His extensive plans for the University are sure to make students' lives better step by step, and given his work ethic, his goals are sure to be accomplished.

Calabria's opponent, Lily West, is a confident, passionate speaker who has brought a refreshing slate of creative ideas to the table throughout her candidacy.

She would provide spirited leadership for campus and empower student organizations with her plans to represent groups thoroughly in her administration.

West's candidacy, however, ultimately falls short because she demonstrates a lack of understanding of the politics facing the University in the coming year.

A quick read of West's platform or a short chat with the candidate reveal that she would work endlessly for student organizations and enliven campus affairs.

But students and all members of the University community need a student body president whose impact will be felt beyond Franklin Street. At this moment in the life of the University we need a trustee, a lobbyist and a convincing, well-informed advocate.

That candidate is Matt Calabria.

GO VOTE ... AGAIN

Vote in today's runoff election for UNC student body president at <http://studentcentral.unc.edu> and name the next University trustee.

On Feb. 10, students voted in the first round of the student body president election. The pack of candidates was led by Lily West, who garnered 27.4 percent of the vote while Matt Calabria came in second with 24.6 percent.

But of course, there can be only one president. The election has changed in the past week. With only two people remaining in the contest, the make-up of the election has changed.

Most of the student body president hopefuls who didn't make the runoff have gotten behind one of the two candidates still standing. Matt Compton, Matt Liles and John Walker have endorsed West. Ashley Castevens and Faudlin Pierre are supporting Calabria.

West's numbers were slightly higher than those of Calabria, but there's no clear front-runner. This race is likely to go down to the wire. The only certainty is that whoever wins today's election will have a major say in future debates about tuition increase proposals, fee appropriations, town-gown relations and other significant issues.

West and Calabria have outlined different

approaches in their platforms, and they have dissimilar strengths and weaknesses.

Helping to elect someone who will represent students' interests adequately next year certainly will be worth the mere seconds it will take each student to navigate through a few pages, select a candidate and click "submit."

In any case, students should take whatever knowledge of the candidates and issues they have acquired during the past month, get in gear and visit <http://studentcentral.unc.edu>.

This election — and any student body president contest, for that matter — is too important for students to sit idly by while others choose their leader for them.

Today, students will have 15 hours to decide who will represent the student body on the UNC Board of Trustees next year. To say that's enough time would be a major understatement.

Students should see voting for their next student body president not as an inconvenient duty but as a great opportunity to help forge the path of student affairs during the 2004-05 academic year.

DOCTORS' MEDICINE

An insurance pool from which doctors would draw money for malpractice suits ultimately would help the N.C. medical community.

A growing number of doctors across the nation are having to deal with the painful problem of skyrocketing medical malpractice insurance rates, some totalling upwards of \$100,000 per year, or more.

Some fear that local doctors could be priced out of coverage and might leave North Carolina in search of work in states where insurance premiums aren't as high.

Last week The Associated Press reported that administrators at Wilmington's New Hanover Regional Medical Center are considering the idea of an insurance pool to which doctors could contribute a yearly premium and draw from in the wake of malpractice suits.

Though the plan isn't perfect, an insurance pool would be a wonderful alternative for doctors who can't afford prohibitively expensive insurance policies.

Doctors could buy into the pool with a \$30,000 (on the average) yearly contribution. In order to make the program work, pool coordinators would have to enlist about half of the hospital's 400 doctors.

While cheaper than a \$100,000 premium, a common figure, \$30,000 still could be prohibitively expensive to young residents — the very people for whom the program would be most beneficial.

Pool coordinators might see more interest if the contribution cost was mandated by the doctor's specialty instead.

A higher risk specialist, such as a heart surgeon or neurosurgeon, would pay a higher buy-in price than a general practice doctor.

This could lower the cost for younger doctors and recent medical school graduates and could bring more people into the program.

Ultimately, if the pool is successful, the idea of lower malpractice insurance could help draw new medical talent into the state. If the pool proves competitive enough, it also could force insurance companies to lower malpractice rates for fear of losing significant amounts of business.

Though the program is still in its embryonic stage, if it gets off the ground, it could be a boon to North Carolina's medical community.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above editorials are the opinions of solely The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board, and were reached after open debate. The board consists of seven board members, the editorial page associate editor, the editorial page editor and the DTH editor. The 2003-04 DTH editor decided not to vote on the board and not to write board editorials.

READERS' FORUM

Calabria's experience, work ethic make him best choice

TO THE EDITOR:

We encourage everyone to vote for Matt Calabria in today's runoff election.

Please examine Calabria's platform before you vote. When campaigns end and fanfare subsides, the platform is the only element that a candidate carries to office.

Calabria's platform reflects a remarkable level of research and knowledge. He has built the most potent tuition plan we've ever seen, one that will finally force policymakers to take students seriously. He also addresses a vast array of student concerns with great depth, offering solutions for students interested in legal music downloads, the availability of turf fields for club and intramural sports teams and finding part-time jobs around campus. If you're a student, chances are Matt Calabria already has a plan that will make your life easier.

We could say he's the best progressive candidate, the best candidate for graduate students or the best candidate for women. We think Calabria's platform and endorsements bear out each of those distinctions, but we'd rather you meet him, or at least visit his Web site, and find out why he's the best candidate for you.

Maybe the best thing about his platform is its feasibility. Because Calabria has gathered so much stu-

dent and administrative input, the issue of whether his proposals will work is largely moot.

Of course, he has many more fine ideas than this space permits, so please peruse the whole platform and the funny videos on his Web site at <http://www.unc.edu/calabria>. And if you have a minute, meet him in the Pit.

Scott Jones
President
N.C. Federation of College Democrats

Robin Sinhababu
Vice President
UNC Young Democrats

TO THE EDITOR:

Though I was unsuccessful in my bid for student body president, I am proud to have had a campaign characterized by its integrity and commitment to substance above politics, which I do not wish to see end with my candidacy. As such, I extend full support to Matt Calabria for the runoff election. He is not only the most qualified, but personifies a deeper passion and the energy to affect change in a way that his competition does not.

Next year, external relations and attention to oft-overlooked segments of campus will be crucial issues. They must be made a priority, and Matt has a keen awareness of the characters and conflicts with respect to University administra-

tion, the towns and the N.C. General Assembly. This knowledge sets him apart, and his willingness to devote extensive effort and the work intimately with others makes him the only option for success at every level. In addition, I was the only candidate to truly prioritize the arts, honor and the Greek community. Matt has demonstrated the desire — not just the willingness — to incorporate many distinct ideas from my platform. His enthusiasm and positive reception of diverse ideas are valuable not only for these issues, but promising for his success once elected.

I urge every student to support Matt today, as his integrity, strong and respected demeanor, and unmatched knowledge base make him the very best choice for our next student body president.

Ashley Castevens
Former student body president candidate

West's plans reflect passion for women, minorities

TO THE EDITOR:

I care a lot about minority issues. So do the Black Student Movement, the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgendered Student Alliance and Sangam. They've all endorsed Lily West for student body president, and I am too.

If Lily is elected, she will create a document called '10 Ways to Make

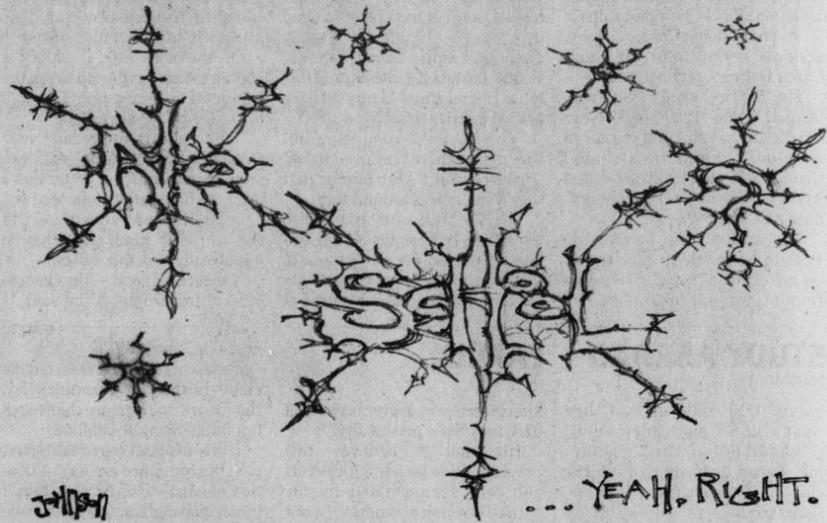
ON THE DAY'S NEWS

"We can try to avoid making choices by doing nothing, but even that is a decision."

GARY COLLINS, ACTOR

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Andrew Johnson, johnso40@email.unc.edu



COMMENTARY

Southern heritage invokes generations worth of guilt

Isn't the South romantic? Beautiful Scarlett O'Hara draped in the arms of Captain Rhett Butler. Their relationship is doomed, and everyone knows it from the start except for them.

Since its release in 1939, "Gone With The Wind" has fascinated many with its lush and romantic treatment of Southern life. That's Southern myth. Southern reality is an entirely different thing, one we have to face up to every day.

Set in the deep South just before the Civil War, the film is a testament to the Southern mystique.

The region's art and literature are so distinctly its own that its greatest figures are household names hundreds of years after their deaths, and its greatest films are interwoven with the American imagination.

Its accents are so marked that a moment's listen to a Southern speaker can give away a person's homeland, religious preference and political party with a degree of relative certainty.

So it's clear that we know exactly what a Southerner is, but what exactly do we think about ourselves?

Ever since I can remember, it's been hard not to be ashamed of my ancestors, and rightfully so. It begins in elementary school. Slavery — one of the most inhumane, terrible, backbreaking institutions in human recollection — was so entrenched in Southern society that we were willing to fight and die for it.

I use "we" because it's too often that Southern children identify their ancestors as "they." Fess up, take what's yours. It's your great-grandfathers. No, it wasn't my idea, but it's in my bloodline. And while it's easy to separate



BILLY BALL
FOR KIDS WHO CAN'T READ GOOD

myself from my past, it's not so easy for African-Americans, even today, to forget where they're coming from.

It's precisely that brand of Southern denial that allows slavery's greatest cruelties to linger.

John Pendleton Kennedy, a leading Southern writer before the Civil War, published his most successful novel, "Swallow Barn," to the acclaim of plantation readers. Kennedy's fictional plantation is a romantic and wonderful place. So romantic that the master's slaves "hold him in profound reverence and are very happy under his dominion."

It's that same kind of denial that led to a belief that the singing of the slaves was a sign of joy. Frederick Douglass addressed those songs in his groundbreaking "Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass."

"The songs of the slave represent the sorrows of the heart; and he is relieved by them, only as an aching heart is relieved by its tears," Douglass writes.

It's Southern denial that led me to believe affirmative action is an unnecessary institution in modern America. And I only began to believe otherwise when my former employer at a movie theater mused, "Here come those damn monkeys now," when black patrons were looking to buy tickets.

The only job he saw fit for a black kid in my time there was a

janitor and any application from a black for another position might as well have dropped straight into the paper shredder.

It's that same utter Southern silence that led critic H.L. Mencken to conclude in the 1920s that if a tidal wave were to drown the whole of the late Confederate states, its impact on the civilized cultures of the world would be minute.

All of this and more has produced something of an identity crisis in the South today. Everyone deserves to love where they're from and to love their fathers, but what if your fathers and your homeland are the centers of the greatest wounds in the American conscience? What then?

Talk then is what I say. It's denial that brought us here. Denial that the cruelty of slavery didn't end with the Civil War. Denial that blacks were set up to join the rat race with broken legs.

Some of the greatest American visionaries did precisely that. Talk it. Write it. Sing it. Paint it. Read it. And I hope that leads to doing something about it.

"Silent Sam" is the oft-attacked monument to Confederate soldiers on North Campus. The fact that he was a Confederate doesn't change the fact that he's a father to many Southerners, and we can't talk about the whole dirty business without recognizing that fact.

When we talk about that business, we can find the love of our land that's been so elusive, and our children won't have to be ashamed of their fathers.

I hope that statue never comes down. But I also hope that Sam won't be so silent anymore.

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