

BOARD EDITORIALS

THINGS TO DO ...

With today's inauguration, new student government officers will be taking over, and The Daily Tar Heel Editorial Board has some pointers.

Obviously, student government is led each year by people who have styles of operating that are different from those of their predecessors. There are many ways in which student leaders can get things done and multiple paths they can take to reach their goals, but here are a few tidbits our elected representatives should remember.

Stand your ground

New Student Body President Matt Calabria shouldn't put off other members of the University's Board of Trustees with an overly aggressive approach.

But he also shouldn't let other trustees steamroll over his opinions and contributions to board discussion. During BOT meetings and especially during any future tuition debates, it is imperative that the student trustee hold his own.

Know the code

This semester exposed numerous flaws in the Student Code and interpretation of the code occasionally has been suspect.

It's up to officials to make sure that they understand the language and nuances of student government's written law.

They should take it upon themselves to fix mistakes in the code and bring it closer to perfection.

Keep the drive alive

One of the highlights of the most recent administration was its devotion to a voter registration drive on campus.

Voting is a crucial piece of the democratic puzzle, so new officers should recognize the importance of continuing and improving on past efforts to prepare students for participation in elections.

Lay the groundwork

A student candidacy in the 2003 Chapel Hill Town Council elections floundered, to say the least. Student government officials should look ahead to the 2005 municipal election by researching the issues, increasing campus awareness and preparing to back at least one student candidate.

Lobby for students

The state and, therefore, the UNC system is still in financial dire straits.

Last summer, N.C. legislators made serious cuts in the system's budget, and more cuts might come in the future. Officers need to pool their resources and find ways to keep students in lawmakers' minds.

Student government leaders will have ample opportunity during the summer to establish new contacts and lobby for the University.

Hit the ground running

Calabria has until April 2005 to fulfill his platform's promises. Outgoing Student Body President Matt Tepper set a strong example by completing most of his platform before students dispersed for the winter holidays; with such an extensive list of ideas, Calabria would be wise to follow his predecessor's lead.

Act like a trustee

In the presence of BOT members, decorum is key. Trustees are more likely to respect students who conduct themselves in a professional manner, present both opinions and facts with confidence and dress the part of a person representing an entire campus population. Many trustees have backgrounds in business, so professionalism carries weight with them.

... AND NOT TO DO

With the above list of objectives comes an equally long list of items student government officials should attempt to avoid like the plague.

There are many initiatives and ideas that student government officials should embrace. At the same time, there are many things to avoid — actions and attitudes alike. Student leaders might want to pay heed to the following list of don'ts.

Don't blink at outside ideas

Calabria's platform was the best all-around list of proposals among this year's student body president candidates, but other platforms included fantastic points that he would be remiss to disregard. Calabria should consider such possibilities as Lily West's Center for Creative Student Leadership and Matt Compton's Students' Speaker Bureau.

Don't ignore the newbies

Freshmen are relatively green when it comes to campus affairs, but that shouldn't stop leaders from calling on first-year students eager to prove themselves as student government officials. Calabria already has taken this cue, having chosen freshman Bernard Holloway to be student body secretary.

Don't let the office get too cliquish

It doesn't help the student body when student government effectively becomes an in-crowd. Various officials and groups from each of the three branches should be receptive to all students. New leaders should avoid tabbing friends to fill minor positions within student government.

Don't get too 'buddy-buddy'

Systems of checks and balances exist for a reason. While those officials in charge of the three separate

branches of student government should maintain relationships marked by respect and cooperation, it would be improper for them to become too friendly with each other. Respectful distances between leaders are necessary if students are to be served best.

Don't forget your veto

The student body president does, in fact, have the veto. While Jen Daum turned to her veto power in an unwise — and ultimately unsuccessful — effort to nix a Student Congress allocation to the Independent Defense Counsel, Tepper never used it.

Calabria shouldn't veto a bill just to flex his political muscle, but he should consider it an option if he disagrees with something Congress sends him.

Don't accept shoddy returns

The Association of Student Governments, funded by UNC-system students, solely represents the system's student population.

UNC-Chapel Hill student officials should hold ASG more accountable. While UNC-CH needs to respect the other 15 UNC-system schools, a similar degree of respect should extend from the rest of the system to the Chapel Hill campus.

Don't let talent leave early

Campus elections will take place in February, but campaigns will start rolling well before then. Some student government officials undoubtedly will join campaigns, and officers will ask for their resignations to sidestep possible conflicts of interest. However, student leaders would be advised not to jump the gun in releasing aspiring campaign workers, who can serve students deep into the fall semester.

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

Relay for Life, cancer battle deserved coverage in DTH

TO THE EDITOR:

I was very disappointed to find no mention in The Daily Tar Heel of the past weekend's Relay for Life events.

Relay for Life is the American Cancer Society's signature fundraising activity, allowing communities to come together in order to raise money for research and education to fight cancer and to remember and honor loved ones.

Many of us have watched friends or someone in our family battle cancer, and it is important for us to lend our support and encouragement in as many ways as we can, including recognition of events such as Relay for Life.

Ashley Jewell
Junior
Biology

CAPS ducked responsibility, pushed student on others

TO THE EDITOR:

After seeing Friday's article, I would like to relate my experience with lack of support from CAPS.

In the spring of 2003, I had an unfortunate incident where comments I made while drunk were misconstrued as suicidal.

I was sent to the N.C. Neurosciences Hospital and told I could speak to a doctor in the morn-

ing. At 8 a.m. I explained my situation to a doctor, who set up a meeting with "Dr. X" from CAPS at noon.

After explaining my situation, I expected to be released with the condition of receiving counseling from CAPS.

Instead, I was informed I would remain at the hospital until I could find residence off-campus, since I was no longer a student or dorm resident until my case was reviewed, and that CAPS "did not have the resources" to deal with my situation and I would have to find counseling off-campus.

I missed a week of classes between time at the hospital and at home 160 miles away. Afterward, I was allowed to return to classes, dependent upon private counseling sessions at my own expense.

After three sessions my counselor determined I was well and needed no further counseling. Upon hearing this, "Dr. X" told me to continue counseling throughout the summer and the fall semester. I left his office, never returned, and have been fine ever since.

I find it insulting this doctor would tell me I still needed help when he never helped to begin with.

My private counselor got to really know who I was as a person. "Dr. X" only seemed interested in giving me generic orders to cover himself in case something happened to me.

I hope the new changes help; CAPS should help the student

body, not point out problems and pass the buck to someone else.

Dustin Clarke
Senior
School of Dentistry

Fundamental changes must be made to CAPS program

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to the CAPS article, "Edgerly said that while the campus psychological service refers students to outside medical resources when long-term help is required, the eight-session cap on treatment is a myth.

"CAPS would never kick a student out of service who is in need of a service."

Manning says: "We fully support students who decide that they need to take a medical leave."

These are both examples of why students at UNC are not getting the help they need. I know from personal experience neither of these statements are true.

I sought out CAPS in August of my sophomore year after going through severe depression my entire freshman year.

After my intake evaluation my doctors realized that I would require long-term care, but I was told specifically that they could only see me eight times (the intake appointment counted as one of those times).

As a result, I was forced to bring

ON THE DAY'S NEWS

"Many receive advice; only the wise profit from it."

PUBLILIUS SYRUS, ROMAN MIMOGRAPHER

EDITORIAL CARTOON

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"VOTERS SEEM TO PREFER BUSH AS QUARTERBACK, BUT YOU AS MONDAY-MORNING-QUARTERBACK!"

COMMENTARY

Everyone has an example of tragically lost potential

Everybody knows a Dean Moriarty. I'm talking about the character in Jack Kerouac's "On The Road."

They're a rare breed, but almost everybody knows one. And whenever you bring them up, people light up in the eyes and fondly remember those times when we could benefit from the circus that followed them around.

I knew a Dean Moriarty once.

It was a friend whose talent was so incredible that he could sing "Bohemian Rhapsody" in the center of campus, and every person within a mile could hear that booming baritone voice that dripped with youth and happiness and recognize him.

He could turn every evening into a circus and a classic rock 'n' roll song.

He could dance like he wrote every song himself, so effortlessly did he move with the little off beats in the song that you can't hear unless you're special, grabbing up a girl and twisting her until her hair flailed around her and making her into a good dancer whether she had ever danced a moment in her life or not.

If the world can be some people's oyster, then people were his oyster. He could charm every one and delight them with his utter compulsiveness. No trouble was too much for him to charm his way out of, sometimes turning his month-overdue work into furious professors who were charmed into taking the work anyway because he was clearly a "good kid at heart."

He could charm his work manager into letting him cart out boxes and boxes of old candy for his own incredible appetite. He could convince you to spend every



BILLY BALL
FOR KIDS WHO CAN'T READ GOOD

cent you had to simply keep him going and never feel like it was charity.

But at the same time that he was so unfailingly youthful and joyful, he was simultaneously the saddest person you've ever met.

You've heard people say in a voice like a sigh, "What a waste, phew." But then you don't really understand what they mean until you meet someone who could be given such a rare gift but left deplorably void of the sense that helps others to blend in and adapt to the often harsh and incurable world.

Those individuals could be so blessed with creative powers but driven to destroy everything they've touched until they destroy themselves, too.

That destructive attitude that makes that same friend of mine stand on the sixth floor of Ehringhaus Residence Hall, scale the balcony rail, grip the column separating the balcony rails and swing out over dead space for just one blank and unending moment to test how far he'll push himself.

That legendary bacon pizza that had rested on the floor of a filthy residence hall room for three weeks that he ate, seemingly with no concern for his health.

To consume the most dangerous of drugs until nothing is left but a shadow of their former glory, and they spend all of their creative moments trying to

destroy instead.

In those times, people will tell you they were driven to follow those friends through obstacles, great dance hall scenes, one-night stands, blazing joints, stolen goods and finally to the great jump onto the wrong side of the tracks that our parents told us about.

We'd follow them there, but then we could never quite stomach going all the way with them. We'd eye the jump nervously and kind of kick at it, but we'd never actually go across it with them, and then we'd spend the rest of our lives wondering exactly what they encountered when they went there.

Wouldn't it be great to get back with those friends just once and really learn what they've really learned?

The truth is that it would never work. That those crazy moments we'll remember so fondly probably will never quite fit us like in the moments that we did.

And we can never quite grip anything aside from what we are right now, we can only try them on, look in the mirror, realize that they don't look so good on us anymore — the flab's starting to show — and then we take them off and drop them on the side.

Here's to those friends who we'll probably wonder about for the rest of our lives, and to the stories we'll tell about them because we'll never forget them. And to those friends who we'll never quite be able to figure out, and to those friends who will always teeter between being the best and the worst friends that we've ever had.

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