

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.

... 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 Lilly 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

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.

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.

my car up from home in Charlotte and park it off-campus in order to see a psychiatrist in Durham that my insurance did not even cover (the only one accepting new clients out of a list of about 10 that CAPS gave me).

I was in need of service and was kicked out by CAPS.

At one point I decided I wanted to withdraw from my classes, as I was about to have a breakdown.

I was told that I would forfeit all tuition expenses and that the University might not even let me back in, because "it looks pretty bad to withdraw from all your classes, even if it is for medical purposes" (told to me by a dean).

Unfortunately, unless there are major changes in both CAPS and the entire administration, students with mental health problems will continue to be swept under the rug or even worse.

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

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."

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ON THE DAY'S NEWS

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

PUBLILIUS SYRUS, ROMAN MIMOGRAPHER

EDITORIAL CARTOON

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douglas@marlette.com



"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 compulsion. 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 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 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 slab 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.

Contact Billy Ball
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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

systems to report on Relay for Life events.

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