

The Daily Tar Heel

VOLUME 112, ISSUE 144

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2005

www.dthonline.com

2005 STUDENT ELECTIONS

4 VIE TO WRITE UNC'S NEXT CHAPTER

CONTENDERS FOR STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT GRAPPLE FOR VOTES AS A HEATED ELECTION NEARS ITS PEAK

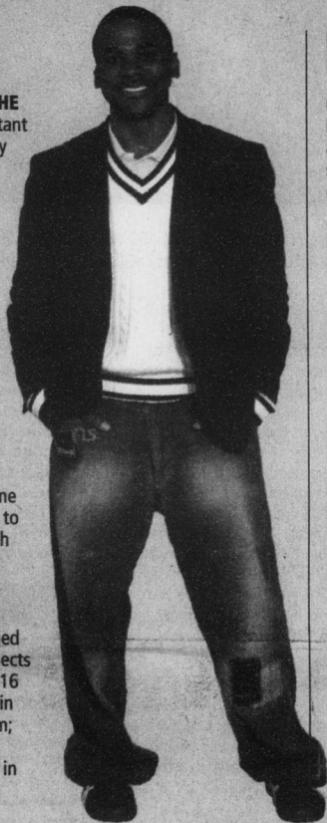
SEKE BALLARD

■ **ACTED AS THE** executive assistant to Student Body President Jen Daum's chief of staff.

■ **MEMBER** of the Black Student Movement, Young Democrats and the Faculty Council.

■ **FOCUS ON** bringing more diverse big-name guest speakers to campus through a \$1 million endowment.

■ **THEME:** creating a unified front that connects students at all 16 campuses within the UNC system; converting this unity to power in arguing issues.



LEIGHA BLACKWELL

■ **ACTED AS THE** legislative assistant for student government.

■ **MEMBER** of Student Congress, along with assisting as a campus tour guide.

■ **FOCUS ON** publicizing resources already available at the University to keep students best informed and active.

■ **THEME:** facilitating communication among student groups and individual students in order to create a more connected student body.



SETH DEARMIN

■ **ACTED AS THE** executive assistant to SBP Matt Tepper.

■ **MEMBER** and co-chairman of the Public Service and Advocacy Committee; Freshman Camp counselor.

■ **FOCUS ON** making student government more accessible and providing new student services including Franklin Street wireless Internet access.

■ **THEME:** augmenting the student voice within the University community through meeting with administrators and other key officials.



TOM JENSEN

■ **ACTED AS THE** chairman of Students for a Progressive Chapel Hill.

■ **MEMBER** of and party affairs director for Young Democrats.

■ **FOCUS ON** changing the face of student government through reforms including the elimination of wasteful spending of student funds.

■ **THEME:** fighting student battles both on and off campus through the use of new approaches.



BY LINDSAY MICHEL AND JENNY RUBY ASSISTANT UNIVERSITY EDITORS

As the four student body president candidates make their final push for votes today, each has aspirations of leaving a mark as the University's top student official.

It's a difficult job. Students in the position sacrifice long hours and subject themselves to constant criticism in the hopes of adequately representing their peers.

But former presidents said there are plenty of chances to make a difference. That point, they said, can be summed up in the actions of one student: Nic Heinke.

The new millennium brought financial anxiety to many UNC students when a proposal calling for a \$1,500

increase for in-state undergraduates and a \$2,000 hike for all others over a four-year period was brought before the University's governing board.

Standing up against University bureaucracy, Heinke rallied more than 400 students in protest of the proposal and was one of three trustees to vote against the proposed hike.

Although trustees approved a \$1,500 increase for all UNC students over five years, Heinke's efforts set the stage for future presidents charged with fighting the tuition battle.

"Once they opened the floodgate with tuition increases, it became something that students are hearing every

year," said Matt Tepper, 2003-04 student body president. "That was a big hit, and it just kept coming back year after year."

Since Heinke's administration, tuition increases have been at the forefront of student body president hopefuls' platforms.

"Tuition is always on the table," said Jen Daum, student body president from 2002-03.

And this year is no different. Like those who came before, the 2005 student body president candidates — Seke Ballard, Leigha Blackwell, Seth Dearmin and Tom

SEE ELECTION, PAGE 4

Green project rests on ballot

Students to re-examine worth of \$4 fee

BY KELLI BORBET STAFF WRITER

Two years ago, students logged on to Student Central and overwhelmingly approved a referendum to provide funding for green energy projects on campus.

Today, students will decide if they want to continue allocating that money.

If students vote in support of the referendum, the established \$4 per-semester fee will continue to support a variety of projects, including the placement of solar panels on various buildings throughout campus.

"Students should want to support green energy technology," said Robin Sinhababu, chairman of student government's Renewable Energy Special Projects Committee.

A simple majority of students voting in favor of the referendum will keep the fee in place, pending approval by the Board of Trustees and the UNC-system Board of Governors.

During an environmental forum Monday night, the referendum was an important topic of discussion.

Sinhababu said that if the referendum passes, the funds could support new projects such as the installation of solar panels on Hinton James Residence Hall and other buildings.

The fee, first approved in 2003 by 74 percent of students who voted, now is funding green energy initiatives for Morrison Residence Hall.

SEE ENERGY, PAGE 4

Forums' influence unclear

BY JACKI SPIES AND ERIN ZUREICK STAFF WRITERS

Logging on to Student Central will be an arduous task today when a flood of UNC students cast their votes for the leaders they believe will advocate for their interests.

Since the campaign season kicked off, candidates have pitched their platforms to many campus groups in hopes of gaining endorsements and support.

Student body president candidate Tom Jensen initially garnered the most support, receiving early endorsements from Young Democrats, the Black Student Movement and UNC College Republicans. Jensen also was endorsed by Sangam, the Independent Defense Counsel and the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender-Straight Alliance — bringing his total endorsements to six.

"I think receiving a wide variety of endorsements sends a strong message about your campaign," Jensen said.

But as the campaign for the executive branch's top office progressed, com-

petitors Seth Dearmin and Seke Ballard managed to even the playing field.

Dearmin has nabbed a total of six endorsements from the following groups: the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, The Daily Tar Heel's editorial board, the Carolina Hispanic Association, the Sports Club Council, the White Ribbon Campaign and Blue & White.

And Ballard has received a total of three endorsements — the Asian Students Association, UNC Greeks and the Student Environmental Action Coalition.

Endorsements offer candidates a great opportunity to earn the support of a group of students, Dearmin said, noting access to listservs, an increase in volunteers and heightened credibility as valuable perks of winning.

Yet some candidates don't expect endorsements to translate into victory on election night. Leigha Blackwell has yet to receive an endorsement, but her

SEE FORUMS, PAGE 4

FORUMS WON BY STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT CANDIDATES

3	0
SEKE BALLARD	LEIGHA BLACKWELL
6	6
SETH DEARMIN	TOM JENSEN

- ASA Ballard
- BSM Jensen
- COLLEGE REPUBLICANS Jensen
- GLBTSJA Jensen
- GPSF Dearmin
- SANGAM Jensen
- UNC GREEKS Ballard
- YOUNG DEMOCRATS Jensen

ONLINE

Check out the DTH's Web site for up-to-the-minute election results and coverage of the candidates. Find more of today's stories at www.dthonline.com.

VOTE TODAY

Make your picks for the coming year at <http://studentcentral.unc.edu>.

WEATHER

TODAY Partly cloudy, H 66, L 45
WEDNESDAY P.M. showers, H 66, L 42
THURSDAY Partly cloudy, H 50, L 26

