

LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT

Ballard would turn his 'big' platform ideas into reality

TO THE EDITOR:
Though I am not and never have been involved in campus politics, I have followed this year's student body president race avidly — mostly because there seems to be so much disagreement among groups of people who share the same values.

After a thorough review of all the candidates' platforms and meeting all of them in person, I have come to the conclusion that although all four candidates are obviously extremely bright and talented Tar Heels, my vote today will go to Seke Ballard.

Though Ballard's dodging a series of poignant questions posed by Carolina Review annoyed me at first, I took him up on his generous offer to share the answers to these questions in person with anyone who cared enough to ask.

Since then, I have learned that Seke is an extremely forward person who does not hesitate to tell you how he thinks or feels about a given issue.

In my opinion he is not a politician, he is a businessman — and all things considered, that is an ideal quality for a student body president.

Seke gives me the distinct impression that he can get things done.

He might be a dreamer, and some have accused his platform of being "too big."

But in my opinion, that is what business people do — they take "big" ideas and manifest them in reality, even when people say it can't be done.

Jessica Crowell
Sophomore
Business

Blackwell would make best use of existing resources

TO THE EDITOR:
We all want amazing promises from a student body president, but only if these promises can be fulfilled.

Leigha Blackwell is a candidate offering a practical platform.

Seke Ballard promises to bring in distinguished speakers. Recently, Sam Donaldson of ABC News, senior White House correspondent Helen Thomas and Ben & Jerry's Jerry Greenfield have been among many underpublicized speakers at UNC.

Blackwell's plan to increase communication through (among other means) an advertisement channel in the Student Union would ensure that students know about these speakers.

There is no need to scrounge around for money to bring in additional speakers whom no one will know about.

Tom Jensen promises to cut more than \$60,000 of student government "waste."

This decision is not his alone, and if it does not go through, what else does his platform have to offer?

By instead ensuring that we are all aware of events and services funded by this money, we can ensure that our \$2 per person is not wasted.

Seth Dearmin's campaign promises more SRC cardio machines, wireless Internet on Franklin Street and express buses off campus. Where will the money for these initiatives come from?

Rather than implementing new programs, publicizing existing services — such as the gym opening in the Rums Head Center this summer — is more practical.

Leigha Blackwell spoke with almost 30 campus leaders to ensure that each idea on her platform is feasible and fundable.

Instead of bringing in a plethora of new ideas, she proposes increasing communication so that we can really use the resources that are already available.

Why reinvent the wheel with funding that just isn't there?

While the platforms of the other student body president candidates might sound glamorous, they are sure to disappoint us when they fail to materialize.

Answer the bell: Vote Leigha Blackwell.

Gretchen Hutter
Junior
Journalism

EDITOR'S NOTE: Gretchen Hutter is Leigha Blackwell's campaign manager.

Dearmin has a realistic plan for tuition to help students

TO THE EDITOR:
Seth Dearmin is running for student body president for the right reason: He wants to make your life at Carolina better and easier.

I have been impressed by Seth's

dedication since I met him the first week of our freshman year, and I'm excited that there is a candidate who is the real deal.

Seth has experience in student government, and he knows every facet of the tuition battle.

His platform is the product of months of research and meetings with students and administrators, and it is the only one that is truly feasible.

He also loves Carolina more than anyone I know.

Instead of empty promises that tuition will never rise again, Seth has a plan for predictable tuition, so you'll know exactly what you'll be paying for your education.

This is a realistic plan that guarantees students won't be surprised by tuition hikes in the middle of their college career, forcing them to take on extra jobs or to transfer to other schools.

The everyday issues matter, too, and that's why Seth will make condoms available in every dorm vending machine, extend free wireless to Franklin Street (so you can be productive with your caffeine), bring a farmer's market to campus and alleviate the frustrations of academic advising and housing recontracting.

Seth believes that student government should work hard so that you can focus on the good stuff.

The Daily Tar Heel, the Sports Club Council, the Graduate and Professional Student Federation, the Carolina Hispanic Association, Blue & White and the White Ribbon Campaign agree that Seth is the best one for the job.

Seth Dearmin is the only candidate with the experience, insight and approachability to fight for what students really care about. He will be your advocate at Carolina.

Make your life easier. Make Carolina a better place. Vote today for Seth Dearmin.

Laurel Wamsley
Junior
History

Vote for Tom Jensen to rid UNC of wasteful stipends

TO THE EDITOR:
We write to wholeheartedly endorse Tom Jensen for student body president.

As of late, we've heard from several student government leaders who support keeping their own stipends.

Although we too are members of student government, we completely oppose stipends and support Tom Jensen for his steadfast opposition to them.

Stipends are a complete and utter abuse of the trust and power the student body vests in its leaders.

Tom recognizes this. At a time of skyrocketing tuition and fees, it is wrong for seven student government leaders to take directly from the pockets of the rest of us.

Tom recognizes this as well. The money saved from cutting stipends and other wasteful spending will free up thousands of dollars to be used by student groups on campus.

Recently, Student Congress began its annual budget process where student activity fee money is appropriated to student organizations.

If you're a member of a group whose funding was cut during this process, recognize that stipends are partially to blame.

Stipends cost you thousands of dollars a year — that's money which could be better spent on speakers and events.

If you think it's time you started getting more for your money, vote Tom Jensen for Student Body President.

Luke Farley
Chairman
Rules and Judiciary
Committee
Student Congress

Kris Wampler
Vice-chairman
Finance Committee
Student Congress

The most distinguished SBP candidate is Seke Ballard

TO THE EDITOR:
Seke Ballard would make the most effective student body president.

Seke's platform is distinguished in the fact that it is feasible (unlike the other platforms, and I question whether they were even researched) and innovative (unlike the other platforms, which include issues already being implemented).

Seke's platform is a balance of aggressive and optimistic improvements that are rooted in realistic and achievable goals.

I have been to several debates,

and I have met every candidate. Seke's character, too, is distinct.

He is enjoyable, yet not cheesy, goofy or superficial.

He is professional and has a personality that does not change depending on who is listening.

Additionally, Seke's campaign appears to have been run efficiently, effectively and influentially.

I believe that these skills are an indicator of his abilities should he become student body president, just as others' lack of those abilities displays the contrary.

Seke has proven that he has the innovation, the sincerity and the ability to make UNC a better place than it is, more so than any other candidate could.

I say again, Seke Ballard would make the most effective student body president.

Ben James
Freshman
Business

Leigha Blackwell is the best candidate for an equal say

TO THE EDITOR:
As the election season approached I hadn't really considered who to cast my vote for in the SBP race until the College Republicans' forum Jan. 31.

I was really trying to stay open-minded, but decision hit that night. Tom Jensen came out swinging.

He surprisingly had all the right words to say, and he sparked some excitement among those in attendance.

But, as I found myself nodding along in agreement with some of the issues he hit on, I had to stop myself and think, "What's really going on here?"

Tom Jensen is one who has stood in opposition to just about everything we as Republicans at Carolina have ever stood for as long as he's been at Carolina and was just about the "Chief Dem in attendance" on campus last year — and still is.

Yet he seemed to be holding his own in "enemy" territory. It really took me aback.

When the candidates were asked to leave Hamilton Hall so that we could think about what options had just been presented to us, I voiced my concerns and asked the others to think about the opportunity that we had just witnessed from Tom Jensen.

Yet when the "role was called up yonder," the CRs chose to cast their vote in favor of Tom.

Before I left for the crib, I was asked by a DTH reporter how I felt about what had happened, and in short, I told him it was pathetic, and I'll tell you why.

As I mentioned earlier, Tom hit upon a couple of issues that night, and one was liberal bias in the classroom.

Now my question is: Where was Tom Jensen over the past couple of years on this issue?

Where were his letters to the editor?

How often did he voice his concern over the existence of this bias in some of our classrooms?

Obviously, it doesn't exist in every classroom — we all know that — but where was his voice on this issue?

I'll tell you where it was: It was nonexistent.

There's always a winner and there's always a loser in the case of liberal bias in the classroom.

A conservative-minded student just might be affected a little more by this kind of bias than a liberal-minded student.

I submit that Tom has pretty much benefited from this for the past three years, and that's why he hasn't spoken up — until now when he wants to run for SBP.

Jordan Selleck shared with everyone in attendance that night that shortly after the New Year Tom called him and said "What can I include in my platform?"

Well, obviously Jordan led him know, if he didn't know already.

And there you have it — Tom, possibly the biggest liberal on campus, won CR's endorsement.

Another issue that Tom raised that night was "cutting costs."

He addressed the Association of Student Governments' money matters and how we could more responsibly allocate funds to or away from that organization — and I agree with him on that.

But he also addressed the issue of eliminating stipends for students that serve in positions such as student body president or ASG president, et cetera, because they have tended to be independently wealthy students who don't need the extra money in return for their service to the students at Carolina.

Well, that's awfully shortsighted of him — and suffice to say, I would really appreciate that stipend if I were running

for the venerable position of student body president, because I'm not independently wealthy, as is the case for a lot of kids here at Carolina.

So here it is: I will not be standing with my organization, the College Republicans.

I'm supporting Leigha Blackwell for Student Body President.

And here are just a few reasons why:

1. While putting money back in students' pockets is a fiscally conservative idea, simply cutting a few dollars per person through student government stipends is not the answer.

Those few dollars allow students from all socio-economic backgrounds the opportunity to run for these positions.

2. As a conservative student, I know Leigha Blackwell recognizes the importance of having input from both conservative and liberal students. She will ensure equal representation as committees are created to make decisions for Carolina.

3. She's the best candidate hands down, and has been there for the College Republicans in the past as a CR herself.

So I hope that you'll Answer the Bell and Vote for Leigha Blackwell for Student Body President on Tuesday.

Matt Vail
Former president
UNC-CH Students for Bush

Dearmin's love for UNC and leadership are unmatched

TO THE EDITOR:

We often reflect fondly on Charles Kuralt's famous words, that Chapel Hill "is, as it was meant to be, the University of the People."

As we vote today to elect our next student body president, we need to vote for the "candidate of the people" — Seth Dearmin.

From knowing Seth closely during the past few years, he is clearly the right person to fill this important leadership role.

We know that the student body president's most crucial task is not only to take the concerns of the students to the chancellor, UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees and the UNC-system Board of Governors, but also to influence the decisions being made at the highest levels.

Seth's leadership abilities, as well as his caring and friendly personality, ensure that he will be most successful in this especially vital duty.

Furthermore, Seth's love for this University and his care for the students who go here are unmatched by any of the other candidates.

Watch Seth for 10 minutes on campus, and you will see a candidate who seems to know everyone and a candidate who truly cares for everyone, as well as for their concerns.

Seth always gains the respect and trust of those he works with, allowing him to bring people together to get things done.

This ability alone is invaluable in the role of student body president. Yet it's Seth's genuine love and passion for this wonderful place, and the students who walk its grounds, that make him the right choice as our next student body president.

Heather O'Reilly
Junior
Member, women's soccer team

Dave Werry
Junior
Member, men's lacrosse team

Jensen's skills surpass those of plenty of student leaders

TO THE EDITOR:

As president of the N.C. Federation of College Democrats, I work with student leaders across the state.

And there's not a single one who matches the energy, work ethic and progressive passion of Tom Jensen, for whom I encourage all UNC students to cast a vote today.

Tom's No. 1 priority if he is elected is to keep Carolina affordable for the best students both in and out of state.

He's concerned that the rapidly rising cost of tuition will price middle class students out of UNC, and that's why he has a clear plan for fighting tuition increases that promises to be the most effective a student body president has put forward in a long time.

He has been a passionate advocate for minority students at Carolina, as reflected in his endorsements with the Black Student Movement, Sangam and the GLBTSA. His platform tackles hard issues such as racism in

Franklin Street business establishments and sexual harassment in Carolina's classrooms.

Tom Jensen is a leader who knows how to get things done.

He's a leader who knows how to fight for what he believes in.

He has a long record of tremendous successes in the causes he has overseen.

The UNC student body needs that record put to work for them.

I strongly encourage you to log on to Student Central today and to vote Tom Jensen for student body president.

Elizabeth Seif
Senior
Political science

Jensen is committed to his promise of helping students

TO THE EDITOR:

I've had the pleasure to work with Tom Jensen on numerous occasions, and I can say without hesitation that Tom is a leader with immense ability and dedication. As a staff member on Erskine Bowles' U.S. Senate campaign, I frequently looked to Tom for assistance. Each time, Tom delivered beyond expectation.

It became clear very quickly that Tom has a talent for effective communication and organization, not to mention a work ethic that is second to none.

In working with and watching Tom, it also became clear that he is very committed individual — committed to a set of principles, committed to setting goals and achieving results and committed to improving the lives of those around him.

Behind his low-key demeanor, Tom possesses an unmistakable passion for working toward the ideals he believes in.

I have zero doubt that he will channel this passion toward one of those ideals — improving the lives of students at Carolina.

As a proud and concerned alum, I very much hope to see Tom utilize his talents and capacity for leadership as student body president.

UNC students would be well-served to have Tom Jensen as their advocate.

Will Johnson
Class of 2003

Jensen will put the students first, regardless of ideology

TO THE EDITOR:

Back in November, one of us voted for George Bush, the other for John Kerry — but today we can both agree that Tom Jensen is the right person for student body president.

Though we have been political rivals in the past, we can agree on the issues that affect UNC students today.

Student government has not been working for all students. Too often it has sided with interests other than what is best for students — for instance, the Calabria administration working hand-in-hand with the administration to advocate tuition increases this year. But Tom will not.

He is about putting student interests first, and that is how Republicans and Democrats can agree that he is the best choice for student body president.

Getting you more for your money through eliminating thousands of dollars of student government waste, improving the bus system to better suit student needs and having a real plan to keep tuition low is not liberal or conservative.

Instead, it is a unifying plan to revamp student government.

Republicans and Democrats alike, we urge you to put students first on Election Day, and to vote Tom Jensen for student body president.

Jordan Selleck
Chairman
UNC College Republicans

Justin Guillory
Former president
UNC Young Democrats

EDITOR'S NOTE: Justin Guillory is Tom Jensen's campaign manager.

Leigha Blackwell has shown the greatest arts awareness

TO THE EDITOR:

After attending the arts forum on Thursday, I was appalled to find how little most of the student body president candidates were sensitive to the arts at Carolina.

We are a liberal university, and the influence that both visual and performing arts has among the students and campus of UNC is quite significant.

I would like to emphasize Leigha Blackwell's overall aware-

ness of needs of the arts, the Carolina Union Activities Board and the Student Union.

While other candidates struggled for words and did not appear to have a clear understanding of the impact that such work has, Leigha clearly articulated her appreciation, involvement and concern for the financial and spatial needs of the visual and performing arts at Carolina.

Her plans to connect all resources available across the campus and student body would be a great asset to Carolina and the performing and visual arts.

Katy Field
Sophomore
English

Blackwell is the real choice for conservative students

TO THE EDITOR:

As a member of College Republicans, I was disappointed (perhaps that is an understatement) that Tom Jensen received the so-called conservative endorsement.

The office of student body president is supposed to embody the ideals and values of the students. So when we, as an organization, endorse a candidate, it should be one who shares our values.

Instead, what we did was endorse a candidate who is pro-gay marriage, pro-abortion, pro-increased taxes, pro-affirmative action, et cetera. In essence, we are handing an endorsement to someone who embodies all that we as conservatives oppose.

So what if he plans to get rid of stipends? Once that happens, we are left with a symbol of liberalism and moral depravity from a conservative perspective.

How it came to be that we endorsed such a symbol of liberalism is beyond me.

So, as a member of College Republicans, but not as someone speaking on behalf of the organization, I urge conservatives to vote for Leigha Blackwell for student body president.

Richard Bean
Junior
Journalism

A 'yes' vote for referendum supports the environment

TO THE EDITOR:

I urge students who care about the Appalachian Mountains and about mountain communities to vote in favor of the renewable energy fee today.

This \$4 per student per semester fee supports projects such as placing solar thermal panels on Morrison Residence Hall.

The electricity that every UNC student uses has ties to an enormous environmental and social tragedy in Appalachia. That's because most of the power plants in our region run on coal, some of which was obtained through the practice of mountaintop removal.

As the name suggests, mountaintop removal involves blasting off the upper portion of mountains to access the underlying coal. The debris is dumped into valleys, burying highland streams and replacing gentle peaks and valleys with barren moonscapes that will be an irrevocable legacy of our energy consumption.

Meanwhile, the people of Appalachia are suffering. Floods and landslides resulting from the destruction of mountaintops have left hundreds dead or homeless.

It's time for us to use energy sources that are less harmful to people and to the environment.

Voting "yes" on the renewable energy referendum is one small step in the right direction.

Jane Hudson
Sophomore
International studies

Congress needs members who won't always bicker

TO THE EDITOR:

Through all of the press for student body president, I think that it is important to look at the Student Congress. Not the incumbents coming in, but new faces. People who will not get stuck in partisan bickering, those who aren't running for political power — but those who truly want to make a difference at UNC.

I encourage you to write in Lee Ellis for an off-campus position in Student Congress. She is not running to make a name for herself, but I truly believe that she will work as hard as it takes, giving the credit to whoever wants it, to make the University an even better on than it is. The best days at UNC have yet to come.

Russ Ferguson
Student
Duke University