

BOARD EDITORIALS

SETH'S STILL THE ONE

Students should choose Seth Dearmin to be their next student body president because he has what it takes to be a strong, capable trustee.

There are two hopefuls remaining in the race to be next year's student body president. Both have their pluses and minuses — but one candidate's merits outweigh those of his opponent.



Dearmin

In Tuesday's runoff election, voters should elect Seth Dearmin to be the next leader of the student body.

At the core of the student body president's set of responsibilities are his or her relationships: ties to other officers, Cabinet members, student group leaders, administrators, certain faculty members, UNC-system officials and town and state representatives.

But most importantly, a student body president's key relationships are those with the other stewards of the University. Perhaps the greatest power of the post lies in the vote the officer holds as a member of UNC-Chapel Hill's Board of Trustees — and of the two candidates, Dearmin would wield this power most effectively.

Although he has never held such power, Dearmin has been particularly close to it. As a member of former Student Body President Matt Tepper's administration, Dearmin got his feet wet in BOT affairs.

He was instrumental in the creation of an alternative tuition increase proposal that Tepper presented. It wasn't adopted, but Dearmin gained valuable experience that shouldn't be discounted.

Now, he's itching to dive in head-first. The student body should give him the opportunity.

Dearmin has referred to himself as an optimist. But in terms of tuition, he has demonstrated that he is a realist — and that's the type of BOT representative that students need. He has shown that he is wary of the rapidly rising cost of education for out-of-state students, and he is especially keen to both the possibilities and limitations surrounding future lobbying efforts.

His platform certainly isn't the most original list of

promises to come along in recent memory. Still, it includes some initiatives that warrant students' attention.

The goal of extending wireless Internet access to Franklin Street is particularly notable.

And his plan to increase access to condoms in residence halls is a fine idea.

By making condoms more widely available, Dearmin would be making campus life safer and better for students who have sex in their residence halls — and it's hard to shake one's head at that.

Although small-scale platform points are less impressive than larger, sweeping proposals, they can be carried out more easily and with greater efficiency. Dearmin has left himself room to address unforeseen issues and responsibilities, and he clearly has done a good job of prioritizing.

His opponent, Seke Ballard, also has student government experience, and Ballard's platform offers a number of enticing promises. But the DTH Editorial Board doesn't believe that he would be a better trustee than Dearmin.

A person has only one year to operate in the capacity of student body president. Although Ballard has intriguing ideas about how to affect tuition policy in the long term, we think that Dearmin would make better use of the position given the time constraint.

Developing good platform planks and implementing them has always been important.

But ultimately, the trustee role has proven to be what counts the most when all is said and done. Recent student body presidents have been gauged primarily by their effectiveness, or lack thereof, on the BOT.

If elected, Dearmin will get results. He has the potential to be a student body president upon whom history will look with kindness.

PICK BOBBY & JENNY

In their bid to be the Class of 2006's officers, Bobby Whisnant Jr. and Jenny Peddycord have made clear that they have the right priorities.

The DTH Editorial Board once again firmly endorses Bobby Whisnant Jr. and Jenny Peddycord for senior class officers.



Whisnant



Peddycord

Juniors should be sure to vote for Bobby and Jenny on Tuesday during the runoff election.

Bobby and Jenny have clear, pragmatic goals that focus on the core duties of being senior class president and vice president.

In particular, the three principle areas of the senior class officers' obligations — Commencement speaker, class gift and senior service project — receive much more attention in their platform than in that of their opponents, Madison Perry and Whit Walker.

This emphasis is especially important after past years' Commencement choices by the chancellor have evoked criticism from students. In addition, Bobby and Jenny have shown support for continuing the newly created Senior Class Address — a great idea for which Madison and Whit haven't expressed as much enthusiasm.

Bobby and Jenny also have promised to get an early start on procuring ideas and funds for the senior class gift, an area that Madison and Whit leave off their platform entirely — perhaps on purpose — but it would still be nice to hear it mentioned.

Bobby and Jenny's ideas about a senior week of service, coupled with monthly service projects, present a good approach to public service. They plan to co-sponsor numerous events with other campus organizations and to continue the Literacy Project, providing a means for seniors to help others and themselves.

Madison and Whit's service ideas are solid and certainly deserve to be incorporated regardless of the out-

come of Tuesday's runoff election.

Their clean sweep initiative could help keep campus tidy while rewarding seniors at local bars. Organizing a campaign for students to donate unused meals to the homeless at the end of the semester is another admirable idea of Madison and Whit's that should be examined.

But Bobby and Jenny also look past the basic obligations of senior class officers.

A senior supper event to raise money for charity certainly would mesh well with both the service and entertainment sections of their platform.

Their proposed senior sports spotlight, where seniors come out to support each sports team for at least one game, sounds like fun as well — complete with tailgating at some games.

The choice of marshals is another major responsibility that Bobby and Jenny would do a better job of handling. They told the DTH Editorial Board that they wouldn't choose leaders of student organizations as marshals because those students wouldn't be able to dedicate as much time as others would.

It's clear that Bobby and Jenny have thought about the selection process. Madison and Whit don't mention marshals in their platform.

Bobby and Jenny have an easy-going and approachable quality in addition to a well-grounded and feasible platform that will make them effective senior class officers. The class of 2006 can look forward to an active year of service and Commencement speaker and class gift selections they have an active role in.

Juniors should be sure to vote Tuesday for Bobby and Jenny on Student Central.

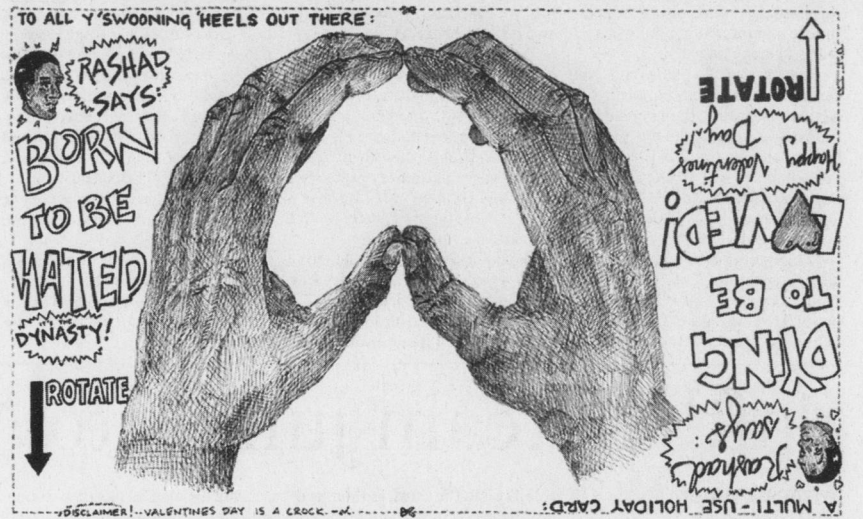
ON THE DAY'S NEWS

"Leadership has a harder job to do than just choose sides. It must bring sides together."

REV. JESSE JACKSON, CIVIL RIGHTS AND POLITICAL ACTIVIST

EDITORIAL CARTOON

By Philip McFee, pip@email.unc.edu



COMMENTARY

Despite what they say, there is little glory in dying for a cause

Two weeks ago, President Bush gave his State of the Union address. Out of 44 standing ovations, perhaps the biggest came when he introduced Janet and Bill Norwood.

Why? Because their son had been sacrificed for Bush. The Norwoods are the parents of the late Byron Norwood, a soldier who was killed during the assault on Fallujah.

In the führer's quest for world domination — I mean, freedom and liberty — Byron died for the fatherland.

Byron was 25 years old, just two years older than me, yet he'll never get to experience many of the things that I hope to experience while I'm alive.

He'll never get to enjoy another home-cooked meal, go on another road trip with his buddies or get married and start a family.

But what is more tragic is the fact that, for some reason, we are celebrating his death as something that is good and honorable.

We're being told that Byron's death was "worth it."

When he wasn't busy cheer-leading or pumping up his frat stats at Yale, Bush must have studied a lot of Karl Marx. Marx said the state functions to keep class-divided societies together but does so in a way that favors the ruling class.

One way the state does this is through coercion via laws, police, jails and so forth.

The other way is through symbols such as flags, parades and other forms of "patriotic" fervor to get all classes — to pledge unquestioned allegiance to the state.

Bush says that it's honorable and patriotic to die in war, and that there's no higher glory



PHILIP HENSLEY
LIBERTARIAN STEEZE

than giving up your life for your country.

But it's easy for him to say that "freedom" is worth dying for. He's never died in a war or even faced the possibility of dying in a war, and he never will.

Neither will either of his children, or any of the children of any politically connected person in Washington, D.C.

What else is he going to say? Is he going to tell families that they no longer have loved ones that they died in vain?

Obviously, the answer is no. Instead, they die for something higher than themselves, such as "freedom" or "liberty."

That way, Bush can keep sending soldiers off to their deaths — and instead of people being upset with him for doing so, they think that it's honorable.

The warmongers in Washington like to tell us of all the "sacrifices" that our troops are making.

Troops aren't the ones sacrificing. Individuals are.

When a soldier is shot in battle and his body is ripped open by bullets and his guts and organs pour out of his body, emitting a terrible odor, and his corpse collapses into a pool of blood on the ground, troops didn't shed their blood.

America didn't shed "her" blood.

That individual soldier shed his blood.

My dad is going to Iraq soon. No matter what George Bush thinks he's accomplishing in Iraq, I would never consider the cost of my dad's life as worth the price. Whatever would be supposedly gained by his death, I would gladly give it up and live without it.

And even if my dad did die, nothing in Iraq would change. We wouldn't be any closer to a "democratic Middle East."

He would be dead, and the world would go on.

One month, five years or 10 years from now, George Bush wouldn't remember anything about my dad, but I sure would. I would know every day that he wasn't alive anymore.

If you die in war or for some other "cause," what's the point? You don't exist anymore. You're not around to enjoy it.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, "If a man hasn't discovered something that he will die for, he isn't fit to live."

If you agree with him, then you have my deepest sympathy. Because I can't imagine a life that is so empty that you would willingly give it up for a "cause" — especially for some politician and his empty promises.

We aren't living in Nazi Germany. You don't owe anything to your country, especially your life.

Your body and life are yours, not resources for a politician to "utilize" in pursuit of his political utopia, whether it's here in America or in some country halfway around the world that most of us will never even set foot in.

So when are we going to quit glorifying needless deaths?

Contact Philip Hensley at <http://philiphensleyjr.blogspot.com>.

READERS' FORUM

Leaders have opportunity to improve campus service

TO THE EDITOR:

On Tuesday, leaders of UNC's public service and advocacy organizations have an opportunity to be a part of the greatest move toward collaborative service on our campus in recent history.

From the Public Service and Advocacy Committee of student government to the Campus Y to the Center for Public Service to more than 50 service and advocacy-related student organizations, the resources of our campus community too often have been characterized by decentralization, duplication of effort and a failure of programs to achieve far-reaching impacts.

At 6 p.m. in the Student Organization Resource Center of the student government office in Suite 2501 of the Student Union, leaders of student service organizations and other interested parties are invited to consider ways to establish regular contact and collaboration across organizational boundaries — from regular meetings to a shared, interactive, online calendar.

I would like personally to invite and encourage all who are interested in creating a more united front for service and advocacy on our campus to attend.

Mark Laabs
Director of outreach
Campus Y

Carolina-Duke is a rivalry, and it's all about the game

TO THE EDITOR:

I'm sorry, but you'll have to forgive me. For a minute, I honestly believed Friday that I might have been reading The Dook Chronicle. The back page showed the saddest part about being a Carolina fan. First, a student stands against The Daily Tar Heel taking part in a rivalry. It's a rivalry — that's what it's all about.

That's what makes the Carolina/Dook rivalry equal the one between the Yankees and some team from Boston. There's history, division and, of course, great games.

True, it sucked to lose the game Wednesday, but those boys in baby blue poured out their hearts and souls for 40 minutes, and the DTH rightfully played the part of the Gracious Loser.

Secondly, Timur Hammond's column showed that I and many others were correct in our evaluation of the lack of underclassman tickets available. Fairweather seniors — who simply heard that we had a pretty good team because they ran across the headline while flipping to the crossword — will flood the Dean Dome on March 6, while people who remember Chris Webber's travel before his "time out" in '93 (the most excited I ever saw Dean Smith, not to mention the highest he'd ever jumped) will be sitting there hugging their television. Thanks a bunch, guys.

Granted, these seniors were here during the 8-20 season. But, then again, they probably didn't know that we were having any problems unless it happened to be on the same page as the crossword.

Get real, Hammond. It is about the game — it's all about the game.

Charles Warren
Junior
Exercise and sport science

SUDAN set to emphasize Darfur awareness Tuesday

TO THE EDITOR:

With reports of the tsunami in Southeast Asia dominating the news, we have seen Americans band together, donating millions upon millions of dollars to help those whose lives have been destroyed. This raises the question, however, of where we (and the rest of the world, for that matter) have been while other tragedies strike our human family.

For more than a year now, ethnic cleansing has been occurring in Darfur, a region of Sudan, which makes me wonder why the world has not responded with heroic efforts paralleling that of the tsunami aid.

While the media has attempted to play down the death toll in Darfur, it is now becoming apparent that up to 300,000 people have died as a result of this genocide. Thousands more have been displaced from their homes and put at risk of the same horrible fate.

To me, the fact that humans would intentionally begin a regime of such destruction is more horrifying than a natural disaster. So now, while tragedy is fresh in all of our minds, we must take action.

I urge you to take note of the events occurring here on campus and to get involved, educating yourself about the situation in Sudan. How much longer can we allow this to continue?

The student organization SUDAN (Students United for Darfur Awareness Now) will be in the Pit on Tuesday from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. CDs will be sold to benefit Darfur, and there will be plenty of information about what you can do to help. On Tuesday at 6:30 p.m., a candlelight vigil will also be held by the Pit. All are welcome to join in raising awareness of the atrocities occurring in Sudan.

Beth Payne
Senior
Psychology and English

Carolina baseball team to start its season Wednesday

TO THE EDITOR:

"Is there anything that can evoke spring ... better than the sound of the ball smacking into the pocket of the big mitt, the sound of the bat as it hits the horse hide ..." — Thomas Wolfe

The ping of today's aluminum bats isn't quite what Mr. Wolfe heard in his day.

UNC baseball begins anew Wednesday at 3 p.m. at beautiful Boshamer Stadium. Come out and enjoy the sounds of spring and the colors — the green outfield, red-clay infield and Carolina blue skies. This year's team shows a lot of promise.

No waiting in line for tickets, no obnoxious fans — just good baseball.

Elena Elms
Library technical assistant
Academic Affairs Library

ATTENTION

The Daily Tar Heel is accepting endorsement letters for the student body president and senior class officer runoff elections. They should be submitted today. Writers can either send letters to editdesk@unc.edu or deliver them in person to the DTH's front desk in Suite 2409 of the Student Union. Selected letters will be printed Tuesday.

TO SUBMIT A LETTER: The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comments. Letters to the editor should be no longer than 300 words and must be typed, double-spaced, dated and signed by no more than two people. Students should include their year, major and phone number. Faculty and staff should include their title, department and phone number. The DTH reserves the right to edit letters for space, clarity and vulgarity. Publication is not guaranteed. Bring letters to the DTH office at Suite 2409, Carolina Union, mail them to P.O. Box 3257, Chapel Hill, NC 27515 or e-mail them to editdesk@unc.edu.

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