

Editorial Candidates Discuss DTH Operation Ideas

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This is the eighth in a series devoted to the editorial candidates' views on campus issues. Candidates are presented in alphabetical order.

TODAY'S QUESTION: How do you plan to run the DTH from a technical standpoint (letters, editorial columns, new innovations)?

DOUGLAS CAMPBELL: As editor, I would like to see an increase in salaries and wages paid to the reporter, advertising and business managers. At present, a reporter is paid approximately 25 cents to 30 cents an hour. Certainly an increase in wages is in order from the standpoint of a fair wage.

Students should be aware that only 7% of the present costs of the DTH are for wages and salaries. The changeover of the DTH to a subscription basis can be made smoother by adequately compensating the people who will be working on the staff and soliciting the advertising.

The editor should assure all facets of the political community that the DTH will function as a free marketplace for ideas. The editor should provide an atmosphere conducive to discourse and dialogue within the student body. This policy would then

extend itself naturally to the question of which columns to carry or which letters to the editor to print.

BRYAN CUMMING: I would like to have syndicated columns from professional newspapers, such as James Reston or William F. Buckley. These could be run occasionally.

As far as letters to the editor go, I wouldn't interrupt editorial comments.

STEVE ENFIELD-DENNIS BENFIELD: From the beginning, our purpose has been to return to responsibility on the pages of the DTH. This year's Tar Heel has not lived up to the editor's "professional Standard". This is why we resigned from the paper at the beginning of the year. (Editor's Note: Steve Enfield was fired.) We seek to apply our 11 years total of professional experience to the operation of our paper.

(Benfield) Generally, Steve would handle writing and editing of editorial page materials, thus replacing the need for an associate editor. My primary responsibility would be to supervise the newsrooms, thus eliminating the need for a managing editor. In case of discrepancy in our opinions, separate editorials would be used.

News and editorials would be coordinated in a daily conference with a news director, who would replace the news editor. He will have a greater say in the "play" of news stories because he will be closer to those stories than a managing editor, which previously has been the case. He would be relieved from headline writing, layouts, etc. Three desk editors would handle all news and editorial layouts and headline writing with the exception of sports and features, which have their own editors.

Most of our personnel would be actively recruited from the School of Journalism. Our paper would not cease to be a training ground for inexperienced reporters but their involvement in the news gathering process would not hinder our overall presentation.

TOM GOODING: All letters to the Daily Tar Heel will be printed, provided they are typed and signed. The paper, however, must reserve the right to edit the letters for factual inaccuracies, good taste and especially libelous statements. This was the policy that I used when I was associate editor and I plan to continue it.

The editor should encourage a diversity of opinion in the editorial page columns. It is essential for there to be a forum for all responsible student opinion if the newspaper is going to provide a service for the student body.

Since reporters are closely connected with the people and events that make news, they should be encouraged to write columns providing an in-depth explanation of these events for the student body. However, expressions on the editorial page will not be limited to any one group but will be open to all.

The DTH should provide extensive coverage of campus events. The paper cannot provide a comprehensive view of the world and national events. It is not intended to do such. The paper is supported by the students of this University and must meet their needs. Therefore, the paper should expand its coverage of campus news and events so as to reach all segments of the University community. For example, a residence college seminar or a Hill Hall concert is more relevant to the students than most national events.

BOBBY NOWELL: Since this is a newspaper whose primary concern is to serve this campus, news of UNC should invariably receive top priority over all other news in the paper. However, the DTH also owes to its readers news of the community (since it is the only daily paper in Chapel Hill), the state and the national-international scene. I am in favor of retaining the UPI national-international wire service as a source of news. I prefer a return to the idea that the major non-local news stories of the day should be grouped together as briefs under a standing head such as "World News". However, I cannot say this can be effectively done because of the copy deadlines which have been imposed upon us by the publisher.

Few people realize the average amount of time a reporter can spend on a story, because of these deadlines, is two and one-half hours. Most of our reporters come to work at about three o'clock in the afternoon, when their classes are finished. Since the local copy deadline is 5:30, reporters must work under a time limitation more severe than that of any other daily state paper in North Carolina or anywhere else. These reporters are not veteran journalists; in many cases they have had limited experience and need advice and direction on how to write their stories. Still, the publisher requires that one-fourth of the day's copy be turned in by five o'clock—so the use of such outside news sources as UPI and the UNC news bureau can never be invalidated.

The charge that the Tar Heel's news coverage is not representative is an appeal to emotion—and a very amorphous appeal at that. The news coverage in the past year has been, at worst, adequate—however, more can be done.

I favor closer working relations with the governors of residence colleges and Greek leaders to allow the paper to be more aware of events concerning those groups. I also want to extend coverage of graduate students' activities.

I do not propose, however, to turn the Tar Heel into a campus bulletin. As I said, the paper will report news of the University, the community, the state and the nation. The front page stories will be determined by their importance to everyone in the University. There is enough happening in this town and University to keep students aware of. The expansion of the news department and the enlisting of competent journalists to oversee the reporting of the news will be a great help in advancing the scope of the paper's news coverage.

with the help of more competent journalists I will obtain for the paper if elected. The Tar Heel will continue to run letters to the editor, but it will insist upon the right of condensation and editing for libelous statements. Any opinion may be expressed by letter writers in 300 words or less. The columnists appearing on the editorial page will be those chosen by the associate editor with the approval of the editor. Columnists will be free to write on any subject they choose.

ANDY SCHORR-RUSTY CARTER: (Carter) We feel that national and regional news can be covered in the daily papers. Therefore, the DTH should report the news that is pertinent to the students at the University, both graduate and undergraduate.

(Schorr) Letters to the editor are perhaps the only way for students on this campus to know what other students are thinking, unless of course their actions are in the news. It is vital that the DTH give a significant amount of space to the letters to the editor. Such letters should be actively solicited on all issues of interest to students.

Features are also, in our opinion, a basic and essential portion of any newspaper. It is one of the only ways that one student among 16,000 can identify with the ideas of other students, faculty and administration who work at this University. They are also important because they are interesting and can build readership for the paper.

(Carter) Speaking on the format of the newspaper, I would like to mention sports. Having worked in the sports department for two years, I

recognize that sports is a vital part of the working of this University. Though I feel sports coverage has been adequate in the past, and handled with skill, I feel that many times it has not gotten the play or space it should have. More students identify with sports than with campus activities.

(Schorr) Pictures published in our DTH will be relevant to the news of the day, or of significant human interest. Their captions will be informative. Pictures should not be placed in the newspaper to fill up space.



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