

The Daily Tar Heel

94th year of editorial freedom

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Editorials

Sitton for SBP

At this point in the race for student body president, it might be best to endorse both candidates. Witnesses to Sunday night's Great Hall debate would have had difficulty distinguishing the candidates because their two platforms, which began as quite different sets of ideas, melded as each hesitated to criticize the other in order to avoid a mudslinging label.

It's hard to analyze two candidates who both have shown enough perseverance and polish to prove they have plenty of mettle to make Student Government work. But we stand by our original endorsement, Jaye Sitton. Her energy, her experience and in-depth knowledge of Student Government support her as the best candidate.

Sitton's experience is a plus that Bailey, with one semester in Student Congress, doesn't have. Having served two years in the legislative branch, Sitton knows what has been done, what can be done and who she needs to work with to get it done.

Her lobbying efforts last summer to keep in-state tuition down and her efforts to replace ARA food services are among the experiences that have shown her ability to work with administrators and yet to work beyond them when she must. There is no question that Sitton has been active, and she has accomplished.

Sitton is familiar with Suite C. She has observed the workings of two student body presidents, including Bryan Hassel's term from her office as Student Congress speaker. She remembers past administrations and will likely provide a continuity, or, at

least, a smooth transition.

Knowledge is power, as the old saying goes, and the ability Sitton has shown throughout the campaign to remember and use specific knowledge will add to her public image as representative of students. Knowing specifics is the key to working with both officials and the public because backing up one's opinions tactfully and effectively is crucial.

We only hope that Sitton can get beyond these facts and piles of studies to ask students what they think. Bailey is emphasizing communication in a way Sitton is not. While he may not have all the facts, Bailey has shown an exceptional willingness to actively seek student opinion and base his administration on that. We hope Sitton can embrace openness on the same scale.

Bailey has also put incredible effort into thinking about South Campus, a subject hardly touched on by Sitton. His ideas about establishing a South Campus Student Government office and a free North-South shuttle bus (unfeasible though the latter seems) show great understanding of campus needs and an effort to go beyond the status quo.

When you go to the polls Tuesday, we ask you to remember one thing: While experience does not necessarily make a candidate a creative problem solver, it gives one knowledge — that raw material necessary to build arguments and feasible solutions. And for that reason, in a campaign that ran out of creativity and unique ideas last Tuesday, we endorse Jaye Sitton.

The trickling persists

The revelations have trickled in like a faucet that can't be turned all the way off, drip by drip, piece by piece. Sunday's New York Times and Washington Post continued the disclosure of the inundation that is drowning the White House.

"White House Is Reported Losing Confidence, as Well as Key Staff" was the headline in Sunday's Times, an utter understatement that seems to master the obvious. The departures of communications director Patrick Buchanan, press secretary Larry Speakes and top political adviser Mitchell Daniels "point to the steady exodus of experienced people from important staff positions."

After reading Sunday's Post, it's surprising they aren't leaving in droves. It was the latest trickle, although it felt more like a waterfall. The Iranian "moderates" that President Reagan has claimed to be dealing with are

actually radicals because the radicals can get what the United States wants: freedom for the hostages. This information comes from a memo to Vice President George Bush last summer.

Should it be surprising that the president is losing his top aides? How much more Iran-contra dirt is there to be unearthed? When will President Reagan come out and tell the American people the truth?

The White House has continued to downplay the affair, trying to use such matters as the president's health for a shield against the barrage of confrontational questions. They are not accusatory questions, just insightful ones from a press working for a public that deserves to know what it's top elected official is doing.

Does that ask for so much? To the White House brass, apparently so. Until that inflexibility is eased, the faucet will continue to drip.

Tar Heel Forum

Students pull for SBP one last time

Brian Bailey

To the editor:
 On Tuesday, UNC students will be able to choose their next student body president. The choice is not a political one but a directional one — which way do you want your student government to progress — forward or backward?

We know Brian Bailey is the best candidate in this year's student body presidential runoff. While his opponent has focused almost exclusively on her past experience and accomplishments, Bailey has run on a platform that tells of his ideas and plans for the future. What a candidate has done is not nearly as important as what a candidate will do

when elected. After dozens of forums and Daily Tar Heel articles, we still don't know anything original that Sitton wants to implement as SBP. Experience is useless, unless you use it to formulate new ideas and new ways to improve Student Government.

We know what Bailey will work on if elected. He is the only candidate who has given concrete ways to make life on South Campus more convenient. A free North-South campus shuttle loop, a library book drop in Chase Hall and branches of SG and RAPE Escort in the South Campus Union are all projects he believes are important. Bailey has also provided a concrete proposal that will improve student input. His representative branch will go out knocking on doors to find out the

problems, concerns and opinions of a cross-section of the student body.

We also know that Bailey is committed to minority concerns — including the Black Cultural Center and minority recruitment. Bailey's "Back to Campus" theme tells us that his Number One priority is the campus. Issues like parking, transportation, security and housing cannot be pushed aside for international issues any longer. This doesn't mean that "non-campus" issues will be ignored — he wants to lobby against tuition hikes and continue to work on University divestment. Only by Bailey's "Back to Campus" plan can campus issues be addressed, while student voice will continue to be heard on the state and national levels.

From their campaigns, we

know what kind of leader Sitton has been, but we know what kind of leader Bailey will be. Bailey is the candidate who has both experience — in Student Congress and in the Executive Branch — and new ideas. He knows how SG works, and he knows what he wants to do when elected. For these reasons, we encourage you to cast a vote for the future. Join us in moving Student Government forward by voting Brian Bailey for SBP in the runoff Tues., Feb. 10.

DRAKE BERRYHILL
 Junior
 Political Science

TAB HUNTER
 Sophomore
 Political Science

Jaye Sitton

To the editor:
 Perhaps the best advice I ever received was, "Don't overlook the forest for the trees." In the past weeks of campaigning, I've gone over that adage while taking in all the platforms and ideas. Frankly, I've witnessed an extreme amount of concern over a very few "trees" and a lack of attention to the rest of the forest.

Having seen four administrations during my undergraduate years at UNC and having heard many campaign speeches and platforms, it has been my experience that those candidates, and ultimately student body presidents, who grasp the broad scope of the Student Government process, are the ones who master its intricacies as well. Each year, the student body hears the same promises of better parking, better library hours, and a president who will magically draw students from the four corners of the earth to gain more student input. These goals are indicative of treating the symptoms of a problem without really getting at the root.

UNC is not a separate micro-

cosm from the rest of North Carolina, the United States or the world. And although SG has an obligation to improve student life, it also must realize that many students wouldn't be here at all if past SGs had not had the foresight and courage to step outside the confines of campus. The key here is balance — Jaye Sitton understands that balance fully.

Sitton shares many of the immediate concerns the student body expresses — academic concerns, parking and campus safety. However, she also realizes the importance of tackling long-term, in-depth problems such as cuts in student aid and rising tuition with long-range solutions like convincing legislators to seriously consider the importance of an affordable education, rather than trying to solve such a problem with short-range, campus solutions.

Through her two years experience in Student Congress and her year as speaker of the congress, Sitton understands how SG works and how to avoid the pitfalls that can sink a president's programs before they are launched. Sitton is able to analyze situations from all angles and pull from different sources to solve problems.

I urge each of you to re-examine the issues, platforms and candidates. I believe you will conclude that Jaye Sitton is the best candidate for student body president.

JANE DRENKAHN
 Senior
 Biology/
 Speech Communication

To the editor:
 Did you ever see the movie, "The Candidate," in which the "powers that be" persuade young Robert Redford to seek political office? After he finally wins, shock and confusion seize him. He turns to his wife and asks, in the film's final line, "What do we do now?"

That would never happen to Jaye Sitton.

If you're still undecided about an SBP candidate, I urge you to remember a few things about Sitton.

Remember her experience. A year is a short amount of time to accomplish much in Student Government. Continuity will be easy for Sitton; it will mean merely moving her books and files about 20 feet from her old office to her new one. From there, her knowledge of the

structure and capability of SG will put her miles ahead of past SBPs; her entire time in office will be productive.

Remember her ideas. You've heard them and she means them. Her record in Student Congress shows consistent support for improved campus security and for full student representation. Two years of experience in SC budget hearings make her promises to fight for fiscal responsibility in SG and against tuition increases and federal aid cuts strong ones. Sitton not only has goals, but she knows why she has them and how to reach them.

Remember her dedication. Sitton doesn't hang around the Union because of its architectural beauty. She believes strongly in the potential and necessity of effective student government. It can make a difference for us, and Sitton intends for it to do so under her direction.

We're confident that with her, it will.

SOPHIE SARTAIN
 Junior
 English

TODD HART
 Junior
 Economics

Letter policy

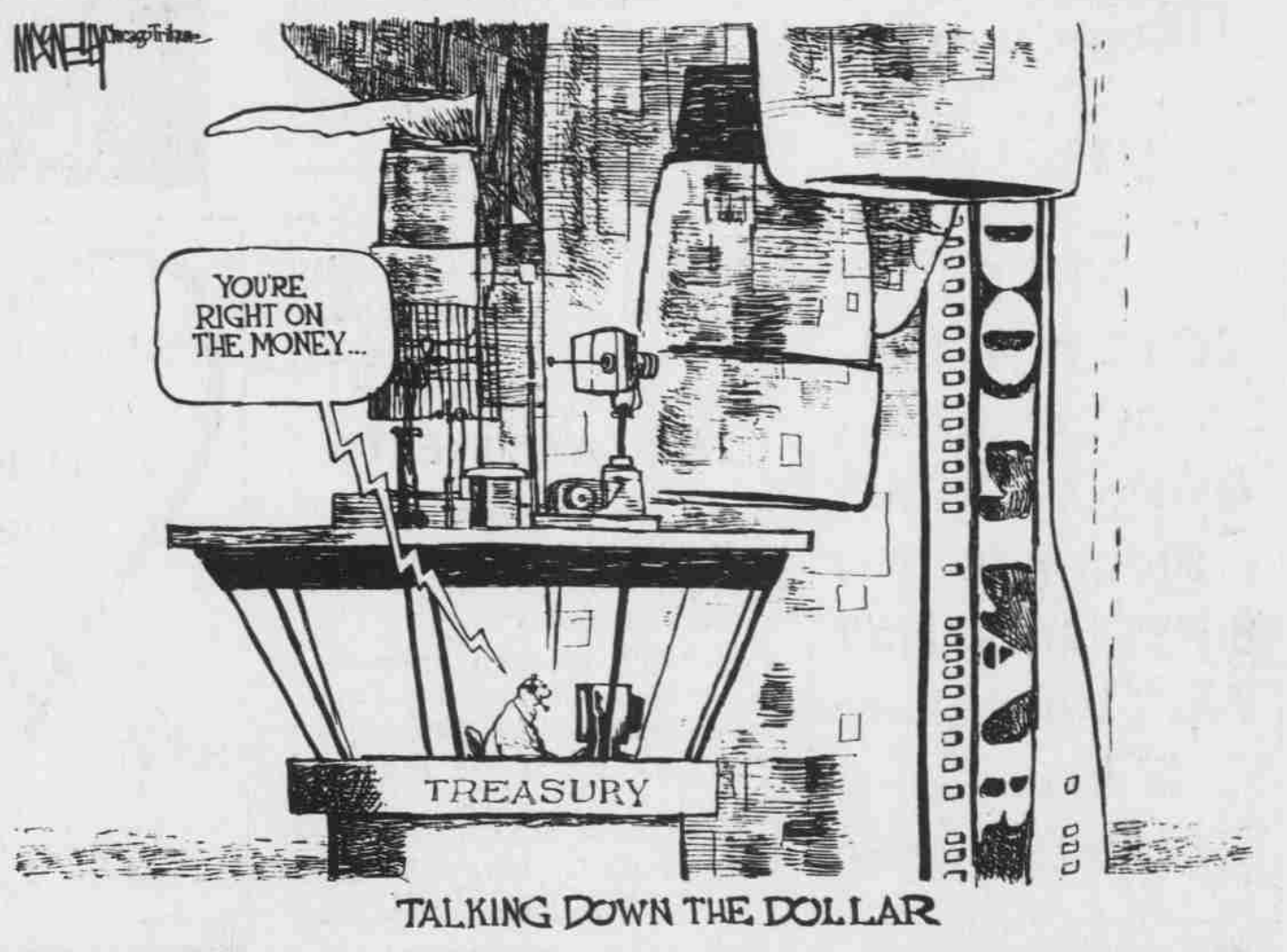
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The Daily Tar Heel welcomes reader comment. For style and clarity, we ask that you observe the following guidelines for letters to the editor and columns:

■ All letters/columns must be signed by the author(s). Limit of two signatures per letter or column.

■ Students who submit letters/columns should also include their name, year in school, major and phone number. Professors and other University employees should include their title and department.

■ All letters/columns must be typed. (For easier editing, we ask that they be double-spaced on a 60-space line.)



Realizing the harsh reality of rape

Rape — a touchy subject arising from a rough and brutal act. It's difficult to talk about, to read and write about, and sometimes difficult to imagine. But rape is not the alien possibility or the crime that happens only to other people. If a recent and comprehensive study conducted by the UNC School of Journalism is to be believed, three out of every 10 UNC women have been victims of rape or attempted rape.

Today begins "Confronting Rape: A Week of Awareness and Education," co-sponsored by the Carolina Union Human Relations Committee, the Campus Y Women's Forum and the Rape Action Project. Through programs that illuminate a darker reality of human relationships, we intend to give UNC students a chance to stare the problem in the face. The organizers hope to communicate two basic ideas, that rape is not a trivial matter, and that rape is not insurmountable, not an inevitable by-product in the chemistry of human interaction.

Today's activities begin with drama in the Pit from the Tin Drum Theatre group. As you walk by the Pit at noon, stop and watch a creative, energetic "improv" ensemble bring the issues of rape to life. They'll be in the Union TV lounge if it's raining. At 6:30 tonight, Professor Bob Loddengaard and Rape Crisis Center worker Steve Mantz will lead an all-male discussion session titled "Our Attitudes and Actions" in Room 206 of the Carolina Union. I encourage UNC men to bring experiences, ideas and an open mind to this meeting.

Peter Hatcher Guest Writer

Those who come will be those who dare to look at themselves in the mirror of their peers — and perhaps be surprised.

Today's events end with a panel presentation at 8:00 p.m. in the Union Film Auditorium. Experts having regular contact with victims and rapists will detail their role in handling the matter and field questions. Come ask Pat Devine, an assistant district attorney for Orange County, to what lengths she must go to successfully prosecute a rape case. See what psychiatrist Myron Lipsitz has to say about a date rape victim who can't shake a bad relationship with her rapist-boyfriend. Ask UNC police officer Becky Wilson what clues she looks for when she arrives at the scene of a rape.

The week will include a mock trial of a date rape case, scheduled for Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. in Room 209 of Manning Hall. UNC students Virginia Mewborne and Joe Silvestro, as alleged victim and defendant, will give different accounts of a date that apparently went awry. Come and compare your verdict with those of three separate juries in a trial that also features Orange County District Attorney Carl Fox, Public Defender Kirk Osborne and District Court Judge Patricia Hunt.

The documentary, "Rate it X," will be

screened twice on Wednesday, at 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. in the Union Film Auditorium. The film provides a glimpse into lowlights of American sexism with a montage of revealing interviews and scenes. The earlier presentation will be followed by a discussion led by Cookie Teer of Pornography Awareness and Dr. Linnea Smith — whose reputation as an anti-pornography activist rivals that of her husband as a basketball coach.

A nationally recognized expert on date and marital rape, Laura X will deliver the week's keynote speech on Thursday at 8:00 p.m. in Greenlaw 101. Ms. X will show the segment from CBS's "60 Minutes" that reported her pioneering efforts to make marital rape a crime. Those who sympathize with Sen. Jeremiah Denton when he asks, "If you can't rape your wife, who can you rape?" are cordially invited. Don't expect much sympathy, however.

Realistically, most of you won't make it to any of the 12 programs this week. I don't blame you. The topic is tough, seems far away, seems to be a woman's problem, or seems the fault of males. No doubt about it: it's an issue that's a hell of a lot easier to deny or evade than to confront. Still, I hope you'll take the time to think about it, how it relates to you and those you care about. Those of you who do participate in the week's activities, thank you for your interest and support.

Peter Hatcher is a senior history major from Atlanta.

The Daily Tar Heel

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