

The Daily Tar Heel

98th year of editorial freedom

JENNIFER WING, Editor

STEVE POLITI, University Editor
CULLEN FERGUSON, Editorial Page Editor
NEIL AMATO, Sports Editor
CHRISTINA NIFONG, Features Editor
ALEX DE GRAND, Cartoon Editor
MITCH KOKAI, Copy Desk Editor
GRANT HALVERSON, Photography Editor

AMBER NIMOCKS, City Editor
ERIC LUSK, State and National Editor
MONDY LAMB, Omnibus Editor
JENNIFER DICKENS, Layout Editor
JOANN RODAK, Managing Editor
AMY SEELEY, Copy Desk Editor
KATHY MICHEL, Photography Editor

Mark Shelburne for SBP

Mark Shelburne's proven ability to listen and to act on UNC student concerns, coupled with his impressive performance in Student Congress, makes him the best candidate for student body president.

During Shelburne's time in congress, he has authored 15 pieces of legislation, including five referendums. His most recent proposal — that of creating an endowed library fund — exemplifies Shelburne's ability to recognize issues students are concerned about and to fight to make them happen. And although congress politics stymied this effort, Shelburne plans to persevere in his fight to create the endowment.

This incident highlights another impressive quality of Shelburne — his rejection of the petty politics that often plague congress. As speaker pro tempore of congress, Shelburne often had to take the helm when the speaker stepped down. During these times, Shelburne played above the politics and did not allow his colleagues' ambitions and egos to take control. Shelburne's low-key, direct style will ensure that student government politics are minimized.

Another example of Shelburne's recognition of student issues is his work with a.p.p.e.s. Instead of just vocally supporting the program, Shelburne helped the program progress by drafting legislation to give it money and by serving on the board to choose its service learning coordinator.

Shelburne's ideas further solidify his candidacy. He wants to hold a "constitutional convention" to target and eliminate the frustrating paradoxes in the Student Government Code. Instead of students reacting to a budget plan drawn up by state legislators, Shelburne will involve students in the beginning through a student-faculty committee. While his plans for majors' unions lack detail, such organizations at least would provide a link between students and faculty.

Most of the candidates for student body president would fill the position well. Mark Bibbs' outstanding experience with the General Assembly, the Board of Governors and the UNC-system along with his effective communication skills give his candidacy great credence. However, Bibbs' skills and experience may work better on the state level than at UNC. Likewise, candidates Rashmi Airan and Scott Peeler have contributed greatly to the student body during their years at the University.

Despite this tough competition, Shelburne is the candidate who deserves the position. His extensive government experience, amicable manner and sincerity make him the top candidate.



Mark Shelburne

Peter Wallsten for DTH editor

The Daily Tar Heel would be in safe hands with any of the very capable candidates vying for the editorship, but Peter Wallsten's innovative ideas and aggressive leadership style make him the best person for the job.

Perhaps Wallsten's most outstanding traits are his energy and enthusiasm — traits that tend to rub off on the rest of the DTH staff. In his 1 1/2 years as city editor, Wallsten turned a struggling desk with a scant handful of writers into a thriving operation that often scoops area papers. His record of staff retention — a trouble spot for the DTH — outshines that of every other DTH desk. And under Wallsten's leadership, the city desk also became one of the most diversified of the DTH desks.

Wallsten's platform abounds with exciting ideas for every area of the DTH. But his most creative suggestion — the Saturday sports paper — stands out above the rest. The paper, which would be distributed on football game days, would provide room for expanded sports coverage. And it could also translate into a money-maker for the financially strapped DTH.

Wallsten's suggestion to open up the

application process for the editorial board also represents a bold step toward improving the diversity of the DTH staff. It is possible for the board to develop a closed-shop mentality, and Wallsten's suggestion could bring fresh perspectives to the back page. It would not, however, be a move toward tokenism. The application process would be thorough. Applicants for the editorial board would have to demonstrate strong deductive reasoning and writing skills.

Peter Wallsten would be accessible. His plans for regular office hours indicate a desire to be open to suggestions from readers. Everyone in the University community will know where and when they can get in touch with the DTH editor.

To be DTH editor, a person must have a strong will, an iron code of ethics and be able to make decisions under pressure. Peter Wallsten has demonstrated all of these characteristics. Wallsten deserves your vote for Daily Tar Heel editor.



Peter Wallsten

Charles Streeter for RHA president

Because of his dedication to the Residence Hall Association, his experience and his commitment to minority issues and concerns, Charles Streeter is the candidate for RHA president.

Next year will be important for the RHA, and Streeter will be effective in meeting the group's goals. RHA's racial diversity plan will take effect; with Streeter at the helm, the RHA stands a good chance of effectively implementing the plan. His promise to move to a North Campus residence hall should inspire other minorities to follow suit. Streeter also hopes to make the plan run more smoothly by sponsoring programs and forums to track its success.

Streeter's 2 1/2 years of involvement with the RHA insure that he has the expe-

rience to be an effective president. His dedication to the RHA is unflinching, and he genuinely cares about the RHA. After a messy campaign for last year's RHA presidency — in which the RHA endorsed Streeter's opposition after the DTH endorsed Streeter — Streeter elected to stay with the organization in the position of executive assistant.

Streeter has the experience and the devotion to the RHA that will make him an effective president, and his commitment to minority issues will be important as the RHA implements the racial diversity plan.



Charles Streeter

Tracy Kirincich for CAA president

Tracy Kirincich is the only candidate for Carolina Athletic Association president, but her experience in the CAA indicates that she is more than qualified for the job.

As CAA's vice president, she was as close to the work of president as one can get and has the experience to deal with student concerns. High on her things-to-do list are Homecoming events, the ticket distribution process and the Student Recreation Center.

She proposes to take CAA out of the Homecoming Court selection process to avoid conflicts of interest. In addition, she plans to eliminate the poorly attended Homecoming party held at the end of Ram-

page and use the money to improve other events.

Kirincich intends to listen to student suggestions and improve ticket distribution, a system that usually works well but has a history of breaking down for big games.

She wants to educate students about the SRC by holding monthly meetings on the site. By serving on the policies committee and helping to select the center's director and equipment, Kirincich promises to be a leader that will represent students' concerns.



Tracy Kirincich

LETTERS OF ENDORSEMENT

DTH editor candidates endorsed

Track record makes Wallsten best for job

To the editor:
Each year at election time, many students ask: "Which candidate for Daily Tar Heel should I vote for? I don't know anything about newspapers." As a former DTH staffer and veteran professional reporter, I am writing to offer my advice on how to resolve the question this year.

Peter Wallsten is the most qualified candidate running. I believe he would be one of the best DTH editors ever, no mean feat in a job that has been held by the likes of Thomas Wolfe and Charles Kuralt.

I first learned of Peter through his work with the DTH. Frankly, student newspapers do not often break the big stories. But Peter's work was an exception. He constantly was exposing the questionable dealings on campus and the surrounding community. For instance, he did a far better job than any of the area's professional reporters in highlighting the South Loop Road/Odum Village controversy. If it weren't for Peter's work, South Loop Road might be very close to reality today.

Peter, as editor, would make his aggressive and fair reporting style a staple of the DTH. Under his guidance, the DTH would be one of the best student newspapers in the country. This is all student voters need to know, but for those curious about how he would treat his staff, I will go on.

I worked with Peter last summer when I was still a reporter for the Durham Herald-Sun. I found him to be a very jovial, easy-going guy. He would be an ideal person to work for. I wish some of my bosses had been as nice as Peter.

THOMAS MOORE
Class of 1994
Law

Wallsten's leadership needed at helm of DTH

To the editor:
Peter Wallsten is the best candidate for editor of The Daily Tar Heel. I encourage everyone to vote for him.

As city editor, Peter has demonstrated himself to be the best desk editor I have seen in four years at UNC. His city desk has covered the news in Chapel Hill and Carrboro in a way that has put the DTH in competition with better-funded, corporate-owned newspapers. Never before has there been such well-informed writing and editing on the city desk of the DTH.

Given the chance, I think Peter will prove to be the best editor the DTH has had in years. Having worked on the editorial page staff of the DTH myself, I have known and worked with several DTH editors. I know what it takes to be editor of the DTH, and I think Peter Wallsten will make the entire DTH as great as he made the city desk. I ask the student body to make the DTH the best it has ever been by voting for Peter Wallsten for editor of The Daily Tar Heel.

MARK CHILTON
Senior
Geography

Johnston would be approachable as editor

To the editor:
Too often in student elections, candidates become mere names and slogans without any indication of the true person behind the picture. Having known Stephanie Johnston for almost two years, I feel I can explain why I consider her not only a friend but also the person who would be the most effective Daily Tar Heel editor.

Of all the candidates, Stephanie best exemplifies that qualities necessary for a professional editor. In the time that I have known her, I have come to admire and respect not only her dedication and commitment to the DTH, but also her ability to put herself in other people's positions without any bias. As a minority student attending UNC, this quality is particularly important to me. I have always been able to approach her and talk candidly about my concerns with the paper. In her position as University desk editor, she has always considered my suggestions with an honest attitude and sincere desire to make the DTH more responsive to all students.

Stephanie's hard work and commitment to making the DTH a better paper have never been in doubt. She has worked more than 40 hours a week at the paper and has done so with a positive attitude and a desire to represent student concerns. Even when the paper has been criticized, Stephanie has remained objective and used the suggestions to help improve the paper and make it responsive to all students rather than any single special interest group. A good editor must be able not

only to manage the day-to-day affairs of running the paper, but also to communicate and get along with the staff as well as the student body. Stephanie will make a good editor because of her ability to relate to students' need and make their concerns her own. She has the most experience of all the candidates in dealing with student affairs and understands the difficulty in making the DTH a student newspaper for all the students. During her tenure as senior University editor for the past year, the DTH has improved in its continuing goal of covering all aspects of campus life. As editor, Stephanie would do the best job incorporating our needs and concerns onto the pages of the DTH.

Vote Stephanie Johnston for DTH editor on Tuesday.

AMAL SHEHATA
Sophomore
Business Administration

Johnston's experience best for DTH editorship

To the editor:
On Feb. 11, we have an important decision to make. We must choose an editor for The Daily Tar Heel from well-qualified candidates. Each candidate has his or her own platform, based on what he or she feels most appropriate for improving the DTH. One candidate, however, stands out from the rest, not solely because of her DTH experience and great ideas, but also because of her basic character and personality.

Stephanie has worked for the DTH for 2 1/2 years, the past year of which she has spent as University editor. Her experience with the role gives her ample qualities for DTH editor.

Stephanie has worked the long hours it takes to run the University desk. I, as a former U-desk writer, can attest to her diligence. When I was frustrated about a story, she pushed me harder to find sources. She never gave up on a story, unless we hit a brick wall with all our leads. I respected her for that, and I'm confident she will carry that ambition with her to the editorship.

Even though Stephanie always pushed her writers to do their best, she never lost that sense of patience in her tone. She was not a domineering editor, but an encouraging and guiding one. As University editor, Stephanie also dealt one on one with many campus groups. She received their suggestions, complaints, praises and grudges with an attentive ear and an open mind.

Stephanie also received a lot of feedback from students and University administrators quoted in stories. She took on this responsibility with open arms and was always ready for anything she heard and, subsequently, learned.

Able to deal with students on a personal level, Stephanie can change the whole outlook of the DTH. With suggestions from students and faculty, she will be able to run a much-improved college newspaper.

Since Stephanie plans to improve all aspects of the DTH, she will eventually reach more readers. By strengthening city, state, national, and world coverage, she will be able to tune students into life beyond UNC.

Her ideas of human interest stories and "happy" editorials, which praise instead of degrade, will add a much-needed change to the DTH. Obviously much of the news of this world is bad, and students need to know about it. However, everyone can benefit from some good news every once in a while.

AMY ESLINGER
Sophomore
Education

Professional experience makes Easley #1 choice

To the editor:
I would like to encourage UNC students, especially graduate students, to vote for Matthew Easley for Daily Tar Heel editor. I believe Matthew's experience, interest in covering a variety of issues and personal character make him the best person to head our daily paper.

Matthew's qualifications for the job are countless. Not only has he served in nearly all the important positions of leadership at the DTH, but he also has had a very successful career in journalism outside the campus environment. His award from the Associated Press for deadline news coverage is the best example of the quality of his previous work. While working for the Albany Herald, he reported on a wide variety of that community's news — including city government, environmental issues, the board of education and local events. I argue that his work in Albany more than prepared him to take on the task of managing the DTH's coverage of our community. In addition to his experience,

another reason for voting for Matthew is his commitment to expanding the DTH's coverage of campus, local and state news. As head of the Special Assignments Team, he has demonstrated his interest in delving deeply into campus issues. But as editor, he would ensure that the paper also covers other colleges and universities, Chapel Hill news, and national and world issues. A special note to my fellow graduate students: Matthew is committed to expanding the coverage of issues that affect graduate students and faculty, an area in which The Daily Tar Heel has been unsatisfactory up until now.

Matthew Easley obviously has the experience and ideas that qualify him for the job as DTH editor. As important as these, I believe he has the personal character to make him an excellent editor. I got to know him when I was his TA in an upper-level history course. Throughout the course of the semester I was impressed with his analytic capability, seriousness, knowledge of regional and national affairs and hard work. I have been telling my colleagues in the department, "Hey, you should vote for this guy. He's a great writer, and he wants the DTH to cover us (graduate students) more." I would like to urge the same to a wider audience. Matthew has the qualifications and character to do the job well. And, by expanding coverage and improving writing, Easley would help to make the DTH a better paper.

TRACY E. K'MEYER
Graduate
History

Straight-shooting Easley has sound plans for DTH

To the editor:
Straight-shooting — it's what John Wayne built his reputation on. It's also what good journalism should be.

You can hear it in the way Matthew Easley talks. He doesn't waste words, and he gets to the point. Straight-shooting.

That's why Easley is an excellent candidate for editor of The Daily Tar Heel. He doesn't have a gun or boots like Wayne, but he's got a concrete plan to make the newspaper better. It's a no bullsh*t plan that makes sense.

■ Everyone talks about improving writing and reporting. And Easley, with his full-time experience at a Georgia daily, knows that the best way to do this is to work closely with writers and offer advice — good, hard editing to build the foundations of good writing.

■ College students are busy, but that doesn't mean they aren't interested. Easley is going to put world and national briefs back on the front page, where readers can get the quick facts on global news.

■ The world is your oyster, but home is still where the heart is. And the 82-percent in-state student body cares about Whiteville, Laurinburg and High Point, because that's where they live. Easley wants to run more state news in an organized format.

■ Briefs and fast facts aside, what would a newspaper be without solid, in-depth reporting on serious issues? Easley, who launched the DTH Special Assignments Team, has a deep interest in investigative reporting, and he will carry on that commitment.

The UNC Society of Professional Journalists endorsed Easley, and it makes sense. Because that's what he is — a professional journalist. He worked full-time at a newspaper before he came back to UNC to get his degree. He could have started working somewhere else, but he wanted to devote his energies to the DTH and its student readers.

It's hard to elect an editor when the voters don't know the details of the staff. The best thing to do is to pick a candidate who is serious and responsible, mature and independent, but relaxed enough to grow a goatee and like it. Matthew Easley.

ANU MANNAR
Senior
Journalism

Ignore the ballots: Vote Bounds, Toll for DTH

To the editor:
In all the political maneuvering and legal mumbo-jumbo that has become the hallmark of this year's DTH editor campaign, it is sometimes easy to forget what it's all about. But when it's all said and done, there's only one thing the voters need to decide — who will make the DTH the best newspaper it can be.

And there's only one possible answer — Dacia Toll and Wendy Bounds will do the best job of giving the University the kind of newspaper it deserves and needs. What sets them apart from the rest of the pack is that while everyone has a fistful of ideas for changing

the DTH, only Toll and Bounds have concrete plans for how they will go about improving the DTH. Perhaps more important, they have the will, ability and manpower to make these changes.

How do I know Toll and Bounds are this good? From years of experience working with them. I have worked at the DTH for about three years, and in that time, I have worked with all of the candidates. I have seen their work, both in the newsroom and on the pages of the DTH.

In the time I have known them, Toll and Bounds have developed into two of the most competent and respected reporters and editors the DTH has had in some time.

I have worked with both Toll and Bounds at the state and national desk and for Bounds at that same desk and the UNC Journalist. Bounds has also worked for me on the DTH's editorial page.

I know all the candidates, and I know they are all good reporters. I also know that Toll and Bounds have the skill, persistence and plain old talent to set them apart from the competition. They didn't buckle under attack; they were removed from the ballot because of a misunderstanding, and this determination is just what the DTH needs from its leaders.

But don't just take my word for it. The Black Student Movement also recognizes Toll's and Bounds' commitment to excellence — it endorsed them.

I plan to vote for Toll and Bounds. And if you want to read an exceptional student newspaper, ignore the ballots. Write in Dacia Toll and Wendy Bounds for DTH editors.

ANDRE HAUSER
Senior
Journalism/English

Bounds, Toll can handle challenges of editorship

To the editor:
This year, choosing the best leadership for the DTH involves more than simply checking a box. Dacia Toll and Wendy Bounds are the obvious choice for editors, but their names won't be obvious on the ballot — you've got to write them in.

Amid all the promises, pandering and politicking, there's not much distinguishing this year's student elections from previous ones. But perhaps in the midst of all the traditional chaos, students will see through the politics and vote for the DTH editors who not only have the right vision for the paper, but also have the ability to implement it.

Editors need to boast strong personalities, and they should be capable of providing decisive leadership. In all the time we've known Dacia Toll and Wendy Bounds, they have never backed away from a challenge or buckled under administrative threats. They are leaders who believe in the strongest principles of journalistic integrity, yet they have learned from experience to show compassion for the people they report on.

The position at the helm of the DTH demands leaders who can mitigate staff conflicts, assess news priorities, handle reader concerns and plan for the future — all while overseeing the daily logistics of publishing a newspaper. One editor is often forced to sacrifice all other concerns in order to tend to the daily drudgery. Toll and Bounds have committed themselves to handling it all.

Toll and Bounds are not identical twins by any stretch of the imagination.

Bounds looks at issues from an idealistic perspective. Toll, however, is more of a pragmatist, always searching for the bottom line. Although these contrasting personalities lead to vibrant political debates, they always manage to meet in the middle with a more thoughtful solution.

This combination will carry over onto the pages of the DTH, which should be fair and representative of all opinions.

Humor counts. We've spent countless hours debating, and Toll and Bounds always keep a light-hearted perspective. When kicked off the ballot, they took it in stride, had a good laugh and plotted their next strategy. This flexibility and persistence is vital in a newsroom.

Most importantly, these women are strong individuals. But when they work together, their combined strengths produce the best results. And together, they will produce the best DTH.

ANGELA B. GANTT
Sophomore
Political Science/Pre-Med

JASME KELLY
Freshman
Journalism

Editor's note:

Endorsements were decided by vote of the editorial board, which consists of The Daily Tar Heel editor, the editorial page editor and five editorial writers. The editorial board based its decisions on interviews of candidates and scrutiny of their platforms. Write-in candidates were not considered for endorsements. Jennifer Wing did not participate in the DTH editor endorsement proceedings.