

The Daily Tar Heel

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Women are more than the statistic

Happy Anniversary! It was one year ago this week (Feb. 5) that New York Times 'Styles' reporter Alex Williams waltzed into Chapel Hill and gave his depiction of the life of a UNC woman.

His article was troubling, to say the least. After four days of "researching" in Chapel Hill, Williams concluded that the slanted enrollment statistics for women in college meant we faced a considerable disadvantage finding mates on campus. But I couldn't help but think something altogether different: a few more percentage points in college enrollment, and women will have solidified the beginning of the end of men. Evil laughter followed.

Sadistic, I know. But while some were overwhelmed by the 60-40 female-to-male ratio at UNC, I only saw a giant leap for womankind. Now I'm on Elizabeth Cady Stanton or Audre Lorde, but as a fellow woman, I'm more than happy to see the seesaw slant in the other direction. Yes, there are concrete social side effects. Williams made sure we all knew it. But a year later, I'd like us all to try and see things my way.

Statistically, we've been surpassing our male counterparts in physical representation on the college campuses for more than 30 years, and for every two men who will receive a Bachelor of Arts degree this year, three women will do the same.

Historically, women have had their fair share of contributions to world order. So where's all the confetti?

UNC's own Sallie Walker Stockard was the first woman to dawn a Carolina blue graduation robe in 1898. In 1921, Edith Wharton was the first woman to be awarded the Pulitzer Prize. Shirley A. Jackson was the first African-American woman to graduate from MIT in 1968. Dr. Sally Ride was the first woman to go into space. Toni Morrison was the first black woman to win the Nobel Prize for literature. And Marilyn vos Savant was listed in The Guinness Book of World Records for having an IQ of 228, the highest recorded in history. Did I mention the 15 women represented on the most recent Forbes Fortune 500?

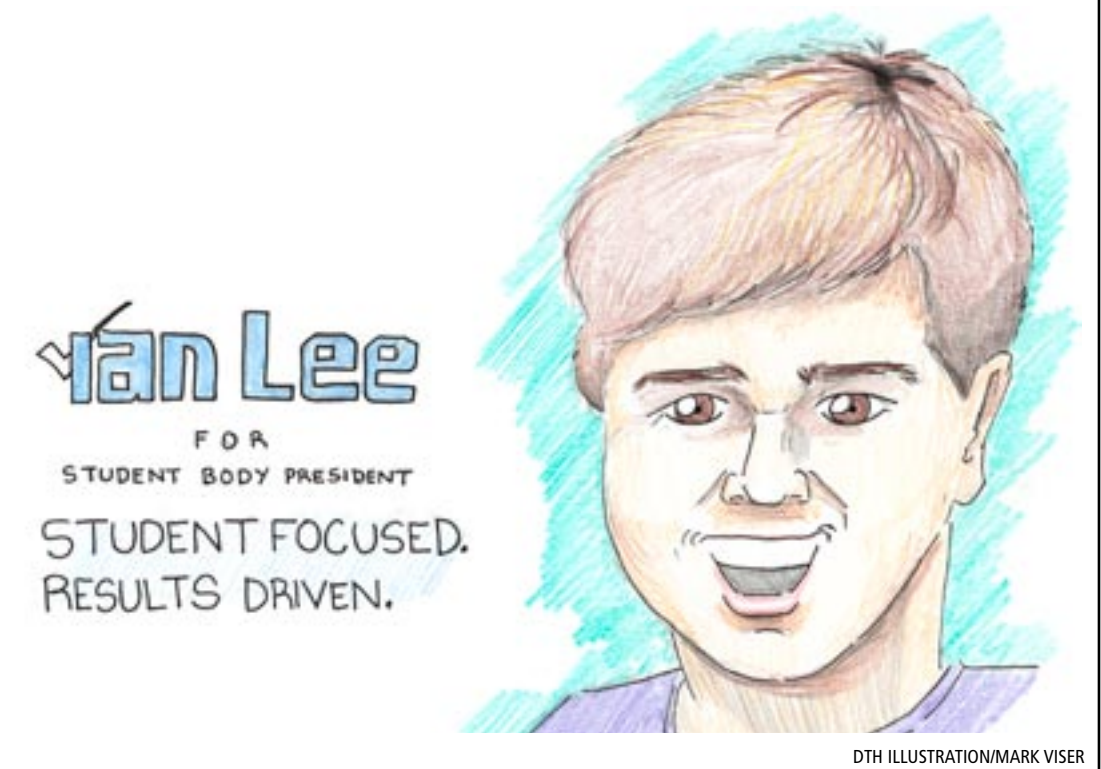
These don't even begin to truly acknowledge the accomplishments made by women since the passing of the 19th Amendment. And yet we enabled Williams, whose idea of researching and interviewing in no way accurately reflects all of the voices of women at UNC. And considering the recent advocates for gender-neutral language and altering the ideology of gender roles, articles like these only add more fuel to the gender fire.

So a year after all the hoopla, Alex Williams is still a journalist and women at UNC still reign supreme numerically.

It's still his job to write stories that will land him a spot in a \$2 copy of the Times and it's still our job to earn that coveted diploma. Ultimately, we're back to where we started. But maybe this time we'll start with a different state of mind — one that doesn't involve catty banter about how unfortunate we women are to be in such a dilemma. I'm in the majority for once and I'm going to bask in it.

So you know what ladies? Get dressed. It's our anniversary and we're going out. I'll bring the party hats, you bring the chocolate cake.

THURSDAY:
Noah Brisbin puts Duke's recent loss in perspective.



LEE FOR PRESIDENT

This year's endorsement was incredibly difficult. Ian Lee's institutional knowledge was impressive. But we also identified strongly with Mary Cooper's vision and personable nature. But right now, students need an Ian Lee more than they need a Mary Cooper.

Lee's presentation was one marked by pragmatism. In our endorsement meeting, it was very clear that he has considerable institutional knowledge about the way student government works.

First and foremost, he understands the difficulties that UNC faces in the coming year.

Concerning tuition, he understands looming hikes are largely out of his hands, although he maintains that he hopes to have a little influence "on the margins." Even that might be optimistic, but he seems genuinely intent on being a strong advocate.

Yet he is not without a vision for tuition — believing the benchmark for rates should be the cost of the services UNC provides, not the rates of institutions scattered around the nation we call our "peers." We can't say how far he will get, but it's an idea worth advocating for.

If you ask Lee what things he is most excited about in this platform, two are certain to get mention: "Fix My Campus" and parking.

Fix My Campus is a promising solution to the inattentiveness to student needs that has plagued student government. Students could easily direct questions and concerns at student government. Done well, Fix My Campus will facilitate a two-way flow of student government's helpful knowledge and students' top priorities.

On the parking front, Lee's plan is three-pronged: half-off parking tickets if paid within a week, carpool parking permits and free parking in the Ram's Head deck after 5 p.m. The latter proposal has appeared in platforms before, but Lee believes he can satisfy DPS' desire to collect revenue by requiring One Card access to the deck.

Lee believes students paid to build Ram's Head, and the student body should have access to as much of the scarce parking as possible. We absolutely agree.

Why not Cooper

Mary Cooper is exciting. She is lively, energetic and incredibly passionate. Her vibrancy showed conspicuously throughout our endorsement interview. But enthusiasm does not a student body president make.

Her vision is big on rhetoric. Take the first of her three main platform tenets: a student enrichment fund. The fund would pay for students to attend events outside of Chapel Hill. Theoretically, students would enrich themselves at these events then come back to UNC and enrich other students.

But building a scholarship or grant is no easy process. Cooper pledged to use her stipend as preliminary funding, but her stipend would barely cover a student's air travel. One wonders where exactly Cooper would find the capital necessary to establish this fund, especially in the midst of massive budget cuts.

The remainder of Cooper's "big three" ideas are forgettable at best. Every year, many candidates advocate for expanded CCI printing. But broadening the network is expensive. We would have liked to see some semblance of an implementation plan to speak to the project's feasibility. And the flat-rate taxi is a fine idea, but one wonders why it is one of Cooper's top platform tenets.

Cooper also emphasized her Triage committee proposal. The Triage is Cooper's attempt to bridge the perceived communication gap between students' concerns and student government. But when pressed to explain the process by which students would bring their concerns, Cooper could not provide an answer. The board agreed with the Triage's broad vision and Cooper's populist rhetoric, but Cooper could not provide a tangible implementation plan. Ian Lee's "Fix My Campus" proposal also aims to address student concerns and does so in a much more feasible, efficient manner.

Overall, Mary Cooper presented a fresh attitude and an intangible optimism. She emphatically conveyed her passion to help students. She came across as intelligent, cheerful and energetic. But when we considered the specifics of her platform, an area devoid of personality, Cooper did not match up to Lee's pragmatic, realistic approach to effective platform implementation.

Why not Ingram

Rick Ingram is confident and knowledgeable about University issues, and he put time and effort into developing his platform.

However, his platform seems a bit aloof and outdated, and he will have little authority to influence many of the ideas he presents. In one of the largest platform planks, Rick speaks of creating new campus communities to connect like-minded student organizations.

We agree that this approach may be beneficial for working with many different student organizations. But Ingram takes the idea further by advocating for the creation of an organizer position. The organizer would be responsible for overseeing these groups and helping them decide how to allocate funding from Student Congress.

We believe that this organizational system could negatively impact smaller student organizations that have less influence.

Why not Stephens

Brooklyn Stephens is running a campaign for student body president, but we're not sure why.

Her platform wasn't released until this week — and anyone who tries to stand on her platform would fall right through.

Brooklyn's main planks include ideas that are simply redundant. Her "Carolina Calendar" sounds like a revamped version of Slice, but without a definite plan, there's no chance for Carolina Calendar to be any more successful than Slice is.

Continuing arts advocacy and fighting for longer opening times at campus dining halls are decent ideas, but they shouldn't comprise the bulk of her campaign.

She's been active in a number of diverse campus organizations, but being outside the student government bubble is no replacement for expertise.

During our endorsement meet-

QUOTE OF THE DAY:
"The NCAA stuff hasn't come down yet. They may end up losing some players..."
MILLER SAFRIT, WRITER FOR SCOUT.COM

FEATURED ONLINE READER COMMENT:
"I think when you are literally a super senior you should stop writing in to a college newspaper."
CC, ON A LETTER TO THE EDITOR WRITTEN BY J.E. WILLIAMS, UNC '50

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

God loves all, including homosexuals, equally

TO THE EDITOR:

In response to J. E. Williams' ("Homosexuality, Christianity are diametrically opposed," Feb. 1) statement that "Christianity and homosexuality are incongruous," I argue that those statements are misguided. Does the Bible condemn homosexuality? Yes, it definitely does. One of the most quoted verses in this argument is 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 where Paul states that homosexuals/sodomites will not inherit the kingdom of God. But what is overlooked is the actual message of the scripture. Included in the list are drunkards, adulterers, cheaters, gluttons and slanderers.

The message is not that homosexuals can't be or are not Christians. The message is that no one deserves the grace, love and forgiveness that God provides. Am I a Christian? Yes. Do I deserve what God offers through his son? Absolutely not. Why? Because I am human and at times I have been a drunkard, a slanderer, a glutton and I have been lustful, thus committing adultery in my heart and mind. Is homosexuality, according to Christian and Jewish scripture, sinful? Definitely. Does it change God's love for homosexuals? Absolutely not.

God loves all individuals even though all individuals find themselves at times slaves to poor choices. I'm not promoting sin; I'm simply making an objective statement about God's unconditional love. If anyone disagrees with that statement, I recommend taking a closer look at scripture. I'm sorry but yes, it's okay to be gay and a Christian. Human nature makes us all equally sinful, thus falling short of God's glory. It's not our job to judge our neighbors in the first place.

*Frances McVay
Graduate Student
Information and Library Science*

UNC should accept more out-of-state students now

TO THE EDITOR:

UNC must define its primary academic goal as excellence in the eyes of its students and its peers. If, with reduced state appropriations, the administration has no recourse but to fire faculty and reduce course offerings, we, the undergraduate student body, will surely feel the effects.

Current dialogue holds that a lack of resources is responsible for UNC's current and future academic shortcomings. Upon investigation, one finds that it is no surprise UNC feels a financial pinch. Compared to peers like the University of Virginia and the University of Michigan, UNC charges nearly \$4,000 less per year to in-state students in tuition and fees. In addition, those universities respectively admit 31 percent and 34 percent out-of-state students, which contribute significantly higher revenue per capita and are, on average, better qualified.

UNC should therefore follow suit and substantially increase in-state tuition, as well as increase the number of out-of-state students admitted, while diverting increasing revenue to absolutely essential financial aid programs. Recognizing that the N.C. legislature limits out-of-state admissions to 18 percent and per annum tuition increases to 6.5 percent, the undergraduate student body should, in looking out for its best interests, ally with University administration in an appeal to increase or abolish those limits.

*Terry Law
Co-President
Grady A. Brown PTA*

Wilson Library to host a University Civil War exhibit

TO THE EDITOR:

Memorials and monuments inspire individual reactions, and Silent Sam embodies a particu-

*Austin Cooper
Freshman
Comparative Literature*

SPEAK OUT

WRITING GUIDELINES:

- **Please type:** Handwritten letters will not be accepted.
- **Sign and date:** No more than two people should sign letters.
- **Students:** Include your year, major and phone number.
- **Faculty/staff:** Include your

department and phone number.

➤ **Edit:** The DTH edits for space, clarity, accuracy and vulgarity. Limit letters to 250 words.

SUBMISSION:

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