

SGA presidential candidates discuss campaign, issues

Tia Bailiff and DeWayne Carter in one-on-one interviews

By SARAH KINGSBURY
Editor

The Settler: *What is your platform? What issues do you support or disagree with?*

Bailiff: I've looked into liability issues for community colleges and daycares and 60% of community colleges in Tennessee have daycares.

I'd like to have a battle of the bands on campus to get students involved. I'd also like to have our own bands on Spring Fling and Fall Fest. Like Embers Fade, they're a real popular band on campus; I'd like to give students that play their own instruments to have a chance to play on campus even if it's just for that one day.

I'd like to see about the codes and legal issues as far as opening the balcony up to smokers.

I'd like to work with the administration for them to respect the more risqué events we have on campus, such as The Vagina Monologues.

I'd like to increase student turnout in basketball, baseball, softball games, and all the athletic events.

In case opening up the daycare is too large of an issue for us to conquer,

I figure that with the school closings being such an issue here lately, the children of these parents are having to come to school with them because they can't find a babysitter for that one particular day. With a conditional problem we can have a conditional solution. I believe student leaders could help out and the SGA could provide juice boxes and coloring books so that the non-traditional students can get the same education as everyone else does without having to worry about whether they can go to a class.

The Settler: *Why should students vote for you over your opponent?*

Bailiff: I would never tell anyone to vote against someone else. I feel like if you don't vote for me then I haven't earned your vote. I do have a lot of experience, but I've even taught

leadership to colleges other than our own at a regional leadership summit I was invited to teach. I want the vote because I've earned it. I've earned the vote and I've worked hard for [the students] for two years and I'd like to work with them for another year.

The Settler: *What will you do differently from the current SGA administration and what will you keep the same?*

Bailiff: I would definitely keep going with the same strengthening the bonds with administration like we've been working towards this year. I'd like to increase student discounts. It's a great administration, I'd like to keep going with the same vibe that's been going, but I'd like to improve the conditions- the quality- of the college experience for the students.

The Settler: *How much involvement have you had in dealing with top members of the administration and are you prepared to handle situations involving both students and the administration on a daily basis?*

Bailiff: Yes I do that now.

The Settler: *What made you decide to run for SGA president?*

Bailiff: I've been involved for two years and I've been in just about any position you can be in. In the SGA I've been on all the committees, I've been vice president which kind of puts

me over all the committees and I've worked with all the clubs and all the students involved in them, so it made natural sense for me to run for president. I realize that I enjoy doing what I'm doing. It kind of gives my college experience purpose

The Settler: *Describe your ideal student government situation:*

Bailiff: In an ideal student government, the constitution would be first and foremost on everyone's mind, at least on dealing with the inside of the SGA. The ideal student government would appeal to every student, it would make itself known by the good things that it does for the students and what it achieves for the students. It would serve as the perfect bridge between the administration and the individual students.

The Settler: *What is your platform? What issues do you support or disagree with?*

Carter: I want to encourage less student apathy. That's been my thing from the get-go, to have more student-based activities. The guys and the girls are always talking to me about how we need more stuff on campus, that there's nothing to do here. Even some of the non-traditional students would like to come to some of the events we don't have.

Also, I want to make sure that some of the things in the constitution of the student government are settled. I want to make sure there are no loopholes. I want to re-write the constitution. I'm going to look over the constitution word-for-word and change some of the wording.

Also, we have a website for the Student Government Association that hasn't been changed since 2003. Somebody could run for office right now and not have to go by the current constitution if they haven't received a constitution from the election commission. It's ridiculous that the website hasn't been changed since 2003.

The Settler: *Why should students vote for you over your opponent?*

Carter: I think that students should vote for me, number one because I'm a survivor, I'm a fighter. Being that the president and the SGA are the link for the students to the administration, they want somebody in there that's going to fight for them, someone who is not going to go in there and sugarcoat things. I'm not going to play ball. I'm going to tell the administration exactly what the students want and I'm going to relay back to the students exactly what the administration says we can and can't do.

For instance, the night students have said they have a lot of classes in the Caudill Hall building and they say every other building on campus has a Coke machine and a snack machine except Caudill Hall. I never thought about it, but that's the truth. You know, they don't have a lunch room. The lunch room, we haven't had them stay open later yet, which is also an issue, so why not give them a Coke machine and a snack machine so that they don't have to walk out in the rain or in the

cold in the dead of night, scared that somebody might mug them.

That's another thing, I want to get more campus emergency telephones around campus, because we are a community college, but it's just like being at a major college. We have the same things going on here that major colleges have going on.

The Settler: *What will you do differently from the current SGA administration and what will you keep the same?*

Carter: I want to be an advocate for the students. I feel confident that I would represent the voice of the Vol State students well.

The Settler: *How much involvement have you had in dealing with top members of the administration and are you prepared to handle situations involving both students and the administration on a daily basis?*

Carter: I'm very prepared to talk with them, I have a very laid back personality and I have no problems talking to anyone and I'm usually very easy to get along with. For the most part, I am very much a well-rounded person.

The Settler: *What made you decide to run for SGA president?*

Carter: Evan is leaving this year and I felt like since Evan- who was the best person for the job last year- I didn't see anybody stepping up to the plate to carry on the good tradition of being a good president and I was not confident that my current opponent could carry on the tradition and was not carrying on the tradition for the right reasons.

To my knowledge, I think she's doing this for self. I think she's doing it for self-recognition and that's not what SGA president is all about.

The Settler: *Describe your ideal student government situation:*

Carter: My ideal situation would be a collective mesh representing all ethnicities, all orientations, but also be knowledgeable of the constitution and knowledgeable of their jobs.

I would like to thank Tia for pushing the thing with the judiciary committee and making me to learn this constitution, because she forced me to learn this constitution almost word-for-word so I could not be put out of this race and I appreciate that, I really do.

"I would never tell anyone to vote against someone else. I feel like if you don't vote for me then I haven't earned your vote."

"Students should vote for me because I'm a fighter, I'm a survivor."