

Stewart Answers JOURNAL's Questions

(Editor's note: The following is a questionnaire submitted to SGA President F. N. Stewart several weeks ago by THE CAROLINA JOURNAL. Mr. Stewart and Vice-President Alan Hickok collaborated to arrive at the answers below. Mr. Stewart was elected in a student-body wide election immediately before the Easter holidays. Less than 400 students voted in the election. He and Mr. Hickok assumed office one week ago today. In an abbreviated speech given at his installation, Mr. Stewart said that the work has already begun. The reader can judge for himself.)

To begin with, the JOURNAL would like to congratulate you, Mr. Stewart, on your election to the position of SGA President for the coming year. You have stated in past interviews that you are "a dreamer" and that you possess a "bunch of ideals." You have said that next year should be "a time of change and, hopefully, of progress." We would like to know exactly what you intend to change in the obviously mediocre student government that now exists on campus. First, we would like to know when you intend to announce particular policy stand that will be altered or upheld during your administration. Also, when do you intend to reveal your executive appointments?

Stewart-Particular policy stands and alterations will be announced as they occur. We will do our best to keep the students informed regarding change which we intend to undertake. I have tried to announce the appointments as they have been made. However, the list of my appointments will be presented to the legislature at its first meeting.

Journal-During campaigns, both you and Mr. Killian mentioned the parking problem on campus. What do you, as president, intend to do in order to alleviate some of the difficulty?

Stewart-For answer to this, I would refer you to a previous statement made in a guest editorial of the December 18, issue of THE CAROLINA JOURNAL, "an ideal solution for this parking problem would be double or triple decker parking units..."

Journal-It has been almost customary to include a platform statement about total involvement of the student body during student elections, yet no one mentioned a possibility of involving more students in student government during this spring's election. Do you intend to recruit non-activist for your executive committees? If so, how so?

Stewart-We intend to use those students who are both interested and capable of performing the various duties which are required in the S. G. A.

Journal-What steps do you intend to take to ease some of the racial tension that exists in the body at present?

Stewart-We shall plan to have open communication with the leaders of the black students and work with them in discovering and in trying to alleviate the causes of racial tension where it exist.

Journal-On several occasion you have mentioned integration of the dorms into the life of the school. Do you have any PARTICULAR plans in mind? Just how do you intend to do this?

Stewart-To answer this question, I would again refer you to above mentioned guest editorial as it deals with the question of dorms on several of their aspects.

Journal-There has been some mention in the past of Dean Mackay having too much responsibility in STUDENT Affairs? He is not only Dean of Students, Director of the University Union and in charge of housing, but he is also advisor to the student court and holds a powerful position on the Student Activities Committee. What are your thoughts on the possibility of some delegation of authority in regard to Mr. Mackay?

Stewart-I have worked with Dean Mackay on several committees throughout the year and believe that he handles his responsibilities well. However, the administration has also taken not that Dean MacKay is burdened with considerable responsibility and has already taken steps to ease the situation.

Journal-There have been many student complaints concerning the UNC-C Bookstore and the J. Murray Atkins Library. How would you try to alleviate these problems?

Stewart-There is a standing committee being organized, by suggestion of Mr. Boykin, to work with the library staff in handling the problems which arise in this area. Hopefully when the cafeteria goes on a self-sustaining basis next year, the bookstore will be able to lower the prices on books and other items.

Journal-What steps do you intend to take concerning the opening of the library next year during exams and holidays?

Stewart-This is a question to be worked out by the library committee.

Journal-There has been much discussion concerning the effect that the new dorms will have on the organization of student government. Two alternate plans have been suggested - one involving a restructuring of SGA, presently based on class standing, to conform to residence divisions, and the other involving the restructuring on the basis of academic divisions. What are your thoughts on this subject?

Stewart-We feel at this time and in the near future that class is the best means of structuring the S. G. A. legislature.

Journal-Many students on campus view the Student court as a laughing matter, as witnessed by this year's two sessions. What do you intend to do in order to alter this regrettable situation?

Stewart-The legislature has established a constitutional review committee and hopefully any difficulties in the student court can also be handled by this committee.

Journal-The SGA publicity rules are also subject to contempt and frequent violation. Why, and what changes do you intend to institute in this area?

Stewart-We feel that most of the violations occur due to ignorance of the publicity rules. We, therefore, intend to furnish all organizations with copies of the rules and stress the fact that next year there will be strict enforcement of these rules. Why? Because the publicity rules are subject to contempt and frequent violation.

Journal-Course evaluation. It's a responsibility of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Executive Council. Why can't it be done?

Stewart-Course evaluation has become an emotional issue among some members of the faculty and since we feel that it would be better to have their cooperation on this matter; we are planning to work with them to create a plan which will be agreeable to most.

Journal-Do you intend to hold Executive Council meetings? How do you feel that this additional communication can aid the operation of student government?

Stewart-What the hell's an executive council?

Journal-Will we have a discount

program next year? If not, why not?

Stewart-There will be a discount program next year if we can get the other colleges and Universities in the area to work with us.

Journal-What do you see as benefits of the University Council? What have you gained from attending it this year?

Stewart-The council has been able to bring about a better communication between the leaders of various parts of the campus. I saw why and where these different parts were having their problems. Also I gained an insight into what their accomplishments have been.

Journal-You said that you hope to see two student-faculty retreats next year, but we're not sure what was accomplished on this year's one retreat. Can you tell us? When will the results become apparent to the average student?

Stewart-The retreat might be called an extended University Council. This time it was among more faculty members, more students and more administrators. The results of the retreat are hard to put into a concrete form, but, I do believe that the results will slowly become apparent on

campus. Journal-To what do you attribute the lack of participation on the part of the students in this year's elections to date?

Stewart-I have been told that many people felt that the competition for the offices of President and Vice-President was not fierce as it has been in recent years. I am also told that the percentage of voters here is the same as for other universities.

Journal-What is the basis for your belief that the students publications, the student union, and the Student Legislature should be separate but equal segments of University life?

Stewart-We feel since the members of each organization are elected by the student body and know more about their particular operation than either of the other organizations do that they be free to control their own operations and funds.

Journal-How would like to see the Teaching Excellence Award handled? Can you foresee any connection between this award and course evaluations by the students?

Stewart-We feel that course

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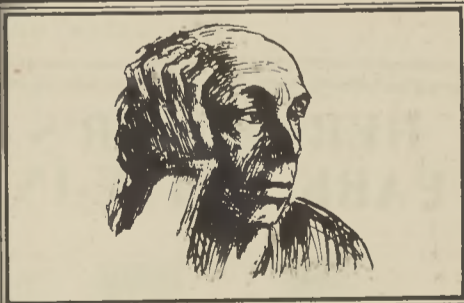
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