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Taylor Clears Up Misunderstandings About Legislature's Dance Reduction

Since the Student Legislature's passage of the emergency act to curtail dance expenditures, there has been considerable opposition to this measure from all quarters. Much of this opposition has, I think, arisen because of certain regrettable misunderstandings on the part of many students.

On Wednesday of this week the question will be submitted to a referendum, when every member of the student body will have the opportunity to vote for or against the act. I am writing this letter in an effort to clear up the misunderstandings which have arisen in order that the students may vote on Wednesday with a more factual knowledge of the questions involved. The opinions expressed in this letter are, to the best of my knowledge, the opinions of those student representatives who voted for the act in the Student Legislature.

dents being affected by the war. Also, it should be pointed out that gross extravagance in time of war by any one group of students reflects upon the reputation of the whole student body and University.

Legislature's Power
Many students have opposed the act on the grounds that "The Student Legislature does not have the power to curtail dance expenditures." The authorization for the Legislature's action is found in its constitution which states that "All legislative powers of the student body are hereby vested in the Student Legislature." That a campus-wide reduction of dance expenditures is a legislative power of the student body can hardly be denied in view of the fact such action affects the whole student body as was pointed out above. It should also be stated that the Student Council, which has the power of veto, has approved the bill, indicating that the campus judiciary body does not contest the constitutionality of the act.

Just Dances?
In discussing this act, many students have asked the question, "Why cut down the dances and nothing else?" In answering this question, I should like to state that the Legislature is very much in sympathy with such sentiments and is at this time working on a plan to readjust the whole Student Fees system to the present emergency. This plan includes provisions for eliminating unnecessary fees and for refunding certain fees to needy students.

Why So Low?
Many people have opposed this act on the grounds that "It cuts expenditures too low." That the legislature pondered at length over this matter is evidenced by the fact that nearly three hours of debate were consumed over this one point. The final feeling on the matter was that since the bill is designed to give students an opportunity to aid in the war effort, it should give them an opportunity to aid just as much as possible without doing away with good dances. It was also felt that good dances did not require the presence of a big name band, but that thoughtful and unselfish Carolina

students could still have good dances with campus bands in the knowledge that by doing so, they were helping in the war effort.

More Beer?
Some opposition to this act has come from those students who say "the act will not help in the war effort because students will spend the saved money on beers, shows, etc." It should be pointed out immediately that such a statement does not express a weakness of the act, but rather a weakness of the students who adopt this attitude. It is highly regrettable that any student should take this position, and I hope that there are not many of them. As has been pointed out above, there is a definite need for money to go into productive channels and this act certainly gives students the opportunity to spend money saved on dances for worthwhile contributions to the war effort.

I hope that this letter has cleared up most of the misunderstandings on this matter and that it will help provide a more thorough understanding of the legislature's actions. On Wednesday the entire student body will be called upon to decide this matter once and for all. It is the clear duty of every student to consider thoughtfully and honestly all the points involved and then cast his vote as he thinks best.

Ferebee Taylor
Speaker Student Legislature

HAYSEED LETTERS...

Chapul Hill, N. C.
March 8

Mr. Hiram Hayseed

Bear Creek, N. C.

Dere Paw,

No doubt you have heard about the emergency which has cum up here at scule. i unnerstand the hole nation is wuryring about it so i will tell you about it.

There is great wurry about the problem of the morale of the studint body. It seems as how all of these fine young embodiments of American manhood and womanhood, upon whom rests the fate of our prond nation, are about to get skittery and go hog crazy. Thet is, their morale is cause of grate concern in these parts, and in Washington too. These studints has got such a bad case of war nerves that unles something is done, and thet right quick, they will all go crazy and as a dyre consequence we will lose this wurdl struggle.

The sulation to the hole problem is merely to get some big named band and have some dances. Then all the morale will be perfectly okay. This solootion is simple, except thet ther is a hitch that they aint got the money. i have found out thet one of these big named bands costs a hole heap, more than a new tractor. i am glad to tell you however that this problum of money looks like it will be solved.

The fedrul govmt led by our grate Rosyvelt has become aware of the dangerus situatun and has interduced a bill in congress to put a tax on people buyin bread, and the money will be sent to the studints here so thet the terribul morale situatun can be allyviated.

If this mesure shud fail our patriotic studint leaders has other suggesttuns. It is perposed thet all soldjers and salers in the armed forcis be asked to contribut their pay for two months for the Carolina Big Named Band Fund. Natcherly they will be glad to do this because they realizes they would luzz the war if somethin shud happin to the morale of the Carolina studint body.

If this dont get enuf money, the Red Cross has agreed to contribute the money thet they was going to spend on bandages for wounded soldjers. The Internatunul Studint Servece Fund has likewise agreed to give some money they was going to spend on hying food for refugee studints who aint got no money.

The situatun is still right smart critical, so if you was going to give part of our crop money to buy a defense bond, or to the Red Cross, send it here to the C. B. N. B. Fund, which will be much more patriotik.

Yore son,
Hiram Jr.

USE YOUR HEAD...

Monday night the current controversy on reducing dance appropriations will be aired at a mass meeting in Memorial hall. A panel of six speakers, three for each side of the question, will speak and present their arguments to the student body. It is the duty of every student who cares anything at all about student government to attend.

Student government at Carolina is facing an acid test. This meeting will record whether or not the Carolina student is mature enough to deserve student government, mature enough to think a question through sanely. In it campus leaders will have their say, and in an open-forum any student will have the right to state his views on the subject.

The Daily Tar Heel's views on this question have already been stated. We do not, however, believe our reasoning is always infallible. We ask you to consider it, but we beg you to consider both sides. We further beg you to go to the meeting, listen to all sides, and then prove you deserve student government by weighing all points

involved and arriving at a conclusion on how to vote that will be in accord with your conscience. Above all, don't leave the voting to the other fellow. When you have made up your mind, take time enough to put your decision on a ballot.

FINALLY—EVALUATION...

Talk runs high and varied on the "Greensboro Affair." Whatever one may think concerning the matter, the case has one overwhelming good point that carries much in its favor.

We believe it important because it ties in with publications at Carolina, with the CPU poll, and with the Mag's voted-for "abolishment" two weeks ago. The "Greensboro Affair" may make us finally realize that we have much to be proud of in the way of student-created publications this year, and that they rate well among the top in the colleges of the nation.

Tar an' Feathers has presented pertinent satire and humor this year. The Tar Heel, controversial and disliked by some, cannot nevertheless, be accused of playing ostrich in a changing world. We have tried to reflect the campus, the nation and the war as thoroughly as we could. The Yackety Yack promises to be the most attractive in years. And the Carolina Magazine—

Let us reflect a bit. This fall, a little annoyed at the late publication of Mags we were definitely pro-Tar an' Feather in our pages and often quipped about Moll's tardy issues. Then again, this winter quarter, we turned and were definitely pro-Mag. There was valid reason for this.

Now for that "valid reason" and an accomplishment the "Greensboro Affair" has accomplished. It is this—that the campus Mag may finally achieve true evaluation among our own student body. For we're sure that the vote showed a false evaluation, among ourselves, of the Mag.

Let us look at the facts. The vote showed that the Mag was unpopular and unread here on this campus. For a Mag that doesn't get read it certainly gets around and "does it again" every month. Over 4800 Greensboro coeds certainly have read it, we still haven't printed all the letters on the February "Academic Myth" article, not to speak of those concerned with the "obscene" Miami Honeymoon in October, "dirty" Highway 321 in November and the "vile" A Roof To Cover Our Heads the past month.

And we say the Mag isn't read, whatever our opinion is of these stories. Yet there was the Mag Male Animal picture spread that scooped Parade Magazine which didn't do it as well with Olivia DeHaviland and the movie cast, the already famous Benzadrine article, the May "College Aviation" Issue liked well enough by Dr. Frank to order 400 extra copies, the talked-of "Mag Goes On A Date" photo feature in December, and the Civilian Defense number that Mrs. Roosevelt spoke very favorably of during her visit.

Perhaps those that "don't read" the Carolina Magazine are still under the delusion that it is still the Mag of past years. Perhaps it would be well for us to look closely to discover that the former "literary magazine" was transformed into a "campus magazine" this year.

Outside the school the Mag is highly evaluated. A reputable advertising house, Kenyon & Eckhardt, in New York called it "top and shoulders above other college publications." State College students have already praised it, and it seems, it has long been read at WC. In view of this it is fairly sad to think that we don't give it a second thought and voted its "abolishment" two weeks ago. However, some of the best things in life go unmissed until they are taken away.

The Mag staff has already recovered from the rabbit-punch dealt it at the CPU poll and it is well on its way to finishing the long-expected Combination Issue for the beginning of next quarter. It would be well to give the Mag a second try this time and look through it.

Why Cut?

In the first place, the question has arisen—"Why should there be any reduction of dance expenditures at all?" The simplest, most direct answer to this question is the fact that the United States is at this very moment suffering defeat at the hands of the Axis and the more money to flow into productive channels today the sooner our country will be able to turn the tide of battle.

With innumerable requests for donations to worthwhile causes confronting the loyal citizen, with the government pleading for more and more money for greater production, with the Red Cross seeking funds with which to care for our wounded soldiers and friends, it is hardly conceivable that the majority of our students, with their characteristic unselfishness, could desire a policy of "business as usual" dance weekends costing thousands of dollars.

Why the Legislature?

Another comment which has been made frequently is that "Although a curtailment of expenditures is a good thing, the reduction should come from the dance organizations themselves and not from the Student Legislature." As speaker of the Legislature, I was the first person to make this statement in the numerous meetings which were held to discuss this matter weeks before the final passage of the act.

Several difficulties were immediately evident, however, which eliminated further consideration of this course of action. First, it was wisely pointed out that such a procedure would not insure uniform action in the various organizations, and that it would be unfair to ask students of one organization to cut down while those in other organizations might never be approached on the subject. Also, in spite of repeated urgent appeals to the heads of the various dance organizations, no full meetings of any one of these organizations was called so that the question could be properly presented, thoroughly discussed, and intelligently decided upon by all the students concerned. It is true that the May Frolics committee took up the matter and that separate meetings of the fraternity members of the German Club were called to consider the issue.

But in neither case were group meetings of all the members called where both points of view could be fully presented to all concerned. Nor were similar meetings of either the junior or senior classes called. Why such meetings were not called, I cannot say. Perhaps it was due to the difficulty of calling meetings of such large groups, perhaps some other reason. The fact remains that they were not called and no action was taken.

For the information of those who still think that there would have been a sizeable reduction of expenditures even if the Legislature hadn't acted, it should be pointed out that on the afternoon of the day on which the act was passed, the head of one dance organization was in the process of signing a contract with a name band for a weekend which would have cost \$3,400. Faced with this situation, the Legislature felt that unless it acted, no action would be taken this year.

Minorities Picked On

Another statement which has frequently been made is that "This act affects only certain minority groups." This is not true. Since the act will be in effect for the duration of the war, every undergraduate will be affected by it, for every student in the undergraduate school has to pay class dance fees. Then too, the very fact that the act is a war measure designed to aid in the war effort means that the act is not limited in its effect to a minority, all the stu-

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