

The Daily Tar Heel

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ERNIE McCRARY, EDITOR

Those Pitiful Election Laws

The Constitutional Council's ruling that last week's legislative election in Morrison Residence Hall was invalid is a real head-scratcher.

The Council said that because a candidate officially withdrew on the day of the balloting the entire election has to be thrown out.

By this precedent, any candidate who decides at the last minute the election is not going to suit him or his party can withdraw, thus causing a new election to be held.

The chances of ever having a legal election on the first try again could be somewhere between slim and none.

It is possible that the Constitutional Council had no other choice except to rule as it did, but it seems that as many problems have been created as were solved.

B. G. Pittard was running for a legislative seat in the Morrison district on the UP ticket. Fifteen days before the election he told E. J. Simmons, chairman of the Morrison UP nominating committee, that his doctor had advised him to withdraw from the election for health reasons.

Pittard did not attend the compulsory candidates' meeting nine class days before the election. Ordinarily a candidate is disqualified if he misses this meeting without an excuse, but this year nominations were not due until the same day the compulsory meeting had to be held — March 12, and many candidates would have been disqualified if the attendance rule had been enforced.

UP Chairman Neal Thomas should have notified Elections Board Chairman Arthur Hayes that Pittard had withdrawn, but nobody remembered to tell Thomas that Pittard was no longer running.

In a pre-election check, Thomas approved the ballot with the UP slate — even though Pittard's name was included.

The first indication of trouble came when Pittard got a ballot on election day and found, much to his surprise, his name on the list of candidates. He immediately found Arthur Hayes, who informed him he had three choices:

1. Stay in the election by paying a \$5 fine for submitting a late expense account (which was due at noon the day before).

2. Allow himself to be disqualified for not submitting an expense account.

3. Withdraw.

Since he had not conducted a campaign nor incurred expenses, Pittard decided to withdraw — officially, this time.

Pittard received 196 votes in the Morrison election, not enough to give him one of the four legislative seats. Bob Wilbur, another UP candidate, was also defeated. He received 249 votes. Dick Levy, SP, was the low man of the four elected, with 308 votes. Wilbur protested the election on the grounds he might have received enough votes to be elected if "non-candidate" Pittard's name had not been on the ballot.

The Constitutional Council agreed and upheld his appeal, and the way to chaos is opened.

The woeful inadequacies of our election laws are graphically illustrated by this kind of botch-up.

The deadline for withdrawals must be clarified because now a candidate can withdraw at his leisure — even up until the polls close on election day.

The confusion between the date nominations are due and the date of the compulsory candidates' meeting must be settled because, as demonstrated this year, they can fall on the same day.

And may God have mercy on the next chairman of the Elections Board.

Here It Is

Sorry about the mix-up.

Remember that Sunday editorial about spring in Chapel Hill and what it turns a young man's fancy toward?

Yeah, that's right.

The Arboretum.

This picture was supposed to go with that comment.



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The Daily Tar Heel is the official news publication of the University of North Carolina and is published by students daily except Mondays, examination periods and vacations.

Second class postage paid at the post office in Chapel Hill, N. C., 27514. Subscription rates: \$4.50 per semester; \$8 per year. Send change of address to The Daily Tar Heel, Box 1080, Chapel Hill, N. C., 27514. Printed by the Chapel Hill Publishing Co., Inc. The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for republication of all local news printed in this newspaper as well as all AP news dispatches.

"And This One Holds The Sleeve On"



David Rothman

Sitterson Has No Reason To Ban Speakers

Acting Chancellor Sitterson confused the speaker ban issue when he said consideration of the new invitations to Aptheker and Wilkinson is complicated by the fact that the invitation's signers (officers of campus groups) "will be out of office and I don't know who we will be expected to deal with."

Ridiculous, Chancellor.



Granted, all of the signers won't be in power next fall, but it takes only one group to invite (or try to invite) a speaker.

I haven't been able to contact any of the signers, but I know of at least two who have

been elected through fall, and it is likely they will maintain their present stands on the ban. Furthermore, there's no reason to assume that all of the signers' successors will switch their organizations' policies.

Most important of all, Bob Powell, one of the two candidates for president of the student body, is among the signers. Thus, the odds are very high that the next S. G. head will support the new attempt to have Wilkinson and Aptheker speak here.

The students serving on the student-faculty speaker committee are other persons who, Sitterson said will soon lose their present status. In this case, he has a stronger argument, for all three can rightly be considered "lame ducks." To quote from the Chapel Hill Weekly: "A new WRC chair man was elected last week; a new legislative speaker will be chosen shortly by the newly elected Student Legislature, and a new State Affairs Committee chairman will be appointed soon by the new president of the student body."

But it is foolish to say that the students' opinions regarding future speaker appearances should be tossed aside merely because the students will soon leave the committee. Also, if Powell—who is presently a committee member—wins the election, he would undoubtedly appoint a successor sharing his views.

This column is being written Sunday, so I do not know what Sitterson's ruling will be on the invitation. But if he once again bans Aptheker and Wilkinson—even with the student-faculty committee's approval—the constitutional issues raised by the gag law will remain. This, of course, means a court case in which the American Civil Liberties Union could help supply the necessary legal resources to any student group which issued the invitations and was willing to act as a plaintiff. As indicated earlier, the possibility of there being such a group is almost certain.

And if, as some observers say, the General Assembly restores the original speaker ban law because of student efforts to overturn the moderated regulations, the court case would be better defined than ever. Moreover, the issue of UNC's accreditation would again pop up—meaning that the ACLU members wouldn't be the only citizens of this state wanting to take the matter to court.

Sitterson's being wrong does not, however, justify the underhanded tactics of the persons who re-invited Aptheker and Wilkinson.

Student Body President Dickson told me Sunday that he needed a tape recording of the Acting Chancellor's views on the new invitation to strengthen the proposed court case. But the means by which he sought to obtain this recording were inappropriate under any circumstances.

Dickson's maneuvering also acquired a sinister air when he denied reports that he and other student leaders intended to invite

Aptheker and Wilkinson again. A premature disclosure of these plans indeed did what he apparently predicted: set back his public relations. But, as Dickson should have realized in the first place, news of the invitations leaked out anyway; and now, because of his past denials, Dickson's worthy cause has come out worse than ever. He says it was a matter of tactics; I say it was a matter of dishonesty.

Nevertheless, despite Dickson's questionable methods, he and other signers of the invitation deserve support in their battle to bring the speaker ban controversy before the courts should this be necessary.

The Collegiate World

Here's The Late News On The UNC Disaster(?)

By MARY ELLIS and CAROLYN RICH

The Salemite, Salem College
Any more news from Viet Nam, Chep?
No, we've got the war wrapped up now, David.

What do you hear from Gemini?
They're safely back and ready to start the most grueling part of their journey—the interviews.

Well then let's switch to Sandra Van Okra who has the really big news story of today—Sandra?

Thanks, Chep. As you can see I'm standing in front of the Old Well at the University of North Carolina, a symbol of years of quality education—but we're wondering whether or not it will be standing long with the riots that have been going on here on the campus. They're not race riots or anti-speaker ban law riots this time but something with far greater consequences for our nation.

What's that, Sandra?
Well, David, it seems that the so-called Germans Weekend, a bi-annual Gothic tradition, erupted into a horror of drunkenness and pillaging last night. For further details we switch to Frank McNeer who is standing in front of the Greta Sigma Phi House, Frank?

Thanks Sandra. I'm standing in front of the Greta Sigma Phi House, the scene of

Letters To The Editor

No Machines Needed

Editor, The Daily Tar Heel:
During the time we have been students at Carolina, we have observed Student Government at work and have a few observations to make which perhaps other students share.

First, we are amazed at the power elected students have on this campus, and in light of this, appalled at the few number of students who bother to voice a vote in the student elections.

We are not saying the power is good or bad; that is dependent upon the person who is elected of course. What is bad, besides the minority of students who vote, is the way political machines on campus manage to secure the votes and use them to their own end.

More power to students who have taken the trouble to take an interest in and work for Student Government. They should get some credit for having the foresight and intelligence to find out what's going on and organizing themselves accordingly.

However, when these few, in the form of a machine, constantly run rampant over independent students who have no access to a machine, campus politics becomes a silly little game which only the "in crowd" know the rules to.

We're sick of this. We have no desire to be part of this "in crowd," but we do wish our votes would be worth something. We can't promise 30 votes to so and so; we can't afford steak dinners; we don't have the backing of a fraternity or a sorority, but we are students here. Unlike some, we realize what maneuvering does go on in a campus election.

So what? Here's so what. This maneuvering is not always to the advantage of this or the majority of students. Granted, many of you have long ago given up caring. "You can't beat the establishment." It is such as you that give strength and life to campus machines.

"Well, you've got to face political realities." No we don't. Not these kind of realities. We don't have to face political nasties. This is a college campus, not Washington, D. C.

Isn't it possible for someone to win that has no more machine than the organization that is necessary to conduct any campaign? Perhaps it is not. But, if it isn't, we best change the name Student Government to "Student Manipulation."

Ann Thompson
Mary Louise McCray
Annette Randall
Susan McDowell
Alderman Dorm

Thanks From USMC

Editor, The Daily Tar Heel:
I was recently informed of (the UNC students') substantial contribution to CARE, Inc., for the Marine Corps Reserve Civic Action Fund for Viet Nam.

I wish to assure you that this contribution has gone to a most wonderful and deserving project. This project is both a humanitarian effort and a means of winning friends who will deny guerrillas the support they require. Through your contribution you have shared in making life seem less futile to thousands of hungry, frightened and confused Vietnamese.

On behalf of the Marine Corps I wish to express my thanks for your generous support of this worthy mission.

Most sincerely,
Roy I. Wood, Jr.
Colonel, U. S. Marine Corps
Deputy Director

Attendance Rules?

Editor, The Daily Tar Heel:

Is there any one on or off campus who can tell me what the attendance regulations are for UNC students? The Undergraduate Bulletin says, "Absences from class for valid reasons are excused only by the instructors. A student should present his explanation for any absences to his instructor at the next meeting of the class. If the student misses without excuse more classes than the instructor deems advisable, the instructor MAY request that the student's dean or General College adviser drop him from the course with grade F."

To my knowledge this is the only regulation of the college. If this be the case, and indeed it seems to be, then I have been given some misinformation by certain faculty members. I attribute this misinformation not to any intent on the part of any faculty member but to the "powers that be" over the faculty.

It appears that the administration or the party that has power over these matters has refused to put certain restrictions on the students and faculty in writing, but has felt it necessary to impose, under-the-board, restrictions and regulations upon the faculty.

The reason for this under-the-board dealing, I suspect, is that if the regulations (bans) were honestly stated they would hurt the image of the Free University. I am probably wrong and the rules are probably written, but I haven't seen them.

Javan Reid

LETTERS

The Daily Tar Heel welcomes letters to the editor on any subject, particularly on matters of local or University interest. Letters must be typed, double-spaced and must include the name and address of the author or authors. Names will not be omitted in publication. Letters should be limited to about 250-300 words. The DTH reserves the right to edit for length or libel. Longer letters will be considered for "The Student Speaks" if they are of sufficient interest. However, the DTH reserves the right to use contributed materials as it sees fit.

