

JEFF HUDAY, Editor

JOEL BROADWAY, Managing Editor
MARK STINNEFORD, Associate Editor
BEN PERKOWSKI, Associate Editor

KELLY SIMMONS, University Editor
VANCE TREFETHEN, State and National Editor
MELANIE WELLS, City Editor
DAN TILLMAN, Business Editor
LYNN DAVIS, News Editor

FRANK KENNEDY, Sports Editor
JEFF GROVE, Arts Editor
SHARON SHERIDAN, Features Editor
JEFF NEUVILLE, Photography Editor

The Daily Tar Heel

92nd year of editorial freedom

Campus referenda: A turning point?

By ALLEN ROBERTSON

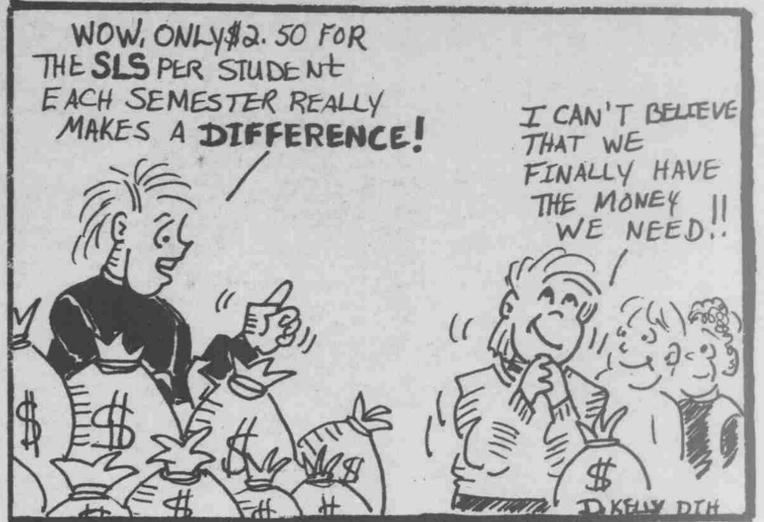
On Tuesday, students will have the opportunity to dramatically affect the financial operations and viability of Student Government and its 35 funded organizations through four referenda concerning Student Legal Services, Black Student Movement, WXYC and Student Television. As your student body treasurer, I hope to provide the information necessary for us all to make a reasonable decision on each of these issues.

Each semester this year, undergraduates paid \$146.50 in student fees while graduate students paid \$144.50. Every student paid \$73 for Student Health Service, \$6 for Health Service Debt Retirement, \$25 to the Athletic Association, \$15.50 for the Student Union Building and \$10 for Student Facilities Debt Retirement. The remainder of the total, \$17 for undergraduates and \$15 for graduate students, is known as the Student Activities Fee. The intramural program takes \$5 of the Student Activities Fee, STV has received 50 cents of it this year, and the remainder, \$11.50 for undergraduates and \$9.50 for graduates, goes to the accounting entity known as "Student Government."

Each spring the Campus Governing Council appropriates Student Government's portion of the Student Activities Fee, currently \$453,700, as well as \$25,000 in summer student fees. In accordance with the Student Constitution, \$157,591 (33 percent of the total) is appropriated to the Carolina Union; 16 percent of the total goes to *The Daily Tar Heel*; 15 percent of the graduate students' fees (\$19,200) is given to the Graduate and Professional Students Federation. Student Government must also pay \$18,000 to the Student Activities Fund Office for accounting services and audits. With these items paid, the CGC is left with \$206,937, 43 percent of the original total, to appropriate to any and all other student organizations, including Student Government itself.

Last spring, 34 student groups requested \$322,000 in funding from the CGC, a level comparable to previous years; however, the CGC was able to appropriate \$230,020 in 1982-83 and \$265,675 in 1983-84 to student groups by drawing on the surplus funds generated over the years that Student Government and student fees have existed. By last spring, we read how Student Government's surplus position had fallen to problem levels. Upon accepting the office of Treasurer, I knew that during the 1984-85 fiscal year, the CGC would have to adopt a balanced budget. The Finance Committee, after its first pass through all the budgets, found \$242,000 of worthy programming and services. I informed them that they must cut \$36,000 more and they did so in a final marathon meeting. Later, after the CGC passed a modified version of the budget bill, the victims emerged: most organizations were saddled with heavy fundraising responsibilities and suffered an average 25 percent cut in their Student Government appropriation; the *Phoenix* was cut from a weekly to a biweekly publication, and the Fine Arts Festival was all but eliminated. SLS, with its \$75,000 budget, was an obvious target for cuts and survived intact only because of its tremendous support among CGC members and satisfied student customers.

After the budget hearings last spring, I thought



about possible solutions to Student Government's strapped financial condition and other ways of funding SLS. I considered the obvious answer, an increase in the Student Activities Fee, since 66.5 percent of those voting approved an increase in a referendum last February; however, because CGC only appropriates 43 cents out of each dollar, I realized that only a large increase would significantly ease the budget constraint. SLS, whose employees are paid much less than comparable university lawyers and receive no retirement benefits, would remain a target for future budget cutters as employee salaries rise with the cost of living. Finally, I, along with Student Body President Paul Parker and CGC Finance Committee Chairman Wyatt Closs, proposed a progressive solution to the financial problems facing Student Government and SLS: a separate and additional component of the Student Activities Fees, to be known as the "Student Legal Services Fee," to be initiated and altered by the CGC as necessary for the sole purpose of funding SLS.

A SLS fee would put the SLS in a vacuum, where the service could be evaluated on its merits in a rational way. This fee as proposed would give SLS financial flexibility while retaining total accountability to students through our elected representatives on the CGC. This fee also has the advantage of indirectly benefiting the other 34 organizations funded by Student Government by eventually freeing up the \$75,000 out of the general pool of funds now used by SLS. The need for a general Student Activities Fee increase would be eliminated for years to come. Having the responsibility to set the SLS fee would also have several side effects for CGC members; it would force them to be more responsive and responsible to their constituents in dealing with a real campus issue. We would also have an incentive to find out who are representatives and force them to be accountable. All of these effects would be positive steps toward installing integrity in Student Government, financially and otherwise.

On election day you will also find three other referenda on the ballot: constitutional funding for the BSM and WXYC and another one-year increase in the Student Activities Fee of 50 cents per student per semester to directly benefit STV. I believe that if you support the SLS fee you must seriously question these three measures for various reasons. The STV fee would be unnecessary if the CGC can divert monies previously used for SLS to organizations like STV. The BSM constitutional funding issue has been raised this year primarily as a reaction to last year's budget squeeze. With that pressure reduced by the SLS fee, the BSM can confidently remain accountable to the students each year through the CGC budget process. Constitutional funding for WXYC may still be a desirable option even with an SLS fee. Their monies are not used for salaries or programming, but for relatively fixed costs such as the operational expenses and equipment maintenance vital to the continued operation of a radio station.

Consider these facts and options. The SLS fee, which could be implemented next year or over a period of several years, would presently need only a total of \$2.50 per student per semester to fully support the program, as compared with the \$73 we pay for the Student Health Service. Whereas we students have no control over the Health Service fee, we would retain complete control over a SLS fee. I believe that this is a measure worthy of your support, one which will permanently fund SLS in an adequate and flexible manner and simultaneously ease the financial pressure on Student Government. I believe in the value of our student organizations and their services. Right now we receive many benefits from the \$11.50 and \$9.50, respectively, spent on the Union, the *DTH* and 35 other organizations. Boosting our contribution by the cost of a few cans of Coke would substantially increase the amount of useful programming and services.

Allen Robertson, a senior economics major from Statesville, is student body treasurer.

For BSM, WXYC funding

Tomorrow, students will be asked to choose among a horde of candidates, who, in terms of numbers, might be able to satisfy the requirements for extras in the movie *The Ten Commandments*. But the ballot doesn't end there. Separate referendums will determine whether constitutionally guaranteed funding should be provided to the Black Student Movement and campus radio station WXYC. Despite some philosophical reservations about constitutional funding, we believe both groups deserve the kind of financial security that passage of the referendums would bring. The organizations are of such value to the University that we can back the unusual step of shielding their funding from political fights within the Campus Governing Council.

The Black Student Movement, which has long fought the misconception that it is an organization that benefits only black students, is a vital component in making University life a challenging educational experience both in the classroom and out. Through subgroups such as the Gospel Choir, the Ebony Readers, the Opeyo Dancers and *Black Ink*, the BSM is a sanctuary for black culture on a campus that has a shameful record of attracting black students and faculty. In its role as a recruiting tool, the BSM helps the University meet its minority representation requirements under the consent decree with the federal government. The referendum would provide 2.5 percent of Student Activities Fees (about \$12,000 a year) to the BSM. We believe it is money well spent.

Our fear is that without constitutional funding the future of the BSM would depend on the political makeup of the CGC. While we see nothing wrong with student organizations falling under the financial scrutiny of the CGC, the BSM has been subject to unfair attacks by council members seeking to dramatically cut its funds or to eliminate the organization completely. Often the CGC budgeting process has been subverted into a kangaroo court by the enemies of the

BSM. The organization is too important to be left at the mercy of campus politicians with an axe to grind.

The WXYC referendum would guarantee it 4 percent of student fees (about \$19,000 per year). The money represents the minimum amount the station requires to stay on the air. In the past, the CGC, in an attempt to be thrifty, has attempted to cut the radio station's budget, only to find that it had to restore the funds later to keep the station in operation. As we've argued previously, WXYC provides a valuable alternative to the "bubble gum" stations that dominate the radio dial.

WXYC's ability to remain on the air without interruptions caused by funding problems could be a factor in the renewal of its license. We know that the variety isn't for everybody, but complaints about format could hardly be answered by a station allowed to go off the air completely. Students should keep in mind that having a spot on the radio dial is a valuable commodity. Other area schools are hungry for the frequency currently assigned to WXYC.

Still, we are concerned about the implications of providing constitutional funding to every group the CGC sees as valuable to the University. *The Daily Tar Heel* currently receives 16 percent of student fees and the Carolina Union receives 33 percent. If students approve the BSM and WXYC referendums, that will leave less than half of student fees to be allocated by our elected representatives in the CGC. If the trend toward sapping the CGC's funding power continues, the council will likely continue its alarming trend of harping on national and international politics at the expense of campus issues. Organizations provided constitutional funding are a step removed from direct accountability to students as their financial operations are supervised by boards of directors consisting largely of appointed members.

Despite these reservations, we think students should vote yes on the BSM and WXYC referendums tomorrow. It will be an investment in the quality of campus life.

For SLS fee

If there's any one thing that should convince students to approve the Student Legal Services fee referendum on tomorrow's ballot, it's that the Campus Governing Council last week *unanimously* decided to put the plan up for a student vote. That means a lot, considering that council members have considered, approved and tossed out as many ideas for funding the SLS as there are anecdotes in Ron Reagan's bag of tricks.

Throughout the discussions, everyone agreed that there was nothing more sacred on this campus, it seemed, than Student Legal Services. They only want to figure whether the group should be fully or partially constitutionally funded, or whether a separate fee controlled by the CGC should be established. The council went for the latter option, which not only will provide a permanent solution for SLS's funding problems, but also will allow the CGC to keep tabs on the organization's budget. It is an admirable compromise students should endorse tomorrow by voting "yes."

In doing so, they will be permitting the CGC each year to consider SLS in a "vacuum." That is, SLS will not be in the same pod, vying along with 30 other student groups for the limited amount of money that comes from Student Activities Fees. Instead, the organization will compete with no one except itself; it will be evaluated in terms of its worth to students. As Student Body Treasurer Allen Robertson puts it, SLS will be judged to get less money "not because, say, the Fine Arts Festival needs more money, but on its own merits." Conversely, if members feel SLS is worth giving more money, that money will come in the form of a higher fee,

and not from other student groups.

That's not to say the Campus Governing Council has a "blank check" (which would be drawn on all students) to give SLS mountains of cash. First, no CGC is likely to in effect raise taxes and incur its constituents' wrath. Second, the University administration and Board of Trustees have final say, and while they usually respect students' wishes when it comes to fee increases, they would put a halt to anything obscene.

SLS requires about \$75,000 a year at present. If the CGC were to decide to provide all of that from the separate fee, it would cost students about \$2.50 a semester. Of course, the CGC under this plan will have the option of only partially funding SLS via the separate fee, leaving the rest to be taken from the general Student Activities Fee pot. The point is, the CGC — students — retain freedom of choice and review.

An appealing side-effect of the plan is that by removing SLS from the general budget-hearings process, the competition among other student groups is lessened. For every dollar the CGC decides to provide SLS through the special fee, that's another dollar to the student groups. In that sense only it is a Student Activities Fee increase because it would make more money available to those groups. Last year such a fee increase attempt nearly passed, with 66.5 percent of voters — two-tenths of a percent less than needed — favoring such a measure.

Such sentiment, coupled with the necessity of the Student Legal Services to have some financial stability, should convince students to cast a positive vote on the SLS fee when they vote tomorrow.

RHA candidate Rogers: 'I would fight for your rights'

By MIKE "RODRIGO" ROGERS

All of my opponents have had a chance to tell you, the public, why they are running for Residence Hall Association president. *The Daily Tar Heel* has gone as far as to endorse one of my opponents, while failing to give me the credit of at least being noteworthy opposition by neglecting to recognize me as a candidate. Well, I am writing to you, students of UNC, to acknowledge the existence of another candidate for RHA president, THE candidate for RHA president, Mike Rogers.

One opponent advocates abolishing the RHA programming board because he terms it ineffective, and overloading the RHA governing board with its work; and this has been called a viable solution. Wrong! If the programming board was given more power, then it could be effective. Anything that is powerless is ineffective. My opponents all speak of the implementation of programming for South Campus, yet my record while serving as governor of Hinton James

already demonstrates such implementation with events like the South Campus-Granville Semi-Formal that brought everyone in those areas closer together. If elected, I would not begin, but continue such programs. I would also bring in people from every dormitory, people who are not elected, people who are not subject to the political whims of their contemporaries, people who can honestly tell it like it is without fear of losing political credibility. This would give my administration an additional perspective, one that my opponents fail to offer. I would continue my record of community service I established while governing Hinton James through centralizing community service projects via RHA, thus building rapport between the dormitories and the local community. And finally, but most importantly, I would fight for your rights as residents in the dormitories against housing increases and other matters YOU deem appropriate. So on Feb. 5 vote for Mike Rogers for RHA president — the candidate whose record speaks for itself.



Mike 'Rodrigo' Rogers

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parker, Holley putting one over on students

To the editor:

As representatives of on-campus students in Student Government, we strongly believe that Paul Parker and Reggie Holley have arrogantly and intentionally evaded their responsibilities to represent all students, especially our constituents. Through a crafty, cooperative manipulation of their positions as student body president and Campus Governing Council speaker, respectively, they killed an overwhelmingly supported CGC measure — a referendum on the mandatory meal plan for on-campus students. There is no greater arrogance for an elected representative than to deny the electorate a direct voice.

Parker intentionally waited until after the last CGC meeting before elections to veto the bill in order to circumvent our right to override his veto by majority vote. The constitution stipulates the president has only 10 school days to veto a bill in order to prevent such delays. The CGC met 12 school days after passage of the bill. So what's the deal? As speaker, Holley was responsible for placing the bill in the executive office for signature, thus starting the 10-day count. Parker said that took two days, although the bill was fully prepared for signature immediately. The veto is dated Jan. 30, which was the date of our meeting. Holley's comment?

"Tough luck, guys! Better luck next time!"

In his official explanation of the veto, Parker said the student body was "heard" and "supportive" two years ago. It's a dead issue only to Parker; I don't know what they think at the lodge, but in the dormitories, the students are mad. Parker accuses referendum supporters of knowledgeable misleading students "for personal benefit." We are not running for re-election. What are you doing, Parker? Holley has refused to call a special

meeting to override the veto, saying that the referendum is "a political issue." Darn right! And Holley is running for student body president.

Desperate efforts are afoot to place the referendum before the students despite these manipulations. We cry out to everyone — let the students be heard!

Marshall Mills
CGC Student Affairs Committee
Ron Everett
CGC Ethics Committee
Tim Newman
CGC speaker pro-tem

For president, Ives

To the editor:

I applaud Brad Ives in his common sense campaign for student body president. I find it refreshing to see a candidate who keeps the proper function of Student Government in perspective; that is, to serve the best interests of the University community, particularly the students. Ives has directed his platform strictly towards campus issues, purposely avoiding involvement with national or statewide affairs. He vows to maintain that policy if elected to head the Executive Branch.

His campus-oriented policy employs the divide-and-conquer theory; simply put, a governing body is more effective when it

concentrates on a smaller realm of influence. There are enough problems of daily concern to deal with in Chapel Hill, much less Managua. It is difficult enough for the average voter to find a candidate with whom he agrees down the line. Ideally, each candidate would have to announce or publish his stands on a multitude of off-campus issues, making it harder still to find a satisfactory president, and rendering the forum system altogether unfeasible.

We need a president like Ives to represent our interests here in Chapel Hill.

Jon Baker
Connor

For Frank Winstead . . .

A nice, padded cell.

To the editor:

While the other candidates are arguing over what they have done and what they would do as student body president, only Dirk Marshall is focusing on how he would do it. Marshall is the realistic candidate for president; maybe that's because he is an outsider and he is skeptical of Student Government's effectiveness. Only Marshall is focusing on the role of the student body president. Only Marshall is telling us how he would keep us informed and open up Suite C to the mainstream

student. When you look at the parking problem and the mandatory meal plan; when you see the utter failure of Student Government in trying to convince the University to divest funds from companies investing in South Africa; and when you see this round of candidates making more promises as if they could deliver on them by just wishing hard enough, you see that Marshall is the only candidate with a realistic approach.

Polly Winde
Morrison