

# 1956 Editorial Expresses Views Today

The reputation for mediocrity which usually haunts our Student Council has not been dispelled this year. Critics of the Student Cooperative Association flourish. Apparently there are grounds for their incessant attacks on this representative body.

It is time that we examined our Student Council and weighed the occasionally constructive, usually biased criticisms of it which are heard so often.

It is safe to say that the infamous Student Council is seldom understood and even less frequently appreciated. True, it is not a visibly powerful group. It seldom renders decisions of great importance. It is not consulted by the administration on matters of policy; it has no real authority in regulating student affairs. Obviously it has very little tangible authority. And yet it does have a profound if intangible effect on this school. Some of the out-

spoken critics of this one phase of school life which the students themselves run are either ignorant or just what is going on or are reluctant to concede to the Student Council success.

Homecomings, Senior Proms and elections are not the type of things which make Student Councils memorable. We are interested in certain other activities.

A series of unforgettable and inexcusable events preceded the first constructive effort by the Student Council. At one time drag races and pine trees were fast converting our school into a playground for several dozen neurotic "parking lot-eers." Honor Code Day, a Council project, was the beginning of a heartwarming and almost unbelievable change in the tide of student opinion. The activities of the Council did not stop with the full day of discussion. Behind the scenes Student Council members were

prodding "school spirit" back to life. It was the Council that instigated those trips to Charlotte, Gastonia, and almost everywhere else in the state in support of a basketball team crippled by a series of bad mistakes. The Student Council is responsible for the array of signs and posters urging team support which bedeck the school. Perhaps this is too general an endorsement for, naturally, not all members of the Council were active or even interested in what was being done. These imperfections can be expected of any group, however. The traditional Midwinters Dance was postponed in order that Council members would have more time to devote to those projects. This action certainly was not a punitive measure as some diehards imagined.

These are a few examples of the activities which many people fail to recognize as important. Most people will admit that there has

been a change in attitude at Greensboro Senior High School, however, the onerous situation which threatened the annual Washington trip along with many other traditional activities has been almost completely corrected.

Although the previous editorial was published in one of the 1955-56 issues of HIGH LIFE, it expresses many ideas held by people about our student council today. Much of the business debated over in Council is very trivial and could be accomplished by committees meeting outside regular Council meetings. Although Council has done an outstanding job completing annual business, few new ideas have been enacted this year. Council should make an effort to correct faults, such as spending too much time on trivial items of business, pointed out to it 15 years ago.

## 1971: New Student Activism

The relative calm which has settled over most of our college campuses this fall reflects the drastic change in political tactics of this year's student activists. Even the most militant of the student revolutionary groups, including the Weatherman faction of the Students for a Democracy Society, have rejected the futile and destructive acts of terrorist bombings which have been instrumental in the polarization of our educational, social, political and economic institutions.

The dominant reason for such a non-violent academic situation stems directly from President Nixon's gradual, but positive withdrawal of American troops from Indo-China. This is not to say that most student radicals concur with the Administration's persistent support of the Fascist Ky-Thieu regime, but at least the government is not escalating its military involvement in that catastrophic area. Needless to say, if President Nixon makes the drastic error of another Cambodian invasion, the universities will undoubtedly explode in an uproar unparalleled by any previous demonstration of large-scale protest.

Another contributing factor to the subsidence of student militance is found in the anti-riot statutes recently sanctioned by numerous state legislatures, as well as the Federal laws already in existence.

Many alumni of prestigious colleges ranking from Harvard to Duke, have warned their former respective schools that they would terminate their financial support if the student "anarchists" are not eradicated. Nearly all of the Eastern colleges have complied to this threat, mainly because of their precarious monetary situation. The student radical realizes that he can not jeopardize his educational future for the sake of the "Third World's" liberation.

With the definite decline of the SDS, Socialist Youth Alliance and Progressive Labor Party, most student radicals have disengaged their interest in the infantile radicalism of these "anti-Establishment" groups or have returned to work within the system for the urgently needed reforms necessitated by our incredulous technological advances.

The most notable signs of renewed student interest in our democratic processes are reflected in student participation in the campaigns of several progressive candidates in this fall's congressional races. John Tunney, Ron Dellums, Bella Abzug

and Father Drinan are just a few of the new faces on Capitol Hill who owe much of their success to student participation.

In conclusion, I want to stress the moral and political superiority of "individual activism" over the authorization sectarianism of the New Left. Unless the politically potential six million students in the U.S., many of whom can vote in national elections in 1972, are able to form a cohesive coalition with minority groups, blue-collar workers, liberals and radicals. Any hope for productive alterations in the foreign and domestic policies of our nation remain futile.

## ROTC -- Right Or Wrong

Does the Reserve Officers Training Corps have any right on our campus? This is a question students should ask themselves.

ROTC is a vital part of the United States armed forces. In 1969 the New York Times reported that 85% of the junior officers, most of whom are sent to Viet Nam, are products of ROTC programs. Colonel Pell, former ROTC commander at Harvard University, said the ROTC is "essential to the life blood of the U. S. Military". Should this life blood continue to flow?

If ROTC does have a right on campus, then these must also have a right to:

1) Suppress through widespread killing the struggle of the Vietnamese people for the benefit of a handful of U.S. businessmen who have or are eager to invest abroad for greater profits at the expense of the people of the U.S. As reported by U.S. News and World Report "One of the world's richest areas is open to the winner in Indo-China. That's behind the U.S. concern . . . tin, rubber, rice, key strategic materials are what the war is really about. The U.S. sees it as a place to hold at any cost."

2) To train military juntas to seize control of governments or to support otherwise oppressive governments in protection of U.S. corporate interests in countries such as Greece, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, South Africa and others. Wherever you find valuable natural resources and cheap labor, there is the U.S. military to defend it.

3) To use armed forces as a political weapon in filling, for exam-

## Comment -- Letter For Haircut

Once-upon-a-time there lived a king who needed knights to spread the honor of his kingdom across the land. He summoned his courtiers to go forth among his subjects and seek men who seemed worthy of the task. Those who were accepted by the king had to meet certain standards required by the king and to participate in the training and jousts.

Now the king did not pay his knights but promised them the honor of wearing his royal coat-of-arms after proving themselves worthy. The knights were overjoyed at hearing this for it was truly an honor to wear the kingdom's shield. They

went out upon the field of battle and fought hard and well (well, sort of).

After the battle the king dismissed the knights from his service and set his royal engravers busy making the knight's shields. The knights, now serfs, continued their daily lives anxious to receive the king's prize.

Now when the engravers had finished their task, the king had his courtiers summon the serfs who were to receive the prize. The king did not like the appearances of some of his ex-knights and refused to give them their reward. Although they fought well for him and had been promised the prize.

If the length of my hair or the style of my clothes makes the difference between receiving or not receiving my letter, Coach, the letter is not worth having.

Mark Connolly

Sirs,

I would like to go on record as being 100% in support of Mark Connolly. Mark was on the varsity football team here during the past season (which would be better forgotten). He worked hard for his letter, and when the letters arrived, he was not allowed to receive his. Months after the football season, the coaching staff feels his hair is too long. I think the coaches should be glad that he kept his hair short during the season and leave well enough alone.

I feel Mark is being done an injustice and deserves the support of the student body.

Andy Oglesby, '72

## HIGH LIFE

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