

Legislature & Laziness!

The following is the text of a letter received by the editor of this paper on Friday afternoon. It is written by the Student Party floorleader Jim Crowmover, who is also executive assistant to the president of the student body and a former candidate for the vice presidency of the student body.

Editor:
For the first time in a year that includes portions of three legislative sessions, I have lost some of the faith I once had in some of my fellow legislators.

Thursday night the student solons flagrantly violated their true representation and responsibility to their electorate. I say this, not because I introduced the measure, but only because the bill and its purpose could be construed in no way so as to claim that it was introduced for any reason other than to make the Legislature more representative of student feeling.

The bill called for no more than that each legislator visit each housing unit in his district twice a year, and at these meetings do the following three things: (1) inform the people of what he is doing in Legislature; (2) inform them of what others are doing; (3) give them an opportunity to ask questions and offer suggestions.

I ask you, the students, what do you know about what Legislature does, do you know your legislator, and, above all, do you believe in the Student Legislature as an effective organization? If so, fine. If not, you were denied your opportunity Thursday night.

If you do not know what Legislature does, and one of the following legislators represents you, go to him and ask him why he voted against the measure:

- Linda Biser
- Troy Blanton
- Jim Blue
- Don Dotson
- Frank Eagles
- Anne Eckerson
- Bob Grubb
- Peyton Hawes
- Dixie Jackson
- Dave Jones
- Sherman Kennedy
- Fred Lavery
- Jack Lawing
- Bill Mallory
- Taylor McMillan
- Bill Miller
- Joe Oppenheimer
- Rick Overstreet
- Hank Patterson
- Bill Porter
- Bob Sevier
- Pope Shuford
- Bob Smith
- Bob Thompson
- Bill Young

If the Legislature doesn't change the bill to a resolution and move reconsideration, they have really "missed the boat." I do not care how they change the wording — the idea is what counts. I challenge you legislators to amend your ways and you constituents to rise up and voice your opinion.

Jim Crowmover

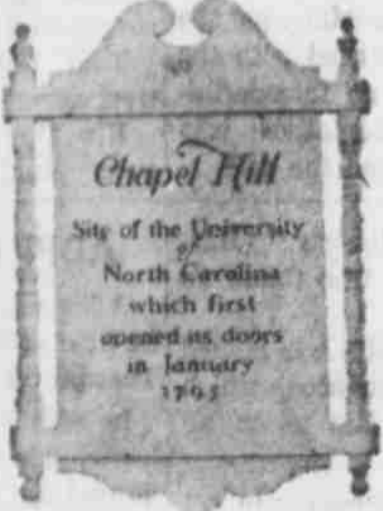
(We agree 100% with the sentiments expressed by Rep. Crowmover. The paper feels that in defeating this bill, the Student Legislature has publicly helped to destroy the very essence of its foundation. For a group that is supposed to be representative, it is about as unrepresentative as any body we know.

It is unfortunate that a bill like this must be introduced in the first place. It is even more unfortunate that the Legislature defeats such a measure. In a day when this University is ever increasing in size, there is more than ever a necessity for student leaders (?) to meet with their constituents. Does the Student Legislature do this? No. For most of them, their job ceases when they are elected, except for a few good members like Rep. Crowmover, who feel a duty to do a first class job.)

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More Social Fees

Editor:

The attitude of the woman students who are in favor of the Women's Residence Council's collecting social fees seems to be that if an activity is considered worthwhile by those who participate in it, it should be made compulsory. This seems logical somehow. Everybody likes parties; make sure they go to them. Everyone likes the housemother, so no one will object to a small fine to insure that she receives a present. If anyone should object, a few nights spent campused will take care of them.

If this is an exaggeration if only a few neurotic troublemakers consider a fee for parties an imposition, why is it necessary for the W.R.C. to collect the fees?

A vote no in the referendum is not a vote against having parties in the dorms, against giving the housemother a gift, against sending flowers to girls who are sick, although this is how the bill has been presented to the woman students by the representatives of W.R.C. A vote no, simply means that there are many other ways to finance worthwhile activities, and that dormitory unity of feeling (mentioned by Cynthia Grant in her letter) is best furthered by leaving the responsibility for their activities to the girls in the dorms.

"But the dorms don't have the power to collect the fees." (If I am misquoting Kay Boortz, I hope that she will correct me.) No they don't—that is precisely the point. If the girls in the dorms are so anxious for these activities, then they should have the opportunity to conduct them on a voluntary basis.

This would not mean having 80 separate collections for activities, 3 dorm meetings a week to decide on activities, or a treasurer who is haggard from the bookkeeping required to keep funds in order. I can only attribute lack of imagination to those who make this objection.

As nearly as I can find, the social and activities fees are used for floats, exhibits, parties, flowers for the sick, and presents for the housemother and maids (Surplus funds go up in smoke at the end of the year.) Why not put breakfasts and coffee breaks, floats and exhibits under one fee (voluntary), to be collected along with the key deposit at the beginning of each semester. Use of the fee could be explained at the first dormitory meeting. Since large parties are held infrequently, girls could sign up for them and pay the treasurer. Money for flowers and presents could be collected by the hall representatives. Surely a girl would prefer a smaller bouquet from the girls who live closest around her to one from "Smith Dormitory."

If there are objections to this plan, there are modifications which will make it satisfactory; these might vary according to the requirements of each particular dormitory. In any event, why not try to devise a suitable plan? This could be one area in which the W.R.C. might offer constructive advice and help to women students, in contrast to their usual approach of making a rule to evade a problem, instead of trying to solve it.

The important thing is that compulsory charity is nothing to be proud of, and enforced activities are an affront to the girl who feels that she is quite able to devise her own amusement. Every student on this campus should be able to choose for himself in such matters. The woman students should not be an exception to this.

Jeannette Hornsby

Quote

He, Woodrow Wilson, could write notes from Sinai or Olympus; he could remain unapproachable in the White House or even in the Council of Ten and be safe. But if he once stepped down to the intimate quality of the four, the game was evidently up.

John Maynard Keynes

"You Think There's Still Hope?"



Legislative Roundup

Actions With Our Solons

Dave Jones

Thursday night the Student Legislature acted on two pieces of legislation written by Jim Crowmover (SP). Representative Crowmover acted in what he felt was the best interest of Student Government and of the Dormitory Women students concerned.

The legislature saw fit to defeat one of Crowmover's bills and to pass the other. There was absolutely no party or bloc voting on either of these measures.

In so far as the "Bill to make meetings of all legislators with their constituencies compulsory" is concerned, the prevailing side was against the measure for more or less the following reasons.

It is a bill and not a resolution. It uses the word "Compulsory" and does not have any enforcement provisions; it has a requirement that legislators fill out a form certifying that they have been to all the required meetings etc. And it does not take fully into account the peculiar problems of the different districts.

In addition to these arguments, there is one which was put forth by one of the bills opponents, that something like this should be expressed orally and taken on as a tradition, and become a common law for the legislature. He felt that if it were written down it would be only so many words on a piece of paper and have no meaning.

Undoubtedly there will be a lot of discussion on this bill in the next few days. Legislators will be patted on the back and also condemned for their stands on this issue.

Crowmover's intent was to put the legislator in a position where he can communicate with his constituents. This is something that has been needed for a long time. Communication has been cited day.

If the technical problems in this bill can be licked, and the responsibility of the individual legislator to his constituents be brought home forcefully enough the measure will sail through the body and win unanimous approval, when it is reconsidered.

"A bill to authorize a referendum of women dormitory residents concerning the collection of social and activity fees" was the other Crowmover bill.

This fee problem has been a serious one for a long time. It came to a head recently when the old method of collection was ruled unconstitutional.

A bill to authorize the WRC to collect the fees was introduced in the 26th assembly. It got absolutely nowhere. It was so unconstitutional that it just lay there and died when the session died.

Then the introduction of the bill that passed Thursday night brought new light and controversy. As written and passed a week ago the bill said "The question to be voted on . . . will be whether or not WRC shall be allowed to collect . . . fees, to have the power to determine the amount . . . etc."

Student Body President Gray and other experts pointed out that this was likewise unconstitutional. Fees can be collected by or for a student group only after approval by the University.

Thursday night, Crowmover called the bill back to the floor and asked for changes which would provide that "The administration be requested by the WRC to authorize the collection of a social and activity fee from all women's dorms."

Now there was on the floor a constitutional measure designed to tackle the ticklish problem of women's fees. Representative Crowmover had come a long way in a sticky uphill fight.

But he still had a long way to go. There was serious opposition from members who felt that minority right were being infringed upon by the setting up of machinery to put the collection of these fees into operation.

They argued themselves out, then used all of the parliamentary maneuvers they could think of to continue debate and prevent a vote until their point was driven home again and again.

Acting Speaker Jim Scott (SP) guided the bill through the maneuver and discussion like a pilot guiding the Queen Mary up the Colorado River. (All this time the oldest SP was very glad that he was not in the Speaker's Chair.)

Finally, every motion had been voted on and the vote on the main bill came. The body passed it 29 to 11.

An amendment that had been recommended by the WRC to protect minority right, and to give them a stronger mandate in the event of passage was introduced by Representative Bob Nobles (SP).

This amendment called for a two thirds vote to effect passage of the referendum. Nobles asked for and got special orders. The amendment passed without serious opposition.

Rights & Duties

Our town is not really full of editors and publishers this week. It merely seems that way. The meeting of the American Newspaper Publishers Association, with related meetings by press agencies, has brought us only about twelve hundred guests. But these twelve hundred represent, in the A.N.P.A. alone, 846 newspapers with a total circulation of more than fifty-two million.

Censorship has smashed type and stopped presses in every part of the world that is dictatorially ruled—chiefly, but not entirely, the Communist world. Even in a democracy, however, we have to watch for fear of interference by some dim-witted public official, by the pressure of a foolish law, or by the unauthorized activity of private organizations. Advertisers in America today do not dictate to newspapers. This is not wholly because everybody has become more virtuous. It is because it wouldn't pay advertisers to try to dictate and it wouldn't pay newspapers to let them dictate. The main asset of any newspaper is the confidence of its readers.

But American journalism is not as free as it ought to be. The directors of The Associated Press yesterday mentioned among the "obstacles to fair and factual news reporting" the restriction of "access to public information in the news." For example, this newspaper recently had a trying experience of sitting for many months on an item of news, because, unhappily, there were officials who didn't believe the American people were grown up enough to be told about the brilliant success of an effort to throw a radioactive band in space around the world.

No thoughtful newspaper man would argue that owners and editors of newspapers have a sacred right to print everything they feel like printing. The right in this case is not the newspaper's right to print, but the public's right to know. If any news vehicle distorts, misrepresents or suppresses, it betrays its trust.

Journalism has to be a business or it could not survive, or would not remain free. It is also a service and an art, and justifies its existence in general and in particular cases by remaining so.

THE NEW YORK TIMES
April 21, 1959

Four Freedoms

A good society is able to face schemes of world domination and foreign revolutions alike without fear.

Since the beginning of our American history we have been engaged in change, in a perpetual, peaceful revolution, a revolution which goes on steadily, quietly, adjusting itself to changing conditions without the concentration camp or the quick-lime in the ditch. The world order which we seek is the cooperation of free countries, working together in a friendly civilized society.

This nation has placed its destiny in the hands, heads and hearts of its millions of free men and women, and its faith in freedom under the guidance of God. Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere. Our support goes to those who struggle to gain those rights and keep them. Our strength is in our unity of purpose.

To that high concept there can be no end save victory.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

View & Preview

Anthony Wolff

ARISTOPHANES: LADIES' DAY. An English Version of THE SMOPHORIAZUSAE by Dudley Fitts. 134 pp. New York: Harcourt Brace & Company. \$4.

The announcement of *Ladies' Day* as a title for a forthcoming book by Dudley Fitts was somewhat mystifying: the similarity to the title of one of those recipe-crammed magazines distributed at the super-market was unmistakable.

Happily, it turns out that the only recipe in this new book is for humor, for *Ladies' Day* is the latest of Mr. Fitts' translations of Aristophanes. Like *Lysistrata*, *Frogs* and *Birds* — the other plays in the series — this one is a delight.

To be sure, credit for the play still goes to Aristophanes, with the witty and erudite Mr. Fitts listed as translator. Even without direct acquaintance with the source, it seems justifiable to recognize Mr. Fitts more as a collaborator. Obviously, the ancient Greek language and conventions do not just metamorphose into modern English equivalents. Such an updating requires not only a proper reverence for the original, tempered with classical scholarship; but also a creative talent comparable almost to the originary genius.

The extent of Mr. Fitts' service in this department can best be illustrated by a comparison of some lines from his version of *Lysistrata* with the corresponding lines from the fairly standard version BF (Before Fitts).

The standard translation gives us the following at the very opening of the play:
CALONICE. Good day, *Lysistrata*; but pray, why this dark, forbidding face, my dear? Believe me, you don't look a bit pretty with those black lowering brows.

This is unwieldy prose and no poetry at all. Mr. Fitts renders the same speech:

KALONIKE: Goodmorning, *Lysistrata*. Darling, don't frown so! You'll ruin your face!

With this, the stage is set for a different business — for plausible women and for comedy. The versions are similar enough in sense to assure the mono-lingual cripples among us that they approximate the original text. They are both "authentic." The difference is that the standard translation is treacherous in its faithfulness to Aristophanes: humor and poetry, the non-corporeal essences of the original, are smothered under a literal blanket.

To compound the crime, the blanket is of Victorian manufacture, and lines that could not have been anything but low burlesque taunts in the original become inept non sequiturs in translation. Thus this insipid exchange in the *Parados*:

CHOROUS OF OLD MEN. Silence! ere my stick has cut short your days.

CHOROUS OF WOMEN. Now, just you dare to touch *Stratyllis* with the tip of your finger!

Mr. Fitts reads the same exchange somewhat differently, with good results.

CHORAGOS (m): Look out! I've got a stick!
CHORAGOS (w): You lay a half-inch of your stick on *Stratyllis*, and you'll never stick again!

Not only is the repartee itself funny in the Fitts version; but the tone and structure also permit a comic reading.

Lysistrata is used here for purposes of comparison mainly because it happens to be at hand. It is worth noting, however, that Fitts' version is on sale at a very reduced price at the local bookstore; and that the play is the basis for the forthcoming *Sound and Fury* production, *Oh, Hellas!*

Also, the success of Mr. Fitts' *Ladies' Day* (Greek title: *Thesmophoriazusee*; with a circumflex over the "u" for easy pronunciation) is due to similar virtues. Again, the play has been rendered freely out of real respect for the original, rather than slavishly translated out of misguided devotion to scholarship.

Ladies' Day adds to the usual difficulties of translation the almost impossible problem of literary satire. The play concerns Euripides' attempt to send a representative to the Greek equivalent of Women's Honor Council, in order to defend himself from censure by the irate gals.

The plot gave the conservative Aristophanes an opportunity to parody Euripides' plays as well as to burlesque his character. Many of the plays which are parodied have been lost, and so Mr. Fitts has to make appropriate substitutions. Lines from Shakespeare do the trick in many spots, and miscellaneous other bits and snatches work well elsewhere.

For the rest, it is all a romp: Euripides makes a transvestite of his father-in-law and sends him clean-shaven, wigged, frocked and gowned, lisping like a fairy, to speak in his behalf at the all-girl council. The old man is discovered, of course, and only some spectacular foolery gets the two interlopers off intact, with only their dignity any the worse for wear.

The three plays of Aristophanes previously rendered by Mr. Fitts are all concerned to some extent with social themes. *Lysistrata*, for instance, can be read as a pacifist tract if one is not in the mood for laughs. *Birds* involves the search for utopia. Not so *Ladies' Day*: here Aristophanes was content to reduce the elegance of Euripides to ludicrous posing and bombast, and to take a few pokes at women on the side.

Although the substitutions from Shakespeare and elsewhere cannot restore the literary satire, Mr. Fitts has included so much visual humor, coarse punning and general bawdiness in this version that it is a complete delight.

New Election

The paper would like to emphasize that there is an important re-vote in Dorm Men's III for two legislative seats this Tuesday. It is necessitated by an unfortunate incident, which occurred in the first election. Winning candidate Roy Goodman (SP) was a poll tender in his dormitory during the day. This is a specific violation of the Election Laws, which states that no candidate may hold out during an election as a poll tender.

It is too bad that Goodman did not realize, and had not been informed of this. He acted as a poll tender in good faith. The paper, although not endorsing any candidate for any office, feels that Goodman has received undue publicity and is the hub of nasty whispers. We repeat, he acted in good faith.

