

The Daily Tar Heel

77 Years of Editorial Freedom

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New SG President Faces Declining Prestige

Students go to the polls today to complete one of the duller political campaigns in the last four years. Only 25 per cent of the student body bothered to vote last week. Probably fewer will vote today.

Despite this lack of interest by students in the campaign and despite the exceptionally low turnout, the student government politicians involved in the campaigning are continuing to function as if this year were the same as last year and the year before and the year before. They are continuing their door-to-door campaigns, replete with the same promises of past ages. They are continuing to slip out early in the morning and tear down posters and put up their own.

Unfortunately these politicians in their blind desire to win office are ignoring some very important things that are happening on campus. If they don't wake up soon they will find themselves occupying a position which means nothing, absolutely nothing. Some persons would contend that Student Government now means nothing. That is not so—not yet—give it time though and it might if student government politicians don't wake up.

WHY THE power and prestige of Student Government is gradually waning is evident if one examines the reason why persons participate in Student Government and if one examines what students on this campus want done to improve their lives.

The persons who form the core of Student Government, who run for president and vice president and who run the party machinery usually do it because they figure it will improve their chances of succeeding in business or politics in the state of North Carolina when they graduate. Just as the sandbox of children provides them with the opportunity to learn to interact with other children so Student Government participants learn the patterns of behavior that will help them succeed in the adult world of politics and business. For this reason they quickly adapt their behavior to what they think would be acceptable to the people of that grown-up world.

Such a concept worked well three or four years ago because for the vast majority of students what the adult world did was acceptable to them. When student politicians duplicated that behavior it was likewise acceptable to students because they knew that they would probably get from such behavior that which they wanted.

HOWEVER, in the past couple of years the goals of students have changed; they no longer conform to the goals of the parents as closely as they did in prior times. Students began demanding self-limiting hours, visitation, reforms in the general college curriculum at the local level. On a national level they began demanding changes in the selective service system, a rehauling of our foreign policy, and greater attention to the failure of the society to realize the ideals embodied in the American Creed.

Such a situation poses a tremendous problem to the student politician. He wants to get the students votes by promising them the answers to their problems. At the same time he doesn't want to alienate the state power elite, the trustees, legislators, and businessmen, who he is trying to get in good with in order to advance his own career.

The result has been, in the last year, that student politicians have made the promises that would please the students but have done little to implement those promises so as not to offend the state power structure.

A good example of this is Ken Day's platform of last year. He promised the elimination of the lecture system, and the restructuring of the General College, among other things. All of this appealed very much to students and many of them voted for Day on the basis of that platform. Needless to say, not much has been done to implement that program. Much of this is because the students involved in the job of implementing the promises don't want change enough to really try to pressure the persons who have the power to make the changes. The students may want these changes very strongly but the student government leaders, who are interested in their future, want to protect that future by not pushing too hard on the power structure in the State.

THE RESULT of these actions is that students are beginning to rely less and less on Student Government to do anything and are turning, in frustration, to groups like the SSOC to bring about reforms. This creates added complication because the Administration and state politicians don't want to deal with a group like SSOC, even though they manage to represent the feeling of students better than Student Government on many occasions.

What is maybe developing is a potentially explosive situation in which the only student organization recognized by the Administration is not recognized by the students as representing them while the organization that best represents students feelings is not recognized by the Administration.

Tonight the first thing the winner of the election needs to recognize is that if he wants to head off the development of a critical solution he had best realize that now, more than ever, he needs to quit worrying about his political future and worry about what the students want.

This year the independent candidates for office, who more than anyone else cared little for their political future in the state, were defeated by the two political machines who are geared to turning out products pleasing to the people of the state. We hope that whichever of these two persons wins will devote more time to serving the students and less to pleasing the state.



'I Have Right Here In My Hand....'

Demogoguery Decried

Kelly Hits Almond

By JOHN KELLY

Since I am now out of the running, I have tried to stay out of the fight between Wilson and Albright. I took forward to getting out of Student Government and to working with Todd Cohen on the Tar Heel. Both candidates have solicited my aid should they win, and I am flattered. But being rather suspicious of politicians and party machines, and rightly so, I have felt that their request was also a political maneuver. Nevertheless, I have thus far refrained from making any public statements as to whom I support, or whom I feel the better qualified. However, in view of Mike Almond's article in the Sunday Tar Heel, I feel I have been drawn into the political arena once more and must now make a few statements.

My candid opinion of Mike Almond is that he is a demagogue seeking the University Party nomination for President in 1970. His understanding of the power structure in this university is immature. Since he is one of Albright's primary campaign workers and supporters, this statement sheds some light on the character of Albright.

Perhaps it is people like Almond and the other UP political hacks who have led Albright to make such stupid and demagogic statements like the one calling for the dismissal of Prillaman. I hope that the students realize that the President of the Student Body has no power to fire any administrative personnel. This, like Albright's other statements about such things as the General College, is an empty political promise characteristic of a demagogue.

Look at Almond's statement that I didn't want the Presidency bad enough—that's right, I didn't want it bad to lie and cheat, bad enough to be a demagogue and make hollow promises. As to my going to the beach the weekend before the election, I believed it futile to try to compete with party candidates and their large budgets, which are filled with funds from dubious sources, with my meager allotment of \$50.00. That is why

I went to the Supreme Court with my complaint, and they agreed with me.

If all the little, petty politicians had let the Court decision stand and the election had been postponed, you would have seen a serious commitment of both time and money to my campaign. But the party politicians knew this, and that is why they reopened the case. It was a political move on their part—not mine. Rather than the Court swallowing my "bait", they swallowed the bait of the political hacks.

And even more ironical, the students swallowed Albright's bait, his hollow promises and slick political maneuvering. Amidst all the critical chaos of the workers issue, Albright and his UP hacks managed to skirt the major issues and carry on the typical campaign making dynamic statements about such things as Resident Advisor programs. Almond accused me of "having too much fun making noise." Albright made little noise. The UP made little noise. And this is indicative of what we can expect from political animals; they make little noise as they sell the students out to the administration. Small talk combined with no action is silent participation and yields no results.

Now I do not endorse Bob Wilson for President, and, although this article is clearly a case against Albright—even more against his hacky friends and campaign workers—I by no means want the reader to construe it as an endorsement. I simply want the students to do the following:

Be wary of demagogues like Mike Almond and protect yourself. Don't expect too much of whomever wins.

Get ready to be sold out.

Get ready for another year of decadent Student Government. You, as well as I, have been screwed this year, but I suppose that's the way things go. However, there's always next year, and maybe someone else will make a better showing in a fight against the political hacks and administration flunkies than I did; but then again, that's what they said all this year.

Roadway Eliminated

To the Editor:

Although I didn't hear about the planned construction on Carroll Hall until two or three days ago, a representative of the University Engineer's office assures me that the plans were made public long ago and that they were approved by representatives of the faculty and administration. I guess all I can say now is that I hope they considered all the consequences. There is not much to say about the parking places that will be eliminated; we all know that parking places come and go. But eliminating the road between the "gravel" (dirt) lot south of Phillips and the lot south of Memorial Hall is a serious matter which they may have thought about.

Besides the inconvenient loss of mobility between these lots, the elimination of this road will have the following effects:

Already the road is blocked with an unmarked wire, and unsuspecting drivers come to a frustrated halt unless their cars are small enough to sneak under the wire. At night the wire and its supporting pipes are practically invisible, and at least one collision has occurred. (The University Engineer's office has agreed to consider making the wire more readily visible.)

Five o'clock rush hour traffic from the Phillips lot will now be forced to exit

either via the exist onto Columbia, which always requires a long wait, or via the road between Peabody and Phillips, whose intersection at Cameron has not up to now had a traffic officer during the rush hour. In other words, it will now take a long time to leave the Phillips parking lot during the rush hour, even if in the past you have been clever enough to exit via the road east of Memorial Hall.

When the construction area is fenced off, the only pedestrian passage between the southwest (Phillips parking lot, Venable, Naval Armory, Whitehead, fraternities, and sororities) and the northeast (Memorial Hall, its parking lot, Hanes, Phillips Annex, Y-Court, and South Building) will be via a narrow path which has just been created up against the south wall of Phillips, or through or around Phillips or Carroll. There is going to be an awful lot of pedestrian traffic on that path, and if it is not widened and bricked it will soon be a miserable, muddy channel and people will go through Phillips instead.

Jim Scott, Graduate Student
Dept. of Computer & Information Science

Letters

Nude Nonsense Knocks Maryland

To the Editor:

Your article and attending photo of the "Nude Runners" printed in today's "DTH" was in particularly poor taste.

Though that appraisal needs no rational support I offer you this: It was hardly newsworthy on the basis of popular mass phenomena since you only referred to one incident—that coming from a most obscure and questionable "college?"

It is hardly newsworthy as being imitable, charismatic, or deserving attention in that it was instigated by four freshmen from that questionable institution—all of whom have less than noteworthy credentials as either scholars (1.6 GPA), sexual prodigies, substantial or very happy young boys. Not only are sex, life, studies, and their psyches flaccid and pointless for them—but their run seemed to be as well.

And the nonsense from the supposed psychologists, besides being contradictory to the "runners" own testimony, was little more than an arcane attempt at explanation-justification.

And, if you must flash four asses at us in an attempt to shock or outrage, please be good enough to delete the tumescent statistics concerning their inane and stunted non-sexuality.

Maybe it is the most newsworthy item to come off a college campus (particularly Maryland) for a long time. That hardly makes it news.

Sincerely,
Leon Festinger Jr.



Mike Cozza On

SG Non-entity

This has been an interesting year for Student Government. So far:

—Alan Albright led last week's presidential race with a promise that "Student Government offices will be open one day in the month so the president can meet with any students who are not associated with Student Government." Just one day. (Source: a UP "Albright for President" pamphlet)

—UP Chairman Harry Diffendal told Student Legislature they didn't have to represent the student body because they were "an elite."

—The Student—Legislature—double jeopardy amendment got 48 percent approval in a referendum. A student-initiated amendment got 75 percent.

—Ken Day spent official student government money to influence the outcome of that referendum.

—The Student Supreme Court ruled the presidential election should be postponed because it had been conducted under discriminatory, unconstitutional regulations. The court reversed its decision a few hours later at the now-infamous 3 a.m. meeting of party politicians.

—The SG defense counsel in that hearing, a law student named Don Carsons, told the court they didn't have the power to set a new elections date. He neglected to remind the justices it had been ruled in 1966—in a case he was involved in—that they had exactly that power.

—The court then refused last Sunday even to hear evidence that the elections should be declared invalid and students be given a fair choice.

When I came back to the DTH this fall, I told the editors I wanted to cover student government in depth. I thought regular, in-depth coverage might give the student body a sense of what SG really was and what it could be. So far, I have probably written more stories on Student Government than anyone else on the Tar Heel Staff.

I spent a semester as Student Legislature correspondent. I wrote columns about the issues and their relevance to campus life. I spent

hours talking to politicians, listening to speeches, reading bills, following campaigns, and writing stories.

I urged SSOC, the Hayakawa Society, and scores of individuals to study the issues and get into SG if they weren't happy with what was going on. Frequently people told me I was crazy, that nothing the politicians did was relevant to anyone but themselves.

No one has tried to make Student Government work more than I have. After covering this presidential election—probably more closely than anyone on campus—I was appalled by the tactics of a few party officials.

I was so appalled I filed suit against Ken Day in the Student Supreme Court to have the election declared invalid. I wanted to put Albright and Diffendal and Day on the stand and have them produce the financial records of their party's expenditures.

I was prepared to prove the extent of the discriminatory, unfair circumstances surrounding the election, circumstances that had deprived students of a fair choice.

The Student Supreme Court declined to hear the case. Student Government trembled in its boots at the thought of having financial records made public. It trembled at having a fair election which would give all candidates an equal chance. It trembled at what the student body might do. The court ruled it didn't matter whether the election was fair or not.

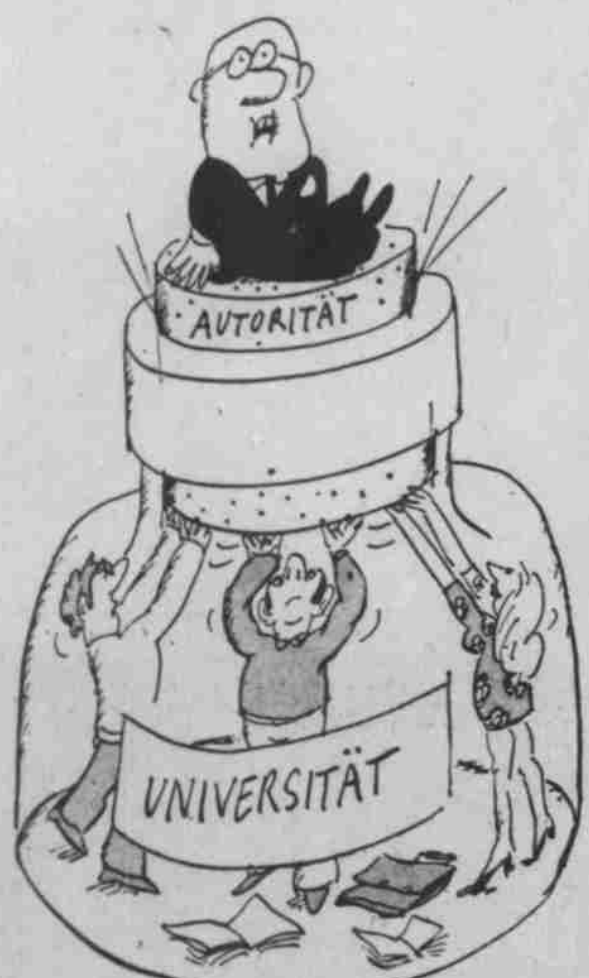
Well, you can only beat your head against the wall for so long. From now on, so far as I'm concerned, Student Government is a non-entity. Like so many others, I have finally come to the conclusion that it just doesn't matter anymore.

One SG official, Cliff Tuttle, says I'm not being a good sport. No, Cliff, I guess I'm not. You can't be a good sport when you hear people say an election doesn't have to be fair and that Student Government has no responsibility to the students.

This will be the last column I ever write about Student Government. As far as I'm concerned, Albright, Diffendal, Day, Tuttle, and Carsons can all rot in their executive mahogany graves.

Letters

The Daily Tar Heel accepts all letters for publication provided they are typed, double-spaced and signed. Letters should be no longer than 300 words in length. We reserve the right to edit for libelous statements.



"It's fermenting..."