

Again

Vote for reform one more time

Today you, the students, will vote on reforming SG for the third time in the space of nine months.

Each time it has been up for a vote, more than 65 per cent of the students have voted in favor of reforming Student Government.

Each time the plan for changing Student Legislature into a more responsive, and more responsible body has been put to the test of the ballot, the students have called for the new structure.

Each time the referendum for a change has been before the students, they have asked that Student Government be given that chance.

And yet the students must vote again today on SG reform. Legal maneuvering and deceit of various types have prevented the reform plan from going into effect as the students have clearly voted for.

Those who oppose the Epps' Plan, as it has been called, have used all types of devices to prevent its going into effect, the latest of which was a suit before the Student Supreme Court.

They oppose it for two reasons: (1) some think the plan will not improve SG and (2) some politicians fear for their political futures on campus.

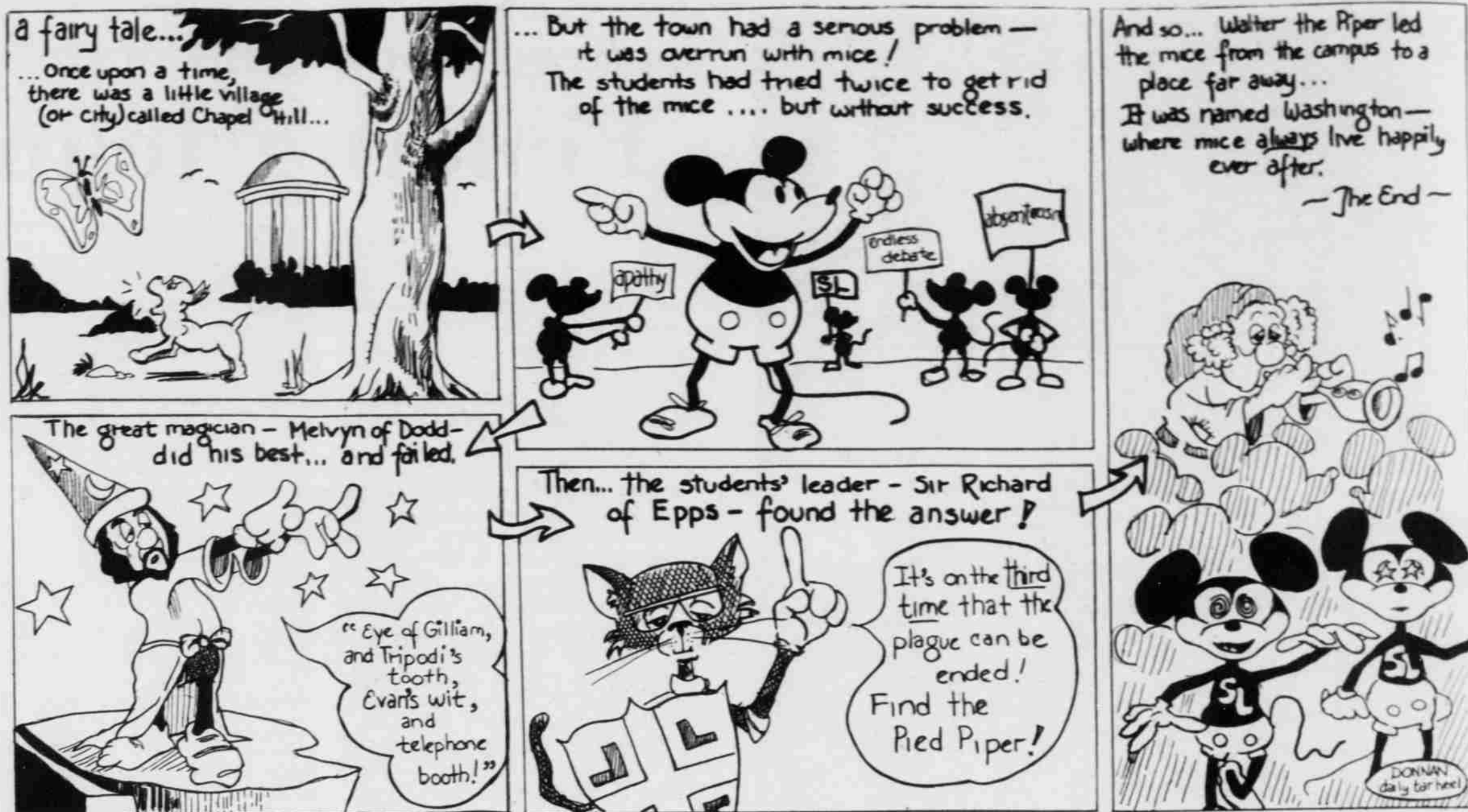
It is possible that the plan will not improve Student Government; but the Epps' Plan is a two-year experiment, not an irrevocable change. The students would have a chance to vote on the success of the new structure in two years.

For those who oppose the plan out of personal fear — all one can say is they are in the worst tradition of representative government.

The only factor that can kill SG reform today is apathy: if you don't get out and vote for a chance for better Student Government, you will help the current system continue its slow disintegration.

The plan offers a chance for a reversal of this trend toward less responsive Student Government.

Get out and vote today to give your Student Government a chance for improvement.



Charles Jeffries

Pressures during the 'college stint'

The American way of life has always been identified with pressure. The pressure to succeed. The pressure to earn, be important, make waves or what ever. But nowhere else can there be more pressures than those experienced during a four year college stint.

The first and last years are well known for their ability to produce the greatest of pressures. Being a freshman, one seeks to at least get off on the best foot so that perhaps later he can take a breather during the semesters of the sophomore and junior years.

He is bent on making a good show so that he can impress the folks back home or keep his scholarship. And psychologically, this good start helps defeat that attitude that maybe college isn't the right place for you.

And then, even if things don't go quite right the first year, the blame can always be laid on the fact that this was the first

year and therefore a little disappointment might be expected, even unavoidable.

The second and third years seem to be the best for whatever one deems of greatest priority, usually depending on what he accomplished that first year.

If he didn't do so well that year, he uses these years to catch up and hopefully have the fourth year to rest. If he did well, the second and third years were used to "vacation" while still maintaining some semblance of educational purpose other than beer drinking and "doping it up."

But then the days of "reckoning" are upon you. That last year (hopefully) when it all comes back to you why you've spent the last three years in self-imposed bondage seeking that elusive sheepskin.

Suddenly it dawns on you that this is it. By now you're supposed to be well on the way to bigger and better things, both

academically and financially, if all goes well this last year.

But then, here's where the pressures exist. How many hours this semester? How many pass-fail courses? How many electives, how many required courses? And for many, just how serious should I take all of this?

This is the year of rationalizations. "I don't need to go to class today because I went twice last week." "I can miss this test today because I can take a make up and be better prepared." "I won't take this course this semester since it might be offered next semester." No doubt many have opted for these and other "rationalizations" rather than what was best in view of this, his last year.

These last year pressures can lead many to make a bad decision which may render most, if not all, of the previous three years fruitless. These decisions may be academic, social, or moral, but collectively they may well be the ending

point of a well intentioned start three years earlier.

How then does one cope with these first and last year pressures? Certainly not by adopting a conviction the entire four years is for one purpose and one purpose only: to get an education. This can be mentally depressing and socially disastrous.

On the other hand, achieving a balance between academic priorities and social or other priorities seems to be the best solution. Moreover, it really is the only solution.

For many of us this advice comes too late and for others it's something that they've heard a million times and, like most things you've heard that often, it means less and less with repetition.

For a senior like myself though, only until I heard it the millionth time did it really mean anything. But by then those rationalizations and misplaced priorities had taken their toll.

Letters to the Editor

Editor slinging mud in comments on reform

To the Editor:

Saturday's editorial by Evans Witt ("Jesse versus Nick") is a marked contrast to his column of the day before. On Saturday Mr. Witt levels an attack on Uncle Jesse for his use of underhanded and unethical tricks to defeat Mr. Galifianakis for the U.S. Senate. I agree with all that was said by the Editor in that column, but I also wonder if the pot isn't calling the kettle black.

Mr. Witt asks how many times we must vote before "the dim-witted campus conservatives realize that their political ambitions mean nothing to most students." He later charges that "conservative members of the elections board... tried to sabotage a referendum... to subvert the obvious will of the students." The obvious intent of such remarks is to brand all opponents of the Epps Plan as conservative; such could not be farther from the truth, as Mr. Witt is well aware.

Those of us who oppose the Epps Plan do so because of an honest belief that Student Government can be reformed in such a way as to make it meaningful without removing the students from it. We remain committed to substantial reform of Student Government, but not under a plan which merely brings one branch under the control of another. To list those non-conservatives who feel this way would consume more space than is

available; the point is that all who oppose the Epps Plan are not "dim-witted conservatives," as some proponents of the plan go to such pains to implicate.

As for the remark about political ambitions, this is not true, either. As for me, I am a senior, with not a single political plan or ambition, and I hardly consider myself "conservative" (I even voted for McGovern, Evans), much less a "dim-witted conservative."

Regarding members of the elections board, if Mr. Witt has specific charges to make, let him state those. If he means specific individuals, let him name those who acted in an unethical way. Otherwise, let him take note of the source of his resentment toward Helms.

The Editor's charge against Helms is that he relied on a campaign of mudslinging and false claims to win the election. Who is throwing mud this time, Evans?

Ed Polk

One final vote for SG reform

To the Editor:

Here we are again returning to the polls to vote on a referendum that passed a month ago by 72 per cent. I am sure that all of you are beginning to wonder,

what does it take to reform student government? It seems that after 72 per cent of the voting electorate casts their vote for the Epps Plan, this would be enough to set student government onto a more progressive and efficient course, but obviously the referendum vote hasn't been able to stand up.

The reason it hasn't been able to stand up is because a small group of conservative legislators have been able to pull out different kinds of bills that were passed in student legislature two or three years ago that even the Elections Board chairman is not aware of. These bills have contained numerous technicalities about elections procedures, wording of ballots, types of signatures, and any other kind of minute detail you can think of. Any time the Clerk of Student Legislature, members of the Elections Board, and a few student legislators get together to get an election overturned, they normally have the ammunition to do it. Reason: Student Legislature has passed enough bills with minute technicalities that any election ever held could possibly be thrown out. Obviously the spirit of fair play and the spirit of running a clean election doesn't mean very much to some people.

The October 17 election is now a part of student government history. We have to again plan for the future of Student Government on this campus. The election

today is inevitably the last opportunity to reform an ailing Student Government this academic year. Although I was able to get a Student Government Instant Loan Fund through the Student Legislature, that does not make up for all of the inactivity of Student Government in the past. Student Government needs to be reformed now while there is still some semblance of life still in it.

I am calling on you, the student body, to make this final trip to the polls to reform the Student Government once and for all. If we allow a small group of conservative student legislators to control the future of Student Government, then we, as the voting majority, have defeated our entire reason for even going to the polls.

You voted overwhelmingly for Student Government reform on October 17, let's do it again today. Vote "YES" for Student Government reform.

Richard Epps
Student Body President

Reform election handled poorly

To the Editor:

I am quite distressed at two items that appeared in the DTH last week. I find them highly contradictory to what I have

personally seen and experienced.

A front page article Monday, Nov. 6 quotes Mr. Epps as saying that the past Elections Board chairman, Larry Eggert, did not tell the new chairman, Leo Gordon, about the SL bill concerning referendums. I was most incensed at this statement because I was witness to a conservation held in 2527 Granville South some two weeks prior to the election when Larry told Leo about the bill and earlier efforts to deal with it.

Apparently using this "fact" as a basis for his statements, Mr. Epps proceeds to lambast Larry and other unnamed elections board officials for their part in a "conspiracy" to defeat this bill. The lead editorial on the Friday Nov. 10 issue then uses this "fact" to impugn the integrity of the elections board officials.

Mr. Witt, I refuse to accept these bits of balderdash as responsible journalism. The DTH and the Epps Administration are falsely striking out and maligning people in their frenzied frustration.

The source of discontent over the referendum results lies in mismanagement occurring in the elections because of the chairman's bad judgment. In other words, Leo blew it. As a past elections Board official, I saw numerous unforgivable mistakes on Leo's part. If a "conspiracy" existed, it lay in the hands of those alert to a malfeasance of office.

If a court made of Epps appointees feels there were too many irregularities, who are Richard Epps and Evans Witt to complain?

Richard Whittecar
2527 Granville South

Five months left of Evans Witt

To the Editor:

As soon as the presidential election

was over and the outcome was four more years of President Nixon, the McGovern people started calling 61 per cent of the American people dumb asses. The trouble with you McGovern people is that you think you are right and everybody else is wrong. George McGovern is not Jesus Christ, though he might think he is. Yes, Mr. Witt, four more years of Richard Nixon and thank God only five more months of you.

Robert A. Brogden
1809 Granville

Arab students protest debate

To the Editor:

Concerned Arab students wish to protest the appearance all over campus of pamphlets announcing a debate between the Arab Student League and the Hillel Foundation. The title of this debate as appeared in the pamphlets is "Should the Palestinians control Israel?"

We protest the above because:
1 - No such thing as an Arab Student League exists on campus.
2 - No Arab student is involved in such a debate.

3 - The Zionist-inspired title makes it sound as if the Arab students are involved in a debate advocating the control of Israel by the Palestinians. This is definitely a misrepresentation. We feel a more appropriate subject for the debate would be "Has Israel any right to expel the Palestinians, born to the land, and to replace them with Zionists brought from all over the world?"

Gilbert Najjar
M. Riad
Mohammed Qasim
Abdallah Dabbagh
Fouad Naifch

Pidgin Papers

The night they drove Chile down

I planned to write about the defeat of a local semi-pidgin (Nick Galifianakis), but I changed my mind after reading David Zucchini's (sports editor) "Heels, Chile: food for fodder." A Chilean friend of mine invited me to see the match. There is an enormous gap between what I saw there and what Mr. Zucchini (his name points toward a pidgin ancestor) could see. Very soon the crowd discovered that the Chilean team was not a match for the Tar Heels. The Chilean players knew that beforehand. They had two things in mind, the famous 104-37 with Maryland, and the last game with the University of Pittsburgh, where the Chilean team won by one point. We were talking with my Chilean friend and his fellows countrymen before the match. They had come to learn, they told us, and they were learning a lot. They had played eleven games in a row (once a day for the

last eleven days) with different university teams in America. The day of the match with the Tar Heels they had got up at four thirty in the morning. "What about a siesta," I asked them. No siesta was possible, they kept on moving and moving.

A good sports editor takes care of this kind of details. That is why Mr. Zucchini's column not only is a bit arrogant, but is not that good as a piece of journalism. He lost three quarters of what really happened there. He must be a busy student and perhaps did not have time to interview the Chilean players. Okay, but why did he not mention that the shortest of the Chilean players (about five feet) was the very best, and that the crowd repeatedly recognized this and cheered the player? (When Florida beat us last year, the star was also a very short black player, I remember.)

The crowd was a good one. Both sides received cheers. That made a very good impression on the Chilean players. They left Chapel Hill happy with the experience. As a matter of fact, they were happy with the whole trip to America. I heard very positive comments on the different campuses they had been on so far.

Personally, I had never been in a basketball game before, never in Carmichael, I mean. So, in a way, I shared the experience of the visitors. This is an extremely colorful experience, so much light in the air, so much loud music (a very good band), the cheerleaders, the public and the cops, very beautiful. And, I did not expect to see such a big public in that occasion.

I could not but think on small Viet Congs fighting tall and well-fed American boys. The physical difference was

amazing. These Chileans (with the exception of the short star) are tall fellows in their country. Here they looked small and frail. It seemed a struggle against the impossible. We all perceived that very soon. After the first half, the whole thing became not to repeat the famous Maryland experience.

I also thought on the semi-professional quality of the American amateur sport. I have the impression that Chilean professionals sometimes happen to be less paid than American university players. The system of scholarships for sports weakens at least half of the concept of amateurism. You get paid for playing. Coaches have a lot of power over their players. They can ask for what they pay for. We all know that the Student Stores keeps exploiting us to pay these kind of sport scholarships (those are for football, I have heard).

The Daily Tar Heel

Evans Witt, Editor

79 Years
of
Editorial Freedom

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Jessica Hanchar, News Editor
Howie Carr, Associate Editor
Lynn Lloyd, Associate Editor
David Zucchini, Sports Editor
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