

The end of the big band era?

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Last spring the board drew up two lists of groups and entertainers who they thought the students would like to see on campus.

The first priority list included: Emerson, Lake and Palmer, the Moody Blues, Santana, America, Joni Mitchell, Judy Collins, Carly Simon, Carole King, Cat Stevens, the Grateful Dead, and Neil Young. The second priority list consisted of Rod Stewart and the Faces, It's a Beautiful Day, Don McLean, the Staple Singers, Sonny and Cher, Crosby and Nash, and Yes.

A group is on the first or second priority list, says Miss Dillard, because in the opinion of the committee, the first list artists would appeal to a large cross-section of students than those on the second priority list.

Booking the groups

Each year the Union Activities Board draws up a similar list. The list goes to Howard Henry, Director of the Carolina Union, who gets on the phone to the agents in New York. Henry has specific dates and approximate price figures in mind. Naturally, available dates are important, since the Union wants to schedule big concerts on football weekends and other special times such as Homecoming.

At this point, Henry will go to New York if necessary to sign the groups; yet what usually happens is that the Union waits for confirmation from the artists before doing anything else. Naturally, some groups have previous engagements, some are not touring in the area, and some don't even answer.

If, as sometimes is the case, Henry comes across a group that may not be on the list but is free to play here, he must get back to Dillard and the Union committee chairmen, who must then meet to consider whether or not to present the group. That may take anything up to a week, by which time it could well be too late.

What Mr. Henry is trying to do is get the best possible talent at the lowest cost. He is playing good business as are all the other schools. ECU, ASU, NCSU and Duke have all expressed problems in signing artists, calling attention to a tight market where costs are constantly increasing.

Henry has had problems of his own with the spiralling prices that groups are asking. "We tried to get Elton

John before he was famous in this country, in fact just as he was beginning here. I thought we could get a good deal, but even then he wanted \$10,000."

Carolina has been quite fortunate with some big groups in the past. Of the Jethro Tull concert, Mr. Henry said "We got a very attractive contract from Tull. The Chapel Hill concert was their lowest gross on that tour, and if you doubled what we gave them it would not exceed their next highest gross of the whole American tour. Tull's agent was fired two weeks after the concert here, although we don't know if that had anything to do with it."

Henry also talked about the competition in this area, especially from the professional coliseums in Greensboro, Charlotte and Raleigh, which seat 17,000, 16,000 and 13,000 respectively. They can offer an artist more money and more people (an important factor if the artist is pushing an album) on one performance than almost any college. Such artists as Leon Russell, to name but one, play the coliseums far more often than the college gymnasiums.

The question of money

According to Henry, Carmichael ticket prices are based on an average audience of 5,000, with a sell-out figure of 7,000. Since the Union's policy is not to charge over \$4 per ticket at the absolute maximum, \$20,000 is the average take with a maximum of \$28,000. Considering that the overhead (publicity, unsold tickets, printing of tickets, Pinkerton guards) works out to at least \$3,000, the most UNC can pay any performer is about \$25,000, and that has to be for a sell-out concert.

Each year the Union receives about \$100,000 out of student fees, which is the allocation provided by the Student Legislature. Since this has to cover all of the Union's diverse activities, it would obviously be desirable for the Carmichael Concerts to pay for themselves.

Unfortunately, this ideal state of affairs is seldom a reality, and the Carmichael Concerts regularly lose money. The figures for last year's Carmichael Concerts in isolation are not available, but for the overall Union concert schedule, including those in Memorial Hall, ticket sales brought in \$99,700. Expenditures for those concerts was \$155,223.

For all Union-sponsored activities, and that includes the concerts, the Forum, speakers, exhibitions, etc.,

income was \$120,377. Total expenditure was \$212,350. It is evident that the Union's activities are being operated at a loss.

The balance, according to Henry, comes out of the Union's original \$100,000 allocation and is supplemented by profits from the pool-room and the bowling alley.

Another problem that Henry and Dillard have to face is that UNC has no facilities in which to hold concerts between the size of Carmichael and Memorial Hall. Memorial Hall seats only 1,600, so that the house limit for a sell-out concert would be a meagre \$6,400 less overhead.

Such artists as Joni Mitchell, Judy Collins, Don McLean and Carly Simon will not play before more than three or four thousand people, so if they are to play here they must play in Memorial. The cost of tickets for such a concert would have to be at least \$5 or \$6, and only one student in every 12 or 13 would get to go.

A further problem, the awful acoustics of Carmichael, could be improved by the addition of baffles to the arena's roof, but there is no money available to undertake such construction. The original contract with the company that built Carmichael had an acoustical option, but it was dropped by the Athletic Department to save money. In any case, Carmichael is owned by the Athletic Department.

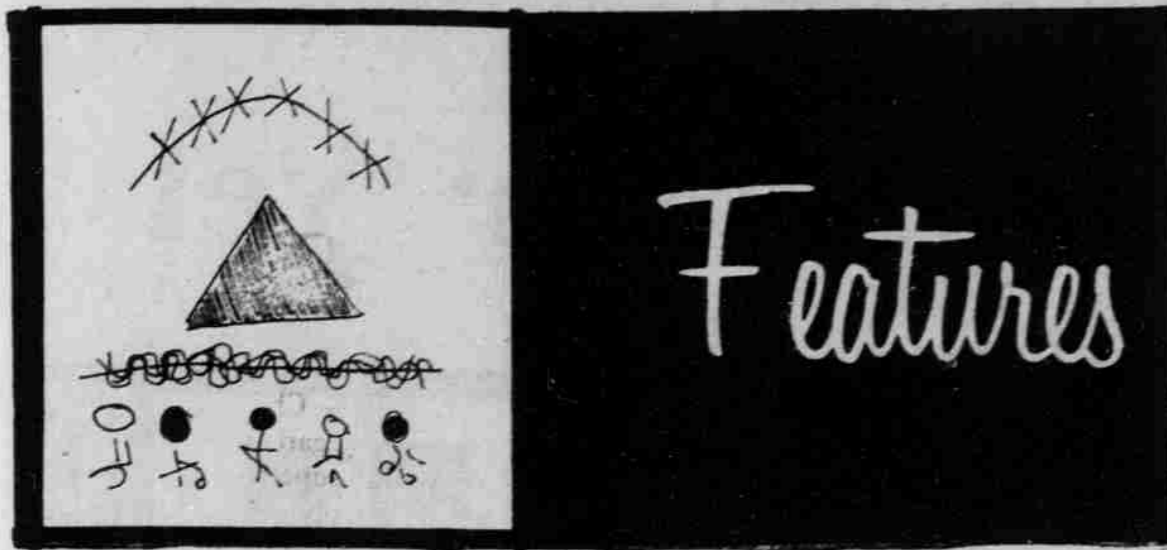
At one point, Dillard mentioned the concerts UNC could have had but for conflicting dates and other organizational problems. Emerson, Lake and Palmer postponed their entire tour, or they could have been here for Homecoming.

Dan Hicks and the Hot Licks, Chase, Billy Preston, Don McLean and the Beach Boys were all strong possibilities but failed to appear for one reason or another.

When asked why the Beach Boys would not be coming here, Dillard answered, "We thought the campus would throw them back in our faces."

On the bright side, Herbie Mann is definitely booked into Memorial Hall for the spring, and negotiations are continuing favorably with Stephen Stills and Frank Zappa.

But, looking at the overall picture, Dillard and the Union Activities Board still seem intent on "de-emphasization."



Features

Taster's Choice

Chapel Hill Cinema

"Asylum." Barbara Parkins, Peter Cushing. Carolina Theatre. 1:20, 3:15, 5:20, 7:05 & 9.
"Butterflies Are Free." Goldie Hawn. Edward Albert. Varisty Theatre. 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9.
"Play It Again Sam." Woody Allen, Diane Keaton. Plaza 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9.
"The Valachi Papers." Charles Bronson, Jill Ireland. 2:10, 4:30, 6:50 & 9:10.

Theatre

"Cactus Flower." Village Dinner Theatre. Raleigh. Curtain at 8:30 p.m. Call 569-8348 for reservations.
"Cat on a Hot Tin Roof." Written by Tennessee Williams. Directed by Robert Brink. Duke Players. Tonight at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 8:15 p.m. Call 684-3181 for reservations.
"Happy Birthday, Wanda June." Written by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. Directed by William Hardy. Allied Arts Center. Durham. Dec. 7-9. Nightly at 8 p.m.
"Home Free." Written by Lanford Wilson. Directed by Glenn Yates. Laboratory Theatre. Tonight & Friday at 8 p.m. Matinee Friday at 4 p.m. Free tickets in Lab Office, Graham Memorial. Performance in O6 Graham Memorial.
"The Skin of Our Teeth." By Thornton Wilder. Thursday, December 14. Memorial Hall. 8 p.m. Tickets \$2 for adults and \$1 for students and are available at Ledbetter-Pickard and at the Carolina Repertory Company Office (telephone 967-7038).

Concerts

James Taylor. Friday, Dec. 8 at 9 p.m. Carmichael Auditorium. Tickets sell for \$4 and may be purchased at the Carolina Union Information Desk.
University Mixed Chorus. Sunday, Dec. 10. Hill Hall. 8 p.m.
North Carolina Dance Theatre. Friday, Dec. 8. 8:30 p.m. Page Auditorium.
Opeyo Dancers. "Through the Years: 1920's until Today." Directed by Herman Nixon. 8 p.m. Friday. Memorial Hall.
Chapel Hill Camera. Works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Barber, Desualdo, Gabrielli.

Christ Episcopal Church. Raleigh. 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission free.
Piano recital. Peggy Senter, pianist. Tonight. Hill Hall. 8 p.m. Admission free. Works by Bach, Beethoven, Chopin, Prokofieff.

Television

The Homecoming. Patricia Neal and Richard Thomas star in Fielder Cook's sentimental Christmas tale. On its way to becoming a yearly event. 9 p.m. Channels 2 & 11.
Ghost Story. Geraldine Page and husband Rip Torn act in this Grand Guignol tale of terror. 9 p.m. Channel 28.
In Concert. Blood Sweat & Tears, Chuck Berry and the Allman Brothers Band perform at Hofstra U. 11:30 p.m. Channels 5 & 8.

Deep Jonah

Jimmy Gibbs & Frank Luck in concert. Also, Janne Harelson. Vintage Films. 8 p.m. Saturday. Free.

Radio

WPTF-FM. "Festival of Music." 94.7 on the dial. 8:07 - 10 p.m. No "Festival" tonight.
WPTF-AM. Radio Classics. 570 on the dial. 8:10 - 8:40 p.m. Golden Days of Radio.
WCAR-AM. 550 on the dial. Presenting Sean Scott Sizemore. Nightly, midnight to three. Hard rock for the insomniacs.

Art

Ackland Art Center. Art by Hans Richter. Open Tuesday through Saturday (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Sunday (2-6 p.m.). Closed Mondays.
North Carolina Museum of Art. 107 E. Morgan St. Raleigh. Open Tuesday through Saturday (10 a.m. to 5 p.m.) and Sunday (2-6 p.m.). Closed Mondays.
Art Gallery of Chapel Hill. 106 Henderson St. Art by Daniel Mistrik.

Other

"A Christmas Carol." A holiday reading by Prof. Earl Wynn of the RTVMP Department. Sunday at 4 p.m. in Great Hall.

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NIGHT OWL SERVICE

For your late-night studying, the Student Union Snack Bar will be open all night Monday, Dec. 11 through Thursday, Dec. 14 and open until 2 AM Friday, Dec. 15

Good luck on exams!

Crossword Puzzle

Answer to Yesterday's Puzzle

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55

ACROSS
1 Bitter vetch
4 Wet
8 Grate
12 Obtain
13 S-shaped
14 Reverberation
15 Swiss river
16 Led
18 Quaff
20 Challenge
21 River in Italy
22 A state (abbr.)
23 Specks
27 Footlike part
29 Succor
30 Web-footed birds
31 Near
32 Beverage
33 Turf
34 Indefinite article
35 Gastropod mollusk
37 Music: as written
38 Skill
39 Caudal appendage
40 Secret agent
41 Teutonic deity
42 Mohammedan chieftain
44 Tropical fruit (pl.)
47 Story
51 Anger
52 Exchange premium
53 Short jacket
54 Transgress
55 Legume
56 Stitches
57 Spread for drying

DOWN
1 Mild expletive
2 Hind part

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...jorge luis borges

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HERE IT IS!! I FOUND IT!
I FOUND THE WORD "SISTER" IN THE BIBLE!
THERE IT IS, RIGHT THERE! SEE? THERE'S THE WORD "SISTER" RIGHT THERE IN THE BIBLE! SO?
THAT PROVES YOU HAVE TO GIVE ME A CHRISTMAS PRESENT!!! OH GOOD GRIEF!
'BYE, MOM! BE GOOD NOW!
SHE'S A COURAGEOUS SOUL, PHRED. SHE CERTAINLY IS. SHE'S PUT IN THOUSANDS OF MILES ON THE ROAD OVER THE YEARS.
AND FOR A REFUSEE, SHE'S PRETTY RESOURCEFUL. SEE THAT KNAPSACK SHE'S GOT ON? SHE GOT THAT FROM AN ABANDONED FIREBASE.
WHERE'D SHE GET THE MOTORCYCLE? I'M NOT SURE.

ELY & WALKER has something to talk about. Eavesdrop a second. Cone blue denim western flares. Waist 28-40. About \$6.50. And Cone double chambray western flares. Waist 29-36. About \$6.50. See? Men don't always talk about girls.

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