

Union study colloquium recommends changes

Nancy Pate
Staff Writer

The Carolina Union is more than just a building. More than just a snack bar.

It's a unique organization on campus, for every student is a member.

But what is the Union? To whom is it responsible, and what is it doing now? And, most important, what will it do in the future?

All of these questions and more were asked by the Union Study Colloquium in an effort to evaluate the Carolina Union as a whole.

The Colloquium, a 12-member board co-chaired by Toby Cozart and Robert Donnan, met seven times from January through March to discuss and evaluate the Union and decide a new direction for the future of its activities.

"The purpose of the study," said Cozart, "was to dwell not so much on the details of Union functioning, but rather on the orientations of the Union."

The results of three months of meetings and mind bending is a report to be presented to Howard Henry, chairman of the Union Board of Directors.

The report summarizes seven recommendations on Union activities. Two of the most important suggestions included a new method for the selection of the Union President and the addition of a Pop Concert Programming committee to the present Activities Board.

"The committee felt," Donnan, co-chairman, said, "that the proposed changes would help eliminate possible bias in the selection process for president."

Currently, candidates for president of

the Union go before a screening committee made up of the president of the Student Body, the former president of the Union and one faculty member on the Union Board.

The Colloquium recommended the Board discontinue the use of the screening committee and provide an interview before the total Board for each candidate. The study committee voiced concern over the possibility of the bias of the incumbent president toward choosing his own successor.

"Any person," Cozart said, "interested enough to apply for the position of Union president deserves an interview before the full board."

The proposal for Quality Pop Programming was made in an effort to decrease the programming burdens of the Activities Group. The Pop Programming Committee would be primarily concerned with research and would deal with all concerts in the category of popular music. The Committee would take over the planning and executing of publicity, printing tickets and posters, ushering concerts and announcing performers.

The chairman of the Pop Programming Committee would be a member of the Activities Group which would still maintain the power to select and finalize bookings.

The Colloquium believes that the addition of the committee will enhance a concert's chance of success because the number of contributing opinions would be doubled.

Cozart and Donnan, both active in Union affairs, formed the Colloquium because they felt the advice of an independent group would be valuable to the Union Board of Directors.



A new brand of sport comes to Chapel Hill

Carol Wilson
Sports Writer

Sports for expression... sports for self-confidence... sports for community growth... Sports for People (SFP).

A new movement, born in the minds of individuals concerned with the present state of athletics and given through them to many others — a community — "a growing circle of life." A feeling that physical activity could be a means toward knowing yourself — and others around you — and a translation of this feeling into a realistic program designed to give individuals a chance to develop their interests — whatever these may be.

In Chapel Hill, Sports for People consists of Daybreak Sports, Sports for Women, and the April Fools' Sports Festival. Nationwide, it is a movement to re-evaluate the current athletic structure — its values, its priorities, its effects — and to try and work through Congressional legislation to correct some of the more flagrant shortcomings of the present system.

One of the most visible flaws in organized athletics on all levels, from Little League to professional, is the lack of concern for and precautions against athletic injury. Ed Humberger, director of the Chapel Hill SFP, explained that the national movement "grew out of concern for the negative relationship between competitiveness and athletic safety." From there it has gone on to explore new approaches to athletics.

In doing so, Humberger said, "we have come to the realization that injuries are merely symptomatic of a much larger concern, an index of the extent to which we have allowed primarily major sports to become more concerned with winning rather than the health, welfare and needs of the individual player."

This was one of the major findings, Humberger continued, of a survey conducted earlier this year of a variety of people involved in some way with athletics, either as coaches, players, fans, sports writers, doctors or sports researchers. The survey was mailed out to approximately 400 such people all over the country and received a 27.5% response representing 29 states.

The survey focused its concern on what the respondents considered to be the major issues facing organized athletics today. The strong feeling that the "winning ethic," and the high pressure system which grows out of it, is the root of what is wrong with competitive sports. It is the win-at-all-costs credo which many feel leads to the intense pressure on coaches to produce a championship team or ship out. The coach, in turn, conveys this attitude to his players, who virtually internalize the "all or nothing" winning ethic. Two college football players responding to the survey, said they felt that pressure increases the number of injuries, as players drive themselves past their physical capacities.

A strong desire to win was also blamed by survey respondents for such things as drug abuse, professionalization of college athletics, and the overall failure of coaches to treat athletes as humans and individuals.

Sports for People, in trying to correct these problems works on two levels: first, on the national level through specific Congressional legislation and secondly, on the local level where community sports programs are set up to provide opportunities for individual, non-competitive physical activity.

Currently, three bills have been introduced in the U.S. Senate — all concerned with different aspects of athletics. Kansas Senator James Pearson introduced a measure on April 16 which would establish a National Federation of Amateur Athletics, aimed at overseeing AAU-NCAA squabbles as well as International Olympic Committee procedures.

A bill which would set up a National Sports Foundation has been re-introduced by Alaska Senator Mike Gravel and South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond. The proposal was originally made by Dr. Arthur Little in 1965, and would entail a million dollar budget for educational and other research.

The third measure is the Amateur Safety Act, sponsored by Berkeley Congressman Ron Dellums. The bill, re-introduced this session and currently before the House Select Labor Subcommittee, is an amendment to the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA) of 1971, and would bring high school and college athletics under OHSA provisions.

On the local level, Sports for People is a relatively new program, having begun in January, but is already beginning to make its mark on the Chapel Hill community. Currently its on-going program is Daybreak Sports, a kaleidoscope series of Saturday morning sessions at the Presbyterian Student Center. Variety is the key and the individual is the focus, as each week a new form of physical activity is demonstrated and attempted. The program is open to all members of the community, as are all Sports for People activities. It is a joining together of people of all ages and backgrounds, each with a common interest in self-development through athletics. There is no competition and no pressure — achievement is self-measured. Activities range from square-dancing to yoga to gymnastics, and everyone is invited to try everything, regardless of competence or experience.

"It is a growing process — individually and together," says Humberger. "We have gotten about 30-50 people each morning since we started in March and each time, it has been a really good experience for everyone."

Daybreak Sports is a small step and is just one of the many possible alternatives springing up, but it is a first step — and one in the right direction.

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