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EXTRA



CAMPUS COMMENT

Vol. XXIX, No. 3½ State Teachers College, Bridgewater March 12, 1956

SOCCER JACKET ISSUE

HISTORY

In the past, the Men's Athletic Association (MAA) has usually given an annual banquet to the BTC soccer team. Funds were raised by solicitation of the various clubs on campus.

Last year, the MAA's requests to clubs met with little response. In spite of this, the banquet was held. After some all-around misunderstanding, the Student Council voted to help defray the cost of the banquet and gave MAA \$102.40 from their own treasury. (They ended the year with a \$40.44 deficit.)

This year the MAA decided to honor the three-time championship team with a gift of 33 soccer jackets at \$12.50 each. To finance this expenditure, the MAA organized and presented "Skid Row" (reviewed in the February CAMPUS COMMENT). The proceeds fell short of the required amount. The difference was found to be \$225. At the last meeting of the Student Council (Feb. 29) the MAA asked for that amount specifically from the bookstore account. The floor discussion was

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POLICY

The bookstore business is owned by SCA: every student on campus who has paid his or her SCA dues is part-owner in this enterprise. Currently the bookstore shows a substantial profit. However, in the past, expenditures from bookstore profits have always been for a project that was felt would benefit the entire student body—since all students on campus contribute indirectly to this fund.

Under the present administration, it is felt that all expenditures from the bookstore account should be duly voted by the SCA, subject to the approval of the advisers.

Expenditures

Last year

\$357.45 was appropriated for the Training School lounge from this fund.

This year

\$220 was appropriated for a ditto machine for student use.

\$400 was spent for a motion picture projector for student use.

\$100 was spent to replace the inadequate speaker-system in the auditorium.

\$250 was appropriated to buy robes for the Glee Club.

PETITION

"We the undersigned, petition that the SCA present to the entire student body the following motion for student affirmation or negation.

Motion: that SCA appropriate \$225 to be added to the \$200 that the men's soccer team has already raised towards their jacket fund."

INTERPRETATIONS

1. The original intention of the petition's writer was that the entire student body should decide the soccer jacket issue.
 2. Some elements of the petitioning group have demanded a mass student meeting; they contend that this was the intention, in part, of the petition.
 3. In effect the petition voices the dissatisfaction of its signers with the Council vote; more precisely it asks that the power which has been granted their duly elected representatives in
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NOTICE

The regular edition of your CAMPUS COMMENT, scheduled to appear March 14, will appear March 21. The delay is due to difficulties on the part of our usual linotypist. In view of the immediacy of this soccer jacket question, it was deemed advisable to publish this EXTRA as a student service. We have honestly tried to present the facts impartially, in the sincere hope that facts will tend to limit the aura of emotionalism that already enshrouds the issue. If you are called on to vote (probably by secret ballot), follow the dictates of your conscience; but above all, be informed.

ARGUMENTS

A sharp difference of opinion exists among students in this matter of soccer jackets. The numerous arguments **Pro** and **Con** fall, we think, into the following groups. However, this is the opinion of your **CAMPUS COMMENT** staff only. When asked recently (March 8) for their arguments, spokesmen for the MAA replied, perhaps wisely, "No comment."

PRO

The soccer team has won three championships in two years. They certainly deserve some reward and recognition for the prestige they have brought to BTC. They have emphatically proclaimed that BTC is not a girls' school. Further, they have announced to all prospective BTC students that we have a well-organized and successful sports program.

The precedent for providing jackets to championship teams is well established. It is being done in schools and colleges throughout the country.

Jackets are, in themselves, walking advertisements for BTC, and can influence the judgment of the public in matters concerning school activities.

SCA is the organization that represents the entire student body. Therefore SCA is the logical sponsor of any program to show student appreciation of the soccer team.

CON

SCA cannot afford to set an unhealthy precedent by purchasing rewards for individuals or special groups. The request conflicts with the policy of spending money from the bookstore account only for the use of all the students.

Rewards should not be expected for activity in school organizations.

Many students who do not favor the original request, as stated, do feel that the jackets might be purchased with money from some other source. Among their suggestions: a fund-raising campaign by the MAA, dances, raffles and shows.

Some other evidence of appreciation, less costly, could be purchased for the team.

History

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heated (see **Arguments**, elsewhere on this page); the issue was defeated by a vote of 16 Nays to 14 Yeas.

Following the meeting a petition was written and circulated among the students. Slightly more than half the student body signed (437 signatures).

Interpretations

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student government be returned to them temporarily for the settlement of this one issue. (Ed. note: only the Student Council which now legally holds that power can return it to the student body at large; see **Now & Soon**, page two, for date of the Council meeting.)

NOW & SOON

The pro-tem President of SCA has scheduled an open student meeting for Tuesday, March 13, 3rd period, in the auditorium.

A Student Council meeting to determine the advisability of granting a referendum vote has been scheduled tentatively for the following day, March 14, 3:30 PM, in room 17.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

We feel that the Council's decision was based on all the facts and evidenced sound judgment. Their objections were two: concerning economy, some members felt that the sum requested was excessive for the value BTC would receive; regarding the matter of precedent—by far more important—the proposed expenditure for rewards would bring, sooner or later, demands from other student organizations for a similar purpose.

Moreover, the controversy raises another question: are tangible rewards a legitimate expectation for successful participation in school activities? While no one questions the worth of any student organization, we feel their purpose should remain: service to the school and activity for the sake of experience and personal satisfaction. The soccer team's outstanding success, however, merits special recognition, obviously, and we will willingly support efforts of the MAA to procure the jackets by any means other than the bookstore account.

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