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STUDENTS IN MASS MEETING

Dismissals Rock Rollins



Hal Suit, student leader



Ken Horton, Council president



Dr. E. R. Smith, trustee



Dr. Theodore Collier, faculty

EDITORIAL

Vote Of No Confidence

Paul A. Wagner has lost the confidence of the students. He has lost the faith of the faculty. In times of crisis a leader who has lost the trust of his followers is useless.

The only way to regain that lost confidence is for President Wagner to consult immediately with the emergency boards of students, faculty, and alumni and consider seriously their proposals. The President has given no indication that he is willing even to consider the plans of faculty or students. In fact, he and the trustees walked out of Sunday's mass meeting at the very moment when the students were about to present their plans.

Unless he shows a willingness to reconsider the wholesale firing of faculty while weighing the merits of the two student plans, the President is a liability to this college.

We entreat and pray that Dr. Wagner find the courage, the clear sight not only to save us from this crisis but also to assert a positive leadership. If he does not he may find himself president of a college with 4,000 alumni, 26 trustees, no faculty, and no students.

Right now students, faculty, administration and alumni are united in a warm family spirit of unequalled enterprise, courage, and optimism. Only Paul Wagner stands aloof, lonely in the shadows of distrust.

Today, all too many faculty and students feel that behind the ready smile is an iron hand that cares little for the spirit of democracy.

The President has failed in the ideals he stated in his inaugural address. Said the President on that occasion, "I would like to acknowledge the great personal debt of gratitude I owe . . .

"To the splendid faculty of Rollins College who share by their vote the tremendous responsibility of keeping my future steps in the same direction as my worthy predecessor . . .

"To the students, who in the final analysis are the sole reason for the existence of any college president . . ."

We students, Dr. Wagner, who are the sole reason for your existence here, have lost all confidence in you.

Please promptly regain it!

The Way Out

A committee of students has proposed an unheard of thing at Rollins. They have suggested that we students share some of the everyday maintenance work of the college, to save money by pouring a little of our own sweat into the task that lies ahead.

A receptive and intelligent administration would seize upon this idea for all it's worth.

But let us warn the President that he can expect little cooperation in the carrying out of this program unless he reconsiders the firing of a large portion of the Rollins faculty.

The reason given by the acting chairman of the college trustees, Eugene R. Smith, for the cut in faculty is the expected loss of income caused by the expected one-third drop in enrollment. If only one-third of today's undergraduates each sold a new student a Rollins education, the expected gap would be filled. Students will sell Rollins if it remains the college they have known. If the proposed faculty cut is carried out, undergraduates will be justly critical and it will be a miracle if even two-thirds of the present enrollment is met next year.

A Time To Do Great Things

The students, in a serious and orderly manner, have shown an interest and a willingness to sacrifice for Rollins as perhaps no other student body in the history of the college. It is a time to do great things. It is a time to forge ahead as a leader among small colleges.

Where others have failed, let us succeed!

Do not lead us into failure and retrenchment, Dr. Wagner. Lead us to success such as we have never seen before.

Instead of saying that statistics prove hard times ahead and that it is time to retrench, let us go forward. If our product is finding few customers in a competitive market, let's outsell our competitors. Let's send out 600 super-salesmen from this student body and let's give them the assurance now that they will have the old time-honored product to sell.

DDR

IN THIS SANDSPUR EXTRA

Background Story of Faculty Dismissals and Student Reaction

Chronological Report of Student Mass Meeting Sunday

List of Faculty Members Fired

Action of Student Steering Committee

Report of Sunday Faculty Meeting

State and National Publicity

Picture Coverage of Sunday's Mass Meeting

Editorial Comment

Late Flashes

Starr Calls In Legal Assistance

Speaking to his English class this morning, Dr. Nathan Comfort Starr said, "I charge the Administration with irresponsibility and gross misjudgment. . . This is a wound inflicted on the faculty that can never be healed. . . My first effort is reinstatement. I am working on that now with legal assistance."

* * *

Three Deans Issue Joint Statement

We will support with enthusiasm and gratitude all constructive efforts and plans of the students, individually or collectively, for the welfare of Rollins College. We are apposed to irresponsible and ill-considered actions or accusations against any person or any group.

Dean Stone
Dean Cleveland
Dean Waite

Gregory Suspended Temporarily Reinstated

Shortly before noon today, Alex Gregory, Rollins student, veteran, and graduating senior here, was notified by Dean Alexander Waite that he (Gregory) was suspended as of that time.

At one o'clock this afternoon, Dean Waite announced that the suspension had been temporarily lifted, pending reconsideration. Waite added that as far as he was concerned, "No student may attack the integrity of another person in an irresponsible way with impunity."

* * *

No Change In Tenure Wagner Announces

The action of the Board of Trustees in instructing the President to reduce the faculty in accordance with the budget at this time of financial exigency does not affect the tenure policies of the College.

(signed) President Paul Wagner



The above photograph is that of one angry man reprimanding another. President Paul A. Wagner is offering a rebuttal to remarks made by Hal Suit at the meeting Sunday night concerning the dismissal of professors.

Dismissal Rumor Runs Riot Students, Wagner, Trustees, Faculty Talk In Meeting

On Monday, March 5, the faculty of Rollins College was notified that a certain number of their members would receive notice of dismissal in order to cut expenses because of a quarter million dollar deficit that the college is facing. On the following Thursday, 39 full professors and nine part-time teachers received their notices. By Thursday afternoon the story had leaked out to the student body.

Reaction was immediate and vigorous. By noon, Friday, the campus was in an uproar of questions that went unanswered, resentment, and protest.

Friday night, a small group of students gathered in the meeting place of the Pan American Club, and held a protest meeting. Students, including Mary Ann Hobart, Ken Horton, Dan Eastwood, went to the office of John Tiedtke, college treasurer, with a proposal tentatively solving the matter if the dismissals had been made for reasons of economy.

STUDENT PLAN

The suggestion that the committee made was that students take over positions held by hired help, such as positions in the college community, caretakers, and maintenance men, and office workers in the Administrations offices, voluntarily. It was also suggested that maid service in both men's and women's dormitories be discontinued. Tiedtke welcomed this plan with enthusiasm and immediately set out to investigate the possibilities of the proposal.

MASS MEETING

Saturday morning, March 10, students of Rollins met spontaneously and en masse in the student center. President Paul A. Wagner, Rollins chief executive, had been asked to come to the meeting to explain the why and wherefore of the situation.

The students were angered and confused because they regarded Wagner's actions as an abolishment of the democratic system which had heretofore been the precedent for administrative action. They were bewildered by the president's choice of faculty to be dismissed, because the list of names, though held in secret by the administration, was known to contain some of the most respected members of the faculty.

The students demanded the dissipation of the cloud of confusion hanging over the entire affair, and an explanation of the choice of the dismissed faculty.

WELTER OF CONFUSION

Hal Suit, veteran of the last war and holder of the purple heart, expressed the sentiments of the students concerning the faculty dismissals, when he said, "We can't cut from the top. We must find a way to cut from the bottom." Suit added, "And we don't want this explained the way football was last year."

On the vast welter of confusion Dave Estes said, "Wagner has created this confusion either through stupidity or intelligence, and in either event he's dangerous."

As the meeting progressed numerous student speakers gave their opinions on the situation, announced the existence of the committee which had gone through the treasurer's office, and made tentative proposals on how to cut the expenses and bring in revenue in the event that the faculty dismissal had been made for the reason that seemed to be the only plausible one . . . the \$250,000 deficit.

NO STRIKE

It gradually became doubtful whether Wagner would appear before the students. Hal Suit suggested a sit-down strike . . . that the students present would not leave the Center until Wagner appeared. For some time meant cutting Saturday morning classes. However, the students decided that the greatest show of strength and serious intent lay in a return to class. Ed Wells, commissioned colonel in the Marine Corps, retired, asked those who had classes to go to them, that those who did not to go to them in the Center, and if Wagner appeared, messengers would be sent to bring the rest of the student body out of class. This motion was almost unanimously adopted, and those with classes left.

TALKS TO WAGNER

At 10:30 in a telephone conversation between Hal Suit in the Center and President Wagner at home, Wagner definitely stated that he would not appear before the students because he simply "did not have the time." The embittered students took this as an inference that their college's President did not regard them as of primary importance. When Suit addressed the meeting with Wagner's statement, those in class were sent for and were soon in the president's house was proposed and quickly defeated.

WAGNER SPEAKS

A few minutes later Alex Waite, Dean of Men, entered. He said that Dr. Wagner did not show up because "when a man has obligations" he should keep them. It was stated that President Wagner was meeting in scheduled conferences with members of the faculty.

Dave Estes asked Dean Waite as "the messenger from the administration" to carry back to the president an expression of bitter disappointment and a condemnation of his lack of unity, clarity, and leadership.

Faculty Dismissal Numbers Five Ph.D.'s

No official list of the professors reported to have been dismissed last week has been released by the administration. The following are reported to be among the recipients of the "short" note.

This is necessarily an unofficial and incomplete list. The Sandspur takes complete responsibility for any inaccuracies that appear in it.

Benjamin Ayerly, A.B.; Angela Palomo Campbell, A.M.; Theodore Collier, A.B., A.M., Ph.D., L.H.D.; Nina Oliver Dean, A.B., A.M.; Adolphus Ross Evans, B.A.E., M.S., C.P.A.

Rudolph Fiesher, A.B., A.M.; George Willard Freeman, D.B.S.; Gladys Stansland Henderson, A.B., B.S.L.S.; Stuart James, A.B.; Joseph Justice, A.B.

Flora Lindsay Magoun, A.B., A.M.; Richard Perry Matthews, B.A., A.M., B.S.L.S.; John Witherston, McDowell, B.S., M.S.; Mary Jarnatt Nelson, B.M.; Audrey Lillian Packham, B.S.E., A.M.

Richard Charles Plumer, A.B., L.L.B.; George Saute, Ph.B., A.M.; Gardner Sharpe, A.B., M.B.A.; William Shelton, A.B., A.M.; Leon Polk Smith, A.B., A.M.

Nathan Comfort Starr, A.B., A.M., Ph.D., Litt.D.; Colette van Boreop, Ph.L.; Paul Anthony Vestal, A.B., A.M., Ph.D.; Ralph Waldo Wager, A.B., M.S., Ph.D.; Marie Elizabeth Wagner, B.S., A.M., Ph.D.

Special Session Of Faculty Called

The faculty met in a special session in Dyer Memorial Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. with President Paul A. Wagner presiding.

A small delegation of students including Ken Horton, Hal Suit, Dan Eastwood, and Marnee Norris, was present at the invitation of the faculty as expressed in the student meeting Saturday morning.

President Wagner was asked if he would rescind his action of dismissing faculty members until the faculty had time to work out an alternate plan. Wagner replied with "No comment."

Upon the passing of a motion to ask Wagner to rescind his action, the president said his hands were tied by the trustees decision to cut the faculty.

Upon the request of the faculty the president left the meeting asking at the same time that other non-faculty persons present also leave. The president and student representatives left the meeting which continued until recessed in order that the faculty might sit in on the student mass meeting at seven in the Student Center.

According to Dean Stone, Wagner had promised at an earlier meeting to bring before the trustees any alternate plan by which the financial problem could be met.

It was impossible to gain access to the minutes of the meeting, but it is reported that the American Association of University Professors has been asked to investigate the dismissal procedure.

Rollins Sandspur

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By the Students of Rollins
Editor-in-Chief
Derek Dunn-Roskin
Co-Editors
Tom Pickens, John Vereen
Staff
Peter Robinson, Jon Dunn-Roskin
Ad. Warner, Joel Huxley
Editor's Note: The editor apologizes for any inaccuracies or careless reporting in this issue. We felt it was necessary to get the news out. All material was double-checked where time and authorities permitted.

Sunday night's student mass meeting was called by Council President Ken Horton to consider the dismissal of a rumored 10 faculty members and the general state of the college.

Horton prefaced his introductory remarks with the statement that "Nothing constructive can be achieved through emotional upheaval." He announced his intention to moderate the meeting and delivered the proposed agenda.

CORE OF QUALITY

Dave Estes, English major and Cornell graduate, was the first speaker. Estes stressed the fact that "we are here with no malicious intent . . . in no way to warp or twist . . . the facts." Speaking of the faculty he said, "we are gathered here because we feel that Rollins must at any or all cost retain its core of quality."

Dan Eastwood gave an introductory speech emphasizing the seriousness of the situation.

Hal Suit, student representative, spoke to the members of the press present, saying that the representative students were not elected, but took on responsibility as a temporary measure.

Suit paraphrased his comment of Saturday morning when referring to the breaking of "Student contracts." He said, "If I take a tour to France, I don't want to end up in Shanghai."

He said that some of the facts which he had on the problem of the dismissal "were not pretty," and, as such, should not be divulged to the public at the time.

ALL TRUSTEES

Eugene R. Smith of the board of trustees was then recognized.

Dr. Smith: "I am going to ask you all this evening to become trustees. The board of directors, legally and morally, has both an authority and responsibility which must go together."

"If we're very successful, very successful, we'll have a college about two-thirds the size that it is now. (Next year.)"

"Your responsibility (as a trustee) means that you must be able to pay expenses of the college next year. The opportunity for getting large sums of money is very little indeed . . . No use putting your head in the sand . . . the money's not there."

Smith emphasized the lengths to which the trustees had gone to raise the money, and referring to the dismissals said . . .

"In the action of dismissals the board was thinking in terms of judicial fairness." He stated that the dismissals were made on a basis of seniority. "The people who have been with the college the longest have the first right," but added provision for a round curriculum was recognized.

PRaises WAGNER

"I believe that this college is necessary and important. Of all the men I know in this country as executives . . . I don't know of anyone who could have done such a superb job," as President Wagner. "We've got to be sure we save the fundamental quality of the college."

Hal Suit took over again and quoted facts and figures from the Rollins audit for the year ending June, 1950. As he pointed out certain figures, he asked the trustees if the committees' proposals would not cut the mentioned expenses greatly. Most of the answers came from John Tiedtke and Dr. E. R. Smith.

TIEDTKE SEES SAVING

Tiedtke's answer to the proposal that the committee had made in his office the day before was, "I cannot give that answer now. I have thought about it. A group of students came into my office and requested thought on this."

Tiedtke said that if the proposal was put into action, "Ten thousand dollars could be saved. The ten thousand is easy." In answer to his own question as to why discontinuing maid service, letting students take over jobs voluntarily had not been done before, he said, "It hasn't been done because it was felt that the price for students was not low enough to justify this."

Suit then quoted some high figures that were costs of renovating the president's office, furnishing his home, and other presidential expenses. He asked President Wagner to specifically answer his question to whether some of these expenses could be cut.

President Wagner: "The board is interested more in definite suggestions than questions. John, John, (to Tiedtke) answer if please. You are the one who answers questions."

The audience reacted to this with a groan. Wagner then approached the platform to speak.

WAGNER SPEAKS
Said Wagner: "I will not limit my remarks to five minutes Hal." (Wagner referred to a request Suit had made at the beginning of the meeting to limit answers to five minutes.) "I am chief executive of this college," Wagner said that Tiedtke had not informed the audience of \$79,000 cut in expenses in the last two years and that Tiedtke had been asked to make additional cuts in the operating costs in the president's office equal to all the cuts made while Tiedtke was in office.

One of the committee members, Walt Roose, asked Wagner if any of the faculty members had approached him with their willingness to serve without financial consideration, and if so why were these members dropped?

THE NEXT ISSUE
Because of the pertinence of news items which may develop in the next few days, and to insure a complete and accurate news coverage, the trial issue of Tom Pickens, originally scheduled to appear on Thursday, March 15, will be published on Saturday morning, March 17.

As far as the staff is concerned this affects only the news and editorial sections, which will be held back as long as possible. The dead line for sports, society and feature material is still tonight, March 12.

FIVE FOR NOTHING
Wagner replied that if any of the faculty had approached him with such suggestions they had been accepted.

Roose then informed Wagner that he had the names of five faculty members who had not been.

Wagner sprang to his feet and demanded that Roose produce the names.

Roose refused to do so without consulting with either the faculty

Steering Committee In Secret Meeting

Following the breakup of the mass student meeting Saturday, an emergency steering committee constituted itself a representative body to plan the Sunday night agenda.

This group of eighteen met at 1:00 p.m. in the Alumni House and elected Dan Eastwood chairman of the meeting. They unanimously nominated Ken Horton, president of student government, moderator of the Sunday night mass meeting.

Horton explained that he had invited all trustees in the area to attend.

In order to protect sources of information, stifle rumor, and keep their aims from the public press, the committee pledged itself to secrecy.

The committee selected a group to attend the faculty meeting scheduled for Sunday afternoon and approved a temporary agenda for Sunday night's meeting.

In adjourning at 5:30 p.m., the group decided to reconvene at 5:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon to take any necessary further action and to hear a report of the faculty meeting.

A special committee elected from open floor nominations made Sunday night will replace the steering committee as the official representatives of the students in the present crisis.

The eighteen student leaders were: Ken Horton, Dan Eastwood, Mary Ann Hobart, Larry Fitzpatrick, Hal Suit, Derek Dunn-Roskin, John Vereen, Mush Woodward, Fred Rogers, Jean Currie, Marnee Norris, Jan Olson, Jack O'Keefe, Bill Lyell, Dave Redding, Shirley Christensen, Skook Bailey, and Walt Roose.

Dismissal Publicity Goes Local, National

Friday afternoon, the story on the dismissal of the twenty-six professors and the subsequent student protest was given to the Sandspur for publication. Friday night, the story was in the Orlando papers, and soon after, freelance radio and news stories picked it up.

Sunday the story broke in the Sentinel-Star. The same day there was an Associated Press story in the Miami Herald. The story was in the Sunday New York Times.

It is now known that Life magazine is working on it, and has sent photographer Bob Kelly, along with another Life man, down here for copy and photographs.

or his committee.

Later in the evening, Dr. Theodore Collier, one of the dismissed professors, appeared to give some substance to Roose's claim by showing that if he was not one of the six professors he was certainly a sixth. He said that he often expressed a willingness to discuss teaching here without any reference to financial consideration.

WAGNER, TRUSTEES LEAVE
It was immediately after Roose's question that President Wagner and the representatives of the board of trustees walked out of the meeting. The audience remained.

A committee for investigation was proposed and accepted. It is to consist of three trustees, three faculty members, three alumni, three parents, and five students. Each group will elect its own representatives to this committee.

STUDENT WORK PLAN
Marshall Woodward spoke, outlining briefly a program that the Rollins faculty had drawn up for a conservatively estimated saving of \$25,000 to \$30,000 by student work efforts.

Horton then called upon Dean Cleveland to speak. As she approached the microphones, the assembly gave her an ovation greater than for any previous speaker. Dean Cleveland paused and then said, "Never in my life have I been prouder than I have in the student body as a whole (in the manner in which they worked on this problem and the interest and spirit they have shown). All of us are tired, all of us have been under a terrific strain." She encouraged a student work plan.

Dr. Fort followed Dean Cleveland.

"We have something . . . vital," he said, "something . . . moving, something compelling, something that can't die (here at Rollins). Our faculty is the core, the central point of things that cannot be measured in statistics, the central point of human values. Each of us should be heard, each of us must rally about that vital spot that must be kept alive here and in the world."

P-U-R-G-E

Dr. Saute, who spoke after Dr. Fort, said that Wagner had set a certain formula for dismissal, but that "the formula has been violated to suit the occasion. But if you look deep enough, you can see the formula working out, and the formula spells P-U-R-G-E." With that, Dr. Saute ended his remarks.

Dr. Granberry was standing by, waiting to speak. Ken Horton introduced him.

In making reference to De Noy's Human Destiny, he said, "I cannot bear to see the student body lose the principle of democracy." He concluded by saying to the assembled students that "Every one of us will never cease to admire you and the spirit you have shown here tonight."

Commenting on Saute's remark, Dean Stone said that "It is not as I know it wasn't a purge."

Dave Estes was handed a note from the faculty with the names of those who had been elected as faculty spokesmen. They are Dr. Vestal, Mr. Tiedtke, Professor Mendell, Dr. Granberry, Professor Magoun, and Dr. Starr.

Howard Showalter, Jr., president of the Alumni Association read the telegram which was sent to Witherston Bancroft, Trustee Chairman, requesting his presence at the meeting. Mr. Bancroft did not appear.

Showalter went on to tell the meeting that the alumni felt a deep concern for what was going on, and were with the students and faculty one hundred per cent.

"I AM HURT"

Dr. Theodore Collier then came from the rear of the crowd, amidst a tremendous ovation from the assembly, and went up to the microphones. Dr. Collier spoke with quiet dignity, and poetic sentiment on the subject . . . "I have no resentment or bitterness, but I have a deep feeling of sadness. I am hurt, not for myself . . . we can't forgive a hurt to ourselves."

Dr. Collier said that as a result of this meeting, we are drawn closer together. "This is evidenced not just in the meeting here, but in a little tighter grip of the hand and a little deeper look in the eye."

Professor Magoun was then called upon. She told of her telephone conversation with Bancroft, Trustee Chairman, and trying to get him to come to last night's meeting.

WILL RAISE \$100,000
Jean Currie, Rollins student and member of the committee, announced that when the trouble had started, she had telephoned her father, and given him the story. She said that her Dad, upon receiving this news, pledged that he would set out and try to raise \$100,000 for the Endowment Fund.

Nominations were made for representatives of the students to serve on the new committee of faculty, alumni, trustees and students.