

## The Ridgerunner

Editor ..... Martha Dula  
 Managing Editor ..... Ray Elingburg  
 Associate Editors ..... Randy Wilburn,  
 Nancy Dillingham,  
 Allan Pierce,  
 Randy Drupiewski  
 Layout Editor ..... Bob Jones

### Our Letter Policy

Letters to the Editor and submissions for guest editorials should be left at the office of *The Ridgerunner* or put in the intracampus box in the Student Union Building. All submissions must be signed. *The Ridgerunner* will withhold names upon request.

We welcome both letters and longer more comprehensive articles of opinion from students, faculty, administration, and from any citizens of the community whose contribution is directed toward the educational interests of the college. All submissions should be typed and double-spaced. In order to be published in the next issue, all submissions must be in the office by the Wednesday before our Monday deadline.

## DEAR READER -

The Editor feels an explanation is in order.

Due to the regrettable long period between the publication dates of the second and third issue of *The Ridgerunner*, a large number of feature articles accumulated on the Editor's desk. Many of these articles became "dated" during this period. Therefore, when a shortage of copy space made cutting some of these articles necessary, it had to be done arbitrarily and with no prejudice intended. The Editor does not feel that an apology is called for, but an explanation to those persons and organizations concerned is not out of order.

As a newly established organization somewhat short in experience, *The Ridgerunner* is still struggling to find its proper footing. The staff would appreciate the patience and cooperation of the student body and faculty. You can do your part just by adhering to the instructions included under "Our Letter Policy." If cutting is necessary, those articles submitted in long-hand are obviously, because of inadequate staffing and dead-lines which have to be met, among the first to be cut. To help insure the publication of your article, please submit it in the proper form. And if you prefer a minimum of re-write (as some have indicated they do), please make an attempt to write a "professional" article.

*The Ridgerunner* is setting high standards to strive toward from the very beginning, as far as quality is concerned. And reviewing some of the various other college newspapers in the area which are sent on an exchange basis, *The Ridgerunner* already shows evidence of several superior points of quality.

*The Ridgerunner* is your newspaper, your opportunity and right to information and expression. Use it. But use it carefully.

The Editor

## HUMANITIES LECTURES OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS

Several students have inquired recently as to why the lectures for the Humanities courses are not announced campus wide so that any interested student could attend. In answer to this inquiry, Dr. Pait has announced that all students are welcome to attend these lectures at any time.

*The Ridgerunner* will publish lecture dates, topics, and names of the particular lecturer, for periods of two weeks following the publication date, as a regular feature beginning with this issue. The regular lectures are held on Mondays and Wednesdays at 1:00 P.M. Tuesdays and Thursdays are designated as laboratory sessions. These periods are used for presentation of relevant audio-visual materials and, it might be added here, any student is also welcome to attend these laboratory periods. Since Friday is quiz day, it is doubtful that students would be interested in sitting in on these sessions.

### LECTURE SCHEDULE:

Dec. 6 Art of the Italian Renaissance Mr. Bunker  
 Dec. 8 The Northern Renaissance and the Reformation Dr. Pait  
 Dec. 13 Northern Renaissance Art Mr. Bunker  
 Dec. 15 National States in Conflict Dr. Walker  
 Jan. 3 Literature of the Renaissance Dr. Riggs  
 Jan. 5 Shakespeare Dr. Riggs

## DEAR EDITOR

Every student is probably aware that there are two recognized social fraternities on our campus. These two groups have given much to the school by their various projects and general support of student activities. Even more, the individual members of these fraternities have devoted much time and effort to the support of the S. G. A. These men are the campus leaders. It is a unique fact on our campus, that the image of the fraternity man is one of leadership, not in his own small group, but in the entire school.

Why then, have these groups been singled out by the administration and the Board of Trustees to be subject to special restrictions? What I refer to is the ban on fraternity houses.

If a group of A-B students, other than a fraternity, wishes to rent a house, they are perfectly free to do so. However, if the group bears the name "fraternity", they are denied this right.

One explanation offered for this is that if a fraternity obtained a lease or a loan for a house and defaulted on this obligation, the school could be held responsible. However, a fraternity, if allowed to, would rent a house on a month-to-month basis.

The Board of Trustees refuses to set up standards of conduct in such a house, but rather bans fraternity houses altogether.

This practice is unfair and discriminatory to two groups of students whose service to the school, whose willingness to govern themselves, and whose records are above reproach.

# THE PRESIDENT SPEAKS

(Editor's note: The following is a transcript of a recorded interview with Dr. William Highsmith regarding the recent amendment to the North Carolina Speaker-Ban Law.)

QUESTION: In what way will the new amendment to the Speaker-Ban or "Gag Rule" in North Carolina affect Asheville-Biltmore directly and the rest of the institutions in the state?

DR. HIGHSMITH: As far as A-B College is concerned, it removes an obstacle that did exist to our accreditation. With this obstacle now removed I don't believe we'll have any difficulty in achieving an accredited status in the minimum of time. If we do this, and I'm sure we will, then our accreditation will become retro-active to 1966 and will cover members of the first graduating class. So that obstacle that did exist is removed as far as accreditation is concerned. Now as far as procedures on our campus are concerned, student groups and faculty groups who invite visiting speakers to appear in public before our students will go through a little more elaborate set of procedures in order to clear this in advance. There's nothing really here to be concerned about, as a matter of fact

we're doing it now and no one comes in to speak at assemblies or anything like that we don't know about in advance. So, as far as internal procedures are concerned, I don't think anyone is going to notice any difference.

QUESTION: Then would you say that the real gist of the matter was primarily in principle and the colleges objection was mostly to the idea of just some blanket law stopping anyone who fit in a certain category from coming to speak?

DR. HIGHSMITH: Well in the first place the trustees and the officers of the various colleges and the University have been charged with the responsibility of the institutions. The Speaker-Ban Law was legislative interference. It took away from the traditional locus of authority, the powers to direct and manage the affairs of an institution. In the second place, the law was so phrased that it eliminated certain categories of persons regardless of what they were going to speak on and this, most people in higher education considered to be undue interference with freedom of speech and academic freedom. We think that colleges and the University with their faculty, administrative officers, and trustees

can manage these matters without the necessity of "blanket" legislative restrictions. The law was vague and in many instances extremely difficult to interpret. With the amendment the general assembly passed, I think that we now have something that we can live with quite comfortably and I don't think anyone has any genuine reason for fear that the campuses are suddenly going to start crawling with communists and pleaders of various amendments.

QUESTION: One final question please. If a communist or some so-called subversive character were to speak on the campus, do you think that this would necessarily poison the minds or sway the convictions of the college student because he would be primarily susceptible to this type of thing?

DR. HIGHSMITH: Well, college students read books, newspapers, and watch television. We cannot insulate their minds from the realities of the contemporary world. I think that to do so would be to insult ourselves. I have the highest confidence in the ability of college students to distinguish between truth and falsity, between truth and phony reasoning. I have no real concern whatever that the college student would be susceptible to ideas that would be inimical to the best interests of themselves, their colleges, and their country. As a matter of fact, it's always been my observation that college students are among the brightest and sharpest of our people and what they do after they graduate pretty well proves this out. I think it is very insulting to assume that college students must be "protected" from various ideas. If they're not ready to look at a variety of ideas now, then the chances are they won't be once they are through college, and if we assume that there are ideas that people must not be allowed to hear, then we are getting into a type of society which is completely different from that which has ever existed in this country before.

## R.T.W. on Academic Responsibility

With the amending of the North Carolina "Gag Rule" Asheville-Biltmore College has retained a measure of power in its administration which was found to be indispensable in a liberal arts college pursuant of *academic excellence*. Marches and pickets in other colleges across the nation in recent months have shown how other states are faced with problems of similar scope in affecting *academic freedom*. And the general outspoken and concerned attitudes of those most concerned with education in the U. S. today, the student and professor, have focused attention on the presence of *academic integrity* in the higher education community regardless of its popularity. These three things, *academic excellence*, *freedom*, and *integrity*, are qualities which this college must possess if it is to progress in the eyes of the other institutions around us. There are, three ways in which these qualities can be destroyed and the students must watch for the symptoms.

The first of these dangers is to excellence and is most subtle in its spread. It is concerned with the atmosphere of a school, especially the attitudes of its students. Here the matter of caring and of motivation enter the picture. We must ask ourselves and our fellow students, "Do we care?" We must determine whether or not the student at A-B really, individually wants to learn. This is not something that shows up so well in the class or on a test as it would seem. Learning the subject today means little if the student is to

I ask that the officials reconsider their stand on this issue and set up the necessary steps and regulations for obtaining and maintaining a fraternity house in order that the fraternities on campus can be true fraternities and that they and the school can grow and profit from this experience. BILL PLYLER

forget it tomorrow. At Asheville-Biltmore there are plans underfoot to give more responsibility to the student in assuming the work load on a more independent basis.

The second danger is to academic freedom and comes not so much as its withering away, but rather in its abuse to the point of a need for a cutback. As college students we must take not only the right of academic freedom but also the responsibilities that it carries. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing and the student who is permitted to indulge in a little knowledge must commit himself to greater study to enable the interpretation of how little he knows. We are free to hear a communist now, but we are also free to make ourselves ready to defend our personal philosophies.

In the area of academic integrity the danger in its use is, again, its mis-use. This integrity of which we speak implies the right of thought and exercise of thought as it suits the individual. In a college the exercise of the rights of expression seem to always come to the fore in the form of dis-satisfaction. Frequently, however, this manifestation carries no thought of remedy. Also all too frequently the student becomes so dissatisfied so as to rebel against all authority.

A story comes to memory, here, of a young college youth who was so disenchanted with the hypocrisy he had found in religions as they were, he decided to start his own. Upon consulting an aged theologian as to how best to go about the task, he was given the advice that, "One attention getter would be to arrange to be crucified and to arise after three days." The point here is that many of the things with which the student becomes so discontented are not so easily solved by just a few complaints in the right places. When the student's integrity prompts outcry and his treasured ideals threaten tarnishment, maybe it could be better to first ask how best to polish an ideal before tarnishing someone else's.

## Art Review

Fellow students go through the Student Union lobby and give yourself a feast. Asheville-Biltmore College is being visited, and honored, by a young Philippino artist; Sergio G. Santos, age 26, status — single, occupation — artist.

Sergio's exhibition shows his origin in the works that seem to be made from bamboo but actually are oil scraped from the canvas. His women have a universal appeal. They are stylized ethereal visions of fragile women right out of his vivid imaginative — that is all but one. Pick her out for yourselves.

His color is wild wild. Maybe the slang isn't up to date but Sergio's paintings are. They show the promise that won for him a scholarship to the Royal Academy in London, England. He achieved this opportunity by winning a world competition. He attended Hong Kong University and majored in Languages.

By Elsie Kronenfeld