

Editorials

Decision Criteria

We're for A-B.

A simple statement, yes, but one which perhaps best embodies the editorial policy of this newspaper.

We feel that A-B's furthering as a progressive, liberal-arts institution should be the primary consideration in all decisions, and in all areas of campus activity.

The emphasis at A-B is on the student, and his education. Institutional goals, activities, and plans all revolve around the student. And to the student falls the responsibility of making the most of the opportunity, of accepting the challenge.

This newspaper is of the student body. It is the voice of the students. And for that very reason, we repeat:

We're for A-B.

My Answer

From the Minnesota DAILY
The Collegiate Press Service

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. (CPS) — Evangelist Billy Graham was interviewed recently in San Francisco. With indomitable courage, Graham spoke out on several controversial issues:

On capital punishment: "I take no position."

On therapeutic abortion: "That's a complicated question. I'm not going to get involved."

On whether he approves of a bill to restrict the teaching of evolution in California public schools: "I'd have to see the bill."

On whether the Southern Baptist Convention should join the National Council of Churches: "I'll leave that to the Southern Baptists."

On Vietnam: "We ought to leave this to our leaders — they know the facts."

Obviously, Graham is not afraid that his public statements might offend anyone. Nosiree, not Billy. As he said in the same interview, the real problem in America today is that the nation's leaders are "not meeting (youth's) moral needs . . ."

Letters to the Editor

As an individual who has attended several large institutions of higher education and who has taught at Asheville - Biltmore College for one year, I would like to offer what should be, hopefully, some succinct reflections on the Ridgerunner. These reflections may be construed by some to be criticisms; indeed they may be. However, if in the end, the criticisms achieve justification through constructivism, the reflections will be all the more meaningful.

Given the premise that Asheville - Biltmore College serves as an organ not only of education, but also of influence for the area of Western North Carolina, then it logically follows that the college newspaper should mirror this institutional image.

Query: Has the publication, to this point, achieved this end?

Reply: Upon inspection of numerous previous issues of the Ridgerunner, one must remark that, for the most part, this goal has not been reached.

Query: Elucidate upon a few of the reasons for this.

Reply: Fundamentally, a lack of student support. Too frequently, the editing and publication of the newspaper has rested in the hands of only a limited number of individuals. Also, frequently, the paper has given one the impression of a policy of isolationism. Articles and features printed in previous issues have seemingly pointed to an institution whose field of vision is bounded by the geographical limits of the campus. The paper is indirectly circulated to many individuals who are only tangentially involved with campus affairs. Articles of somewhat more direct concern to them and their impressions also should be recorded.

At times, the paper, like many students and even townspeople, reflects an attitude of pessimism. "Ah well," they say, "its only Asheville or Asheville - Biltmore College" etcetra, ad nauseum. . .

This attitude is not new. To quote Thomas Wolfe, " (Altamont) is a ruined and defeated town, and it is full of ruined and defeated people." But, on the contrary, Wolfe is not satisfied with this state of affairs. To continue his quote, "If you think I am happy about this, you do me an injustice."

The time is thirty years hence. Asheville is no longer a ruined town, but is undergoing a slow, if painful, renaissance. Asheville - Biltmore College accentuates and encourages this new trend. The Ridgerunner must mirror and amplify this accentuation.

Donald A. McCrimmon, Jr.
Instructor of Psychology

Book Review

The Hobbit: Tea And Toast

For those of you who have never met J. R. R. Tolkien's furry-footed creations: hobbits are small, quiet, kind hearted creatures. They do not like anything fast; this applies to mental as well as physical exertion. In short, they are the worlds ideal conservatists. Hobbits are clean-shaven. The colors of their clothes are those of rich earth, yellow and green. All any self respecting hobbit asks of life is buttered toast and tea, a warm hobbit hole and the peace that comes when the earth is a good cozy place.

But hobbits are vulnerable, as are all the world's good folk. The nature of this vulnerability is the subject of Tolkien's book The Hobbit.

As we enter the world of Hobbiton, Tolkien introduces us to his good and faithful friend, Bilbo Baggins. Bilbo lives in The Shire, which is found between the River Brandywine and the Far Downs.

Bilbo, the paragon of respectable hobbitry, has furry feet. All hobbits have furry feet, and it can hardly be denied that this is an enchanting characteristic, though slightly less than desirable in a good conservatist, since furry feet have the odor of hedonism about them.

At the time of our encounter Bilbo is a very respectable hobbit; he is rich, never had adventures, "never did anything unexpected, and you could tell what he would say on any question without the bother of asking him." Yet somewhere in Bilbo's heredity, there lurked

a dark streak of wanderlust. So, when the grey gentlemen of spells, Gandalf the Wizard, offers Bilbo the first adventure of his life, we are not surprised to see that Bilbo is bedazzled - right out of his warm cubby hole. Bilbo Baggins trades his walking stick for a sword and his palacial hobbit home for long nights of damp ground for sleeping. He even leaves his pocket handkerchief behind in his haste to catch the dwarves and bind them to their promise of riches.

What does Bilbo Baggins receive in return for the sacrifice of home and reputation? Philosophers, unite! What can any being gain in return? Brave Bilbo bumbles through Mirkwood, the dark forest which holds enchanted streams and dreams, little different from his own enchanting hobbit streams, and no different from the dreams Bilbo must have had in his own warm bed in Hobbiton.

Tolkien, in all gentleness, presents Bilbo as a magical half-pint image of mankind, running the gambit from great courage and imagination to great foolhardiness and stupidity. He is at once realist and idealist, the wise man and the fool. When the grail has been found, Tolkien thrusts the knife of shattered images into this lovely work.

Bilbo, in all kindness, tries to prevent a war by stealing from his dwarf friend, Thorin. Bilbo believes simultaneously in the wisdom of Thorin's enemy, the Elvenking, and in the goodness of Thorin. Fate is busy. Tolkien

has never loosened his hold on the magic wand, the element of uncertainty. The unexpected remains the predominant element in this, the introduction to the fabulous "Ring" trilogy. And he leaves it to the reader to decide if the jewel called Fortune is truly as unpredictable and fragile as it seems. Since this is a purely philosophical question, it is recommended that more of the Big People, as hobbits call us, seek the friendship of a hobbit, a respectable hobbit, to be sure. For if hobbits are only half our size, perhaps it is to reassure us that our good hobbit friends could not possibly harm us.

Images Lets Extra Issue

Ken Snelling, editor of Images, A-B fine arts magazine, has announced that one hundred extra copies of the Summer issue of the magazine have been printed for distribution to interested freshmen.

Leigh Stevens, a senior, who designed the silk screen cover, is making covers for the additional copies. This will be her third year to serve as art editor.

Snelling, who served as literary editor last year, reports that the Summer issue was well received. The Asheville Citizen-Times commented on its "variety," "workmanship," and "originality."

And the chairman of the Department of English at Southeastern Louisiana College, Hammond, Louisiana: "We congratulate you and your staff on your splendid publication. I am especially impressed with the variety of the material, the arrangement, and the format of the magazine."

Two issues of the magazine are planned for this school year, the first to appear in December.

Contributions should be mailed or dropped in the "Images" box in the Student Center.

Snelling emphasized the need for all contributions to be signed. "The contributor's name should appear on each piece of work. However, at the author's request, we will not use his name."

Cops Must Have Tact, Keep Cool

CHICAGO, Ill. (CPS) -- The main task of the campus cop is to "maintain orderly conduct" without "being repressive, shocking, or causing repercussions from misinformed and irate parents."

So reports author Louis S. Gamolak in an issue of COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY BUSINESS, in an article advising administrators "How to Track Down Your Own Private Eye."

Comments Gomolak, "Agency 'operatives' have been trained to handle riots, demonstrations, football crowds, or even the couple found au natural, all in the strictest confidence, and in such a way as not to cause any

psychological trauma."

He suggests that "the work requires the brawn and bravery of an All-American tackle and the compassion and gentleness of a poet-in-residence." Administrators are advised that the detective hired from a private agency can help the school's image because, having made any necessary arrests, the detective and not the administrator must appear in court.

Costs of campus security forces are estimated at \$25,000 to \$35,000 yearly. It is noted that a private agency can supply all necessary security services "for the price of a single full professorship."

Major Studied

Drama's future at Asheville-Biltmore will be under consideration this year says Dr. Roy A. Riggs, Acting Dean of Faculty.

Committees will be established to determine the advisability of continuing a major in Drama in the 1968-69 fields of academic concentration.

If the major is reinstated, a full time Drama faculty will be hired and included in next year's catalog.

Decision regarding the program will rest with chosen faculty Committees and student interest in the field will play a definite role in its fate.

Student theatre at Asheville-Biltmore will continue irregardless of the committees recommendation reports Dr. Riggs. It is dependent only on enthusiasm and initiative on the students part.

Drama courses will be held this year to the level of Speech and Diction classes.

The Ridgerunner

Stewart Judkins Editor
Thom Mount Managing Editor
Bob Bauer Business Manager
Gail Lunsford Make-up Editor

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.

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.