

Editorial Comment

Faculty Found Apathetic

by Gary Leonhardt

We of the *Gaslight* staff thought it would be a service to the college as a whole to place the faculty in a position to candidly view and remark on the student body and the general attitude at Gaston College. A "Poll of Opinions" was generously distributed among the faculty members. It is possible, and even probable that not all the members of the faculty received a poll. If we missed any, we apologize. As for the ones who received a poll ... we were baffled, to say the least. The questions asked were serious, simple, unbiased, and in no way meant to bring out any personal implications.

Of approximately 80 polls that were printed and distributed, seven came back. No, that's not a misprint; seven came back. Of the seven faculty members which responded, the *Gaslight* staff appreciates their cooperation.

Following are the more emphasized questions answered by the faculty. After we air the faculty's opinion, despite its size, we will air our own. The responses are condensed to include the general feelings of all.

1) How does the student of today compare with the student of yesteryear?

A) The student of today is a person who is generally apathetic and lacking in the basic skills, such as math and English. This is personified by lower grades and poor attendance records of today's student as compared to the students of years past. Today students seem to be T.V. oriented; thus any instrument of reading has a difficult time attracting their attention.

2) How does the quality of Gaston College compare to that of other colleges and universities?

A) Gaston College ranks equal to or above the average college or university in quality. This is due to the wide spectrum of courses offered and the amount of personal attention that the faculty members give their students.

3) Which surrounding area, county or high school seems to produce the best students?

A) Highland Hills, High Shoals, Gaston Day, Hunter Huss, Kings Mountain, East Lincoln, North Gaston, East Gaston

4) Other than your field of instruction, what is the most important subject a student should master?

A) Good study habits, math, speech and English, especially English

5) On a scale of one to ten, how well does the average Gaston College student score in the case of:

Apathy	8
Honesty	7
Spirit	5
Courtesy	8
Common Sense	4
Procrastination	6

6) How can the *Gaslight* increase its performance?

A) Inform more about campus activities, express student trends, serve as a means of communication, publish articles on vacations, and develop proper priorities.

Someone once said that opinions were like noses. Everybody's got them, but it's hard to pick the right one. Our opinion is that the faculty as a whole are rather lax and oblivious. Our rating of the faculty is as follows:

Apathy	10
Honesty	9
Spirit	2
Courtesy	2
Common Sense	6
Procrastination	9

This article was originally designed to show the student body how much the faculty cared for the well being and further development of Gaston College. That's exactly what it did. If this article is the foundation for the motivation of the faculty or the student body, then it has served a better purpose than wrapping a fish or lining a bird cage. Any rebuttals will be accepted and published upon request from the involved party. Someone once said that opinions were like noses....

The Gaslight Flickered

by Myra Short

Putting together a newspaper is not always an easy job. It seems that a great amount of time, effort and dedication must be found from the instructor in charge, as well as from the students who participate in the actual gathering of material and writing. In the case of THE GASLIGHT, somehow it failed to attract enough interested students to keep it "lit."

The paper was all but given up for dead when a teacher in the English Department was asked to "fan it back to life." It hasn't been a downhill battle all the way, but we have poured the work of a few "hard-workers" into the revival of what has been a tradition in most colleges as long as anything else — the school paper.

We hope that the paper will continue to improve with the help of experience and expert guidance. Our aim is to be informative and entertaining. If you have suggestions, please submit them in writing to mailbox #72.



Gaston's best kept secret: The Lincoln Center. Not many people would have guessed it to be a school.

Photo by Myra Short



Wayne Richards and Steve Thornburgh (standing) assist students at the Lincoln Center. Photo by Myra Short

The Best Kept Secret?

Lincoln Center

by Myra Short

On East Main Street in Lincolnton, there is a Lincoln County Campus of Gaston College; however, unless one knows what to look for, he would probably never guess that he had found it — even if he was standing outside the door! You see, the Lincoln Center (as it is commonly known) is incognito! It isn't wearing sunglasses, but it was once the First Baptist Church.

Actually, many people in the Lincolnton area know about the Lincoln Center, but they fail to realize that it offers a wide variety of subjects. Liberal Arts courses are available, mostly on a Freshman level. Business and Secretarial courses are also offered, mainly at a Freshman level — with a few more advanced classes.

If a student from the Lincolnton area would like to see a certain course taught at the Lincoln

Center, he will get nowhere — unless he lets Mr. Thornburgh know. Mr. Steve Thornburgh is the director of the Lincoln Center. He says, "We are trying to offer things that qualify for a degree; sometimes certain classes take more time because of an insufficient amount of interested students or the lack of a qualified teacher in some specialized fields, such as Accounting."

There is only one full-time teacher at the Lincoln Center, but there are also some part-time teachers, and when necessary, some of the teachers from the Gaston Campus help out. Let's face it, students, do you want to use your gas to drive all the way to another county when you can get the same course at home?

The Lincoln Center offers High School Completion courses for drop-outs, G.E.D. for anyone wanting to develop in a

certain area, a Learning Lab for students who need to work at their own pace, some Industrial Training for supervisors and managers, and Continuing Education classes which give C.E.U. credits.

The purpose of the Lincoln Center is to meet the needs of the people in the Lincoln County area. The Chamber of Commerce Education Committee is currently involved in a study to determine the vocational programs needed.

According to Mr. Thornburgh, "The main problem we have is with parking. This problem isn't as bad as some make it seem. Actually, it's good for your heart to walk a few blocks each day."

When asked about the building, Mr. Thornburgh smiled and related these incidents: "When the school had been here only a few months, a big truck showed up one day. The

driver asked where the tables were. I pointed out the tables belonging to the school. He wanted to know if he had to go around to all the rooms and collect them. I asked him who had sent him and he explained that an organization had arranged to borrow the tables belonging to the First Baptist Church. We had a good laugh when I explained that they had moved."

He also told about a man which he met one day, a few weeks before Christmas: "I was just coming in when I was stopped by a man who asked me if I was the pastor. Noting his unsober condition, I asked him if I could assist him. I directed him to the neighborhood Christian Ministries Association."

Students from Lincoln County owe it to themselves to investigate the Lincoln Center personally. Who knows, it may still have "HIGH" connections!

Consortium — What's A Consortium?

by Gary Leonhardt

Could consortium be the technical term for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow? Could it be the legal term for the proper transfer of valuables from one party to another? Could it be a new invention that uproots the basically disinterested student from the ho-hum routine of getting an education, and transplants him into the proper field of learning? Actually it's none of the above, but in fact it is all of them rolled into one.

In the fall of 1967, ten area institutions —

Barber-Scotia College, Belmont Abbey College, Central Piedmont Community College, Davidson College, Gaston College, Johnson C. Smith University, Queens College, Sacred Heart College, the University of North

Carolina at Charlotte, and Wingate College (Winthrop College joined at a later date) — became involved in a plan to combine the learning resources of the said schools and offer an alternative to the high cost of post-high school education to the students of the

community. Thus, the Charlotte Area Educational Consortium Council was formed. The so-called Consortium Plan attempts to further the development of higher education, place the institutions into a position to augment better cooperation between and amongst themselves, and provide a means of getting the most from expensive equipment and talented professors.

With consortium nobody loses; this is the beauty of the scheme. This plan, which recently has all the makings of a well-kept secret, literally expands the student's possibility of progress by ten-fold. One advantage stands in the fact that the smaller schools, such as Gaston College, can get its students in the proverbial "back door" of much larger schools, reaping the full benefits, at a fraction of the cost.

Here's how it works. Let's say that Gus Stone, the average student at Gaston College, looks into his future and finds that he must take Nuclear Physics to transfer to his choice of four-year

schools. He looks in the Gaston College Catalog and discovers that Nuclear Physics is not offered. What now? Gus simply visits his counselor and finds that the course is offered at U.N.C.C. How can Gus afford to pay tuition at Gaston and U.N.C.C. at the same time? He doesn't! Gus is advised to go by the registrar's office, fill out the proper forms, visit the campus at U.N.C.C., and receive credits on his Gaston College transcript at a Gaston College price, after completion of the course.

It should be pointed out that the consortium plan is similar to a muscle of the body. Without proper use and exercise the muscle shrinks and dies. Consortium is simply an extension of the community educational process which must be used to insure later availability.

For further information about the consortium plan, contact:

John Morris, III, 922-3136, Ext. 343
Dr. Horace Cline, 922-3136, Ext. 255
Dr. Paul A. Berrier, 922-3136, Ext. 288

In Appreciation

A reception honoring National Secretaries Week was held in the Executive's Parlor in Myers Center from 11:00 till 1:00 on Thursday, April 23, 1981.

Mrs. Gwen Duarte's Secretarial Practice class gave the reception for all secretaries on Gaston College campus. The secretarial students planned the reception, and each student contributed a

favorite dish. Yellow and green colors were used to complement the spring-time theme.

Each of the campus secretaries were presented with a recipe booklet compiled by the students.

As future secretaries, the students received practical experience by planning and preparing this reception. Keep up the good work, girls.

Rita Cartrett