

The Characteristics Of A Leader

The dignity and intelligence with which Dr. Alfonso Elder presented North Carolina College's request for increases in appropriations for the biennium 1955-57 to members of the Joint Appropriations Committee on February 2, were both a credit to the NCC community and a reason for humiliation to other less astute and less well prepared presentations of presidents of other Negro colleges. Dr. Elder exhibited continuity, intellectual superiority, and a direct, concise approach in discussing the financial problem which confronts NCC, without the subservient dilly-dallying which seemed to be the order of the day.

In the opinion of those present, few reports approached comparison with the fifteen-page document presented by the NCC Prexy. The facts were clearly outlined, the case stated in succinct and definite terms. In short, during the fifteen minutes period allotted each institution for appeal, every second was well and constructively utilized by Dr. Elder, in all probability to the great chagrin of the legislative committee members. North Carolina College was represented in a manner befitting an institution of higher education.

In view of the number of people who made a poor display of the intellectual level of the Negro college president, and also in view of the "gentlemen" who were more interested in gaining the favor and the applause of the committee members than they were in furthering the cause of the institution they represented, the citizens of the North Carolina College community should indeed be proud to claim Dr. Elder as "our president." In him we have both a superior educator and a man of pride and character.

YVONNE SCRUGGS, Contributing Editor

All Fields Have Fences

The student-teacher relationship at NCC is of the calibre that leaves all concerned satisfied in most instances. However, there are a few particular faculty members, who, like a few particular students, tend to exhibit behavior patterns that are undesirable in a college community.

Every one agrees that all faculty members have certain rights that all students must respect. By the same token, students have certain rights that must be respected by members of the faculty. It is only through mutual respect that the much heralded program of Student Self-Direction can continue to thrive and grow.

Several weeks ago, a student, after having obtained permission from the dining hall manager, brought a collection of records to the dining hall to play over the public address system during supper. The student proceeded to play selections which included the quiet and melodious piano of pianoman Dave Brubeck, songs by the platinum-voiced soprano Christy, and other similar records that college students throughout the United States are finding delightful.

Onto the scene stalked a disconcerted faculty member who said, in no few words, that such music was not conducive to eating and should not be played in the dining hall. The music stopped.

This is the sort of things that the students bitterly resent. No faculty member has the right to dictate the type of music that is to be played in the dining hall. First of all, he does not have the authority — and if he does, that authority is not sanctioned by the students. Secondly, this instructor was being rankly presumptuous in assuming the power to select music for students according to his personal standards.

Another example of the dictatorial role assumed by a few faculty members is the threat of grade reduction if the cuts allotted students by the Registrar's Office are used. Through intelligent fore-thought, the Registrar's Office has seen fit to allot cuts in accordance with the quarter hour value of the course. Using these cuts is an uncontested right of the students, and no number of temper tantrums, expressions of frustration, or threats of violence can alter it.

These few teachers must become reconciled to the fact that they are not dealing with children. Perhaps their views do not coincide with ours. Perhaps they are not in accord with our present system of limited control. Nevertheless, if they wish their rights respected, they must respect the rights of students. This is not a request; it is a statement of fact. The instructors in question will fare better if they take notice of the line of demarcation between Student Self-Direction and dictation to students.

THE CAMPUS ECHO

NORTH CAROLINA COLLEGE AT DURHAM
The Campus ECHO, official student publication at North Carolina College at Durham, is published monthly during the regular school year. Subscription rates: \$1.00 per school year. Second class mail privileges authorized at Durham, N. C.

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Letters Of Interest

OPEN LETTER TO THE STUDENTS

I am writing this letter with great pleasure because it is meant to commend our great President for his interest in our student body. I was fortunate enough to attend a meeting of the Appropriations Committee in Raleigh on February 2, 1955. At this meeting I was made to feel proud that I am a part of this great institution. I was made to feel this way because President Elder spoke from the very beginning for this student body.

Although I feel unequal to the task of commending him in the measure he deserves, I am proud and obligated to picture him to you in the role of "defender of the general welfare" of this student body. I think our President is a great leader and could be compared with the Good Shepherd who provideth for his sheep.

He knows the needs of our student body and knows them well. He knows that our student body is of humble parentage, and therefore, unable to be burdened with heavy fees.

Our President is not only aware of our financial needs, but he is also aware of our academic needs; he tries to satisfy both.

It can be readily seen that we have a leader who is fully a part of us as we are apart of him. We are, I am sure, proud of him.

Very truly yours,

AN OPEN LETTER

To the many students, faculty members, fellow workers of the immediate college campus, and also to the many friends on the city of Durham, I am trying very sincerely to put into words how deeply, how genuinely grateful I am for your many and varied kindnesses during my recent illness.

There were gifts and beautiful flowers, fine foods, money and books, to name but a few. Visits, even though limited in some cases to a few minutes, meant very much to me.

I bought many thank-you cards, but in no way could they express what I so deeply felt. I am also grateful for the many courtesies extended my son while he was here in the city.

Therefore, I have taken this privilege to say, "Thank You" to say how happy I am to work and live in such a splendid community. And I am sure that God is also here.

There is a destiny
That makes us brothers;
None goes his way alone;
All that we send into
The lives of others,
Comes back into our own.
Again, Thank You one and all.

Valeria Berry
House Directress of Childley Hall

EDITOR'S APOLOGY

In the January issue of the ECHO, an error was made in the "Freshman Is Crowned Queen For A Day" story on page 8. "Queen For A Day" was Miss Andre Carter and not Miss Andre Canter as appeared consistently throughout the story. The editor apologizes and extends his congratulations to Miss Carter.

Peering Through The Bird's Eye

By "BONNIE"

BASKETBALL GREATS

The rise of the North Carolina College Basketball team this year, after one expected and one unexpected loss, and also after many predictions of demise, has proven that the Eagles have a predisposition to success. Not only has our team risen to the upper bracket of the conference, but it has perpetuated the tradition of the "Mighty Eagles" which is of long standing. There have been many times when loyal supporters feared for that great tradition—for example, when Coach Johnny McLendon left in 1952—and yet the great team always seems to come through with flying colors. The Eagles have put North Carolina College on the map in many places. We have the patience and diligence of Coach Floyd Brown, and the unrelenting efforts and incomparable team-work of the team to thank for the 1954, and possibly, for the 1955 stars in our crown of glory. Congratulations, fellows and Coach!! You have done a swell job.

While we are on the subject of basketball, perhaps a word of caution is in order. We are the host institution for the Basketball Tournament. It would be good public relations for us to remember that guests should be treated with hospitality, and they should be respected as guests. It is unsportsmanlike, uncouth and ill-bred to make raucous sounds at opposing teams, especially on the foul shot line. Let's show a bit of the spirit which has made us the Greats of basketball.

LOYAL GREEKS

The Pan-Hellenic Council and its conscientious president, Johnny Wooten, are to be commended on their overt efforts to foster good school spirit. The All-Greek cheerleaders at the game between Morgan and NCC were not only effective, but colorful in their fraternity and

sorority sweaters. Good job, Greeks.

OCHIDS TO THE SG

The Student Government Dance following the basketball game a couple of Friday nights ago was both new and well accepted. Perhaps another affair like that in the near future would not be a bad idea at all. The students seemed to enjoy themselves very much, and that "crazy" lighting system certainly did do a lot to make the venture a successful one.

Teacher Has Poem Published

Miss Mary L. Bohanon, NCC dramatic professor has had her fourth poem, "Faith," accepted for publication in the *National Anthology of Poetry*. Other poems by Miss Bohanon published in this Anthology include: "A Prayer," 1951; "The Plea," 1952; and "Second Advent," 1953.

FAITH

By MARY BOHANON

Let not the troubled mind
disturb the heart.
If on this Rock we build
our House,
Then let no inner doubt
beat at the door
To foster questions:
For how important is it
that we answer why:
The soft-eyed wonder of
The misstep of the blind,
dear,
The trembling effort of the
mute,
The long-felt writhing of a
paint-wrought substance—
These are the temporary attributes
of living.
Until the deeds of men are
blind to good,
Until the needs of men knock
at deaf ears,
Until the words of men are
mumbled lies,
Until the souls of men give
way to pain,
Need we allow the troubled
mind disturb the heart.

LITTLE MAN ON CAMPUS

by Dick Bibler

