

## Welcome, Advisers And Colleagues

The ECHO and North Carolina College staff extend a hearty welcome to the participants in its second annual Publications Conference. Weeks of labor have gone into the planning of this affair so that each person participating may be able to derive some concrete benefit from his experience here. Because of the struggle that it had to go through to become established as a respectable publication, the ECHO feels a close affinity to editors, reporters and advisers who are facing, at the high school level, the demanding responsibility of student publication.

During the past several years, the Campus Echo has progressed from a struggling, insecure organ to what a national rating agency now calls an "All-American paper." We are naturally proud of this progress; but we are equally aware of the struggles out of which it has come.

It was the desire to share these experiences with others who may be similarly situated that led to the founding of the Campus Echo Publication Conference. To further this aim, the Echo hopes to organize at the Conference a tri-state publications project.

Again the members of the Echo staff wish to greet the Conference participants as their guests. The Conference was planned so that the participants may become familiar with the entire college community during their stay here.

## The Direction Of Self-Direction

(by ANDRESS TAYLOR, Guest Editorialist)

At present there is a crisis in the Student Government. The decisions of the various administrative committees during the next few weeks on the student business now before them may settle—perhaps forever—the question of what the future relationship between these bodies and the Student Government shall be. These coming decisions may well settle, also, the question as to whether our system of "Student Self-Direction" allows for vigorous, energetic student leadership.

In a large sense, however, the action for which the students are waiting and upon which so much depends will affect every subsequent generation of students that enrolls here. "But what," one may ask, "makes the present business of the Student Government so important?" It is an interesting story.

On February 14 the Student Welfare Committee held a meeting with representatives from all student organizations to discuss a petition of grievances submitted to that body in their behalf by Mr. LeVonne Chambers, vice-president of the Student Government. Repeatedly in the past student leaders have chosen to express themselves by more overt means, but this group decided to test the channels that the school has set up for democratic action. And what have been the results?

Well, first of all, many of the more conservative members of the faculty took it upon themselves to denounce Mr. Chambers and the group that he led as "rabble-rousers" and "trouble-makers" and charged them with being "uncooperative" (whatever that means), "challenging" and "aggressive." It seems that in some quarters the petition that the organization heads drew up and the vice-president's speech in support of it are considered to be no less incendiary than Lenin's famous "Summons to Insurrection" of 1917.

This opposition, however, is not the thing that so frequently hamstring the Student Government. Neither is the problem which the Student Government has in presenting proposals that of gaining access to the President of the college—far from it. The problem is the route one must take in order to get to the President. A proposal has to go through any number of channels before he sees it and in route it is usually mangled past recognition by each group that looks at it. In fact, when the Student Government submits a proposal it is like beginning round one of a prize fight. If there is anything—relevant or irrelevant—that can be used to discredit a really strong proposal, it is brought forth in the discussion of it. Not only that, but the Student Government is confronted with every case of student misbehavior in the history of the institution each time it makes a proposal. Every trouble-maker that has ever enrolled here is put before the students each time they propose anything.

True, one must go through channels, but they have a habit of getting terribly clogged up sometimes—especially when an important student proposal is submitted. As for the theoretical right of appeal, let us take a parallel: in the South a Negro who is tried and convicted by a "Jim Crow" jury also has the right of appeal—to be re-tried by the same "Jim Crow" jury.

The crux of the whole matter is this: will the administrative committees allow the student-proposals now before them to reach the President in the form that they were submitted?

## Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir,

I read a newspaper article recently concerning an uprising of the student body over the glorification of athleticism and the neglect of scholarship. It seems that there was a great misunderstanding on the part of the student body concerning the article.

As I interpreted it, the young man (Andress Taylor) was not denouncing athletics, but to more or less trying to open the students' eyes to the fact that accomplishments are made with brains as well as brawn; also that scholarship merits the same degree of celebration as athletic accomplishments.

As far as using the "Calhoun Day" celebration as an example, I don't think the editor in any way insulted Cal. for his accomplishments. I am sure the editor feels highly toward the first Olympic Champion NCC has produced. He was just using it as an example. If I know Lee, and I am sure I know him better than anyone there, he was not the least bit perturbed by the incident. Am I right?

What has happened to the NCC student body? Have they forgotten freedom of the press and freedom of speech? It would seem that the only thing they have learned is mob demonstration in school. I hope I am wrong.

Sincerely,  
Henry Davis  
Fort McClellan, Ala.

Dear Editor,

"It was a wonderful speech!", a student leader truly working in the interest of the student body! "Just what we needed a staunch, firm stand taken by one of our student leaders!"

These were only a few of the many comments and compliments following the address given by Mr. J. LeVonne Chambers in the B. N. Duke Auditorium on February 26, before the student assembly. This occasion marked a big step forward toward a better and more efficient Student Government under qualified student leadership. Mr. Chambers, Vice-President of the Student Government, addressed the assembly, in a true statesman-like manner as he sternly denounced some of the school's practices in addition to stating the past activities, present position, and proposed future status of the Student Government.

Pointing to some of the highlights of his address, he mentioned the fact that this is the first year that the Student Government has operated under its newly adopted constitution, and because of this fact, many accomplishments have been possible. One of the most recent ones was the petition which asked for an extension of the library hours during the final exam period. The request was granted, Mr. Chambers feels, because of the fine cooperation which S. G. received from the students.

Another highlight of his speech was the discussion of the five proposals and three bills which were recently introduced into the Student Congress in the form of an Eight-Point Program. This program includes a proposal to increase student wages; a bill to improve food and service in the dining hall; a proposal to reduce the number of class meetings for one-hour courses; a proposal to change present administrative policy regarding student debtors here;

a bill to make heads of dormitory governments ex-officio members of the Student Government; and a bill governing student conduct at student activities. The other two proposals in the Eight-Point Program are now under consideration by the Student Congress.

In looking over the present position of the S.G., Mr. Chambers pointed a "strong blast" at some of the members of the faculty who insist upon interfering in the program and activities of this organization. He said "Their advice is un-asked for, un-wanted, and un-appreciated." Some of his remarks were also directed at the personnel deans for exerting what he thought to be autocratic practices. In this instance, Mr. Chambers clearly expressed the opinion of most of the students on campus. He spoke fearlessly with vigor and experience which exemplified wise, strong-hearted leadership.

Recently, Chambers led a group of students on campus

who presented a list of grievances to the Student Welfare Committee for consideration. Several of the grievances dealt with the position which the Dean of Women took on some issues—a position with which students disagreed.

Truly, Mr. Chambers has proved himself to be a tower of strength to the Student Government this year. This address deserves unreserved approval, for it shows that the S. G. is entering a new era under a new type of student leadership. In addition, it shows that the prize program which Dr. Elder has championed for so long now has an opportunity to be tested thoroughly in a real Student Government.

Certainly in accepting any responsibility that this type of program affords, a great deal of it must be assumed by the Student Government. This being the case, we must have wise, strong-hearted leaders like Mr. J. LeVonne Chambers.

Jerome Dudley

## COPING WITH THE TIMES

By SAMUEL C. FLOYD

In meeting and talking with the people around Durham about college life, some surprising ideas or beliefs about the student body here at NCC come to light. Not very long ago I was told that students at NCC "didn't have no opinions about nothing." To refute that unreasonable assumption, I asked several students to give me their opinions on any subject, and these are my findings:

Gladys Chavis, Senior—"Greek Letter organizations": "They're an integral part of college life in that they are influential in binding the student body together in true brotherhood and sisterhood."

Vernelle Thompson, Sophomore—"Basketball": "I think that we have a group of good basketball boys. But I believe that the outcome of the season's play would have been much more fruitful had not the team played for the crowd instead of

ed wonderfully for the crowd and well for the game. I understand basketball perfectly but I don't understand why or how a team composed of such fine players could come so close to the tournament championship and yet so far."

Samuel Gibson, Jr., Sophomore—"Food Service": "I would like to congratulate the cafeteria staff on their efforts to serve good food, although they have so far failed miserably. Let's have a little variation in foods."

Marshall Redding, Junior—"Life": "Life is a pleasure for those who think and a sorrow for those who feel."

Shirley Williams, Senior—"Men are nice things to have around!!! It's hard to find a good one, but once you find him, around here it's even harder to hold him."

## Book Review

### New Novel Tells Story Of Courage

By BARBARA LUMPKIN

Gabrielle is the story of a long legged little girl, full of lively irrepressible spirits whose life was slowly snuffed out by an incurable cancer. It is a true story written by a mother who watched her child, who loved life, slowly die. Simply and expertly written, Gabrielle will leave a deep impression in the reader's mind and heart.

Author Gabrielson describes her daughter's suffering carefully from the first stomach ache to the last painful day. She leaves out no symptoms which caused her little girl so much physical pain and herself so much mental anguish. Throughout the story, there is the thread of hope, and perhaps even recovery.

Perhaps unconsciously author Gabrielson has paid an enormous and well deserved tribute to the doctors who fought so hard to save her daughter and also to the many doctors who are still fighting to control the

ruthless killer—cancer. *The Story of Gabrielle* is not mainly concerned with the fact that the child had cancer, but rather serves to point out the great amount of courage instilled in a small child. It is a warm and beautiful story, even with its tragedy.

Aside from being the story of a little girl who suffered for three long months, *Gabrielle* is also the story of a mother who found that "...life, every minute of it, is beautiful and precious and exciting always, no matter what the condition of the body."

*The Story of Gabrielle* may serve to bring relief to other people, parents or patients, who have become acquainted with cancer in some way, or with any other illnesses, for that matter. It is a story for all readers who need a bulwark of strength and courage. It re-affirms the belief that "life is worth living, even against great odds, and that life, even in death, is wonderful."

Campus Echo

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