

EDITORIAL

A lot of ideas and opinions came out of a letter that was printed in the last edition of The Cougar Cry. This letter was written by a former student at Wilkes Community College, Ken Welborn.

The letter dealt with the idea of an unlimited cut policy for our school.

Some of the faculty and staff of the college did not agree with Mr. Welborn's point of view citing the daily Rook and bridge games in the student commons as an example of the inevitable failure of this program were it to be accepted by the administrating body at WCC.

The people who stated this were not really thinking very much.

The students in these card games are of two types. One type is the student who plays as a release from the school work that he is subjected to or maybe just to pass the time of day while waiting for his next class to come up.

The other type is the student who cuts class and plays cards. The teachers and administrators can damn the cards all they want

to. The cards are not the problem. The students not attending class and playing cards would most likely cut anyway, the card games only give them something to do while they are not in class.

Those opposing the unlimited cut policy seemed also to be of the opinion that the classes would eventually wind up empty and the teachers would have no one to instruct.

If that were to happen, the students in this school do not deserve to be able to say, "I am a college student."

In essence, the teachers and staff have given the students at this school a challenge to show that they are mature enough to really be called a college student.

Whether an unlimited cut policy is adopted by this school or not is unimportant. The point to be considered is the challenge in that this is not a high school attended by boys and girls but a college attended by men and women but first, we must prove ourselves to the people who believe that we must still be ruled by the "yardstick".

Letters To The Editor

This letter is sent in response to a letter sent by a former student at Wilkes Community College regarding class cuts. Let me first make my case clear. I do not disagree with the principle of unlimited cuts; however, I think that it would be an untenable position for anyone to assume that all colleges should follow this policy.

Colleges, that at present use this policy, have determined by observation of their student bodies, that their students demonstrate a maturity that is necessary for such a policy to be effective. These colleges do not have "open-door" policies. They are selective in their admissions policies and, thereby, do not admit students with serious academic deficiencies.

Wilkes Community College is an "open door" institution. Students here are admitted with serious academic deficiencies. Then, every effort is made by the faculty to aid the student in the correction of these deficiencies. These remedial provisions require class attendance. A stu-

dent who has not taken the initiative in the past to correct these deficiencies cannot correct them now without professional help. This often means extra lab work that requires regular attendance if it is to be effective.

From the standpoint of the maturity of the student body in general, let us observe a case in point. Class attendance had not been taken in the GAS session in the humanities program. The students have not reacted to this with any indication of maturity. The attendance has decreased with every session. At the last meeting approximately 30 per cent of the students were absent. When the only requirement for passing this class is attendance and verbal response to what is presented in the GAS Chamber, does this attendance pattern indicate maturity and responsibility on the part of our students? Do patterns such as this honestly indicate that an unlimited class cut policy would be for the academic benefit of the students at Wilkes Community College?

N. Wooten

Editor's Note

In the last issue of the Cougar Cry, a misrepresentation was made. This statement appeared on the front page and stated that there were no candidates from the Vocational or Technical Divisions in the elections for freshman class officers. This statement was not true and was an injustice on my part.

When the article was written, it did not mean to degrade the non-college transfer students as they are just as much of the life and breath of Wilkes Community College as the college parallel students.

The mistake was however, mine and I take full blame.

There were four candidates from the deleted divisions and one technical student Patty Wagner was elected secretary.

A lot of people did get excited about the article which made me happy to see that they did care and had some pride in themselves and their fellow students.

Jerry Pardue, Editor
Cougar Cry

Students Direct

(Continued from Page One)

Sixty students—20 each from UMass, Federal City College in Washington, D.C., and the University of South Carolina--will receive full academic credit for interdisciplinary research projects of their own choosing aimed at the correction of U.S. social, economic and cultural problems.

Another group of up to 80 students on each of the three campuses will be part of the project as assistants, and in other capacities. They will receive partial credit.

"A frequent complaint of many university students is that their learning is severely circumscribed by the formal curriculum and they have little opportunity to study problems more relevant to their own lives and interests," said Marshall Robinson, Ford Foundation program officer in charge of higher education and research.

"One answer to this complaint is the student-directed learning movement in which students undertake research and study projects of their own choosing under the guidance of a faculty advisor or student director.

"This grant will permit experimentation with this concept on a larger scale than heretofore attempted and a set of highly relevant matters."

SNEA Now

(Continued from Page One)

attended the NCEA Convention in Charlotte, Mr. and Miss Representative Future Teacher, Mike Dancy and Wrenda Rogers, along with other representative future teachers from various colleges and universities, were presented to all the people attending the convention. The four members attended a formal luncheon and heard many inspiring speeches, one of which was presented by Dr. Criag Phillips, Superintendent of the Public School System in North Carolina.

This year the club has many tentative plans for projects and activities. Plans are being made to give all SNEA members the opportunity to visit and to assist some of the teachers in the county with their class work. The club again plans to send Christmas cards to Wilkes County servicemen who are stationed in Vietnam, to participate in the NCEA Convention, sponsor a dance, and has other activities in the making. Anyone interested in joining the SNEA, who has a genuine interest in teaching, is urged and invited to become a member of the club. We are in the process of taking new members into the club now, and we will have a meeting for this purpose on Thursday, November 20, at 1:00 in Room 211.

The Cougar Cry

THE VOICE OF WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Editor Jerry Pardue

Assistant Editor Montie Hamby

News Editor Keith Savoy

Feature Editor Mike Inscore

Sports Editor Kenny Brooks

Business Manager Anita Shepherd

Photographers Gyenda Joines, Johnny Clark,
Jerry Pardue, Montie Hamby

Staff .. Keith Savoy, Carol Key, Mike Inscore, Kenny Brooks
Sam Sebastian

Typists Brenda Mathis, Shirley Russell