

(Letters to the Editor - cont.)

and may try to resume the broadcasting program next winter, depending on how I feel about it at the time. Meanwhile, I hope to be able to visit Wilkes occasionally.

"Time is a jet plane - it moves too fast", as Dylan says, and that is how I feel about the few months I have spent at this wonderful community college. The students, faculty and staff of W.C.C. are indeed a community of friends who care about each other, and it's too bad that all communities can't be like that. I wish everyone had the warmth, kindness, friendliness, congeniality, and compassion of W.C.C. people. I have been in larger cities where many of these good things are absent. In closing, let me say a special thank you to my friends, Lorrie Parker, Sharon Cannon, Vickie Reins, Cindy Brown, and Mrs. Hayes. The saddest words are words of farewell, but I hope you will understand why I must say good-bye to you now.

Sincerely, your friend,
Ron Wishon

Dear Editor:

In regard to the rock festival - "Fine, if you want to help spread Communism."

Comment: To the two indignant adolescents concerning the ticket issue with the Deputy, "All animals are equal, except others; therefore, Richard, don't cast your pearls before the Swine."

Ed Nelson

Dear Editor:

What is happening to the people in America? Many are repaying good with evil. Even here on campus I see many examples. And I have to say that one example is "Deputy Dawg." I know that nobody is perfect, but I don't know many other people who walk around this campus with a bright smile on his face as Richard does. Who is here early every morning (in fog, rain, and shine) to make sure the students turn their lights off so when they get ready to go home their car will start. And who even uses jumper cables for anyone who has a run-down battery? I feel the students here at Wilkes sometimes forget just how much Richard does for this school. Many believe that Richard is unfair. But just ask yourself, has he ever given you a ticket without warning you first? If you did something out of "ignorance," wasn't your ticket torn up? Students, this is our school, but it still doesn't give us the right to break the rules. When we do something just to "get back at" someone, we should pay! So don't blame Richard with your childish ways.

Karen E. McGee

PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT

(Continued from page 1)

President Ford is the first of the United States' thirty-eight Presidents to visit Wilkes County, and the denizens of Wilkes, regardless of their party affiliations, prepared for the occasion in highly controlled excitement. The citizens of Wilkes, especially the faculty and students of West Wilkes High School, should be congratulated on the speed and thoroughness, at such short notice, that preparations were made in readiness for the arrival of the Presidential helicopter, Marine 1, which carried President Ford to the cheering crowds.

West Wilkes High School Band was on hand to give President Ford a musical salute, and other local bands presented a program of entertainment prior to the President's arrival. In the gymnasium, John Cashion was Master of Ceremonies and helped provide some most enjoyable entertainment, which included Central High School Band and two musical ensembles from Wilkes Community College. When the President entered the West High gymnasium, he was greeted by approximately 2,500 people, and a shower of balloons.

After the official introductions, President Ford made a short speech praising the American farmer and private enterprise. The speech was followed by an open Question and Answer period. Sheriff Anderson said, "This Question and Answer period in the town meeting style provided citizens an opportunity to ask the Chief Executive about the issues confronting the Nation today."

Governor James E. Holshouser traveled with the President on his swing through North Carolina. There were several dignitaries on hand to greet President Ford upon his arrival at West Wilkes High School, and after the official greetings were made, Mr. Jerry Pardue presented the President with a Bicentennial Rifle.

Wilkesboro was the last stop the President made during his swing through North Carolina before he returned to his presidential duties at the White House.

-Elaine Lowe

WCC OPEN DOOR - OPENS WIDER

Higher education is generally thought to be restricted to the "halls of ivy"; not so is the case of Wilkes Community College.

Wilkes Community College has widened the "open door" by providing many off-campus courses. Consistent with the concept of

being community oriented (responding to the needs of the community it serves), the College has risen to meet the needs of individuals, groups, and now industry and business.

College Goes to Industry

An innovative approach to education is underway in the academic community of our nation. Major industries are turning to educational institutions as inexpensive methods of employee training and staff development. Colleges are responding to corporate needs by supplying instruction "on site." General Motors, Exxon, Westinghouse and many other giants are moving steadily toward this "company college" concept. Locally, the Northwestern Bank, Holly Farms Industries, and Sprague Electric are sponsoring "un-college" instruction. Dr. Howard Thompson, President of Wilkes Community College, said, "We are nourishing an idea whose time has come, and we are doing it right. We have taken our campus to the business community to work as partners in a unique educational experience."

Sprague's "Company College" Experience

Sprague Electric Company, which has its home base in North Adams, Massachusetts, is one of the nation's largest manufacturers of electronic components.

A branch of the corporation, in Lansing, N.C., is well into the computer age and plans more extensive computer utilization in the near future. Sprague Electric, an exceptionally progressive company in this regard, realized that the value of computers is in direct proportion to the ability of employees to understand and take advantage of the various applications possible. Consequently, Sprague and Wilkes Community College have united in a common objective "to educate employees" in the uses of this twentieth-century electronic phenomenon.

The impractical aspect of sending 22 employees 40 miles to the campus twice a week could have been a deterrent to the program. Dr. Phillip Lewis, Director of the Business and Commerce Division at the College, foresaw the problems and expenses involved in doing this so he decided to move College to the employees.

View From the Top

After a short discussion with Urcle Sheets, Plant Manager at the Lansing Sprague Plant, it was easy to understand the positive philosophy that seems to abound in the company.

Quietly outspoken, quick, jovially blunt, tough, gentle, busy and very erudite are only a few adjectives

that may describe Urcle Sheets. Another big word that will describe him is PROGRESSIVE. "It is necessary to know what we are doing here," he said. "We make electronic components for everything from radios to rocket shops and every item has a schedule. We can utilize computers to the maximum just in that area, plus all the other plans we have for computers." He continued, "But, our job now is introducing our employees to computer-age vernacular. If it is to be really efficient, we must all talk the same language. Positive feedback depends on it."

Enthusiasm was evident in his eyes and facial expressions as he went on to explain, "We have 700 employees in this plant, and our customers deserve the best service we can give. Now, unless we all understand how the computer affects each of us, our customers may suffer, and that is what these classes are all about. Each of us separately, but in unison responding to our customers' needs."

The Class

All 22 members of the class are generous in their praise of their instructor, Mr. Rex Williams. One employee/pupil said, "This guy knows what he is doing, and builds my confidence. He really brings it home." Another remarked, "I can see the company's interest in the computer class, but it is helping me as much as it is them, and they are paying for it. Makes me feel more a part of the over-all picture." Another student comment was, "I bet no other company has this kind of benefits."

Dr. Phil Lewis, confident about this concept in education, said, "There is really nothing new in this idea. It is logical that education and industry work hand-in-hand. It is happening all over the country." He continued, "I am excited with the prospect of the growth potential of an industry - education program. There are enough forward-thinking businessmen in this area to keep us busy for quite a while. And, of course, we will do our best to continue providing a real and meaningful service to our community."

Sprague Electric Company has seen enough tangible evidence of the project's effectiveness to plan more classes. "Sprague is impressed with the 'Open College' learning process," explains Mr. Sheets, as he continued to talk about the program. "We are aware that knowledge isn't dispensed solely in the traditional classroom. The College has tailored its instruction to meet our needs, making it both meaningful and useful. I am surprised more companies don't take advantage of it!"