

# The Editor Speaks

This past school year has flown by at a miraculous rate of speed. Unfortunately there are still a couple of weeks to go before the end of the year. That time too will fly by, as we wait in joyful anticipation for the arrival of a much needed summer vacation. A little time to recuperate from the nine month period of culminated mental exhaustion suffered by all full time students.

After that brief interlude, it will be time for transition. Freshmen will move up to accept their prestigious roles as upper classmen, and a new class of freshmen will emerge to take their place. It will also be time for a large number of students to bid farewell to WCC, as they prepare to advance their academic careers at major universities.

I am one such collegian, and I would like to speak on behalf of the entire group of transfer students in expressing a sincere gratitude to the entire college. The hard working, eager-to-help faculty and staff of Wilkes Community College is often over-looked or taken for granted. It has been my personal privilege to have experienced the consistently great feeling of having sincere assistance at every corner. Like a lot of students, it took me a while to come

to comprehensive terms of just how helpful the teachers are. Therefore, I encourage all incoming freshmen and newly classified sophomores to seek help when it's needed, and to listen constructively for advice when it may not be needed—that kind may be the most helpful.

I also encourage students to make wholesome contributions to the college in any way they can. For instance, I was responsible for the funding for the newly constructed tennis courts through my unselfish donations in parking tickets. If that particular method doesn't appeal to you, try to become active in school sponsored activities, or if nothing else just be concerned about your school.

When I began here two years ago, I thought I would have plenty of time to do all of those things and a lot more. Time flies! The first year is spent in adjustment, and the second year is usually consumed in the hurried desire to do your time and get out. Everyone will have to do their time. But no one said that the time has to be unproductive or even wasted. I wish I had taken more time to improve the quality of my time, while I was doing the time. I will next time.

## Spring Fling

Our annual Spring Fling was held Thursday, May 5 in a variety of locations around campus. The events began at 11:00 a.m. with the day time music being provided by WSIF disc jockeys in front of Hayes Hall. Food and drinks were served by the Ye Host Club and the Phi Beta Lambda organizations in two locations.

The events offered for this Spring Fling were: Archery, Golf, Tennis, Free Throw and Hotshot basketball, Volleyball, Weight Lifting, and Tug-a-War. Over 120 students signed up and participated in these events. Faculty and staff participation included Nancy Whittington, Jim Barrow, Joe Linney, Robert Doyle, and Dr. Bob Thompson.

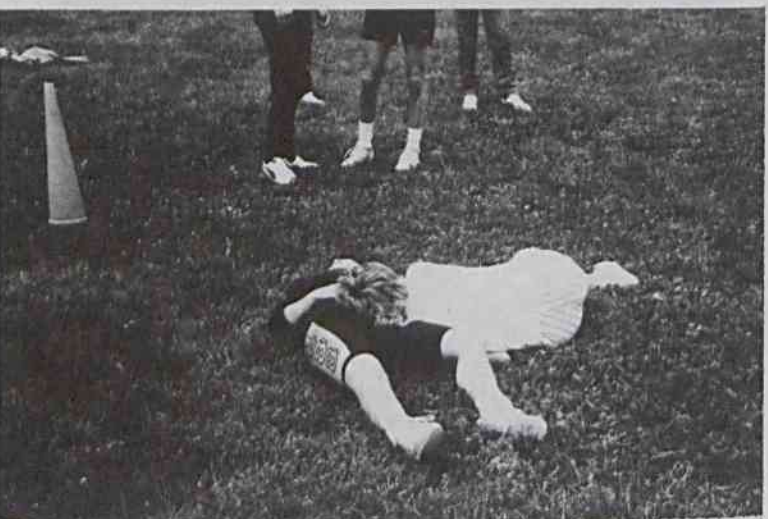
The evening activities began at 8:00 p.m. with an "End of the Year Dance." Approximately 175 students attended the dance where refreshments were provided by the WCC S.G.A.

## Winners of the 1988 WCC Spring Fling Athletic Activities

- Archery - Michael Souther
- Golf chipping - David Johnston
- Tennis - Jim Barrow
- Basketball Hotshot - David Oliver
- Basketball Free throws - David Hayes and Tim Bell
- Weightlifting - 150 lbs. & under - Bart Crater
- Overall - Mallory Quick
- Tug-a-war - Electronics Dept.
- Volleyball - "Ha Nows" team
- Mile Run - Wade Collins
- 100 yd. Run - Darryl Brown



Spring Fling End of the Year Dance.



Tug of War Casualties.

# Beating the Transfer Blues

By Mark Rowh

## How to happily adjust to your new school.

Picture it: there you are, sitting alone on the library steps, working half-heartedly on an assignment for yet another course you didn't realize you would have to take. As you look up, other students stroll by in pairs and small groups. They all seem happily engrossed in their conversations, unaware that you even exist.

It's been this way ever since you transferred, and once again you have a case of the blues. Maybe transferring wasn't such a great idea after all.

Do you worry about a scenario like that? No doubt about it, transferring to a new college can be a smart move, but that doesn't necessarily mean it will be easy. In fact, adjusting to life at another school can be even more difficult than making that first big jump from high school to college.

As a transfer student you're on your own like never before, trying to fit into a strange environment where virtually everybody else at your class level has already had months or years to learn the ropes.

"Things are usually tougher for transfer students," says Dr. David Sallee, vice president for admissions at Oklahoma Baptist University (Shawnee). "Everyone is attuned to the needs of freshmen, but nobody pays much attention to the problems of transfers. In many respects, you're on your own."

Fortunately, it's not impossible to avoid the transfer blues. Here are several tips for making the best of the transfer process.

## Planning Ahead

Some of the biggest problems faced by transfer students can be avoided with smart planning. In fact, the single best strategy for heading off the blues is to keep problems from developing in the first place. How? By planning ahead.

"If you're thinking of transferring, it's important to start as early as possible in making some definite plans," Sallee advises. "The sooner you select a senior college or university and begin making the necessary preparations to transfer, the better."

According to Sallee, starting early is especially important in course selection. Every course you take should reflect not only the requirements of your two-year college, but also those of the college where you plan to transfer.

"Don't assume everything will transfer," he notes, "because that's not always the case. It's quite common for students to lose credits in transferring."

But wait, you might say, waving your catalog in protest. *My college advertises that credits earned here are fully transferable.*

That may be, but you can still lose credits. The issue is not the quality of classes, but basic differences in program requirements from one college to the next.

For example, your college may require three credits in world literature, while a senior college mandates American literature instead. Even if your literature credits transfer, they may not count toward graduation requirements for a four-year degree. Consequently, you'll end up having to complete American lit as an "extra" course.

When the same story is repeated for several courses, the end result can be an extra semester or year of studies needed before you can complete a bachelor's degree.

How can you avoid this problem? One way is to study the course requirements of colleges you're considering as transfer prospects, and then choose your two-year college courses against those standards.

In fact, if you're sure of transferring, degree requirements for the two-year program are much less relevant than those for the senior college. If it comes down to choosing between conflicting standards, remember that you really don't need an associate's degree to transfer, but simply enough of the right credits. So the more consideration you give to transfer needs when selecting your junior-college courses, the better.

Another way to head off problems, according to Ken McElvania, vice president for marketing and admissions at Upper Iowa University (Fayette), is doing what might be called comparison shopping.

"It's best to think like a consumer," he says. "Before committing yourself, check out three or four colleges and see how they treat transfers. Get a transcript evaluation done as far ahead of time as possible, and see how many of your credits will transfer. Some colleges accept a lot more than others—don't assume that every school will treat you the same."

McElvania suggests visiting several prospective colleges to get a firsthand look at the campus. This is particularly important if you have been a commuting student and will be going away to school for the first time.

Every college produces colorful brochures designed to make it look attractive to prospective students, so don't depend on publications alone. Nothing else can really substitute for an actual campus visit in sizing up a new school.

Meeting deadlines is another crucial part of the planning process. Pay careful attention to application deadlines, differences in school calendars, and other crucial dates.

If you plan to apply for financial aid to a new school, it's especially important to apply as early as possible. Many aid programs have a March 1 deadline, even though applications for admission may be accepted well past that date.

If you're late, you could be accepted as a transfer student but still miss out on financial aid for an entire academic year.

## Getting Adjusted

Once the actual transfer is completed, you will face the challenge of adjusting to life at a new school. As a first step, make yourself familiar with its unique features.

"Although colleges are pretty similar in a board sense, there are a lot of picky little differences from one school to the next," says Sallee. "Watch out for differences in everything from financial aid procedures to grading policies. One way to do this is to read everything you can get your hands on, from bulletin board announcements to the college catalog."

Also, take advantage of any information sessions that might be available. Most colleges offer an orientation program for new students. It will be worth your time to participate even if the sessions are designed primarily for freshmen.

If an orientation program isn't offered, find a staff or faculty member who will be available on a regular basis to answer questions as they arise. This might be an adviser, a professor in the academic department of your major, or a resident assistant in your dorm. The important thing is to take an active role in asking questions and getting information.

According to Sallee, there's a lot riding on your own initiative. "Too often," he says, "students wait until a problem develops and then complain that 'my adviser didn't tell me.' But the real responsibility should rest with the student. If you're aggressive in looking out for your own interests, you can avoid problems."

Of course, college life is more than rules and regulations. A vital element in adjusting to your new environment is becoming active socially.

"If you want to fit in, get involved as soon as possible in some activities," advises McElvania. "Try intramural sports, or music, or student government. The type of activity really doesn't matter—just do it. There's no better way to meet people and make new friends."

Every campus has a variety of organizations for student involvement, and most are eager to bring in new members. In fact, one risk is becoming too involved and overloading yourself.

"It's best to limit yourself to one or two activities at first," McElvania says. "That's enough to get involved without overdoing it."

With an aggressive approach and a willingness to become a part of your new setting, transferring to a new college can be a great success. Naturally, it may take some time to become fully adjusted, so don't expect too much too soon.

But the transfer process need not be a traumatic one. With the right planning, you won't be singing the transfer blues.

Submitted by: Matt Cashion

## SGA Officers for 1988-1989

The newly elected SGA officers are:

- President . . . . . Mark Royall
  - Vice President . . . . . Mark Barker
  - Secretary . . . . . Tamara Stokes
  - Treasurer . . . . . David Oliver
- The sophomore class officers are:
- President . . . . . Jeff Cashion
  - Vice President . . . . . Tim Bell
  - Secretary . . . . . Matthew Shaw
  - Treasurer . . . . . Jonathan Francis
  - Senators . . . . . Scott Jones  
Rodney Tinnin  
Rodney Crater  
Ed Jackson

The above officers along with the 1988-1989 Freshman officers that will be elected next fall, will make up the Student Government Leaders for the next academic year.

They are looking forward to a good year with lots of activities for the students to participate in.

## PBL

Another exciting year is almost at its climax, but that's not true for Phi Beta Lambda. Still striving to "make the most of it, PBL" is very much involved with activities. Throughout the entire year, the club has been actively involved in many fundraising activities to prepare themselves for the "big event." The words "State Leadership Conference" brightened many of the PBL members' eyes during the weekend of April 8-10. Six Phi Beta Lambda members attended the State Leadership Conference entering eight different competitive events. The State Leadership Conference was held at the North Raleigh Hilton in Raleigh, NC. There were over thirty colleges and universities throughout the State participating. There were two awards won by students, and one special award was given to a business person in the community. Shirley Welborn won second place in Accounting I, and Kim Tucker won Who's Who in Phi Beta Lambda. Cecil Barnes, who is a CPA, won Outstanding Business Person of the Year. Any student who wins first or second place in an individual event at the SLC is eligible to compete on the National Level. In essence, Shirley will be competing at the NLC which is going to be held June 29-July 2, at Cincinnati, Ohio. Until then, PBL will be sponsoring several fundraising activities. Please support PBL in their efforts to raise money for this next event.

. . . Kim Tucker

