

Beyond The Classroom

What is missing from the Wilkes Community College experience? Class attendance, the Dean's list, and the filled capacity of the campus Library indicate that the missing link is not study or the lack of homework. Nor is it the lack of fellowship: if you haven't noticed the noisy crowd that inhabits the Thompson Hall Commons, you haven't been at school! Could the missing piece of the puzzle be the lack of student involvement in college activities?

Last year's lack of student support during campus events was shockingly apparent. A dance supported by the Student Government Association last year drew only about thirty participants. Most club meetings attract maybe five members, and club activities even less. The most unusual occurrences of student apathy last year were the times when even events promising cash prizes had to be cancelled due to lack of participation.

What can the body of Wilkes Community College do to prevent another ho-hum school year? The organizations and clubs at WCC normally hold scheduled meetings twice a month at midday to allow ease of scheduling for busy students. Student activities sponsored by the SGA are well advertised. In advance, so students are forewarned. Activities like the Journalism and Drama courses offered at WCC are flexible to allow for schedule changes and all students are welcome to participate. Students who do not want to become actively involved may still support campus activities by simply attending a play at the John A. Walker Community Center, or cheering a friend in a spades competition.

There are many activities that go beyond schoolwork at Wilkes Community College. Each student should make a conscious effort to participate in at least one extracurricular activity per quarter. To make your memories of WCC happier ones, spend some time getting to know other students and have some fun - college is not only about studying, you know.

Phi Theta Kappa

One of the main topics of discussion at the Regional Summer Institute on Saturday, July 1, was WCNC-TV news anchor Chris Clackum's lecture on the responsibilities of the media. Mr. Clackum addressed an audience comprised of Phi Theta Kappa members from both the Carolinas, including those

from Wilkes Community College.

Of special interest to WCNC-TV's co-anchor was the discrepancy between the profit generated by sensationalist stories as compared to serious journalism. According to Mr. Clackum, "(h)igh profile trials are usually not of major importance to the common populace. They are for entertainment, and they sell better than common news." Journalists, like Chris Clackum, must learn to distinguish between news beneficial to the general public and information that merely serves as "entertainment" for the gossip-hungry masses.

If the common person wants to change this tendency toward sensationalist journalism, how may the change be accomplished? Mr. Clackum claimed the solution to what may be perceived as a problem with the media resides in freedom of choice. Individuals "have the power to pick and choose what (they) watch, read, and listen to (sic)."

The question of the value of sensationalist journalism was addressed by Mr. Clackum with a reference to the Susan Smith murder trial. During his lecture, Mr. Clackum asked, "Should the judge of the Susan Smith murder trial have allowed cameras inside his courtroom?" Comments from the audience varied from suggestions to broadcast the trial over Court TV to, "... No, the trial should not be broadcast, because I am so sick of the O.J. Simpson trial." Mr. Clackum stated that the answer to the question above and others similar to it will have to be found by both the media and the American people in years to come.

Phi Theta Kappa members have a duty to seek excellence in their communities. Chris Clackum recalled this duty to the minds of the Carolina Phi Theta Kappa members when he asked: "How many Phi Theta Kappans does it take to turn on a television set?" This humorous question reminded those asked of their responsibility to control what they and their families see, hear, and read from the media.

Summer Quarter

There are some opposing viewpoints on Summer Quarter here at WCC. When polled, most students preferred to remain anonymous, but had definite likes and dislikes.

Summer Quarter is great in that classes are smaller, and you have more opportunity to get to know both your fellow students and the instructors. It's a good time to take a difficult subject, as there is more time for individual

help. For the small investment of part of your summer, you can complete a whole block of one class. A small perk is the parking. It's so good, you can just about have your favorite site.

The down side, if there is one in Summer Quarter, is that the learning time is condensed which means the homework is increased. So great care should be taken in choosing both what class and how many classes so there isn't an overload. Summer is definitely a time for the serious student. Most students who were taking a full load this summer said they'd never worked so hard, and would hate to do it again... but after a second also admitted they would not have missed it for the world.

— Fran Shumate

Thoughts on Summer School

Kenneth Redmond - pretty good deal, people who want to keep on working, keep your mind in gear. I like it.

Shaunda Handy - Get it all in a summer, so I can transfer in a year.

Brian Brown - Never been before, laid back, fewer people in class, more attention, teachers' correspondence to students was good, I really liked it. Would not have been able to pass otherwise, not so much demand on teacher.

Marcus Pearson - As a student it helps you get caught up and even ahead. But on a down side it's boring.

Scotty Sparks - Not anyone here, get more attention in class, see others having a fun summer, but I am here.

Hallmarks of Summer Quarter

Summer Quarter at WCC is a special time. The campus grounds abound with beautiful flowers of multifarious and dazzling colors. The usual hurry and scurry of the campus is replaced with a stroll and ramble enhanced by the serene acceptance of the sizzling heat and the abrupt thunder showers. With petite classes, students and faculty enjoy a more intimate atmosphere.

Other notable hallmarks on campus this summer are birthdays celebrated by the faculty and staff. The best of wishes are offered to those birthdays occurring in August. *Happy Birthday!* Aug. 9 - Janet B. Atwood, Librarian, Abby Combs, Executive Secretary. Aug. 12 - Shawn Redding, Instructor. Aug. 14 - Stan Wright, Grounds Technician. Aug. 15 - Doug Smith, Instructor. Aug. 16 - Belinda Smithey, HRD Instructor. Aug. 27 - Harry Adams, Housekeeping. Aug. 28 -

Brenda Shepherd, Executive Secretary. Aug. 31 - John German, Chairperson of Sciences & Technologies.

As Fall Quarter 1995 arrives, accompanied with its frenetic pace, remember the calm, sultry, and radiant holiday of Summer Quarter with fondness and look forward to the crisp freshness fall brings.

What Is The Best/ Easiest Way to Learn Something New?

If you've wished for a brain transplant after spending days studying only to find the test may as well be written in cuneiform, you're not alone. However, it may be the learning approach that needs a transplant. Is there only one way to learn? A quick poll of some of the faculty yielded many approaches to learning. Just a few of the many from each are:

Dr. Jean S. Cashion, Business Instructor, said to read the textbook, and the chapters as they're assigned, and come to class prepared. The language of a subject is learned from reading the text. Also, go to the instructor for help if you need it.

Mr. Edward L. Curtis, Mathematics Instructor, emphasized finding an individual who has some expertise in the area of the subject matter, and to let that individual teach. Listen, observe, and glean things that apply to you. You get guidance from an instructor, but it is your responsibility to learn.

Dr. Josephine F. Hendrix, Mathematics Instructor, stressed taking good notes and doing the homework. Learning math is a step process, and each step is important. Don't be afraid to ask questions in class if you don't understand something. If you need help, go to the instructor, that's why we have office hours.

Dr. Barbara R. Holt, Director Student Support Services, observed that above all, it is important to go about learning something new with a positive outlook. Ninety-five percent or more of our tests are written. Read and study the text and notes, then study for a test by writing the material over and over.

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Klinkosum stressed memorizing terms, and after they are memorized you begin to establish relationships between bits and pieces through association. Be patient, there is a time element involved, you have to acquire quite a few facts to establish those relationships.

These are just very few of the many suggestions, there were enough for a small book. Please see page 4 for more.

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