

Seventy-five Years of Debate

How much has changed in seventy-five years? Tobacco farmers and citizens against the use of tobacco are engaged in a struggle that could make or break the tobacco industry. Cigarette and tobacco manufacturers have fought wars of science and wars of rhetoric with tobacco opponents. Countless editorials have been written for both sides of the debate in recent years. In the year 1920, Wilkes County was faced with much of the same debate, and editorials were written with the same fervor. In the April 1920 edition of the *Yellow Jacket*, a conservative political newspaper out of Moravian Falls, editor James Larkin Pearson had this to say about anti-tobacco proponents: "If Ananias were to return from hell and enter a fresh contest for the prize medal of lying, he'd have to enter the list of propagandists against the tobacco 'evil' or he wouldn't stand a ghost of a show of retaining the world championship. For if anybody has ever pretended a greater array of star-spangled lies than the 'Anti-Nicotine' crusaders, they have not revealed themselves up to the time we madly rush to press...that tobacco is...'killing tens of thousands...' is balderdash and veriest rot." Sound familiar? The tobacco industry today feels much the same way, but it tries to be more tactful in presenting its arguments. Apparently, this is one debate that will take many more years and hundreds more editorials to resolve.

-Christy Blevins

A Halloween Perspective

A typical All Hallows Eve in Western North Carolina during any given year has a light side and a dark side. The lighter aspect is comprised of grade school children walking from house to house trick-or-treating or being driven around their neighborhoods by their parents for the same reason. Another custom enjoyed by young people is visiting haunted houses or haunted hayrides. The dark half of Halloween usually involves teenaged youths interested more in tricking than they are in being treated. It is not uncommon for several dozen yards to appear on All Hallows morning shrouded in sticky white paper and spotted by smashed jack o' lanterns as a result of the neighborhood tricksters.

If the calendar were flipped back eighty or so years, what would have changed? The *Wilkes Journal*, a local newspaper dated 1917, reported in its post-Halloween issue that pre-depression youths celebrated Halloween by "dressing in grotesque and uncanny costumes and parading the streets." The entire county of Wilkes got into the "Halloween Spirit" and sponsored a parade for the Wilkes

County Fair, complete with students dressed in costumes according to their grades. Turn-of-the-century Halloweens in Western North Carolina also had their darker elements. The "bad seeds" of earlier Halloweens were even more mischievous than modern tricksters. Today, older residents of Wilkes County relate tales of teenaged boys getting the full trick-or-treating experience by maliciously tricking anyone unfortunate enough to give them candy, fruit, or pennies. Tricks of the day included minor vandalism like soaping windows and the more destructive act of trying wagons to barn roofs.

Halloween has remained a fun holiday in Wilkes and surrounding counties for many years. A Great Depression, two World Wars, and what could be the equivalent of a thousand years of social and technological changes have not been enough to disrupt the celebration of this holiday. So, fellow goblins, stock up on candy and tie Rover to the Buick to keep it off the garage, because Halloween is right around the corner.

-Christy Blevins

Do We Need A Change?

When we are young we tend to believe we know everything. That wisdom eased its way into our mind through mystic powers once we became teenagers. Therefore, we were smarter and more wise than our parents and elders. I had hoped the majority of young people growing intelligently when entering college would give thoughtful and interesting answers when asked, "What is it you would like to change at WCC?" I was thrilled that each student, when asked this question, was thoroughly thought-

ful before responding. Most students would like to see the book store prices drop to meet their income level. The rest of the students would like to have a fifteen minute break between classes instead of the normal ten minute break. This extra five minutes would give the lungs of each student more time to adjust from Thompson Hall to the Technical Arts or Daniel Hall. Now we all can say re-adjustment is not just for teenagers.

-Christine Boul

Why Is It So Quiet?

As children in elementary school, we all learned "the basics" about the library, such as the use of the card catalog, the definition of the Dewey Decimal System, or the location of the encyclopedias. Oh, and there was always that rule -- you know, that one to "BE QUIET." Well, those elementary teachers and librarians have definitely taught us well. Upon entering the WCC Library, there is an instant quietness. Our former teachers would be proud. But you may find yourself wondering, for curiosity's sake, perhaps, "Why is it so quiet?" or, more importantly, "Just what are the students doing in the WCC Library that requires them to be so quiet?"

A poll of students working in the library revealed that they spend their time mainly studying and doing homework. Amy Nichols commented, "I do all my homework in here. I read my own personal stuff too, sometimes, if I have time." Matthew Beker, Shaunda Handy, and Patsy Wike all said they utilize their time by studying. "Doing English homework" occupied Hardin Kennedy's time as he sat among the towering shelves of books. Sandra Wolfe responded energetically: "I look at everything! I'm interested in everything! I look for myself and for my kids. Students also gave an overall "good" rating for the library.

Besides being a quiet refuge for doing homework and studying, the WCC Library is a helpful, educational center. Info trac, Newsbank, and North Carolina Law on discs are just three examples of its many, many resources. The Librarians are always glad to help answer any questions you may have. So, go on, check out the WCC Library!

-Alisha Edwards

OSAP's National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information

Alcohol vs. Books



The typical college student spends more money for alcohol than for books !!!

OSAP, Alcohol Practices, Policies, & Potentials of American Colleges, 1991

Tips For Getting In Touch

Feed the squirrels and the birds. One of the best ways of sensing and appreciating the life energy of other creatures is to get in touch with them. Feeding and caring for your dog or cat is fine, but there's something about sitting quietly and sending out a peaceful friendly energy to the bird or squirrel so that it approaches your hand and the food you offer it. It forces you to concentrate, to be in touch to accomplish your task. When you get up and walk away, you'll feel differently, and better.