

OPINION

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Minimum isn't good enough

\$7.25 an hour. The pay seems reasonable, generous even, when you consider that many minimum wage workers are teenagers and college students working part-time jobs and supporting only themselves. However, this is not the case half of the time.



BY ANNIE FULWOOD
STAFF WRITER

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, around 50 percent of workers paid the minimum wage are over the age of 25. These workers are far more likely to be struggling with some of the many financial woes of the 2010s. College debt is growing far more common, and the price of starting a family, let alone raising one, is staggering.

Working at a minimum of \$7.25 or below is just not feasible in today's economy.

In addition, 10 percent of part-time workers and 2 percent of full-time workers are paid the minimum wage. These numbers may seem small, but they add up to 3.3 million Americans working at or below the minimum wage.

In North Carolina, the situation is dire.

North Carolina is one of the 21 states whose minimum wage is at or below the federal minimum wage of \$7.25. While many northern or western states have passed legislation to raise their minimum wage, as high as \$9.50 in D.C., southern states generally keep the federal minimum. Exceptions include Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, South Carolina and Tennessee, who have no mandated minimum wage, as well as the few who have lowered their statewide minimum wage to below \$7.25.

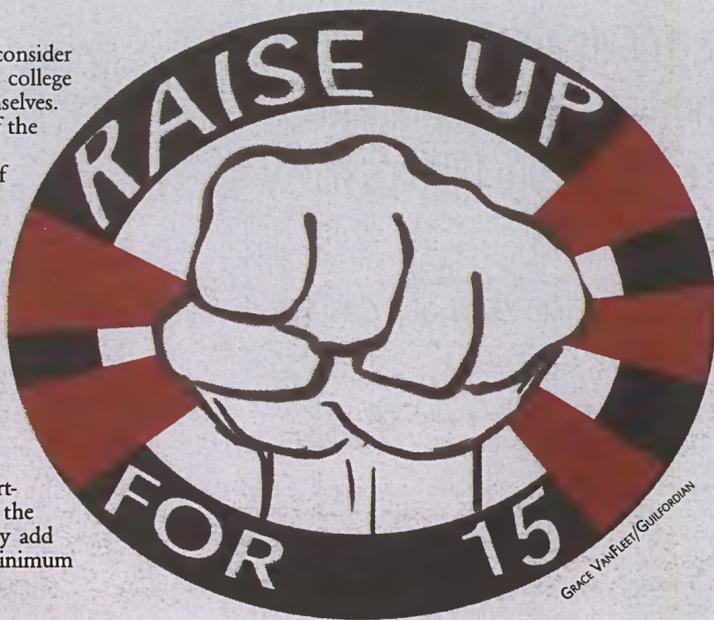
Raise Up for 15, a southern movement connected to the international Fight for 15 organization, is run by the combined efforts of the Southern Vision Alliance, Ignite N.C., N.C. Vote Defenders and the Youth Organizing Institute. Their mission is to force all large corporations to raise their hourly wages to \$15 and allow employees to form unions without repercussions.

Currently, Raise Up is assisting in the planning of a regional event on April 15 to protest the minimum wage. Other groups across the country, unified by Fight for 15, will band together and strike against unfair wages. Fight for 15 has branches of workers on strike in 150 different cities, as well as members spread across six continents.

A similar event took place last July, when 1,300 fast food workers gathered in Chicago to push for higher wages.

Among them, solutions varied from a nationwide sit-in proposed by grandmother and Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen worker Mary Coleman, to a far more radical response.

"We are going to break the law," said McDonald's worker and Illinois citizen Nancy Salgado as reported by MSNBC. "We've got



to do whatever it takes to win, and we've got to do civil disobedience. We've got to do it."

A major argument from those who protest the minimum wage is the inability to support dependents on such a small pay.

"For the work we do, it's not that much, but I'm not as dependent on my income as other people would be," said sophomore Jocelyn Foshay, an employee at the Office of Admissions. "It's impossible (to rely on the minimum wage while raising children), but the only person I have to support is myself."

Other Guilford students also note a need for a bit more than \$7.25.

"For the amount of work that I do, the education that I bring to the communities around me is priceless, but the money is nice," said sophomore Brandy Craig, a Community Scholar. "I don't eat in the Cafeteria much ... so I have to buy my own food, and I'm gluten-free, which is expensive. Minimum wage just does not work out for me."

North Carolina is just one of many states that need to face the changing economy and stop allowing fast-food and other corporations to cheat workers out of their pay.

"I think it's possible ... when you connect these movements," said the Rev. William Barber, president of the North Carolina NAACP to MSNBC after being asked whether the minimum wage would ever be raised to \$15 in North Carolina. "When you connect the call for \$15 (to) voting rights, to all of the other movements. This is a civil rights issue, (and) it's an economic issue."

Animation: a medium, not a genre

THESE MOVIES SHOULD NOT JUST BE FOR CHILDREN

BY GRAY STANBACK
GUEST WRITER

Imagine, if you will, a world where pretty much the only books written for the past century are the ones aimed at young children. That means no "Great Gatsby," no "Catcher in the Rye," maybe even no "Lord of the Rings" or "Harry Potter." It would not be very pleasant, for surely there would be stories that could not be told otherwise. Now stop imagining because something very similar to that is happening right now in the real world in the realm of animation.

For far too long animation has been seen, at least in America, as a medium suitable only for entertaining children and families. When adult animation does exist, it is almost entirely represented by satirical comedies like "The Simpsons," "South Park" and "Family Guy," which are in many ways just as immature as children's cartoons. Yes, there are exceptions — Japanese anime, for example, and the works of some independent filmmakers like Ralph Bakshi — but they are far outnumbered by works aimed at children and family audiences.

This view of animation is so pervasive that it has even infiltrated official movie awards. The Oscars have separate categories for Best Picture and Best Animated Picture, and to date only three animated films ("Beauty and The Beast," "Up" and "Toy Story 3") have been nominated for Best Picture. Animation, for all its potential diversity, is seen as a genre and not a medium.

"The Incredibles" is just as much an action movie, "Wall-E" is just as much a science-fiction story, and "The Prince of Egypt" is just as much a biblical epic as any live-action movie in those genres. They have other elements, but so do many live-action movies in those same genres. But, you will rarely hear those movies spoken of that way. Instead, to most people they all fall under the generic umbrella of animated films.

Adults who go to animated movies often speak of the experience as "reliving their childhood" or "feeling like a child again." They never, it seems, give the movies the dignity of being approached simply as movies. Animation is perhaps the most versatile visual medium in the world, and the fact that so many people have such a rigid mindset of what an animated film should be is nothing short of criminal.

What should be done about this injustice? Certainly the major film studios, which release the same formulaic G and PG-rated films every year are not helping. Neither are independent animators, who have the will but lack the budget and marketing strength to reach wide audiences. Unless some brave individual decides to take the risk, American animation may be constrained by its reputation forever.

Fall Registration is soon

CCE students can register beginning April 11

First-Years

Friday, April 17

earned credits: less than 24

Sophomores

Wednesday, April 15

earned credits: 24-55

All holds must be cleared BEFORE you can register!

earned credits: 56-87

To check your holds, log on to BannerWeb

earned credits: 88 or greater

Monday, April 13

Juniors

Saturday, April 11

Seniors

Online registration begins at 7 a.m. on the date specified