



"WHERE THE BUFFALO ROAM"

SGA

STEPHANIE BOWSMAN

by Scott Russo

After I made that long walk up to the Newell Athletic Field on Monday, I was forced to pause. First to catch my breath and second to shake my head in disgust at the deplorable condition of the playing surface and also the surrounding hillsides. It is very hard for me to believe that just three short years ago I was running up and down that very same field. Only difference is, then it was a soccer/baseball field and now it seems better fit for cattle or pigs than it does athletics.

I do not understand how the gym floor can be refinished and repainted every other year, when that field is in such terrible shape. Doesn't it seem fair that both facilities should receive the same care, so that they both can remain college level facilities? It seems that since the field is out of sight, it is out of mind.

What type of support or dedication is this school showing to the soccer and baseball teams if we can't even take the time to do what amounts to general maintenance? That field has turned into a physical danger for anyone who plays on it. The little grass that remains is loose or dead and there are more holes on it than on a golf course. It's like playing on a basketball court that has had a few of its planks warped or even totally removed. I'm sure everyone agrees, not only would that be impossible, but it would also be very dangerous.

I'm relatively sure that if the gym floor was in the same condition as that field is, it would be quickly repaired at any cost.

That field makes it virtually impossible to keep the [socer] ball under control on a dribble and almost every pass bounces up and becomes hard to settle. Furthermore just try to imagine trying to field an outfield grounder traveling at over 90 MPH when it could bounce up out of control at any second.

For these reasons, I feel truly sorry for those athletes. Every day they practice or play, they risk serious injury just by walking out on that cow-pasture. But, they still do it because they are dedicated to the team and to the school. Why can't this school show them some appreciation and make an effort to repair that once very beautiful facility?

I look forward to any replies in regard to the steps that may be taken in the future to solve this very serious problem.

The Student Government Association held an open meeting Monday, September 7th at 7:00 pm in the conference room on the second floor of the Belk Campus Center. The topics of discussion included the need of a second advisor (for the SGA), the rewriting of the SGA's constitution, the "no shorts in class" policy, fewer room inspections, and upcoming activities.

The search is on for a second advisor for the Student Government

Association. This advisor will be a faculty member who is genuinely concerned about the students and willing to get involved. Several names were mentioned, yet none have been confirmed.

The Constitution of the SGA is in the process of being rewritten and plans are made to place copies in the lounge of the Belk Campus Center and the library.

Good news for those students who aren't quite so neat. There will be fewer room inspections. Action has been taken so room inspections will be handled by the resident directors from here forward.

The no shorts in class policy is a big concern with the SGA. They were told by Dean McDowell that a proposal must be submitted in order to change the shorts policy. The matter will then be

taken to the Campus Life Committee for discussion. At a previous faculty meeting this year, the professors were split half and half on this issue. Even though the weather has become too chilly to wear shorts lately, the SGA is resolute on bringing this matter to an acceptable agreement between students and staff.

Upcoming plans include a blood drive with competition between dorms based on percentages tentatively set for Sept. 16. Signs will be posted with further details.

There will be a Birthday night for all students who have a birthday in September. The collective occasion will provide cake complete with a decorated party for the celebrants.

The prayer breakfast has been changed to a prayer supper on Wednesday nights from 5-6 pm in the private dining room. The change in time is to promote more student participation.

One will only get out of college life what one puts in to it so keep up with the events and **get involved**. One way is to attend all the **open** Student Government Association meetings. It's a quick and easy way to be in the know of M-AC activities and policies.

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When I sit back and think of how Jesus lived His life, I see that He was a people person. Sure, He wanted people to know the truth; this was His main objective. However, while doing this, He invested His life in several people's lives. To me it is so beautiful to see the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the Almighty Himself spending time with people. He took time to nurture and disciple these people (in particular the twelve disciples we read of in the gospels).

When I accepted the position of SCA President I tried to think of what my goal for the year would be. I prayed, wondering what we as a school body should focus on for this year. Would it be Missions? Or Evangelism? Or perhaps it would be something else. Then God showed me that all of these things are beautiful and necessary and absolutely incredible in our sight-- as well as in His-- but they all need something more in addition to their

ministerial objectives. They need people loving people. I am convinced that a true ministry begins with people. What am I getting at? It is this: Jesus calls each one of His own to be a people person. We need to take the time to get to know, work with, and support each other. As we also join our respective outreach ministries, we also need to realize that we are relating to people and thus need to show the love of God by actions and not just by words.

I do not believe that we can go wrong if we seek Jesus first, and others second. In seeking Him first we find a desire to serve and support others. Whether it be in small groups, Missions, the Juvenile Center or with our roommates we need to get involved! I challenge us all to seek God first so that we can dare to be His "God seeking, people oriented, people."

Let's hold each other accountable!

Love in Him,
Jimmy Smith

