

That Son of "Bitch-In" - Firing Line

By Walt Sherrill

Friday was your chance and you probably missed it, for that was the day that Chancellor Colvard, Vice-Chancellors Cone and McEniry, and Business Manager Batchelor met in the Parquet Room from 11:30 til a little after 1:00 to answer questions from students and faculty about what was or wasn't being done on campus. Yet only about twenty-five students, among them members of ACTION, the student legislature, and innocent bystanders, took the opportunity to ask, listen, or take pot-shots at the people who say What, Why and When. Conspicuous for their absence

were several of the more outspoken "Bitch-In" critics, the active members of the History Club, and the staff of Comment. Perhaps these people were lost in the jammed mass of thirty or so that filled the Parquet room, but I doubt it.

Bill Billups, S.G.A. President, served as moderator. Faculty participation was small, with a few members of the History, Language, and Philosophy Departments making brief visits. They did visit, however.

There were a few questions that might've been asked that weren't, and a few that were that shouldn't've been, but all in all, it was an interesting afternoon. (One of the questions that weren't asked—I didn't want to take up the whole time period—was what our administrators thought of the Student Protest Movement. Needless to say, the attitudes of those in policy positions and their understanding of the problems of students can have a great effect upon the potential for such unrest here on our campus. One of the factors that led to the Columbia take-over, according to the Cox Report, was a lack of communication between faculty, administration, and students. Firing Line, as this discussion session has come to be called is a step in the right direction—and it was begun last year, long before Columbia.) What were the questions?

"I've never approached Mr. Haas, and I don't know whether any other students have or not," said Dan Wilson (who was at the Bitch-In) as he spoke to Mr. Batchelor about the feasibility of "Student Specials" for the Cafeteria menu—economical meals like those offered on other campuses in the state at prices ranging from \$.45 to \$.75. Mr. Batchelor told Dan to speak to Mr. Haas, as there was no reason to believe that the Cafeteria couldn't start something like that if the demand were large enough. And to make it clear that he wasn't all criticism, Dan had nothing but praise for the improvements made in the Cafeteria since Mr. Haas came here. Its just that its too expensive to eat a decent meal in the Union, and people get tired of cheeseburgers and potato chips.

Chancellor Colvard took the opportunity to speak about some of the problems UNC-C anticipates in the near future with the Cafeteria. Food service, he said, is a problem with many schools, and UNC-C will probably have bigger problems than most: the dormitories will soon be open and the Cafeteria additions will probably not be finished in time to handle the increased student patronage anticipated. Further, shifting over to a three-meal schedule will cause some problems not yet anticipated; and the very fact that the Cafeteria operates at a very small margin of profit makes freedom of choice in operations difficult. So if you think we've got problems now, just wait.

Alan Hickok asked why so little credit was given for Computer courses when even the Math faculty admits that these courses require as much, if not more time, than 3-hour courses; other campuses in the state have begun to give 2 and 3 hours credit for them. Dr. McEniry said that the problem has been recognized and that efforts are being made to reevaluate credits, but just when these efforts will be realized is unknown.

Is there any policy about visiting speakers? Alice Folger, one of the more A.C.T.I.V.E. members of ACTION was concerned about the Speaker Ban Law. Dr. Colvard said that... "we can only answer that question when a real issue is brought up...we'd like various viewpoints to be discussed openly. The Speaker Ban Law has been amended and we've been given some discretion...and as far as I know, no "Group" of people have been banned...but of course groups advocating violence or the overthrow of Government have been excluded by the Legislature." Its clear that even our Administration isn't as free to act as they'd like to be.

Larry Miller asked about the University Governance Committee--its proposed functions, form, and power, but the only answer he could get was that the whole thing is so new that nobody knows where it'll end up. Its really an innovation and participation seems to be the key.

Dr. McEniry mentioned some of the unwieldy methods the Administration and Faculty have been forced to use recently in their efforts to step out of the bog, and it might've been funny if it hadn't been so serious. The proposed opening of Faculty meetings to students was cited as an example: the motion was defeated simply because the Faculty constitution required that the vote be passed by a 2/3 majority--and not enough members participated to give the necessary number of votes. Yet those voting were clearly in favor.

I asked about scholarships, the Bell Tower, and deferred payments, and got a rather interesting assortment of answers. With all due respect to Mr. Belk, I've always felt that the money to be spent for that particular piece of construction might've been better spent on grants-in-aid and scholarships. Many of us on this campus have to work a lot more than we'd like--and working makes college pure drudgery.

Dr. Colvard agreed that there were often better uses for money received, but gifts are gifts, and they're usually donated with directions as to how they'll be used. Dr. Cone said that a great effort has been and is being made to secure more funds for grants and operations; she also stated that no student, if there was need, would ever have to drop out of school for financial reasons. She only asked that we, the students, let her know when we needed

help. I think she meant what she said too. Mr. Batchelor said the deferred payments were stopped because nearly 3/4 of those using the plan dropped out before the semester was over, and the school never say the money. Tuition and fees are a part of the University's operating funds, and the school must pay salaries and bills. The school just doesn't have any reserve funds.

Dan Wilson asked about course scheduling, and why there were so few courses offered in one major during a semester. Dr. McEniry said that UNC-C has growing pains—but that no student would ever be kept from graduating because of such a technical problem. There aren't enough faculty members to go around, and the Legislature dictates the number of members allowed. "I wish I could say the problem would be solved in three years—you don't know HOW much I wish I could say that..." Dr. McEniry noted that Dan was a Econ/Business major, and if he thought he had problems he should speak to a Sociology major.

Ron Caldwell asked about the efforts to recruit Black students, faculty, and the adoption of related courses being made by the University. Dr. McEniry said that we've tried, but in more than one case UNC-C hasn't been able to interest Black instructors. "There are two types of Black instructors: the good ones can command any salary they want, and the others we can't use...I sent a list of about 25 names of Black Faculty members to the various departments and they've followed them up. Many of these people wouldn't move to UNC-C for various reasons. But that doesn't solve your problems now. If you'll get us a list of names you can bet your life you'll get a sympathetic ear. We don't want a showcase Negro and we don't want to just meet the demands of the time. We are presently talking to some members of the Johnson C. Smith Faculty, trying to get one or two of them to teach part-time on our campus, be that's still unresolved."

Dr. Cone, in response to Ron's question about recruitment of Black students, admitted that UNC-C has far too few. "And you'll have to forgive me, I haven't learned to call you other names...you're all students to me." Dr. Cone suggested that Black students prepare a list of needy students and she'd do everything she could to help get them enrolled.

Phil Barnette asked about afternoon classes and the classes that met only once a week for three hours at a stretch. This was, Dr. McEniry said a deliberate

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