

# 'Front Porch' Sociology

## Girls Sacrifice Comfort To Help Others

DURHAM, N. C. — Two Duke coeds have given up the dormitory conveniences of prepared meals and maid service for a small frame house in the center of one of the city's most depressed areas.

The secure stone walls of the campus are behind them. "Walls" of poverty, semi-illiteracy, juvenile delinquency, and racial prejudice confront them instead.

Dee Beale of Orlando, Fla., and Jackie Crawford of Miami, Fla., are the two senior coeds participating in the year-long "living and learning" project.

In a nearby house are five Duke undergraduate boys, Bill Phillips of Durham; Rick Lacy of Rochester, N. Y.; Steve Worful of Anchorage, Ky.; Curt Lauber of Drexel Hill, Pa.; and Bucky Sands of Alexandria, Va.

Coming from diversified backgrounds, the students all have one thing in common—a deep concern with the problems of urban poverty.

The experiment is being sponsored by the Duke Religious Life Council, which also supports the Edgemont Community Center in the neighborhood. The idea of allowing full-time students to combine academics with a living and working situation grew out of project "Listen", a summer urban mission, operated by college students and sponsored by the Baptist denomination.

Dee and Jackie are political science majors with a vital interest in doing social work after graduate school. But the girls stress they are not playing "social worker" in their new neighborhood.

"We're living here and getting to know the people. We're not going out and looking for someone to help. Our neighbors are the ones who'll be helping us," Jackie explains.

Becoming a part of the neighborhood and gaining insights into the attitudes of the community wasn't as difficult as Dee and Jackie first imagined. They are learning the patterns of their environment in simple-but-effective ways.

"The worth of a front porch is amazing," Jackie said. "The first night we were here, we just sat on the front porch and the kids swarmed around us. 'Student' is a magic word to them," Dee said.

Living with the girls and "interpreting what they experience," are Mr. and Mrs. Sam Stone, former Duke students now doing graduate work at the university. Stone is in his final year of divinity school and his wife, Bonnie, is working toward her masters degree in English.

The group is contributing "availability" to the Edgemont Community, Stone advises. "We make no great claims. We're feeling our way. We don't have financial assistance to give, but we can give other kinds of aid if it is requested."

The other kinds of aid encompass such things as information about welfare and public health services, a night ride to the hospital with someone who has been injured in a fight, a cup of coffee, or a bed for the night.

"We're not in the business to help, but to be here," Stone emphasized.

There is tangible evidence the students are offering their experience to the community, as well as benefiting from

the experiences.

One of the boys teaches an arts and crafts class. Another teaches Sunday School classes.


Jackie and Dee are involved in tutoring projects with neighborhood children who need additional incentive and instruction to remain interested in gaining an education. Dee also is spending several afternoons a week tutoring a disabled child who can't attend school.

In addition to academic help, the girls are offering friendship to the children and a chance to enjoy some of the experiences they had as children. They have planned trips to the library and a visit to a soccer game for the children.

### Correction

Owen Lewis' "Art World" column in Sunday's Daily Tar Heel mistakenly reported that the George Kachergis art sale would be held on Nov. 6. The sale will actually be held next Sunday, Nov. 13 at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Jenner, 26 Lake Shore Drive, Chapel Hill.

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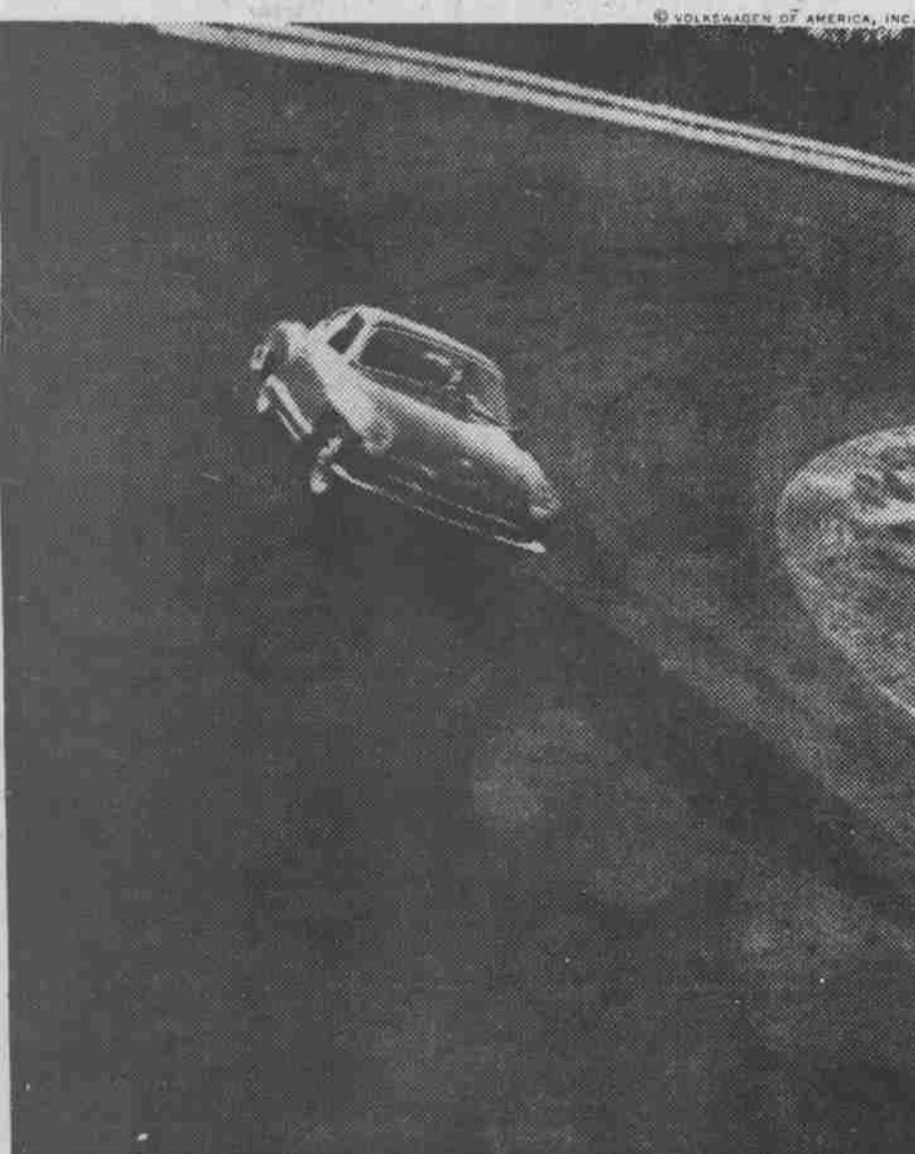


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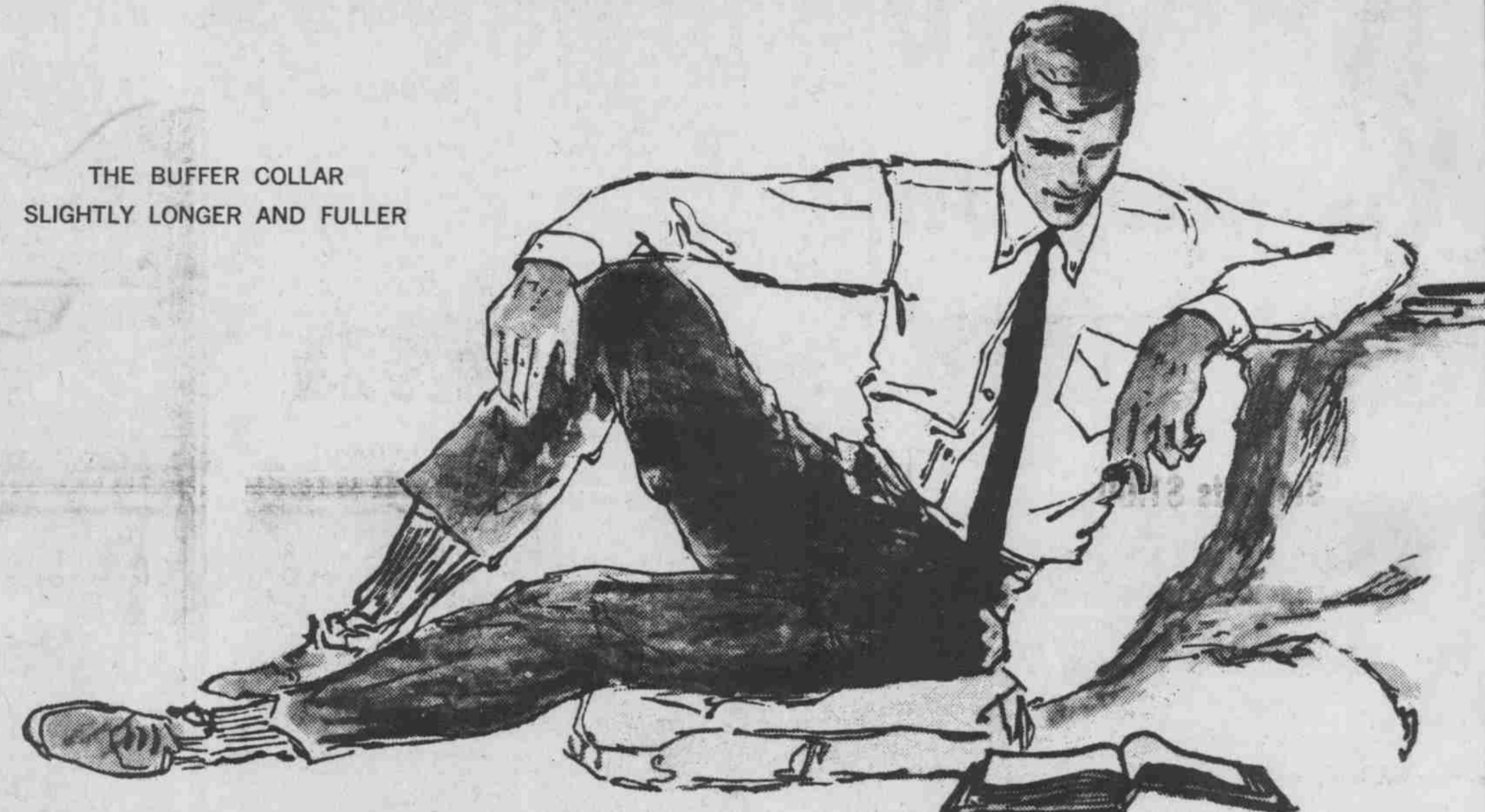
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