

The Ridgerunner

Thursday, September 8, 1966

Expression Invited

EXPRESSION INVITED

With the first issue of the "Ridgerunner" this year, the editor commends the efforts of all members on the staff for their work in putting the paper together. We have made our mistakes and will continue to do so during the year, but it should be emphasized that the student newspaper is the only journalism experience available to students on campus.

The newspaper is the place for campus-wide debate here and the editorial page will not be limited as a sounding board for the editor's own opinions. Guest editorials and letters to the editor are invited on all subjects which affect the student's education. If you think the editorial staff of the "Citizen-Times", for example, is a group of tired, old men who manage to spend their day without a collective thought or if you admire them for a splendid, crusading, spirit, the newspaper solicits your contribution.

The "Ridgerunner" is the place for students to express themselves on issues which affect their lives. What, for instance, is the state of the Speaker Ban law and what precedent does it have in North Carolina's history? Why is the cost of living in Asheville seemingly so high compared to other sections of the country? In examining the college's theory of education, just how much change can we expect during our lives? If it is agreed that human nature has changed little during the centuries, it would seem that a liberal education would put into relief the events we encounter.

Academic freedom implies responsibility and the criteria for articles to the paper will be good taste and substantiation of facts used. This doesn't exclude letters of opinion but means that they must be recognized as such.

Education thrives on an exchange of ideas.

John Phaup

Words Of Wisdom From Television

By Lou Miller

For you T. V. bugs who are constantly being harassed by people who are of the opinion that viewing the tube is a horrible waste of time, there is a ray of hope. The next time these antagonists approach you with rebuffs concerning your supposed sin of wasting time, just make a reference to the Mike Douglas Show. Aside from the usual entertainment which all variety programs must possess in order to exist, this unique production provides stimulating food for thought through Mike's interviews with prominent people ranging from animal trainers to college professors.

On July 18, the Douglas Show opened the week with the usual entertainment, one of the guests being Richard Tucker; the well known opera star, Jose Ferrar; Shella MacRae, and a gentleman by the name of Professor Charles H. Wehrer completed the roster of celebrities. Although the last name may not sound especially familiar to you, the interview which Douglas withdrew from him should sound familiar, at least in part, to students of Asheville-Biltmore.

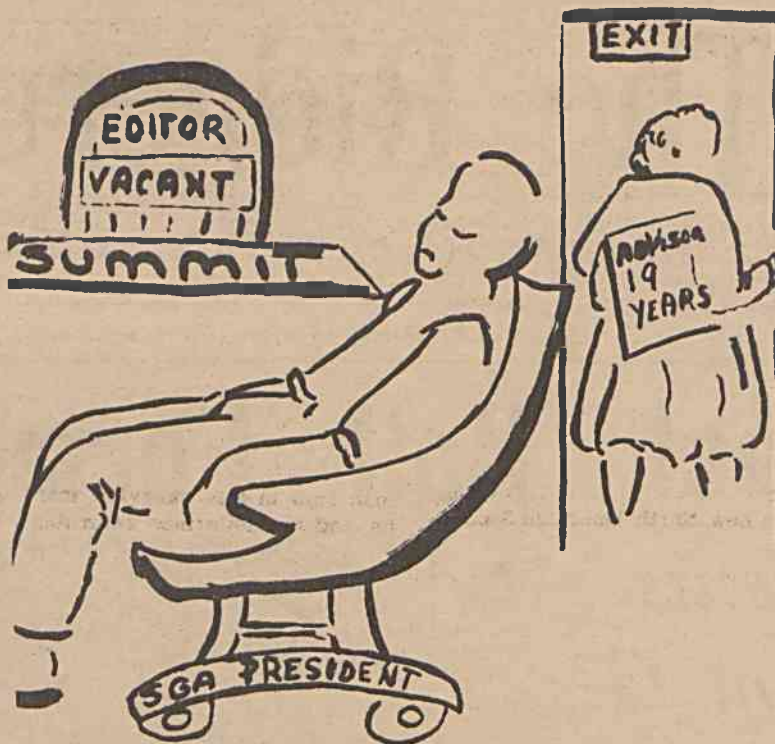
What Dr. Wehrer said in essence was this: that some of the worst teachers in the entire world happen to be those engaged in college work. The reason for this condemnation of fellow workers was that of impersonality. Impersonality is a word with which many of us students are familiar in connection with college professors. Students attending an institution with a rather high enrollment become acutely aware of this condition. To a professor who presides over a classroom numbering anywhere from fifty to sixty or seventy students, your shining face would only be a number coldly recorded into a grade book.

Much time could be spent in speculating about the reason for this cold approach to teaching. A basic argument would be that a professor with that many students just could not afford to give individual attention, since he is also responsible for instructing others. Perhaps this is true, but making excuses for the existence of the problem will not alternate the consequences which it imposes upon students.

Returning to Professor Wehrer a moment will reveal his proposed solution to this problem of impersonality. This educator recommends a system of instruction similar to that utilized by Princeton while under the leadership of Woodrow Wilson. While Wilson was president of Princeton, the classes were known as preceptorials, consisting of one professor and seven students. The purpose of this small group was to stimulate free discussion of problems. Since there were fewer students than usual, compared to classrooms in other colleges, the professor could afford, indeed his very purpose was, to encourage discussion.

Does this technique sound familiar to you? If you have ever taken Humanities here at A-B, the discussion groups should strongly remind you of system just described. If you have ever taken a literature course, again some similarity will be noticed. Of course, not all of the classes here can be geared to such a small number, but my point is that this is a step forward in alleviating the problem of impersonality.

As a consequence, the professor who leads your discussion section is a fellow who will freely discuss the lesson with you. The odds are that he will even learn your name before the term is completed. If you don't feel like participating in the discussion, keep your ears open and listen carefully. No discussion is complete without listeners; however, if you have a problem, you will find that the professors here at A-B are usually ready and willing to discuss it with you. As a rule, assistance is offered to the student if necessary. If your professor has not extended an offer of assistance, chances are that he has merely forgotten to do so. To a student with a problem, this offer is indeed a generous one. Take advantage of it and you will benefit immeasurably.



Caught Napping

Prior to the appointment of Lenda Gayle Edwards and Bob Jones last week, the management of the Summit had been bungled by all persons connected with it. Consider these facts. It was no secret that the co-editors named last spring were not returning to college here and one co-editor had indeed made it known that she was not returning as early as May. No action was taken during the summer to replace these two positions by anyone. During registration our SGA president had no Summit table set up to solicit annual workers and to this day scores of experienced people may be stalking the campus for all he learned from registration. Perhaps worst of all, his thinking about the annual is vague. He doesn't know how large the annual staff needs to be nor how much time during the day for how long a period the staff workers will have to

work. The Ridgerunner wishes the rebuilt Summit staff well after the poor guidance given it at first. In the interest of a worthy annual we support the suggestion of hiring a professional photographer and endorse the appointment of Miss Hench, aided by Mr. Gilpin, as advisor. We make two suggestions. One is to pay the ad salesmen a percentage of the revenue they raise in advertisement sales. Those students who work part-time serving spaghetti in a murky corner of the Suds and Pizza House could make their money while helping the annual. Two is to provide wider coverage of visiting speakers with copies or extracts of speeches made by these speakers. These could be included in a "Visitor's Section" and those speakers who are on campus after the annual deadline could be included in the following year's annual.



Brandywine Players Good For Trainees

By Sandy Ledbetter

The Brandywine Players, a local non-equity summer theatre founded by Professor Claude Garren, Director of Drama on our campus, has proven to be an invaluable area of theatre training for both present and former Asheville-Biltmore students. At Brandywine, the students not only perform the important job of excellent acting, but also learn the techniques of lighting under difficult circumstances, box-office operation, the various ways of staging a play very simply, and, probably most important, how to work more closely with a more intimate company and audience.

The Brandywine Players, located in the Manor on Charlotte St., opened their season by moving the A-B production of "Squaring the Circle" to their theatre. Since then, they have presented "Once More, With Feeling," "Five Finger Exercise," "John Brown's Body," "The Moon Is Blue," and "Light Up The Sky." All of these were excellent productions. The last production of their regularly scheduled season is "Picnic,"

which will run for two weekends, September 8-11, and September 15-18.

Sixteen A-B students have participated in several ways for the Brandywine Theatre this summer. Two of them, Don Dalton and Ralph Miss, graduates of A-B last spring in drama, have found their work invaluable, and both intend to pursue some kind of drama work. Don will become an officer in the Air Force this fall, where he will work in TV and radio. Ralph has just become a member of the professional Barn Theatre Company in Charlotte where his first role will be that of "Jimmy" in "The Rainmaker," which he did for Brandywine last summer.

If you have not attended any of the productions of Brandywine this summer, be sure not to miss their last presentation. You will find it a new and intriguing experience. Of course, if you have already attended any of the plays, it is not necessary to sell Brandywine to you -- it is only necessary to remind you not to miss "Picnic." The Brandywine Players have proven their excellence, and "Picnic" is sure to be another of their successes.



Letters To The Editor

Dear Sir,
Why, I say WHY, hasn't the intrepid Debate Team of Asheville-Biltmore College received more exposure? That's assuming, of course, that there is one.

Any college purporting to be an institution of higher learning usually--only usually, now--tries to throw its weight behind the more intellectual pursuits.

It is perfectly obvious that the Debate Team has been sorely neglected here. This activity is one which should aid those who are shy to "blossom forth" (that's a cliché) into polished speakers. It will help them to sharpen their wits, give them self-confidence, and broaden their horizons.

Having been a member of a prize winning debate team, I can attest to debate's sterling qualities. It is inconceivable to me that an "experimental" college would not have a debate team worthy of note. Perhaps the students of A-B are wary of stretching their minds or being leaders. More fool they.

L. M. H.

Dear Sir,
As a former student at A-B, I feel a certain satisfaction in having attended a college that looks so very much "with it." I can easily imagine the campus when the dormitories are constructed and the landscaping completed. But even after this is done, the school will still be lacking a certain "sock."

Why not replace the police precinct lights in front of the library with wrought iron torches? Why not start a fund for an Alexander Calder mobile to be hung in the Student Union lounge? How would a fountain look behind the administration building?

Perhaps others could think of more to further the visual appeal of Asheville-Biltmore College. No matter what, we don't need more plants in the library, area rugs in the ladies' rooms, or department store pictures on the walls.

Margaret Phaup

SGA Report Is Given

By Bob Morrow

In a recent interview with Student Government Association president Jim Day it was stated that many of A-B's students did not know the true function of S. G. A.

"Many students as well as upperclassmen do not know that Student Government is strictly an organization for the student's best interest. It is formed for the students as well as by the students," Day was quoted.

Student Government provides a system whereas each and every student has an active part in campus controversies and activities. By voicing opinions, complaints, and suggestions to class officers, one can feel assured that these measures will be brought before the Executive Council at the next S. G. A. meeting. If these complaints and suggestions prove to be of beneficial use to the school as a whole, they will be put into effect and recognized by both S. G. A. and Administration.

In order to give the students a more active voice in campus affairs, "The Ridgerunner" will offer a Letters to the Editor Department which will be developed into a column in each edition of the school paper.