

Come To Middle Earth

With its stimulating atmosphere, Middle Earth Coffee House, located just off the campus on Broadway, functions as a convenient place for students and faculty to congregate, discuss and grow.

Set up by the local churches for the use of A-B students, the Coffee House is attractive, equipped with a kitchen and available for meetings, parties (non-alcoholic), mixers, rush activities and the like.

Middle Earth is available any time for club or organization use. Anyone wishing to use the facilities see John Bernhardt for a key.

Bernhardt, who has invested much time and energy in Middle Earth, hopes to arrange a regular schedule of entertainment. Anyone interested in being in charge of a committee for that purpose, or anyone having suggestions for programs contact Bernhardt.

Middle Earth is regularly open Friday and Saturday evenings from 8 o'clock to 1 o'clock; on Sunday from 7 o'clock to 11 o'clock; and Wednesday from 7 o'clock to 11 o'clock.

Figures Give Picture

The breakneck pace set at Asheville-Biltmore has begun. In fact, students are coming off the starting blocks so fast that the admissions office has yet to catch up.

Of the initial 500 applications for 1968's Fall Term, only 300 were ultimately eligible for admission. Dr. Ben Spangler, Director of Admissions, admits that final tabulation of the freshman enrollment is not yet final. Available is the over-all enrollment, an all time high of 755.

Scholarships have enabled many students to join the innovative A-B community life. Private organizations contributed \$23,675 to outstanding students, according to Ed Harris, the Director of Financial Aid. A total of \$12,025 was given to 25 upperclassmen. To the same number of freshmen went the sum of \$11,650. Six Honor Scholarships totalling \$1,600 were presented to upperclassmen and \$3,200 was allotted in Honor Scholarships to 11 freshmen.

There are several dominant features of this year's Freshman Class. Most important to the Administration are their SAT scores which are significantly higher than the scores of last year's newcomers. The class of '72 would appear to be better prepared than any preceding class.

Out of 19 states, exclusive of North Carolina, ranging from New York and Massachusetts to Michigan and Kansas to Texas and California, A-B has drawn its 755 students. Two foreign countries, Nigeria and Jerusalem, are also represented by members of the student body

Copies of the 1968 *Images*, the A-B literary magazine, are on sale in the Bookstore.

Approximately 200 copies will be sold at 50 cents each. Any student who was enrolled during the 1967-68 school year and did not receive his copy of the magazine may obtain one free from the new editor, Elizabeth Markgraf. Students enrolled during the Summer Term are not eligible for a free copy.

Proceeds from the sale will be divided equally between SGA and *Images*.

Traditional Grades Junked

Brunswick, Me. (I.P.) Bowdoin College has abolished its traditional A through E letter grading system and adopted a new marking procedure involving only four grades. The new system replaces the familiar system of letter grades A, B, C, D, and E and their accompanying pluses and minuses with a four grade plan: High Honors, Honors, Pass and Fail.

Dr. A. Leroy Greason, Jr., Dean of the College, said neither a student's average nor his class standing will be computed any longer under the new plan and eliminated will be "the misleading representation of averages as evidence of ability, and the grade consciousness it seemed to produce."

The Faculty Recording Committee which was responsible for developing and recommending the new system stated in a report, "grades of some type were necessary in order for students to keep check on themselves, in order for the College to distinguish its outstanding students on the one hand and those who were over their depth on the other, and in order for a graduate school to appraise demonstrated academic ability.

"It is actually a system with educational objectives of its own," Dean Greason said. He explained that "instead of grades as rewards or punishments, the grade is really played down under the new system in an effort to encourage students to concentrate on the subject and to avoid disrupting comparisons of small differences in grades."

He pointed out the new plan is intended to provide the necessary insights

into the academic successes of students without distorting the total picture. Dean Greason explained that the old system merely substituted a letter for a number and that letter was translated back into a number again in order to determine an academic average for the student. "And as in all translations," he said, "the meaning suffers."

The class standing of students was computed on the basis of these academic averages, he said. As an explanation, Dean Greason noted that a difference of only four points can separate the man in the bottom of the top third of his class from the man at the top of the bottom third, "and yet whether a man was in to top or bottom third of his class appeared to be a significant distinction."

Amplifying this point further, Dean Greason reported "that within this region where there is not much difference between successive averages, the shift in the total grade average produced by the addition of a plus or a minus to a simple grade could shift a man as much as six places in the rank order of the class."

Under the new system a student in order to attain Dean's List status must receive Honors or High Honors in three quarters of his courses, and there can be no failures.

In order to graduate cum laude, three quarters of a student's grades for four years must be Honors or High Honors. To graduate magna cum laude, cum laude requirements must be attained with at least one quarter High Honors, plus one Honor for each Pass. All of a student's grades must be Honors with at least half High Honors for summa cum laude distinction.

BSU Forms On Campus

A Baptist Student Union chapter is being organized on campus by the Rev. Kay Huggins who believes that religious exposure is a vital component of a liberal arts education and feels that a campus should offer a certain amount of religious flavoring to its students.

Although the organization is sponsored by the Baptist Church, interested students of all faiths are encouraged to participate.

Once organized the BSU will meet once a month for devotions, speakers and films. In an effort to relate academics and religion, Mr. Huggins also hopes the BSU can sponsor bi-weekly or monthly dormitory discussions on topics such as "The New Morality" and "Science vs. Religion". Short weekly devotional services are also being considered.

Huggins would like members from the A-B chapter to participate in an October retreat with the Western Carolina University organization and to be represented at the State BSU Convention to be held in Asheville in November.

So far at least 20 students have expressed an interest in establishing a BSU on campus, and any others wishing to participate should contact Huggins.

Currently serving as the Associate Pastor at Beverly Hills Baptist Church, Huggins did his undergraduate work at Wake Forest University and is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Ken. As a chaplain for A-B students, he is available for counseling.



BEFORE



DURING



AFTER

Registration is always such fun, if you spell fun H-E-L-L.