

Editorial Page Discovered In Our MAILBOX:

Legitimate Donation?

It recently came to our attention that at least one faculty member was harrassed and one staff member of this institution had his job threatened because they refused to contribute to the United Fund.

It seems that one of the stipulations of being a faculty or staff member at UNC-A is support of the United Fund. One individual refuses to contribute because the United Fund helps certain agencies which reportedly practice racial discrimination, but more basically for the simple fact that a required donation is not a gift, and the United Fund pledges are supposedly donations.

The United Fund pledge clause is not a part of the faculty contract, as far as we know and to threaten a member of the faculty with loss of his job just because he doesn't wish to be bulldogged into a donation, is wrong.

The situation is even more interesting when you realize that the school expects you to contribute \$25 or so to the Fund.

We will not support any condemnation of the United Fund but we will support the rights of any faculty or staff member to refuse to contribute to the Fund without losing his or her job.

The entire academic community is threatened when the Administration begins to pass its own unwritten laws and then sentences the guilty with loss of employment. Both the faculty and staff members were sincere objectors to a law they were new to; why not some words on this from the Administration?

F. M.

Dear editor,

Who, what and why is Trii, contributor (?) to THE RIDGERUNNER? Perhaps it stands for "try", if so, Trii Harder might be better. Or perhaps the last "i" should be "p"—trip. If so, the "Freshmen View Welcome" article was certainly a bummer. Noting that the heading for the article was "Perspective", I could not help wondering how far down I would have to go to achieve the same perspective—also, down what?

Welcome Week was designed to make all new students feel more at home on our campus. If our efforts failed as miserably as the article indicated, I'm surprised that we have any new students remaining here. It is my personal feeling that the article was one-sided reporting and reflected the illogical negativism which has been served so well in making our campus infamously apathetic! Such cynical and snide attitudes can only serve to make already difficult SGA jobs more difficult. I would like to answer some of the, in my opinion, more ridiculous and critical of the comments quoted (?) by Trii.

"If I see one more Welcome sign, I think I... (sic) throw up." a person of this nature might have felt more welcome in a Nazi concentration camp or Siberia.

"The beer busts were great, but...," "the beer was good at the Sing Out, but there was not enough, at the dance it was terrible and there was too much." First I would like to point out that the beer was exactly the same at both events. It was bought

from the same company and was the same brand. Second I would like to say that the purpose of the beer busts was not to get everyone drunk, but to relax the atmosphere so that mixing would occur. Mixing, it might also be pointed out (in answer to another critical comment) does not occur without some effort on the part of the individual. One cannot blend in with the woodwork and expect people to bound over and start talking to him or ask him to dance. Neither the SGA, the Social Commission, nor the Welcome Week committee could have been expected to see that everyone had a date. Again this is a matter of individual initiative—perhaps Ultra-Brite might help.

"I did not like the beer busts; I'm not overly fond of mixing with drunks." A thesis could be composed around this remark which I consider to be bigoted in the extreme. I was drunk neither at the beer bust nor at the dance. I was sober enough to observe, in fact, that there were numerous people who drank moderately and enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Learning to drink is, in my opinion, an important lesson to be learned in college. It is, after all, like it or not, an integral part of our American social life. Finally, I would like to make the point that the Welcome Week committee, headed very ably by one of the most diligent SGA workers on campus, Steve Coster, planned a variety of activities—some of which might have been infinitely more enjoyable for the person who made the above comment, the

Scavenger Hunt for example. Anyone who reviews the list of Welcome Week activities honestly and objectively will realize that a sincere effort was made to provide a well-rounded schedule of events which would appeal to a variety of social appetites; a movie, a tea, a beer bust, two different types of dances, and the Scavenger Hunt.

More could be said about the "perspective" of the mysterious Trii (I, too, would use a pseudonym); but let this suffice: those of us working on the social commission as well as the other commissions are working very hard to see that the students at UNC-A have as good a time as rewarding a college experience as he might have anywhere. Because of limited funds, this job is all the more difficult. It would help, however, if rather than reading a list of sneering criticisms in the paper, some of these people might offer their help and suggestions for improving our services. Negativism and cynicism without constructive criticism or alternative suggestions is a senseless and ridiculous waste of time and effort.

Jim Farnsworth

Jim—for the most part, your letter contains legitimate criticisms, which is the very reason we honor all letters to the editor. However, you were off base in one respect. It was my fault that you were lead astray.

To set the record straight, Trii merely compiled the comments of the article. I dispatched about four reporters to tap freshmen opinions on Welcome Week. Trii received a by-ling because she had to write up the comments which the others gathered. She was carrying out her assignment in the same respect that Coster carried out his, or that you carry out yours.

Finally if blame must be centered on any one person, and since I have the final voice on any thing that apperas in this paper, that person should be me.

the Editor

Dear Editor,

On reading the comments from the freshmen on "Welcome Week", I would like to express my opinion.

I, too, am a Freshman and I believe the upper-classmen went to a lot of trouble to make us feel Welcome. When-ever I saw a sign, I thought about the girls or boys that worked behind them. It made me feel good because I had not expected the upper-classmen to pay much attention to the Freshmen. The whole week was a lot of fun and I met a lot of other students because of the activities. The article seemed one-sided to me because I have heard many nice comments on "Welcome Week".

(Name withheld by request)

(see MAILBOX on pg. 4)

SAY IT AIN'T SO, DON BABY!

The turn out for the recent class officer elections was a farce. The blame must fall directly on the SGA and primarily on the president, Don Meyers.

Meyers' entire campaign last year was based on elimination of apathy. This was his first significant and probably most crucial test. He flunked out on the test. The basic promise Meyers made last spring in campaigning for the SGA presidential position was absolutely not carried out.

Of the 150 full time senior class members, only 51 voted. Of the 210 juniors, only 66 cast ballots; of the 460 freshmen, 241 showed up at the polls. Why?

There was simply no publicity on the elections by the SGA or any of its related agencies. One poster was up publicizing the event, and it was by an independent organization — Alpha Sigma Sigma.. People were turned away from the polls because they did not have their student identification, but where was the information telling them they had to have this data?

For our first two issues, this newspaper begged the SGA to release a story on class elections. But, each time, we got that old run-around from Meyers, "there is not significant data for a story." Obviously, there was. As a result of neglecting that

great god of publicity, 32 percent of the full time students voted.

Obviously Meyers and the SGA has worked hard, but it can not stop with dances, welcome week and good movies. The elections are more important.

In order to publicize the open forum on the calendar, Meyers and company flooded the campus with detailed posters. So what happened to class elections?

The class officers along with the three SGA officials compose the executive council. The constitution under which we presently operate implies that this council is the executive administrative branch of student government. The SGA president presides over the executive council. The council can over-rule anything the president does. The president is the leader, but the council is the force and power. The president represents the students, but the executive council has over-all control.

The importance of the class officers can not be stressed strongly enough. They are certainly more important than the forum on the calendar. However, notice WHICH was ignored and WHICH was publicized.

What happened?

L. R.