

Financial Aid Conflict Effects

UNC-A Students

"A conflict between Congress and the Nixon Administration may result in a long delay for students applying for financial assistance for next fall," states Jim Almon, Director of Financial Aid.

The conflict arises over which financial aid programs the government should support and how much money should go into each of the programs.

Last summer Congress made changes in some federal funded programs. The National Defense Student Loan is now called the National Direct Student Loan. The Educational Opportunity Grant Program is now called the Supplemental Educational Grant Program. Congress has also added a new program called the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant.

Congress voted to fund all four of the educational programs: National Direct Student Loan Program, Supplemental Educa-

tional Grant Program, College Work-Study Program, and the new Basic Educational Opportunity Grant, but the administration vetoed the bill.

The administration is in favor of funding only two of the programs, the College Work Study Program and the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant. Under this arrangement the Direct Student Loan Program would be handled by the Federal Reserve Banks, and not by the financial aid officers of the institutions.

"Discussion is underway now in Congress but it doesn't look like there is going to be any quick decision," states Almon. "The earliest date for a decision on the matter will probably be late this summer," he said.

Until this matter is settled the financial aid officers can make no financial awards to any students.

This situation creates a serious situation for students. They won't know if they are going to receive

aid until late this summer and just how aid they will receive. Students are left with the situation of not knowing whether or not to work this summer, and if so how much? and how much to save toward fall tuition?

"My advice to students applying for financial aid, said Almon, is for the student to go right ahead and apply. That way the student at least has the paper work out of the way."

"Secondly, I would suggest that students write their congressmen expressing their opinion on this issue. The best and most effect type of letter is the hand written personal letter."

The Office of Financial Aid will continue to keep the students informed by mail about their financial aid situation and the actions of Congress," Almon said.

The deadline to apply for financial aid is April 1. Applications are available in the Financial Aid Office.



Sylvia Ruiz captured live at the Coffee House.

Commuter Students Polled

A Commuter Student Union has been tried several times before, but has never gotten off the ground. Now there is a Commuter Students' Union (CSU) which was organized by Ed Sheary and Dennis Hannan.

The meetings are held each Wednesday afternoon in the Coffeehouse at 12:30. Of the commuter students only an average of fifteen have attended the meetings, but both Hannan and Sheary feel that interest will

pick up as the knowledge of the union grows.

A set of by-laws has been drawn up and submitted to the SGA Senate for conformation.

In the by-laws one or two seats in the SGA Senate would be

guaranteed to the commuters. The CSU would hold campus-wide elections in the spring, like the Interdorm Council. Offices of chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, treasurer, and the senator(s) would be elected.

The goal of CSU is to get the commuting students more involved in campus affairs.

A five question survey was taken to find out what the off-campus students want and what they are thinking. Sheary and Hannan directed the survey and 63 commuter students were polled.

The first question was "Do you attend any student activities, i.e. dances, concerts, movies, film society, etc.?" Forty-five of those polled replied "yes"; seventeen "no"; and one undecided. "Are you as well informed concerning campus activities as you would like to be?" In response to this question, 20 replied "yes"; 42 "no"; and 1 undecided.

The third question was "Do you feel that your interests as a commuter student are adequately represented through the Student Government Association?" 13 answered "yes"; 47, "no"; and 3 were "undecided".

"Would you like to see university facilities, such as the library and infirmary, open longer or at more convenient hours?" The responses to this were 56, "yes"; 6, "no"; and 1, "undecided."

Would you be willing to support a commuter students' interest oriented organization?" was the last question. Of those who were polled, 59 said "yes"; and 4 answered "no".

Individual Study Program

A committee of special coordinators has been formed by the Degree Programs Committee to assist students in designing a program of individualized courses.

The group of coordinators is composed of Dr. Cole, Dr. Sgan, Dr. Trullinger, Dr. Bruce, Dr. Stevens, and Mr. Kelley.

Dr. Howard Rosenblatt of Testing, Counseling, and Advising told the *Ridgerunner* that the function of the coordinators is to assist the student in developing an individualized program that best meets his needs.

Any student who is interested in designing an individualized program should contact Testing, Counseling, and Advising for a conference. After the initial conference is held the student will be assigned an advisor or special coordinator.

After conferences between the student and the coordinator, the individualized program will be designed and sent to the Degree Programs Committee for consideration. If the program of study is approved the student will work on a consulting basis with his coordinator.

Counselors are currently available for students to contact when planning an individualized course of study. Office hours through are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.



"Cream of the Crop," a regional eight piece band from Greensboro, North Carolina doing the "Top Forty" sounds of today will provide the music for the February 16, Valentine's Day Dance to be held in the Asheville City Auditorium. The dance is from 9:00 - 1:00 and admission is free for all UNC-A students.