

# the RIDGERUNNER

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ASHEVILLE

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## SENATORS FIGHT FOR REPRESENTATION

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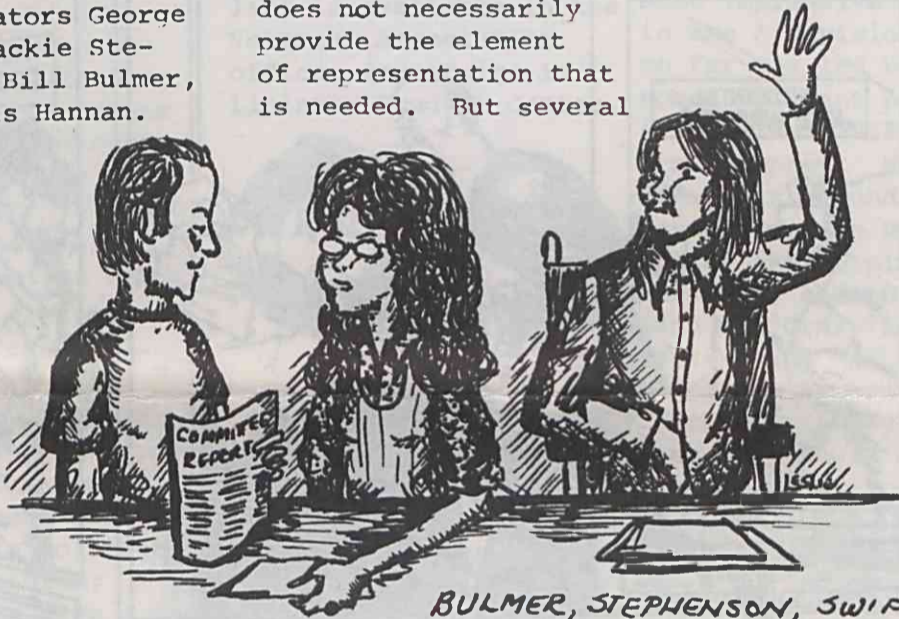
After reviewing the case concerning certain overdue bills concurred by WUNF, the Justice Commission suggested to the Senate that they should perhaps investigate certain loopholes in the student constitution. There is no bill in the constitution pertaining to bill enforcement.

Placed on the committee to investigate certain issues arising from the recommendation by the Justice Commission were Senators George Swift, Jackie Stephenson, Bill Bulmer, and Dennis Hannan.

in loss of vote on said issue; should an elected senator fail to do so twice, the senator shall lose his or her senate seat and an election by 50% of his constituency would be necessary to fill the vacated seat."

The committee suggested that this amendment would add the element of representation that is so lacking in the Senate now. It was the general consensus of the Senate that just being elected by students does not necessarily provide the element of representation that is needed. But several

Mr. Deason, along with Vice President David Ramseur, chair of the meetings, presented the argument that the senate is also an educational experience. Senator Swift replied that if an educational experience without actual representation of the students is all the senate really is, perhaps course credit should be given for the experience. David Ramseur stated that the Political Science department might be in a



BULMER, STEPHENSON, SWIFT:  
SENATE AD HOC  
COMMITTEE

The question arose during their deliberation that if their is no effective manner by which bills can be enforced at UNCA, does this not mean that the Student Senate is little more than dramatized legislation?

The committee produced a series of alternatives to the senators that would help add purpose to the senate. The most controversial of these seemed to be alternative 4, to amend article III of the constitution: "Each elected senator must poll 20% of his or her constituency on any issue involving \$200 or more. This poll must be presented to the senate in written form. Failure to do so shall result

senators argued that students are not informed enough on the issues at hand to make competent judgements. That the students are not informed is not entirely their fault, the other senators argued. This is also a function of the student senate.

The debate proceeded with Senators Swift, Stephenson, and Bulmer stating that if the senate was not willing to take the extra time to find out from the students themselves how they react to certain legislation, then of what use is the senate? The chancellor has the last say on all issues regardless, so the mere passing of legislation is all that really goes on each Monday night.

position to offer two hours for the work if additional books and papers were included. Senator Swift explained that his statement was made in sarcasm, to prove a point.

"I feel very strongly about it," Senator Stephenson stated in an interview. "It's taken me over a year to realize that people are being elected to play a game."

Students who are interested in making their views known and voiced on campus issues should weigh this issue carefully. Senators can be contacted either through the Student Government office, or by a message left in the Ridgerunner office.

## VETERANS' RECORDS MAY HAVE SECRET CODES

(CPS)--Veterans who have had an abnormal amount of trouble getting a job may have been the victims of a previously secret military discharge code.

That code will now be removed from a veteran's discharge papers at the veteran's request, though problems caused by the numbers are just beginning to surface.

From 1947 until July 1, 1974 the Department of Defense (DOD) secretly classified every person discharged from the military--whether under honorable conditions or not--with a three digit Separation Program Number. Among the SPN categories are bed-wetting, unsanitary habits, aberrant tendencies, pathological lying, low IQ,

inadequate personality and 14 different classifications for homosexuality. Terms like "resignation for the good of the service" leave the reader's imagination what the former soldier's undesirable characteristics are.

The codes were available to schools and corporations in screening applicants. Reporters found they could obtain copies of the code from the DOD public relations.

But veterans were and for the most part, still are left in the dark. More than 800,000 veterans have been branded with adverse SPN numbers. None were informed of the blot on their permanent record, most were not confronted with any formal charge.

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## AMENDMENT TO EDUCATION ACT OPENS STUDENT FILES

Under the terms of an amendment to the Education Act of 1965, sponsored by James Buckley of New York, college students now have access to confidential school files kept on them. This includes high school and college personal recommendations. The law, which goes into effect on Nov. 20, allows students 18 yrs. and older to have complete access to the files kept on them. For Students under 18, the same privilege goes to their parents.

Material included in such files may be: scores on standardized intelligence, aptitude, and achievement tests; Level of achievement; attendance; health data; investigation of family background; and verified reports of "serious or recurrent" behavior made by teachers or counselors.

Unless given written permission by the student, no third party, including federal

agencies, will have access to the files under the new law. Federal aid to a school may be lost if release of the file materials to third parties without permission occurs.

Those people authorized by the amendment to view files include educational administrators such as: "school officials and teachers who have legitimate educational interests;" the officials of a school to which a student is transferring (subject to student approval); and federal and state educators if the records are necessary to audit and evaluate federally supported education programs.

Federal funds to an institution can be lost if administrators fail to inform students of their rights concerning student records. An administrative office, set up through HEW, acts as a review board to investigate and settle complaints of violation.

Applications are now being accepted for the position of business manager and/or managing editor of the Ridgerunner for the Spring semester. For information, contact Leslie Deane, editor.

