



editorials

FINANCIAL AID, ANYONE?

There's a young lady on campus many of us know and all of us should. Her name is Mrs. Carolyn McElrath, Director of Financial Aid. For many, she is the reason an education is affordable.

Mrs. McElrath is originally from Asheville, and graduated from UNC-A in 1970. She joined the administration in 1971, and plans to resume work on the graduate level in January. She is studying "Two Year College Counseling" through Western, and, as she says, "only because a 'four year college counseling' program is not available.

Out of five hundred applicants, Mrs. McElrath succeeded in helping 276 receive an average of \$900.00 in aid. That's about 1/4 of a million dollars, total. The failures are due to a number of reasons, but the main problems are that students apply late, or leave out important information. "We have complaints. We do the best we can, but are hampered by federal regulation. Students don't understand that. We're required by law to check records, independence, we must ask questions I'd rather not ask."

These things take time. The students waiting for their refunds can testify to the fact, but the same laws which make the loans possible also require the time-consuming checks and double-checks. This time consumed has long-term advantages: while many schools have had trouble securing student loans from the Federal government, UNC-A has encountered no difficulty.

Work with Mrs. McElrath. She's a hard worker, and, if you do what she says, and fill out all the forms, you'll probably get some help. Filling out a few forms is worth \$900,000. As you'll find out, she's nice, but doesn't need to be. She helps give away a lot of money.

A.R.L.

SG TRIP A WASTE

It has recently been called to my attention that last week's excursion to Chapel Hill by several SG Officials might have been a complete waste of time and funds. On the surface it would appear that these NCASG (North Carolina Association of Student Government) Conventions are of some educational value or at least provide a medium for the presentation and solution of mutual difficulties. This is, however, not always the course of these meetings.

I interviewed four persons who attended (or conducted) various workshops. Bill Branham and Eddy Thomas attended a meeting of SG presidents and SG legislators respectively. According to Branham, he learned several new plans which he would "do my damndest to see implemented." He also stated that Senator McNeil Smith spoke on the need for a strong SG and the necessity for student governments to "pull away" from the influences of the administration. Thomas merely stated that he had learned many useful things.

One of the two persons with whom I spoke asked to remain anonymous. Elizabeth Smathers stated that her workshop, such as it was, was completely disrupted by a few other members of the UNC-A delegation who interrupted the speaker with useless contradictions and snide remarks. She also stated that the trip was, for the most part, a waste and that the only organized process was the rapid consumption of beer and wine.

Another person, inside the Student Government, stated that he learned only one thing: our Student Government is not a student government. Perhaps some of the SG officials will awaken when one of their own ranks begins to question their dubious actions, but I doubt it.

One of the most interesting facts which I learned from talking to these people is that some SG's in this state do not sponsor any social events. I am not, however, suggesting that our "student government" give up on financing our dances, beerbusts, etc. I just thought it might provide grounds for serious thinking about the Student Government and its purpose.

SWE

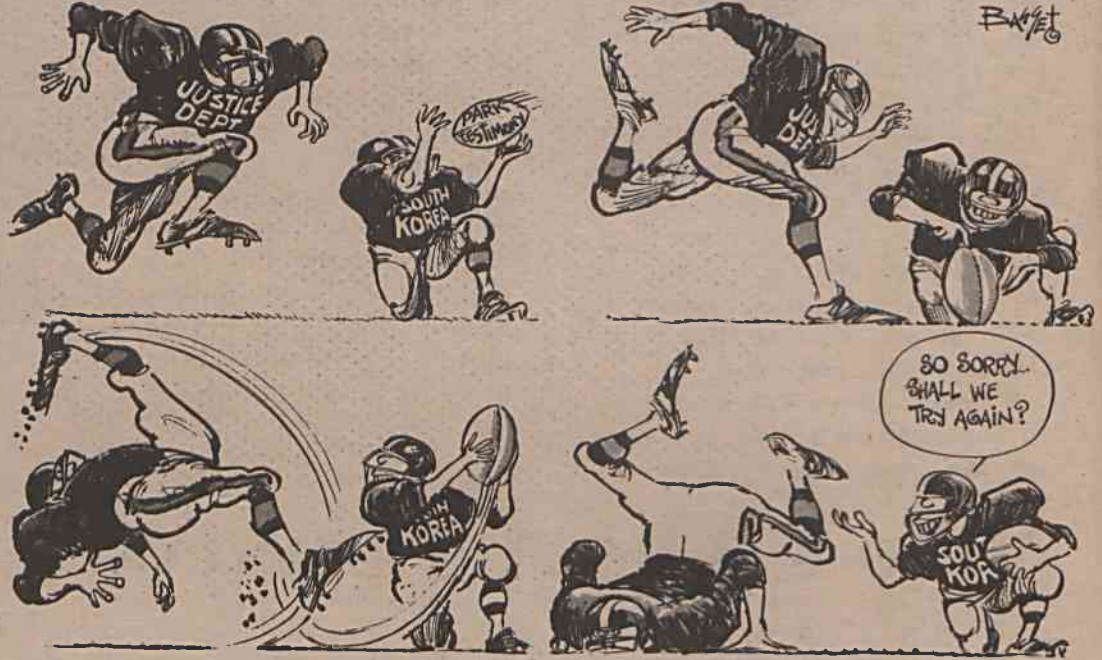


"I HAD TO GAG HIM ... HIS PROTESTS WERE DISTURBING THE PEACE"

the RIDGERUNNER

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Parking Ticket Against

U.S. Principles?

To:

The Editor
UNC-A's THE RIDGERUNNER
UNC-A
Asheville, NC 28804

From:

Mrs. Marilyn B. Powell, Student

In my letter to the Editor of September 15, 1977, I protested the \$5.00 parking fee issued to me, and then I went ahead and paid it because I would not have been allowed back in the University of North Carolina at Asheville without going into all of the legality of it.

The truth of the matter, students, faculty, and Administration of UNC-A, is that no one has considered the morality of the issue. So, therefore, in view of the fact that very few of the students at UNC-A are schooled in history, I would like to repeat Amendment No. 4 of the United States Constitution:

Searches and Seizures

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated; and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Based on the principle that a man's (or a woman's) home is his or her castle, Amendment 4 prohibits arbitrary search and seizure. This was a

check against hated British colonial practice—the issuing of "writs of assistance" authorizing officials to search persons and homes at any time for any reason. Under the provisions of the amendment, only unreasonable searches and seizures are prohibited. Thus, a law officer does not need a warrant for a search and seizure if he is a witness.

Unreasonable searches and seizures comprise two types:

1. Ones made without a warrant when a warrant is required.
2. Ones made that do not comply with the elements of warrant.

Having given you some historical reasons for my position, I reiterate that "the security guard who issued the parking ticket is, in this writer's opinion, still not qualified to be a member of UNC-A's police department "morally." But then it could be that I am too idealistic.

Philosophically,

Mrs. Marilyn B. Powell
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