

# around campus

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## CHANGES IN GRADING SYSTEM

Changes in the grading system and other related policies were discussed in a memorandum of August 16 from Laurence Dorr to the faculty, students and staff.

1. The former grading system is no longer in effect. The University has moved to a system of A, B, C, D, F.
2. Withdrawals will be recorded only as W (not WP or WF). The deadline here is crucial since late withdrawal will always be recorded as F.
3. Students are required to complete (pass) a certain number of semester hours each semester. This applies both to full-time and to part-time students.
4. New rules for suspension are cited on p.52.
5. No student will be admitted to any class after the last day of late registration.
6. It is the instructor's responsibility to make the effort to see that no student is allowed in class without a class admission card validated by both the Registrar's Office and the Business Office.
7. I intend that all administrators take seriously these policies developed by the faculty and request that individual faculty members assist the students in understanding them and in meeting the deadlines. It would help if all realized that we will be operating on the principle that exceptions to these policies will be very rare and only when the circumstances are not just plausible but compelling.



DR. WILLIAM HIGHSMITH

bigger is not always better

photograph and story by mark west

Dr. William Highsmith is a man with plans for his university. When asked if his plans included any large increases in the size of the university, however, Dr. Highsmith answered with typical candor.

"We're not out to see how big we can make this university. We're trying to see how good we can make it. It's a lot easier to make a school bigger than it is to make it better."

It would seem that Dr. Highsmith has been reasonably successful in his quest for improvement. At this point, UNC-A is led only by the three schools — UNC-Chapel Hill, UNC-Greensboro, and N.C. State — which offer graduate programs in the Scholastic Aptitude Test scores required for admission. For the past ten years, the National Teacher Examination scores of the teachers at UNC-A have ranked in a similar position — and in fact the gap between UNC-A and UNC-Greensboro is now only a few points. But Dr. Highsmith is not content with the good reputation of UNC-A. He says that by 1983 maximum enrollment at UNC-A will probably be little higher than 2,300 students, not drastically increased from the current 1,800. Since UNC-A is primarily an undergraduate institution, the size of the school can be kept down since there is no need for the vast hordes of undergraduates with the resultant revenue necessary to fund a graduate school. As far as money goes, UNC-A has one of the highest per student appropriation rates of any school in the state. It is, instead in the area of facilities where Dr. Highsmith has plans which will benefit both the school and the community.

Dr. Highsmith hopes that the new Art and Management building will be completed in the fall of 1979. Sometime during next year, appropriations will be made for a 100,000 square foot student center/dormitory building which will cost 5½ million dollars. This building, whose earliest date for completion is Fall of 1981, will contain housing for 300 students, a student activity and recreation center, extensive dining room facilities and a campus store.

The Lipinsky Student Center would, upon transferral of its occupants to the new student center, would become a continuing education center, a benefit to both the community and students. The Lipinsky building would be a center for conferences, classes, meetings and programs where adult educational planning and continuing education could be conducted. Some continuing specific programs Dr. Highsmith mentioned which would be carried out in the new center would be a continuing education program for, of and about women and a program for and about the aged, which could be of great value to the community. The building itself would be renovated considerably, the majority of it being transformed into office space and conference areas.

All the changes Dr. Highsmith hopes for would not occur on the actual university campus. There are plans for the transfer of both the Nation Climactic Center and the regional Forest Service Center to construct new buildings on the hill opposite the Botanical Garden. The forestry center would be the headquarters and the labs for the Forest Service in five southeastern states, and the meteorological center would house the records for the entire United States. This center would at the time of its completion probably employ over 500 people. The benefit for the University, however, comprises more than that. UNC-A could, in cooperation with the facilities, offer a joint degree in environmental study, just as it already offers a joint forestry program with N.C. State. Intern programs and faculty research opportunities would also open up. Students would also have access to a UNIVAC computer system as large as the Triangle Universities Computation Center system which is jointly operated by UNC-CH, Duke and N.C. State. Through cooperative programs, the possibilities for both the University and the community are almost endless.

UNC-A does not seem destined to ever rival the bigger state-supported schools in size. With men like Dr. William Highsmith in charge, it would seem nothing could prevent UNC-A from possessing the same high standards for quality education.

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## WEST SELECTED

On April 20, 1978, the UNC-A Publications Board selected Mark D. West as the 1978-1979 editor of the campus newspaper, the RIDGERUNNER. Mr. West is a junior, and has past experience with the RIDGERUNNER, holding in the past the positions of photographer, photo editor, layout editor and managing editor. He is a Literature major and has in the past been a broadcast journalism major at UNC-Chapel Hill and was editorialist for the Enka High School JETSTREAM. He also served on the news staff of WXYC-FM, a Chapel Hill radio station, and as a photographer for the DAILY TARHEEL.

West's plans for the RIDGERUNNER is to increase the credibility of the paper.

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