

UNC-A free press

voice of the concerned

Vol. 1, No. 1

Thursday, January 24, 1974

Asheville, N. C.

Administration worried by new paper

By Marti Cooksey

The last pre-publication meeting of the Free Press staff Wednesday afternoon in the Student Government offices was highlighted by the unexpected visit of Tom Deason, UNC-A dean of students, who arrived ten minutes late and, after figuring out what it was all about, proceeded to tell the staff that such a project was a virtual impossibility on the UNC-A campus.

"There is no way to do it," Deason told the flabbergasted group of student journalists, unless the Student Government can get approval from Chancellor William Highsmith to start the paper. "I'm not opposing you," Deason said, "I'm saying go about it right." Later in the di-

alogue he admitted that the chances of getting Highsmith's approval of such a student free press are "slim and none."

"At this university students have more freedom than any school in the South," Deason said. But under the University of North Carolina system, "the Student Government president comes under the jurisdiction of the dean of students," he said.

"On this university campus, you've got to get the Chancellor's approval before you do anything, technically," Deason declared. He also opined that any new paper on campus would be in competition with The Ridgerunner, the campus newspaper that hasn't published since before Christmas.

"There would be nothing wrong with a bulletin. That would be fine," he

said. But if the students start a new paper, "it has to have approval from the Administration," Deason continued. "If the Chancellor disapproves, then you're in trouble," he said.

The dean went on to say he felt The Ridgerunner was "the Free Press of UNC-A." Students present disagreed with him, and a heated one-hour argument ensued.

"This would appear to be a competitive situation," Deason said. "He (the Chancellor) will call it an underground newspaper. If it is not approved, then he is going to kill it. I know he will do it," he said.

"The university has worked very hard to have an autonomous newspaper," Deason declared. "I know how the chancellor feels about this. You are only

going to have one newspaper on the campus."

Meanwhile, the student senate in a called meeting Wednesday night unanimously voted to fund the new paper with a \$250 appropriation after hearing Wright describe the paper's goals. About 15 students were present at the meeting to support the Free Press, and urge the senate to give it legislative support.

A motion to seek off-campus funding for the paper in the event Highsmith kills the idea was tabled until the next meeting.

General sentiment among the Free Press staff and around Student Government, sponsor of the paper, was that publication should go forward as planned, pending application with the Chancellor for approval as a bona fide University publication.

Is the catalog wrong?

By Pam Thompson

"... an open, vital atmosphere where ideas can clash freely, where learning is respected, and where the pursuit of knowledge and truth is a joint student-faculty endeavor."

This statement of the objectives of UNC-A can be found in the 1973-74 catalog, but a look around campus is enough to make one feel that students face problems and seek goals confronted by other campuses ten years ago.

A major example of this can be cited in the criteria used by Dr. Roy Riggs, vice chancellor of academic affairs, to evaluate an assistant professor whose contract is coming up for renewal in June. The professor's identity will not be disclosed here, for apparent reasons.

The statement from the

catalog leads a prospective student to believe that individuality is sought and respected on campus. If this is true, then the assumption can be made that professors and students who do not conform to the status quo are accepted if not encouraged here.

Perhaps a few quotations from the January 27, 1972 evaluation of the professor will illustrate my point:

"Were it not for his head band, he would not be particularly controversial; some of his colleagues wear hair just as long and dress just as sloppily...."

"Had he appeared the first time wearing his head band, I doubt very much that he would have been employed," Riggs wrote.

Remarks such as these from the administration

make one seriously doubt their sincerity in relation to stated goals. How can there be an atmosphere where ideas clash freely when at the same time a professor's contract renewal is being questioned because of his dress?

The vice chancellor clearly shows that individuality is not only discouraged, but that the process of hiring faculty members largely depends on conformity in ideas and dress.

What can students do if they are concerned about the hiring and firing process? In the case mentioned here, they wrote letters to Dr. Riggs supporting the professor's renewal but the results were unfavorable rather than beneficial to the professor's position.

Recently a special com-

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Mandatory food program hit

By David Ramseur

Well aware of strong student sentiment against it, the administration recently announced plans for a mandatory food service for dorm students next year. Ironically, two days before this announcement, the administration received the results of a poll showing dorm students opposing a mandatory service by 95 to 3.

When confronted with the apparent lack of attention being paid to student feelings at the recent Campus Forum meeting, the administration strongly defended their plan. Despite student opposition to the plan, the administration seemed to feel it was the best

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