

Columns *Student Govt.*

Kim Henley Discusses S.G.A. Situation

By Safari Mathenge
Staff Writer

Kim Henley, President of SGA, talks about her experience with the SGA here at I.C.

Q: Where are you planning to transfer to after Louisburg? Do you plan to participate in the Student Government of that college?

A: I plan to transfer to UNC-CH, where I've been accepted into the School of Journalism. I'm sure I'll serve on some SGA committees at UNC, but I don't plan to run for any office - at least not during my first year there. I think I'd enjoy working on their Entertainment Committee. UNC is a member of NECAA, as is Louisburg College, and I think I'd probably have a better understanding of that committee than any other initially.

Q: From experience, what suggestions would you offer to the future SGA presidents that they take as efficient measures to better student life on campus?

A: I would suggest that future SGA Presidents, officers, and senators evaluate their budgets annually after first semester to determine whether or not these budgets are sufficient. If not, there's still a semester left to do something about it - to begin improvements for the next year. This measure would help subsequent SGA's drastically. I would also recommend the SGA presidents stress to students the importance of being as conscientious as possible in selecting their dorm senators. The responsibility of the senators includes meeting with their dorms and discussing activities the students would like to have on campus. If responsible senators are not elected, the voices of the majority of the students are not heard. I think that a giant step toward encouraging student involvement lies there.

Q: In your opinion, do you think that SGA has done enough to activate students life on campus? If not, what reason could you attribute this to?

A: What is "enough"? I know that we've tried to improve student life and we've tried to get students to participate in campus events. We've shown eight movies this year - *Woodstock*, *One on One*, and *A Dog Day Afternoon* this semester. We've had numerous dances, mostly discos, and The Andrew Lewis Band for Winter Weekend. The band was good, as anyone there will tell you, but not many students stayed to hear it. We have Spring Weekend scheduled for April 27 and 28 and we've booked the Putnam County Pickers and the Knoxville Grass Band. April 29, *A Piece of the Action* will be shown.

I don't think participation in the events has been great, but I know there hasn't been a decrease in participation. We've tried to have more events but they were cancelled due to a lack of participation. Apathy is a problem on every campus in this nation. I receive correspondence from colleges across the country, including large universities, and they have the same problems that we have. We're all asking "why" regarding apathy, but I don't think there are any easy answers.

Q: In your current office this year as the chairman for SGA, did you encounter any financial handicaps that may have limited your activities as a government?

A: I think it's unrealistic to expect the SGA to plan a year's worth of activities on a budget of ten dollars per person. When the new auditorium is built, probably within the next four years, maybe some of the financial pressures of the SGA will be diminished. The SGA could open its events to the public and charge admission if the campus had a building large enough. I recognize the problems this could create, but I feel something could be worked out. SGA's at large universities stretch their budgets by doing this.

Q: Do you feel that you have learned a lot in the way of leadership from being the president of SGA?

A: I've definitely learned a great deal about leadership this year. The most valuable experiences I've acquired have probably been through my mistakes, but I've acquired those experiences in honesty and sincerity. It's difficult to sum up a year of personal insights in a few words, but I think the most important aspect of leadership, and undoubtedly the most difficult, lies in consistency. It's not always easy to keep a pace you set for yourself.

Q: Does the administration normally have their way regardless of what your government suggests?

A: The administration has been great to work with, and in all honesty, they've been easier to work with than the students because I've known they were dependable. (There have been only a handful of students I've known I could rely on, even when "the going got tough", and I imagine they felt like running the other way each time they saw me coming). Every request the SGA officers have taken to the administration has been approved. The administration has been reasonable and helpful. Because they've been willing to work with us, we'll have lights on our intramural field this summer, and we've got a good start on lights for the tennis courts. I'm sure they'll work with future SGA's as

Students View Of S.G.A.

Many SGA officials feel that they do not get enough response from the student body they are serving. As a result, the SGA functions have very little effect in the students affairs on campus. The students, however, feel that the SGA does not come up with functions and events that are interesting enough to attract or involve the student body.

The following are comments made by some students that we're interviewed:

Q: What is your feelings towards the SGA? In your opinion, do you feel that it has done the best it could to make life on campus lively and a worthwhile experience?

Steve Baker, Franklin Dorm Council member and last year's SGA senator, had this to say:

"I think SGA has done quite a bit, with what they've got to work with, but not as much as they could do. I guess that's because students do not take it seriously enough".

Q: What do you think is the reason for the lack of student involvement?

Baker: "Some of the reason is that students believe that the administration will always have things their way, regardless of the SGA. In other words, many students feel that the Student Government does not do much of anything".

Q: What would you suggest to SGA that might help them to attract student involvement in their activities?

Baker: "I don't know, but an increase of student representatives would help. I mean, people who would represent the different behavior sectors found within the student body. And I also think visitation needs to be made more liberal than it is now. If the Student Government did things that are more noticeable, like to organize softball tournaments or other recognizable activities, students would become more responsive".

Baker is transferring to East Carolina next semester. He feels that he has learned a lot from Louisburg College.

When asked his opinion of the SGA, Craig Hart was almost vehement. He replied:

"I don't know who SGA is. See, Louisburg College bureaucracy is worse than that of the United States Government".

Kevin Dixon appeared to be searching his brain when he was asked to comment on SGA.

"All they have done is throw a couple of discos, but that is no big deal. If they had bands that would suit different ethnic groups or if they organized festivals that could raise money, that would really be doing something".

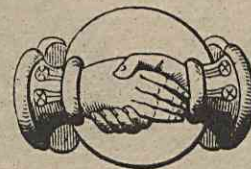
Kevin referred to the Folk Festival held several weeks ago. He said that festivals which interest other ethnic groups should be held next, because that could accelerate participation.

"The SGA tried to do something this year, but there is still a lot they could do. They need to bring happenings here so that we can enliven the college life by attracting outsiders to come here, especially during weekends. Weekends are so dead here. Lord have mercy!!" The Monk (Kevin Dixon) exclaimed in a desperate tone.

Mark Strickler said: "I think they have done a decent job, but they need to work with the administration so that the faculty can be more lenient with students".

Steve Johnson: "I don't know much about the SGA; I guess they are doing an alright job. I don't see much of what they do".

Shirley Witt: "Like most students here, I really don't know a lot about the SGA. I feel that if the SGA was given more publicity more people would be interested in becoming involved in its activities".



well as they've worked with us.

Q: Having been involved with most students, do you have anyone in mind that you see fit to take up your office after you?

A: I'll have to admit that I've kept my eye on two people all year, one male and one female, whom I thought would make great SGA presidents. I know that one of these people definitely does not plan to run for office, but I haven't given up on the other one.

I'd like to thank the people who put me in office with their votes of confidence, and I wish everyone a

pleasant summer. I'm going to miss the people who have grown to be such an integral part of my life these past two years, and I have high hopes for my fellow classmates! Special thanks to Alice Royal, Polly Lind, Angela Williams, Cindy Cobb, Gerri Dewey, and Ed Voigt...for too many things to begin to name!!