

Editorial

Ben Pearson
Editor

Jerry Falls
Asst. Editor

The old adage that rules were made to be broken is apparently true--especially here at Gaston College. It has become evident that simple regulations, such as the parking rules, are not designed to apply to the superior intellect found here at Gaston College. This can easily be attested to by a short walk through the faculty parking area. It seems that many students here feel that they are socially and mentally equal to our teaching staff and are thereby entitled to park alongside them.

Also we have the student that feels that he is not doing anything worthwhile here so in making his daily visits here he parks in the visitors parking area (apparently we have a professor in this category too). A little further investigation reveals that we have professors that are not satisfied with the way the college is being run, so, they park in the administrations parking area.

And we have a few professors that feel that they are still involved in the learning process so they park in the students parking area. In contrast we at Gaston are fortunate to have as fellow students young men and women that are physically handicapped but have the desire and courage to continue their college education--but--unfortunately we have the mentally handicapped students and professors who feel that the reserved handicapped area is designed for them.

What on earth happened? For years "The Gas Light" has provided space for students to voice their opinions on any subject under the sun, from sex to subject matter, from opinions to accusations, from compliments to brickbats. And what happens? We get one or two minuscule epistles concerning apathy, students' lack of rights to smoke in the library, and the cost of hamburgers at the Slop Shop.

THEN, from out of nowhere--no reference to students' minds intended--we get letters; we get stacks and stacks of letters. We have heard from students who are mad as hell because they had to pay parking tickets while others didn't; we heard from griping characters who don't like course offerings; we learned that some professors insult their students' intelligence by not showing up for classes, and on the other hand we learned that some professors indeed do show up for classes and then have the audacity to expect the students to have read the assignment and to be ready for a semi-intelligent discussion of same.

Where are all the letters? Some of them are printed elsewhere in "The Gas Light." Others were not printed because there simply wasn't enough space on the editorial page. A few were not pictured because they did not coincide with this paper's editorial policy.

The ones that failed to meet our requirements were not signed. We of "The Gas Light" feel that anyone who has something to say should be allowed to say it; but on the other hand we feel, perhaps more strongly, that anyone who wants to launch an uncomplimentary attack on any member of the college family (if the term "family" is still acceptable) should have the courage to sign his name to the letter. So if you still want to be heard, let us hear from you, and let us know whom we have heard from.

And while we are on the subject, what happened to the ones we did not hear from? We're in a position to see results from your letters, particularly with the news from Dr. Sugg that he would welcome an opportunity to sit down with students and have a friendly chat about the college's problems. "The Gas Light" feels that Dr. Sugg is offering an opportunity that many of the students here should take advantage of and that many more could benefit from. So let us hear!

We don't suggest that everyone launch a hate campaign. Nor do we suggest that everyone with a gripe try to air it for purely personal reasons. We do feel, however, that so much good can come of this if there is enough strong

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Letters To The Editor

To the Editor:

At the risk of sounding old-fashioned, I am a believer that one's personal hygiene, nutrition, and recreation have their places more properly outside the classroom.

I don't particularly mind having to sit beside someone who eats his lunch of morning sandwich in a history class; nor do I find it more than slightly annoying to have to endure a lecture accompanied by some student's nail-clipping. Of course, it's probably a matter of time until he progresses from his fingernails to his toenails, and perhaps from there to brushing his teeth in class.

But I don't mind this nearly as much as I mind the most inconsiderate and impolite practice of smoking in an enclosed room. You see, I also eat sandwiches, and I also clip my nails. But I do not smoke! At least, I didn't smoke until I decided to learn a little psychology. Now I have no choice.

At first it was only the instructor who had a nicotine fit every fifteen minutes, but it was only a matter of time until several other members of the class followed suit. Now, if I get lung cancer, it will be the result of my second-hand smoking. Recently one student even lit a cigar in class and succeeded in nearly asphyxiating the remainder of the students.

But we non-smokers have a choice: we can drop out of the class; we can carry a large bottle of Dristan to combat the foulness of the smoke in sinus cavities; we can smoke along with the others; or we can risk pneumonia by sitting near an open window.

Still, one nagging question persists: why should I drop the class? Or why must I eat Dristan so that others may enjoy the pleasure of a cigarette while others suffer the annoyance? Or why must I freeze just because some students cannot wait fifty minutes between Salems?

It is my understanding that Gaston College policy prohibits the eating of food or smoking of cigarettes or cigars in any classroom while classes are in progress. It is also my opinion that anyone who can't possibly wait until the end of the class is in need of more than a smoke can provide. Maybe he needs a psychiatrist instead of a psychologist.

A very cold, very irritated student.

Dear Editor:

What is the policy concerning grades at Gaston College? Last quarter I had approximately the same grades in all classes but the grades I received varied because of the different grading system used by each instructor.

Why do some instructors use 93-100 for an A etc., and others use 90-100 for an A? This is not fair to the student for it doesn't let him know his real capabilities in each class unless the professor's grade on the same scale. I am not saying what the grading system should be but I believe very strongly that Gaston College should have a standard grading system set up by a board of faculty, administrators, and students so that all grades will be the same.

Sincerely Yours,
Jerry Lee Thomas

Dear Editor:

Am I wrong, has the regulation been changed, or is it still a policy at Gaston College that no eating or smoking is permitted in classrooms? I enrolled in class and walked in the first day and found

that by feeling my way carefully through the smoke fog that I could find an empty desk.

During the class the instructor smoked, chewed, dipped, and did everything but shoot smoke into his veins. All very, very sophisticated. I didn't mind that he had to break every sentence into three unrelated fragments while he stopped to relight, puff, or exhale, I didn't even mind when students took the cue and decided to imitate Big Brother. I started to mind when the girl behind me, who apparently dislikes smoking, opened the window and the wind started whistling across the room and little snowflakes started accumulating on my desk.

I minded a little more when I got up to leave, twelve butts later, and found that I had trouble leaving the room. Not that the lecture was so interesting--I couldn't hear much of it because of the coughing fits through the area. Not that he was good-looking--I couldn't see through the smog. The reason I couldn't leave was that the last occupant of the desk--or a near neighbor--had accidentally left part of his peanut butter sandwich in the seat and it and I were now inseparable friends.

It seems that I, like many other students, am doomed to die, either of lung cancer or high cholesterol--intravenously taken.

Irene Schauer

Dear Editor:

I must really be a fool! I never thought so until recently, but now I am convinced.

What I did was unheard of; I paid a parking ticket. I also come to school and park in sections reserved for students. But I see students parking in the visitors lot, in the faculty area, and in the handicapped spaces. And once in a while I see someone putting a ticket on the cars that are parked illegally. But when I went to pay my ticket I saw a stack of unpaid tickets about eight inches thick. Some of these dated back to the beginning of the year. The school year, that is, not January 1.

If we have parking regulations, why not enforce them? If we give tickets, why not see that the tickets are paid? If students don't pay, why not encourage them to do so by dropping them from classes, by refusing to permit them to take exams, or by withholding their grades or transcripts?

Dock Ayres

Dear Editor,

How should the students at Gaston go about protecting the valuables in their automobiles? Should each of us buy a German Shepard to leave in the car while attending class; or maybe hire our own security guard to watch over our valuables for us. Many of us have lost tapes, tape-players and other costly items in broad daylight. Can no protection be offered by the college itself. Can a security officer not be hired to just look over the lot ever so often. It would seem that some solution could be found if only we could get someone to start looking.

Sincerely Yours,
Elaine Bowen

Building Named

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RESOLVED, That the Members of the Board of Trustees of Gaston College do pay fitting and deserved tribute to C. Grier Beam by declaring from this time and henceforth the Administration Building of Gaston College shall be named the C. GRIER BEAM ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

Evening Note

Do you ever need change in the evening? See Fred McArver in the Bookstore in the Classroom Building before 8:00 p.m. Also, if a vending machine malfunctions you can get a refund by informing Fred.

The Evening Discussion Group met December 16. This informal group meets periodically to discuss national events and happenings which are of interest. Students who were in attendance included Tom Kasler of Dallas, John Adams, Steve Ferguson, Bealer Caudill, and Max Huggins all of Stanley, and Gary Queen of Gastonia. All students are cordially invited to attend this group to discuss pertinent issues and make new acquaintances.

Temporary drive way reflectors to help evening students locate the Gaston College entrance roads from Highway-321 were recently installed. It is hoped that something permanent can be erected after the widening of Highway-321 takes place.

The evening staff asked several students if there were any additional classes or courses they would like to see taught at Gaston College in the evening. Their answers follow below.

Mr. Jerry Elmore of 1131 South Aspen Street, Lincolnton, "I would like courses in advanced math, Physics, and Chemistry."

Mr. Tim Franks of 307 West 2nd Ave., Gastonia, also stated that he would like to see advanced math classes offered.

Mr. Marvin Pennington of Route #4, Box 184, Gastonia, "I would like to see a course offered in Sheet Metal work."

EDITORS NOTE - There is a possibility such a course will be taught after the new vocational building is completed if there is sufficient demand. Contact Mr. Jimmie Babb in the Vocational Division if you are interested.

Mr. Jim Crow of Route #1, Stanley, N.C. Mr. Crow would like to see a course offered in Carpet and Tile Installation.

Mr. Ralph Cline of 1141 N. New Hope Rd., Gastonia, N.C. "I would like a course in geography."

EDITORS NOTE - Geography 205, Conservation of Natural Resources, will be taught in the Spring Quarter. The course will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. and will be a three credit hour course.

Mr. Fred McArver of 1529 New Hope Rd., Gastonia, "I would like to see a course offered in Speed Reading."

Mr. Bill Holland of 915 Union Terrace, Gastonia, stated that he would like to enroll in a course in Aircraft Mechanics."

Mr. Spencer Basinger of Route #1, Box 142, Bessemer City, "I would like a scuba-diving class."

EDITORS NOTE - A scuba-diving class has been offered in the past in conjunction with the Y.M.C.A. to explore the possibility of a class in the spring contact Mr. Pete Brooks in the Adult Education division of Gaston College.

An anonymous poet has written a short congratulatory verse to honor James Clemmer of Stanley for being named to the Dean's List for the fall quarter. The verse follows below.

"The moon shines bright high over head while reflecting brightly over Clemmer's bald head."

EDITORS NOTE - One can see why the poet remained anonymous.

The next evening social will take place in the library on Wednesday, February 10 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Everyone is invited to join in the fellowship and treats.

The class schedules for the Spring Quarter should be available to students by February 1, 1971.