

The

Gaslight



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Gaston Continues To Grow

Perhaps you've noticed all the changes to Gaston College as you have walked its footpaths, but in case you haven't, let me fill you in on just a few.

First of all, the entire organization — including office locations — has been restructured in order to make it more efficient for the students. Now you can take care of most problems in one convenient location.

Secondly, Gaston College is again getting the much-needed support from the local businesses that was lacking in the past few years. One major example of that support is the new diesel building going up in the automotive area.

Many other changes are not quite as noticeable at first. Changes like the greener grass now giving the college a more beautiful appearance. And the new lights, trash cans and tree beds in the foyer area near Myers Center.

You might not have noticed the increase in productions being held at Gaston College's Myers Center also. Including performances from the Gastonia Little Theater.

All this could not have been possible without the ongoing efforts and tremendous legwork of President Wayne Scott. If you haven't seen him on campus as much as you thought you should, now you know why.

There are also a lot of little nagging problems that will get a good working over as we go into the New Year. In our last issue I mentioned one of them — the clocks — and served in helping me get an invitation to talk with the president. I was able to talk with him about most of the problems that had been mentioned to me or that I had become aware of in the time I have been on campus. Here's what I found out...

First of all, as I pointed out in my article, the clocks were an inherited problem. Even so, the fact that they're still not working is a major concern of the President. After all, the public might judge our ability to teach technicians because we can't even keep our own clocks working.

By David P. Simpson
Gaslight Editor

The company that originally installed the clocks was called in to repair them. They ran for awhile after that, but then true to tradition, they stopped again. The next step was to try to straight wire the clocks, but that didn't work because of the type clock installed. They even tried to use \$22 clocks to replace some of the clocks. Twenty-five of these clocks were installed and then the money ran out.

Leonard Armstrong, a technical professor at Gaston is presently trying to fix the old system. If he can fix it the new clocks will have to come down because they are breaking what is supposed to be a closed circuit. However, if the system can not be repaired, as the money comes in, we'll just keep putting up the new \$22 clocks until they're all replaced. Either way, telling time will not be a problem for anyone on campus — with the exception of the preschoolers.

Heat in the classrooms was another irritation we discussed. At times you will cook like an oven in some classes while in others you're numb with a cold chill. President Scott said that the excuses he has been getting are hard for him to accept also.

The new Art Building had a problem in that the wires were installed crossed. That has now been corrected. The problem in Myers Center Auditorium has also been corrected. The problem in the classrooms has not — but it is being worked on.

Perhaps you have seen the maintenance staff cleaning the vents. Well, they will also be adjusting the vents in an attempt to balance the heat in each of the classrooms. The major problem still seems to be the fact that we have a faulty system and possible faulty heat adjusters in our maintenance department.

I also discussed getting competitive sports on campus, and found out the President already had given that a lot of thought. He suggested that we get tennis and/or golf started here at Gaston. President Scott strongly advocated these two, and perhaps soccer.

A conference has been established in the community college system and we could participate. They want you to play three sports. This is why the President suggested tennis, golf and soccer. Plus the financial cost of these three sports would not drain the student funds. And after all, it is their decision in the end. However, the President did feel we would get a lot of support from the community.

We will be getting an automatic door installed in the Myers Center cafeteria area for those students who now have trouble getting through the doors. Who says our "AHA" isn't alive and well on campus. The funds are already allocated for one door and if it operates properly, then we will install others as the money dictates. Each door costs approximately \$1,800.

And just so many other things are being taken care of. A program has been started to replace all campus signs. Soon when you come out of the parking lot, a sign will be placed there to show you where you are on campus. Also directional signs in all buildings will soon be replaced. You will also be able to see the many trophies the college has won as soon as the trophy case is completed.

So you can see that a lot has been done already and a lot is still being done. However, the problem-solving has not been without problems itself. The state just recently cut our budget by six percent which is \$269,000 less to work with than what we started with this year.

So if you don't see a lot of our President on campus, you can be assured that he's just out doing a little roadwork so that your stay here at Gaston will not only be a little more pleasant, but a lot more educational as well.