

Dear Editor:

Editorials

Opera House Theatre

Possible loss of the Opera House Theatre, a product of the creativity and perspiration of the total college family, is disheartening news. Many members of the college community feel that this is an unfair move. Belief in creative involvement is commendable but we must consider the facts. As is invariably true this situation is not as simple as some think.

judging motives

Even though one agrees that the destruction of the building is tragic, an effort must be ascertained all the facts before judging motives. Wherever there are divided parties motives are difficult to determine. When motives are unknown usually the human reaction is to assume what we wish about the driving force of the other man.

positive approach

More often than not the result of the above process is the spreading of rumor not fact. This is especially true when emotion is a factor. A more positive approach is to move, as some have done, through a rational representative framework such as the petition or the letter. But, however, this should not be undertaken with the attitude that one's own desires must be the final outcome or else.

alternative routes

All possible alternative routes of action should be investigated. Above all, positive approaches should be taken. These approaches should seek to keep any traits which are worthy of defense even in the event of what one considers the worst possibility becoming a reality.

speak your mind

In this situation the creativity and effort of the drama department and others who have been involved must be seen as possible of salvaging and able to endure. We regret that the Opera House Theatre may be destroyed and support construction of other alternatives. However, we hope that motive judgments will be postponed until all the facts are in the open.

We invite you to take the opportunity to speak your mind in this matter after weighing the facts which are presented in the news articles of this issue.

W. J. C.

Petitions Effective

Selection of the 1970-71 Homecoming Queen demonstrated the feasibility of the petition as a means of determining nominations for this and other student selected positions.

In the Homecoming Queen selection process a requirement of 35 signatures per petition was set and a deadline was set after which late petitions would not be considered. Response to this petition approach by the student body was very positive and indicates that this might merit investigation as a means of selecting future candidates.

Mr. Tom Poston released the results of the petitions for Homecoming Queen to the Pilot to be published. He favors consideration of this process for future nominations with the student activities committee acting as a screening board.

Sixteen petitions were circulated, four of which were submitted after the deadline and could not be considered. There was a total of 595 signatures on the various petitions which is quite a significant response.

Perhaps use of the petition method and other representative processes would lessen the feeling that there is a lack of representation of the student body in student affairs.

SBI's Epps On Drugs

Roy Epps of the State Bureau of Investigation presented some very enlightening views about the use and abuse of drugs as he addressed the student body in chapel on October 20. As a special agent for the SBI working with drug abuse he has seen the tragic side of drug addiction.

According to Mr. Epps we live in a drug oriented society as is evidenced by the display of drugs through such media as television advertising. One fact presented which is often overlooked due to the prominence of the more recent and glamorous drugs is the position of alcohol as the most abused drug in the nation.

Linking illegal use of drugs to motivations Mr. Epps gave several reasons why the young people are more susceptible to taking pleasure or escape from reality. Others begin through curiosity but soon develop an emotional dependence. He expressed an understanding of these motivations as a result of the development of young people within the context of a materialistic, pleasure-seeking society.

Serum Hepatitis was mentioned as increasing by-product of addiction. Unwanted pregnancy due to relaxed moral inhibitions while under the influence of drugs was given as another side effect. Of course, crime due to the psychological effects of drugs was also given as an undesirable result of drug abuse.

According to Mr. Epps a great deal of drug abuse is due to an inadequate preparation of the individual for possible setbacks or failures in life. Success usually first experiences failure and if we have taken this into account then Mr. Epps feels that we are less likely to be hurt or destroyed by failure.

As a concerned student at Gardner-Webb, I feel that it is my responsibility to express my opinion on the subject of the Opera House Theatre. I am led to believe that the Board of Trustees' voting on the tearing down of this building to erect a chapel was a mistake. After much consideration, the following paragraphs reveal my feelings.

I am glad that the Board of Trustees are concerned about the campus development at Gardner-Webb. My criticism of the board lies in the fact that they are going to destroy an important part of student life on this campus just to construct a nicer building which happens to be in the form of a chapel.

The Opera House Theatre is unique in several ways. A good portion of Gardner-Webb's students put their time and energy into its beautification. It represents the old Shakespearean atmosphere and resembles the Globe Theatre. It provides the

most outstanding expression of the art form on campus. And most of all, it was constructed not only for students but for the surrounding public. Where can you receive live entertainment of this nature in the Shelby, Boiling Springs area?

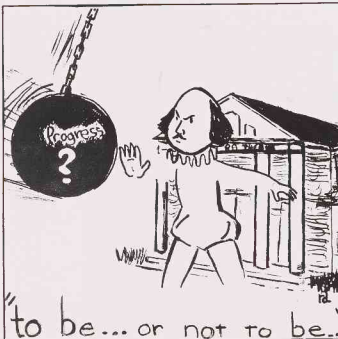
The purpose of Gardner-Webb College was expressed in the establishing of the Opera House. The students worked hard; they united their efforts and talents. They were constructive instead of destructive which is rare on today's campuses.

If the Drama Department is moved more friction between groups using the new facilities will be the result, I am afraid. This most certainly is not needed nor will it be welcomed. I admire Gardner-Webb, but I discontinue will increase if the student's giving of themselves to the building, and such a structure as the Opera House Theatre is disregarded in

decision making. This type of action will hamper school spirit, and this is not needed either.

I suggest that the Board of Trustees reconsider their vote on this matter. I am certain that they would not decide to tear down any other building on campus. I do feel strongly on the subject of letting those persons such as Mr. Robert Jones and Mr. Terry Hayes, who have put years of time and drama department, have the opportunity to voice their opinion before any decisions are made. Also, would it not be more simple if repairs were made on the Theatre and a new chapel be built in a more suitable location, which would save the whole student body? It appears to me that our educational purpose and future progress will be impaired if the Opera House Theatre is torn down.

PATSY BUMGARDNER



Students Comment On Opera House Dispute

Ever since word leaked out about plans to tear down the Opera House Theatre, there has been an atmosphere of disapproval among the students. Many students have expressed their concern that the fruit of their labor may be destroyed. The student body seems angry, sad, disbelieving, and apprehensive of this action. Here are the comments of several students concerning the destruction of the Opera House Theatre.

PATRICIA BRAZILE

"The Opera House is a forwarding of the arts and this school needs cultural outlets and activities. The students built it, and it is theirs."

CHARLES DORSETT

"Students have put too much work into it for it simply to be torn down. That theater is the students themselves."

KAREN MAYNOR

"I heard about Gardner-Webb because of the publicity about the theater. It's ridiculous to tear it down after all the hard work those kids have put in. Tearing down the theater is like tearing all those kids' lives down."

JOE SOUTHWARDS

"The Drama Department deserves the Opera House as its home, because they built it."

ELLA HAINSON

"The gym is good enough for chapel, if that's what they are building the new building for. If they tear down the Opera House, they will be sending the Drama Department backwards."

JIM ESTES

"There is an intimacy between the audience and the actors at the Opera House that I don't find in most theaters. This rapport might be lost if a newer or more modern building was constructed."

The Opera House serves as a landmark to all students of what can be done through cooperation and team spirit. For some, tearing down the Opera House Theatre will not only destroy a landmark, but will also end some dreams. The general opinion might be summed up in a final comment by one of the students. When asked what he thought about the idea, Lawton Neely said, "Well, I won't lend them my crowbar!"

Scope

THE MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT is a new, free monthly newspaper about the environment for students.

Published and edited by SCOPE: MID-ATLANTIC, the Student Council on Pollution and the Environment represents students in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, and the District of Columbia.

CHOLY ACCIDENT is an effort to give visibility to the views of students active in environmental and ecological movements.

Free subscriptions to THE MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT for this school year may be obtained by sending your name and address to: SCOPE, c/o The Melancholy Accident, P. O. Box 5593, Charlottesville, Virginia 22904. An issue will be published on the 15th of each month in May, June, and July.

The paper is one of a number of media used by SCOPE MID-ATLANTIC to inform students about environmental issues in this area and to solicit their views on those issues.

"To make a railroad round the world available to all mankind is equivalent to granting the world a gift which is superior to any other. It has an indistinct notion that if they keep up this activity of joint stocks and spades long enough, all will at length ride some train in next to no time, and for nothing; though a considerable number of the passengers are rushing to the depot, and the conductor shouts 'All aboard' when the smoke is blown away and the vapor condensed, it will be perceived that a few are riding but the rest are run over, and it will be called, and will be 'A Melancholy Accident'."

WALDEN or LIFE IN THE WOODS by Henry D. Thoreau

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