

## From The Fish Tank



R. Shawn Lewis  
Managing Editor

Television seems to be on the minds of a lot of people these days. Good, bad; educational, detrimental; it's there and we've got to deal with it. Personally, I good live with it, or without it. As long as I've got Nintendo and a VCR to hook up to it, I'm happy. However, I do watch one show with some regularity.

Late Nite with David Letterman, now, this is quality entertainment. Dave does things that everyday men only dream about - stupid pet tricks, horrible jokes, and, my favorite, top ten lists. In a country that thrives on statistics, Letterman's innovative top ten lists make the 12:30 a.m. viewing time worth the wait.

In fact, I admire the top ten lists sooooo much that I decided to do one. So, without further ado... Flounder's Top Ten Things That Freshmen Hear From Upperclassmen (from the home office in Boiling Springs)... drum roll, please...

10. "No, man, really... the food is pretty good."
9. "Convocation is interesting."
8. "Sure. You can visit your boyfriend anytime you want."
7. "Stay away from Dr. Stowe."
6. "Oh, yeah... Biology is a breeze."
5. "Stay away from Dr. Eastman."
4. "There once was a young lad from Nantucket..."
3. "So... what's your name? (Pause) Where ya from?"
2. "WG WG rocks"
1. "Who... that guy? Nah... he's just the president."

# Oval Office Memoirs

By Chrissy Vaughn

I would like to take this opportunity to apologize for the misunderstanding last Tuesday morning in Convocation concerning the student body vote. I am sorry we did not inform the student body beforehand that we would be voting on the matter of Constitutional Amendments. We were not trying to pull the wool over anyone's eyes, and we were not attempting to make changes underhandedly in the Student Constitution. We were simply pressed for time. I know that many people were confused about what exactly took place. Hopefully this article will answer any questions you may have.

This past year the Senate has been trying to revise the Student Government Association Constitution and Bylaws, which has not been revised for fifteen years. Much of the document is outdated and is no longer effective. It is essential to make some changes in it to make SGA more effective. The Student Senate recommended that the student body vote to amend the following article concerning the proposal, ratification, and approval of constitutional amendments:

### Article IV Amendments

#### Section A. Proposal

1. A proposed amendment can be submitted by the Executive Body of the Student Government Association to the Student Senate.
2. A proposed amendment can be submitted to the Student Senate by petition bearing the names of ten percent of the student body.
3. A proposed amendment can be submitted by the Student Senate as a body.
  - a. The proposed amendment should be placed on the floor of the senate by a functioning senator.
  - b. The proposed amendment must be approved by at least a two-thirds majority vote of the senate.

#### Section B. Ratification and Approval

1. To ratify the amendment a two-thirds affirmative vote, in which at least twenty-five percent of the student body participates, shall be required.
2. The ratified amendment shall then be forwarded to the Student Life Committee for its recommendation, to the Executive Committee of the College for their consideration, and then to the Board of Trustees.

Following is the amended article concerning Constitutional Amendments which was brought to the student body last

Thursday morning for ratification:

#### Amendments

1. All proposed amendments must be channelled to the SGA Senate for consideration.
2. The Senate shall decide to:
  - a. Hold a forum to discuss the proposal with students or
  - b. Hold a student body referendum to get a student opinion or
  - c. Notify the student body of the proposal at least five school days in advance of the date of the Senate meeting when a vote will be taken.
3. The proposed amendment must pass the Senate by a majority vote and be approved by the SGA President, Vice-President, Dean for Student Development, and the President of the College.

According to the new article, any student can propose an amendment to the Senate. The main difference between the two articles is that the Senate does not have to depend upon 25% of the student body (roughly 500 students) to ratify changes.

We are lucky if 10% of the student body votes in elections, and you can understand the frustration of senators when they cannot ratify the beneficial changes because most students choose not to vote. Instead of an election, the Senate will either hold a forum, an opinion poll, or an open Senate meeting for students interested in constitutional changes taking place. These students can influence their senators and still have a strong voice if they will talk to their representatives about their opinions.

I would like to add that the only election affected by this article are the elections for constitutional amendments, not elections for SGA officers and senators. Those elections still depend on voting students.

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