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Drama Department Meeting

by michael s. ferguson

The Drama Department had its long-awaited meeting with President Ward, NCSA Foundation Head Roger Hall, and Dr. James Semans, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, on December 10. The meeting, held in the drama theater, was the result of a document drawn up by the students and presented to the administrative figures, concerning a deep dissatisfaction with conditions in the Drama Department. As might have been expected, the meeting was a mind-boggling session, replete with a series of facts, figures, and realities that blunted the senses.

The meeting, which lasted three hours, began with Chris Rosania as Chairwoman and Marilyn McIntyre as Parliamentarian. The student-level delegates (including the Writing Dept.) were seated in front-row positions, with their respective levels filling in the rows behind. A row behind the students, the drama faculty sat. Out front, at a long table, sat the President, Roger Hall and Dr. Semans.

Ward opened the session by stating that he wanted to clarify what had been called "a lack of seriousness" on the part of the administration in relation to the document. He said that the document "had been taken seriously" and explained that the reason for the delay of the meeting (a week and a half later than the students had originally requested) was necessary in order to coordinate schedules and gather material. (He also stated that local outside media, invited by the students, had been asked not to attend, as the meeting was of a personal school nature). Ward also said that the document "had far-reaching consequences for the school . . ."

Respect

He went on, however, to say that if the students expected respect from the administration, then they too must show respect. He cited a convocation which he had called several weeks ago which was termed "important" and for which he had requested full student attendance. Few students showed.

The discussion then turned to the basic, hard economic realities of this school. Ward explained the school's relation to and dependence upon the state for financial assistance. He told of a number of proposals for the school's future, all of which would be given support by the state. Included were air-conditioning of the present theater, renovation of the theater, old cafeteria renovation, etc. Some \$40,000 of building funds from the state will be used to bring a closer physical association with the Drama Dept. and the Dept. of Design and Production. Also included in the drawing from this money would be state ownership of some school buildings, previously owned by Winston-Salem.

More immediate state funds were to be used for an additional speech and acting teacher(s) and the proposal for a senior writing teacher and carpenters and seamstress.

Ward, explaining the difficulty in raising funds, said that the school was currently working under a budget which was drawn up two years ago.

He mentioned further that requests were being made of the state to help support summer programs for all departments in the school. Lastly, Ward related that the longrange plans included the building of a new drama theater, which would house performances by all schools. After saying that the national economic situation was another reason for the shortage of funds, Ward said: "Your (Drama Dept.) needs are fully known and fully understood. Everything is being done to fulfill your needs."

Specific Questions

The emphasis then shifted to more specific questions. Gregg Wilson and Delle Chatman, dept. student representatives, directed questions to the administration. The first issue dealt with the possibility of faculty-member increase. The students' document stated that they felt the need for eighteen faculty members is necessary or reasonable." He further said that such a request was presently financially impossible. This met with disagreement from the students and faculty. Ward concluded by saying: "Where, anywhere in the world, has so much happened in so short a time?"

Roger Hall then spoke and praised the students and their proposals.

Dr. Semans followed with a statement concerning his interest in the school, his role as Chairman, and his pleasure at having been invited to sit in on the meeting.

The document itself was then examined. The classroom situation—and the requested 1 to 10 student-faculty ratio—was discussed. Ward responded by telling the students that he did not see it as the president's responsibility to tell the faculty what the curriculum should be. He also said that he wasn't sure if 1 to 10 was "correct." "If the faculty agrees, then I would consider it seriously," he added.

Steve Evans, a student delegate, raised the question of why student enrollment hadn't been kept proportionate to the budget. The president responded that the enrollment had to be kept "realistic" (in terms of growth) as far as the state was concerned. It was then stated that there would be no additional students in the Drama Dept. next year.

Tuition Raise?

The discussion kept on in that vein until Mr. Ward told the students that their proposal request could be partially realized, were they to pay an additional \$300 tuition per semester. He explained that music students pay more than any other in the school. Roger Hall then added that if the students did so, it would be "an obligation" of the foundation to match the sum total the students raised.

This proposal was met with initial indifference. Then, in a moment aptly dramatic, Mr. Ron Pollock, Dean of Drama, rose and said: "I am distressed. These fine men have taken their time and effort to come here and offer you a sound, honest, obviously well-thought out proposal and I have not heard one word of thanks." He received an ovation.

Although much heated debate followed, the students' mood seemed to shift at that moment. Peter Stambler, Creative Writing teacher, responded to the president by saying that a "mismatch" had been created, that the students were being asked to pay for something they were already supposed to be receiving. Barry Boys, acting instructor, followed with similar protest. Both received ovations, somewhat mysteriously, as both made statements in direct opposition to what Mr. Pollock had said.

After nearly three hours, tension grew and the meeting lost what positive effect it had had. The study of the document never got past the second point. The students adjourned, thanked the administration and then called a meeting to discuss what they had learned.

Joyce Reehling moved that the department study the tuition-raise suggestion. Faculty members gave their opinions, most in a kind of vague affirmation. Gregg Wilson objected on the basis that he shouldn't pay additional tuition for something he was supposed to be getting currently. The vote was held and it was decided that the students would study the proposal as well as other possible alternatives.

As the students filed out, the feeling seemed to be one of "get it while you can." Somewhat shellshocked, no one seemed to be quite sure of what they thought. A strange mood hung in the air, one not immediately identifiable. Perhaps it was one of realization, perhaps defeat, but most prevalent seemed to be a mood of . . . perplexity.

Following yonder star . . .

January 6, The Feast of the Epiphany, Twelfth Night, or what you will, is the commemoration of the day the Wiseman brought their gifts to Jesus. Not commonly celebrated in this country, it is the focal point of the Christmas season in many other parts of the globe.

It was for a celebration on the 6th of January, 1601, that Shakespeare originally wrote "Twelfth Night." So it is entirely fitting that this madcap romp should be performed again on Twelfth Night, 1971. To this end Barry Boys is transporting his cast to Renolda House for special performances January 6 and 7.

New Courses

by mary jane

Information on registration and brief synopses of new course offerings which opens second semester to college students were distributed Monday. Mrs. Fitz-Simons is quick to praise the teachers responsible for organizing and researching material for new courses.

Several courses in particular seem to serve a self curiosity, which though not absent at other schools seems more intense at N.C.S.A. Covering the scientific aspect of the problem, Mr. Corson will lead a study of human genetics—how genetics come to characterize a society as well as a human individual. The environment of the Twentieth Century will be explored historically by Mr. Ruark in a course that should fill one in on those last chapters of history that weren't there yet or weren't covered well in exam schedule haste. Dr. Evans will examine the process of cultural change and the possibility of man's planning future history. Courses taught by Mr. Stone and Mr. Hyatt will show how the impact of new nineteenth Century ideas on traditional ones produced the religious and philosophical climates of the Twentieth Century.

Specialty Offerings

Always a popular course with students, the King James Bible will be studied from a literary viewpoint. Of particular interest to Drama students is a course on Shaw, Ibsen, Stridberg and Tchekov. Film buffs will want to join Mr. Sugg's reorganized presentation of the History of Silent Film.

Mrs. Dreyer's Journalism class will reorganize into two weekly sections; one concentrating on feature writing and the other on arts criticism. Students may take one section in depth or two in survey.

Please be sure to check the list received Monday for your appointment time and place.

CLUE: Registration will be taken this time in reverse alphabetical order to give the Ziolkowski's and the Zabolny's a chance to sign up before the Apgar's and Aycock's fill all the rolls.

Capt. 8-Ball

by frederick avery

En Garde! Cue-up? Now, who would have expected to find two school musicians in the lower depths of the Student Commons Building battling it out over a rectangle of green felt and some colored balls at two o'clock in the morning, Thursday, December ten? Perhaps, only the remaining contestants in the first N.C.S.A. Billiards Contest, perhaps not. The "point" is, four games and five hours after the contest began, our school awarded five dollars and a trophy to Larry Glickman, oboist, and from nebulous sources a pat on the back for first runner-up, Steve Sherrill, dedicated freak-trombonist.

The proud fathers of the dormant formal ritual were Mozell Duncan, Recreation Director, and Dave Belnap, Director of Housing, and Assistant Dean of Students. In spite of rather late publicity, their sporty instincts were not in vain—the pool room witnessed a comfortable company of fifteen hungry entries at 9:00 p.m., December 9. The agenda of competition proceeded from eight pairs of stick-fiends evolved four, then two, and finally the aforementioned hungriest of the hungry.

This healthy splurge deserves credit if for no other reason than that it was a "together happening" within our school's somewhat untogether environment. More still, however, the Recreation Department seems to be on a general sports fertility kick. Dave Belnap, beaming with inspirational pregnancies, said N.C.S.A. could very well be the proud father of Volley Ball and Ping Pong teams come next semester. It's really up to you "Mothers" that could dig getting behind the nets, to get this together and do your thing.

**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR**

