

## An Essay "First" With 14 Reporters

## A News Conference With Dean Hyatt

**N.C. ESSAY: WHAT DO YOU FEEL IS YOUR SPECIFIC GOAL AS DIRECTOR OF STUDENT AFFAIRS? WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS AS AN ORGANIZATION, AND DO YOU FEEL THAT YOU ARE ACHIEVING THESE GOALS?**

**DEAN HYATT:** Well, I think in the area of student affairs, we have several goals that we hope to achieve. I think one goal clearly is the health of the school community. I think we are approaching the situation, where we may achieve that goal. I think that we are near the adequacy of the staff, we now have.

When I came here four years ago, there was only one person doing counseling; now we have two fulltime counselors and one part time counselor, specifically, in the area of counseling, students with whatever type of emotional or health problem, they may have.

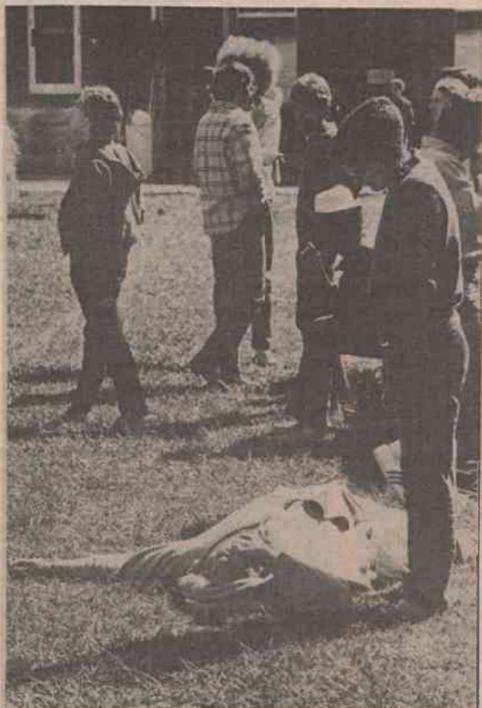
We now have an additional nurse, on our staff, and we have a doctor, who now comes on campus, which was not the case four years ago. Last year was the first year, we could make an arrangement that we could regularly have a doctor on campus, even though, it be only for four hours a week. We've noticed that the number of students, as patients, who were seen by the doctor last year, rose enormously over the previous year, when we were sending students who wanted to see a doctor off-campus. . .which means students were probably seeing a doctor before things got as bad as they might have gotten in previous years medically. So therefore there is a higher degree of preventive medicine, being practiced, as a result of our better staffing. From that standpoint I think we have come a long ways in four years towards being able to respond appropriately on both the preventive medicine level and the treatment of emotional and physical problems.

Another area where I think, this year for the first time we are near to achieving one of our goals is in the area of student activities. This is the first year, we have had a full time director of student activities. And certainly one of the goals that I have had since I have been here, and we have carried out partially, and now on a full scale way, has been to provide a variety of outlets for students in which they could let off steam, relax, recreate themselves after having gone through rather heavy, tense, kinds of pressure filled arts and academic programs.

It is awfully important for students to be able to relax, it's important for students to have persons around who can assist them in this regard, by helping plan activities, and so on.

You are probably aware that in a community like this, where there are such heavy arts and academic involvements; there is relatively less time for students to plan their own activities, as there might be in another setting. More importantly, we now have adequate staffing, and so only this year do we have a fulltime person directing student activities, but we have a person on the college level, Mrs. Shortridge, who works at least half-time in the area of assisting with student activities, especially designed for college students. So both in terms of the number of staff members and the concentration of the staff, I think we are coming close to achieving a major goal there.

The facilities, in terms of student activities, are another major area we are concentrating on. The addition of this building, the commons building, and with addition of another staff member, in part of the recreation director, Mosel Duncan, who



"I think we are fairly visible; more so than, let's say Reynolds High School. We are more visible because we perform...."

has made a great contribution to the successful operation of this building. I don't really see how the students, who were here in the first years of the school, kept themselves together emotionally, with the few facilities they had to recreate in.

Altogether, I say that this building and the staff has finally come to a point, where I think, they are coming close to be able to achieve their goals in the area of student activities.

I think another area which has been a goal of mine, is to see that the student council involved in the decision making process in the school and that would mean at every level where it would seem to be appropriate, and certainly be involved in the communication process. I couldn't pretend that I was solely responsible for this—Chancellor Ward has made a major contribution at this point, I think in terms of opening up channels of communication and decision making for the students. The student government on its own, through leadership, especially beginning with Tommy Williams and coming forward—has made major contributions of its own in this regard. It seems to me that now the channels of communication are clear and are relatively open to students and that seems awfully important to me as a goal, that I would have desired four years ago and I see being realized at the present time.

**Q: IS IT POSSIBLE TO HAVE SOME SORT OF POINTS FROM WHERE STUDENTS CAN GO AND CONTACT THE SECURITY GUARDS?**

**A:** I think again that most security operations that I know about have a central office, out of which the security officers work, but at which, point there is always one person on duty, who is in touch with the other security guard by walkie-talkie and can be contacted by anyone else by phone.

Having only two security guards at most on this campus at one time, and trying to patrol in any way like an adequate fashion, means that you can't have one person in one place waiting for calls, which I see again, is mainly a lack of personnel. I think we need three security guards in the evening and two during the day, if we are going to maintain an adequately organized and effective security system.

**Q: DOES THE SCHOOL HAVE ANY KIND OF POLICY CONCERNING VANDALISM OF STUDENTS, FURNITURE, DORM ROOMS, AND WHAT IS IT?**

**A:** Yes, the policy of the school with regard to vandalism, or the unwarranted breakage of furniture or destruction of property is this: if it occurs within the residence halls, whether in a hallway or lounge, and if we can not find out who damaged the property, then the entire dorm shares the cost, of replacing or repairing the item which was destroyed or damaged. That cost is deducted from the \$25.00 room deposit, which each student makes when he pays his fees at the beginning of the year. Also, that is the same policy with regard to damage, which may occur inside the dorm rooms. If a student, lives in a private room, double or single, then the damages are presumed to be his, so he is then assessed for the damages, if the room was cleanly painted and in order when the student moved in. If there are two people in the room, and if it can not be clearly determined which one is responsible, then they both will be assessed.

Now in the case of students who are apprehended, in a situation like this, not only must they

restore or replace what has been damaged or destroyed, but also, they are subject to go before the Judicial Board for disciplinary proceedings.

**Q: WHAT ABOUT CASES WHERE A STUDENT COMMITS EXCESSIVE NOISE?**

**A:** The excessive noise problem is just that a problem, which we have tried to address in a very specific way this year. I recently sent out a rather detailed memo along with Richard Buckley, which outlined a procedure and a policy for dealing with people, who make excessive noise. Now we are talking in particular about noise within the residence halls and the immediately surrounding area, I'll just give you the gist of that policy, but you can get the details from the memo I sent out.

The procedure is this, for a student in the resident halls, who hears excessive noise, and at any point, and certainly after quite hours, he has the alternative of speaking to the person making the noise and if that solves the problem fine. If it does not solve the problem, or if he doesn't care to take action, he can go to his Resident Advisor, who has agreed to follow this policy, then they will go together or the R.A. may go alone and ask the person to stop making the noise. If the

person stops making the noise, then obviously, there is no problem; however, if the person continues to make the noise, he is told if he is warned again, then he will have to be brought to the Dean of Student Affairs office. If he has to be brought to my office and admits that he made the noise, then he is placed on probation. If he violates that probation by making excessive noise another time, then he is automatically suspended for a week from school.

**Q: YOU HAVE ANY IDEAS CONCERNING CAMPUS SECURITY?**

**Dean Hyatt:** I think that there is a great need for a security force here during the day time. I think that it is very important for us to have our own security people and as much police protection from the town as we possibly can get, but I think in particular we have a major responsibility here to provide security of our own during the day as well as during the evening. I think then with this security force present on campus, then we can achieve an effective security system. Currently we have a very solid system, but we lack in the numbers of our staff.

I think that the kinds of incidents would decrease if people knew that we had security officers on duty at all times that could apprehend them.

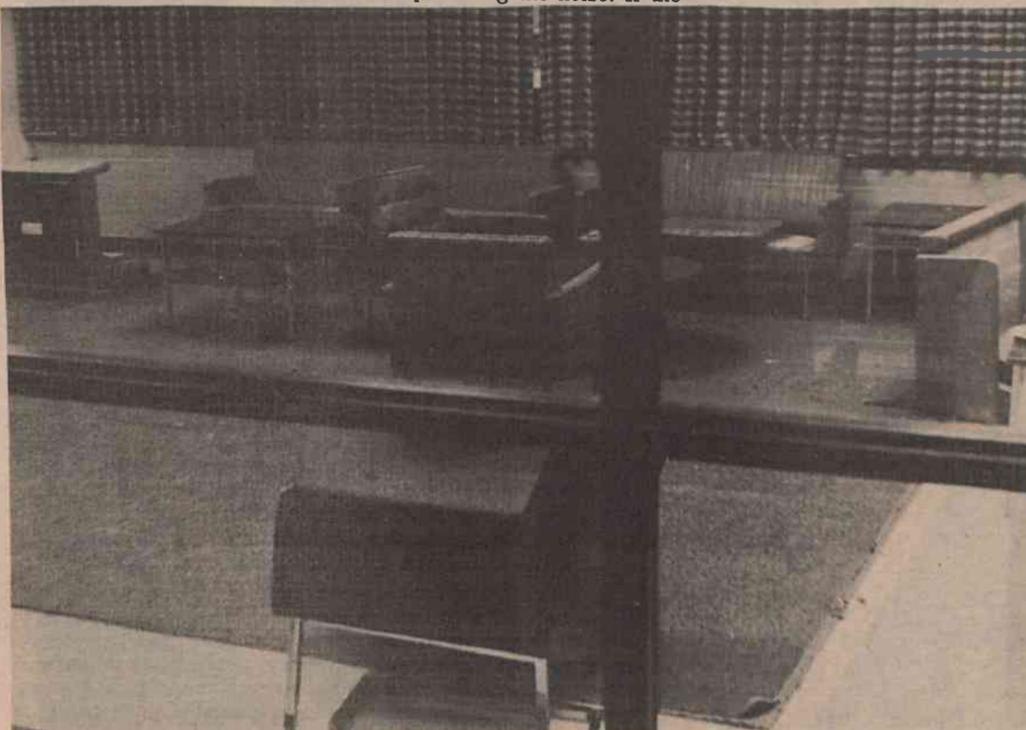
**Q: WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE DRUG SITUATION ON THIS CAMPUS. DO YOU THINK THAT IT HAS GOTTEN OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS?**

**A:** I think that the drug situation got rather difficult here a couple years ago, and over the last year and a half, I would say that there has been a decided improvement. Let me say what I mean by that.

I think, first of all, we have never had a serious heroin problem, which does not say that students have not tried heroin here. But I've known of no one certainly in the last few years, I can't recall anyone prior to that, who had been hassled by drugs. Certainly no one in the last couple of years, who remained a student here, had a significant problem with heroin.

LSD, amphetamines, and some of the halucinogens, have been a rather consistent problem, but I feel this year and probably towards the end of last year, fewer and fewer students seemed

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"We are getting all kinds of publicity and some of it we bring on ourselves."

On Vandalism, School Image . . .