

N.C. ESSAY

A RESPONSIBLE STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Crime On Campus . . .

Crime on the NCSA campus has reached staggering proportions. The problem is many-faceted. There is a problem with off-campus people, "townies" as we know them coming on campus undetected and ripping students off. They have gained access to the student dormitory rooms by climbing into open windows, predominantly first floor. They also walk through the halls until they find a room door unlocked, with no one in the room, then they go in and take what they want.

Another problem is the fact that students are vandalizing and ripping-off the school. The practice rooms in the main building are a mess because students don't take care of them. A window was mysteriously broken in E-F lounge, and a full keg of beer was ripped-off from a storage room in the gym.

The Essay feels that students can take an active role in helping to cut down the crime on campus. First, whenever you leave your room, shut and lock the window and lock the door. Also, if you see unfamiliar people on campus, you should exercise your right to request their identification. If they refuse to show their identification card or cannot justify their presence on the campus, immediately call the security guards.

The telephone number is 725-8556. When the operator answers, ask for 1368. You will be connected directly with the guards' by radio.

In the matter of student vandalism and theft, please remember that a theft from the school or vandalism against the school costs the students increased tuition, housing costs, etc. Replacing or repairing of equipment and materials is a major reason that operational costs increase.

By taking an active role in their own protection, students can help prevent theft and prevent increased costs.

. . . At The Legislature

The governmental appropriation necessary to build the NCSA Workplace has finally been passed by both houses of the N.C. Legislature. But not before Rep. Julian Fenner, D-Nash, and other legislators took obviously prejudicial jobs at the school.

In an interview with the Winston-Salem Journal, Fenner said, "There are more out-of-state students than in-state students there, and if we build a building on that campus we are tying the General Assembly forever and a day to that school."

What Mr. Fenner doesn't seem to realize is that the legislature was tied "forever and a day" to the school nine years ago when they passed a bill creating NCSA as a state institution.

The legislature took it upon itself to approve a \$5 million expansion of the East Carolina University medical program, despite much expert testimony that the program should not be expanded.

This is a clear case of legislative irresponsibility. The approval of the unjustified program and the attempted withdrawal of funds from the Workplace proposal were clearly politically motivated.

The Essay feels that something must be done to change our image in Raleigh. If the problem is that the legislators dislike the arts, or "culture" as they call it, in general, changing this attitude will require a reeducation of the masses by exposing people to good, entertaining art. We feel the best way is for NCSA to send out more touring shows such as the highly successful "Cavalcade" which toured the state for two weeks during the Intensive Arts period of December.

If the problem is basically political, that is, legislators opposing the school because of its location in the state, or because they fear money used for the school will take away money for other projects in their areas of the state, then we, as artists, will be required to step away from our traditional as non-political roles.

Artists are just as much citizens as any farmer or businessman. We must bring our political power to bear on our elected representatives. If you are a resident of North Carolina, write your state senators and representatives, or give them a call when you next go home. Tell them that, as a voter, you are upset with the treatment your school has been getting in Raleigh. Tell them that, as one of their constituents, you would like to see them take a stand in favor of the school in any future budgetary hassles. Mention how highly the state of North Carolina is respected nationally for its innovations in the arts, and how highly regarded is its fine arts school.

Thank You, Bilt-Rite

The Essay would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to Mr. Sam Tudor of the Bilt-rite Auto Parts Company on Waughtown Street.

The auto parts firm recently moved, from its location next to the NCSA Design & Production shops (see N.C. Essay, March 5, 1974, page 2), across the street to bigger and more modern facilities.

In the move, Mr. Tudor found about \$6,800 worth of material he would not be using in his new location, including a \$1,000 steam cleaning machine and \$1,200 worth of steam cleaning fluid.

Mr. Tudor decided to donate all of the material to the NCSA School of Design and Production. H. Michael Byrum of the D&P staff and Sam Stone of the NCSA Foundation office handled the transaction for the school.

Much of the material will be very useful to the D&P department, according to Byrum. On behalf of the School of Design and Production and the students of NCSA, the Essay expressed much gratitude to this generous, considerate man and his business.

Letter to the Editor

Prudence Mason offered colorful sketches of Pat Taggart, Genie Carr and myself in "Local Arts Critics Tell How They Do It" in your March 5 issue. I enjoyed the article, but I feel I should correct a false impression that she may have given.

In the article, she wrote that Duncan Noble arranged for me to attend the West Coast Institute for Dance Criticism. Her choice of the word "arranged" is misleading. Mr. Noble and Robert Lindgren simply wrote letters of recommendation for me, and that, I

think, is a long way from arranging anything.

I was chosen to attend the institute by Lydia Joel, former editor of Dance Magazine, and others with no connections with the N.C. School of the Arts. My expenses were paid by grants from the Association of American Dance Companies, the National Endowment for the Arts and other groups.

Jim Shertzler
Staff Arts Reporter
The Winston-Salem Journal

"Well, they didn't spoil my act!"



The Essay Seeks Identity

By MARYA COLUMBIA

Despite the Essay's short lived history under its new management, it has incurred its share of difficulties related to the production and the staff. One of the biggest problems has been that the paper is understaffed and the staff members aren't always free at the same time for staff meetings. Until this issue, there has only been one photographer to cover all stories. A tremendous amount of work goes into each issue, with the staff



learning more about the production of a newspaper with each succeeding issue. The newspaper has not yet taken on a particular character or reached an established format, and can therefore become whatever it is molded. However, this has brought about numerous conflicts and complaints, as to what the function of the school newspaper is, what it should be, what and whose purpose it is serving.

After the last issue, one comment I heard repeatedly was that the emphasis of the news tended to be too homogeneous. The newspaper served as an extension of the student government and didn't cover what most students would find interesting; it only echoed the voices of those in the student government. There was not enough coverage of art and other related topics. The paper was trying to become too much of a politically-oriented paper and since that is not the central focus of interest on this campus, people aren't interested in reading what's been printed.

Each person on the staff has his own particular viewpoint and concept of the paper. The paper takes on a homogeneous character if most of the staff share similar feelings about what should be written. This syndrome (if that's what it is) can be alleviated if the criticisms, suggestions, complaints, reach the ears of those working on the paper. The emphasis of the paper cannot be shifted without strong external

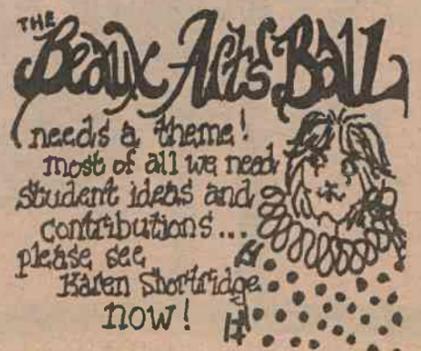
feedback, reactions, letters, new ideas, and new people to help.

Most school papers are put out by a journalism class of students specifically interested in and oriented towards reporting, writing, doing the photography, layout, and all other aspects of producing a newspaper. Since these students are generally preparing for jobs in the field of journalism, their papers are modeled after the N.Y. Times, the Washington Post, and so on. In this respect, the NC Essay is unlike most college or even high school newspapers in that this is not the prime interest of the students working on the paper. Working on the paper often takes secondary importance for more pressing or important matters, such as rehearsals for plays, working on productions, or preparations for recitals.

Because it is not organized or run in a conventional manner, it is not bound by a conventional form. I think that there are just about limitless possibilities of what can be done with it. It could become an avant-garde-type newspaper, which it now isn't and probably won't become unless new attitudes and ideas are introduced. But the important point to stress is that it can become, and it is, whatever gets put into it.

If an individual student is dissatisfied with the paper, as many are and perhaps should be, if students want to see better representation, more coverage of a specific aspect, then he can see that it is changed either by presenting his views to the staff, or by contributing to the next issue. People wishing to write an article, or those wanting a specific article written, are always welcome. About half of this year's Essay staff will not be here next year, which means the paper needs to find new recruits for next year.

Marya Columbia is a high school senior violin major and an Essay staff member.



N.C. ESSAY

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