

N. C. ESSAY

So here we are again: volume 10, number 3 is indeed a reality— but not without a few altercations. You all have heard of that school vote going against the Essay (by almost 2 to 1!); but we also have lost a very hard-working and competent editor. These, along with a lame duck period of two weeks, and a general apathy (sound familiar?) still have not terminated a few individuals' efforts to have a campus publication.

On January 14, the student council said to me, in effect, that they would give me one issue and if they liked that issue, the newspaper would live indefinitely with it's same format; but if they didn't like the issue, they would cut the funds.

Ah, but wait don't forget, cut funds do not mean dead paper; they mean different paper (how much different only they know).

What would the student council do with the \$4,000 now allotted to the newspaper? Well, they're thinking of using it for the renovation of the snakebar...oops, I mean snack bar—and other commons well facilities. Oh well.

Though the newspaper advisory board meant well in dismissing Kay Crutcher as editor, I do not agree with their decision. The condition of the newspaper was not her fault; it was the conditions around Kay. Oh, well, the show must go on (?).

In this issue I have attempted to use material that would interest everyone. This is a slight problem; trying not to aim only for one group.

But the real problem is actually putting together a paper so that it has current and quality material. A few good people submit articles and a few more good people do a little reporting, but the apathy is still there—people's main interest is in their art, not their newspaper. I can do so much with what I have.

I believe that the only way a student publication can succeed at N.C.S.A. is when lot of eager people become involved, so that there is less work for each individual person and more quality and continuity for the paper. As for this specific issue, at least I can say I tried!

Garry Wasserman

Letters

To The Editor

At a recent SCA meeting, it was brought to the attention of the Council that the majority of the student body did not know what was going on at SCA meetings, or, for that matter, did not know there were SCA meetings.

According to the student handbook (which every student should have received at registration,) the SCA's purpose is "to uphold all rights and powers granted to students, and always seek the best solutions concerning problems involving students and the institution....by the majority opinion of those representatives elected by and for the student body." If this "Council" is to be successful in its efforts, it is necessary to have the full support and awareness of all those on this campus.

The time on Wednesdays between 12:30 and 1:30 is "unscheduled," but every week close to half the representatives must leave before 1:30 for classes or other scheduled school commitments. Notices pointing out the "unscheduled" times have been sent out to appropriate people but in most cases have had no effect.

Even with this problem to contend with, the council needs the respect and confidence of the student body if it is to accomplish anything instrumental. We seem to have the same problem here as in high schools throughout the country—a sort of apathetic reasoning that the council is powerless because it hasn't done anything BIG—no changes have been affected and "it's just students." As it stands now, this is 100 per cent true. We can do nothing with the support from those we are now "functioning" for remains as non-existent as it has been.

Why should you give your time to make this campus and system more tolerable? After all, at worst, you'll only be here for another four years or so. Your student newspaper, the only legitimate written voice, creative, informative or protesting that you have access to, is now very close to becoming defunct because "who reads it anyway?" You may not read it because you don't like its format or contents—fine. But why is it that practically all universities across the country publish a student newspaper whose weekly or monthly distribution is eagerly awaited? The content in all is very diverse; it is geared closely to the school and the interests of its students. Are we such a unique school with such unique students that we have no interests, creativity or desire to produce a campus publication?

The feeble point I'm trying to make is that here, as in all high schools, but very few colleges, we have such an astounding apathetic attitude about individually getting up and getting involved in something outside of our arts work that we can only complain in circles about everything and do nothing about anything. It seems a bit incredible that such an attitude can be so widespread in a campus containing the talent and creativity that everyone here is attempting to nurture.

Although this letter is most probably useless, it may make some 10 or 20 people sit back and scratch their heads for 13 seconds or so, and then decide once again that they do not have time to "get involved" with anything to do with constructive change. But they support it wholeheartedly—"it's a great idea, I wish I had time to work on it..." It does seem a bit sad that those people who have given up so much (or little) of their time and energy to serve on the Council, the N.C. Essay, and other special school events are just wasting their efforts trying to please the overwhelming majority of you who just don't even seem to care about anything—including apathy. It seems amazing that so many signed the food services petition—but not so surprising that less than a half dozen followed it up.

C. Weindling

A Message From Security

Safeguarding valuables and personal property is the responsibility of each individual. There have been too many needless incidents involving theft, the results being time wasted and loss of morale. In most cases we are our own worst enemy; because the attitude throughout the campus is very lax when it comes to protecting personal items. The hallways, bathrooms, and game rooms are loaded with things that shouldn't

be lying around. Under the present standards this is a thieves' paradise. By locking your rooms, not leaving anything of value exposed in your cars, and not being too trusting, the thief has to work exceptionally hard.

Some of the ripoff is caused by ourselves, but the biggest portion is caused by outsiders. The day of the honor system is fading fast. You can't lay money, watches,

rings and other valuables around and expect to find them unmolested when you return. Catching the rip-off artist is almost impossible; therefore prevention is the best cure. Don't

allow yourself to be the next victim. The search and seizure regulation doesn't protect the victim, it protects the lawbreaker: in most cases the security guard is helpless. There

has to be a forceable entry present: lock busted or door broken.

A word to the wise, protect yourself. Safeguard your valuables.

The noble art of losing face may one day save the human race and turn into eternal merit what weaker minds would call disgrace.

Piet Hein



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Special Thanks to- Jo Dawson, Mark Wagonveld, Craig Weindling, David Winslow

Presidents View: Past And Future

By DAVID WINSLOW
SCA President

Serving as president of the SCA this year has been very rewarding. On the negative side, Student Government has been responsible for the three incompletes I've received this year; however, it has had its good side too.

Under my leadership the student government has maintained a low profile this year. Having been a student government music representative for four years before becoming SCA president, I've had the chance to observe

firsthand how previous SCA's and their presidents conducted themselves. While some administrations have certainly been more exciting than my own, I question whether that excitement really was worth the end result. How many people knew that the snack bar lost close to five thousand dollars in its first year of operation? The snack bar under that president was an "exciting" project but has left us with a four-year total debt close to ten thousand dollars - which isn't very exciting. Nevertheless, the student government feels that the snackbar is an important part of student life at NCSA. We are now in the process of improving the lounge area and the physical appearance of the snack-bar area - all in a continuing effort to upgrade the quality of life at NCSA.

Also, we've gotten a firm commitment from the administration that when the "Workplace" is completed, the commons dance studio will be returned to the students for use as a snack-bar, art gallery, bookstore, or a combination of the three.

One of the first things that I did upon becoming SCA president was to confront our Board of Trustees with the terrible living conditions in the college dorms. They are now painfully aware of what we must deal with on a daily basis- faulty heating, plumbing, ventilation, and insulation. On direction of the trustees, the NCSA Foundation gave ten thousand dollars toward repairing the heating. When additional monies become available, repairing the dormitories will be a priority item.

Besides serving as student representative on the Board of Trustees, I have been serving as student representative on the Dean's and Administrative Committees, and on the Housing Review Board.

The Housing Review Board is, without question, the most difficult committee on which I serve. It's function is to review requests from students who wish to move off campus or wish to be exempted from the boarding plan. Needless to say, it is very difficult to have to tell a fellow student that he-she must continue living in the dormitories—knowing as I do both the horrible condition of the dormitories and the financial condition of the school.

In conclusion, I'd recommend the position of SCA president to any college student with lots of time and energy. I'm glad I did it!



David Winslow

Is Change In Store For Food Service?

Because many students have expressed dissatisfaction with our present food service, the student government and the administration are looking into alternatives.

Approximately six weeks ago, NCSA was approached by Epicure food service with the proposal of taking over our cafeteria service next year.

On the invitation of Epicure, myself, Betsy Friday (who represented the dance school and vegetarians,) Johnny Reinhard (who simply loves food,) ate at Salem College.

It was truly a four star meal by cafeteria standards. However, Epicure knew well in advance of our visit and financial arrangements at Salem College are different, to say the least. One must take into account, as we did, that on the average, 60 per cent of the boarding students at Salem College attend a meal at a given time (we at NCSA average more than 80 percent). As a rule, food services tend to make money on "no shows." That is to say, if 100 per cent are paying board and 60 per cent show up, one would tend to use less food (and make more money) than if 80 per cent showed up.

A week later, myself, Johnny Reinhard and Julie Luker, a vegetarian, visited Guilford College and flew to Spartanburg, S.C. to eat at Wofford College. The visit to the Guilford College dining facilities was truly impressive. But the meal at Wofford was a 1/2 star: We all generally agreed that it was bad.

Since then, we have been making surprise visits to Salem and Guilford Colleges and are favorably impressed with Epicure.

The students should be aware that if the school decided that it wanted to change food services, that a bidding process would be required. By state law, we are generally required to take the low bid—which could be neither Marriott or Epicure.

The outcome thus far has been the formation of a permanent food committee whose function is to meet with Mr. Childress and relay grievances. Mr. Childress has been more than happy to meet with this committee and the results of these meetings are evident already. Whichever outcome, it is the SCA's desire that the food at NCSA be of the highest quality possible.