

College intolerant of differing views

By KEN LEONARD

As some of you might know, ZOE Unlimited Christian Fellowship and the College Republicans put on a program called "The Silent Vote," addressing the subject of abortion, on March 26 evening. It has come to my attention that there are more than a few misconceptions about this affair.

First, there is the idea that the college paid for the event. Other than the \$50 that was ZOE's entire budget for the year, all of the funding came from Republicans' money raised from Phonathon and individual contributions. In less than one month, we raised the \$510 needed for the program.

The SGA senate was less than cooperative in giving the College Republicans the budget to which we were entitled, citing an as-yet-unwritten budget policy and ignoring the directions we were given several times during the year. (We were informed that we were not eligible for a budget when we, in fact, were.)

I admit that I arrived expecting a great deal of trouble from the student protestors outside. A few of our signs advertising the event, had been removed or modified. To the protestors, I owe an apology for those thoughts. They behaved themselves quite well. The half-dozen or so that came inside (I have heard that there were more outside, but I can only

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count five or six who came in) to the program were quite polite in their questions. With one minor exception, I think that they were all quite reasonable.

Given the editorial carried in the past issue of this very paper, written by one of these demonstrators, I expected quite a lot of nonsense trying to link all proliferators to the murderer of Michael Griffin. Only a local newspaper reporter did so. (Remember, though, the press is unbiased.)

In fact, the students from the pro-abortion side outdid the staff

of this college. Tragically so, in fact.

The night before the event, we received a call from Nurse Stump demanding to know why we were trying to upset the students. She declared that the student morale is very low and that we were going to hurt matters.

In trying to find out why this was happening, it came to our attention that Dean Derrick and Nurse Stump were meeting to discuss what to do about us. Although this program was not supported by the school in any way, they were meeting to change our plans, and we were not invited. She told us, though, that she was happy that we were having the program.

I have been accused of supporting censorship, and have even been called a fascist. I humbly point out that I would never stoop to the depths of these staff members.

Betty Ann Whisnant attended the program, and was quite polite during the program also. Afterwards, though, she went to our speaker, Pastor Mike McHugh, and told him that he was not to do any counseling on campus. Pastor McHugh told her that he does not submit to thought police anywhere.

The counseling dispute was started when Nurse Stump asked

about it. She said that he is not qualified to counsel, despite his decade and a half experience in doing so, because he is pro-life. Presumably, she is unbiased. I would like to know if she has ever helped anyone get through the guilt of having an abortion — a well-documented phenomenon that is not easily eased.

To one staff member, I would like to apologize. This is Rev. Kirk Oldham. We made a mistake in deciding how to mark the programs, and decided to list the ZOE money as "NCWC Religious Life Office." He was not consulted, and I hope that we corrected that error from the podium, and now in print.

To those on staff who tried to stop the program, I ask a simple question. Of what were you so afraid? Last I heard, we were supposed to freely debate ideas here. We had to get outside support to have our views shown for one evening. You have an entire academic year and the entire school budget to advance your own agenda at our expense.

McHugh has been in prison several times for so much as speaking on sidewalks, yet even he was shocked at the treatment we were given by the college. This tells me a great deal about intellectual inquiry, freedom, and tolerance. Or the lack thereof.

Counselor regrets losing her cool

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birth control devices available to women, regardless of ability to pay. It is supported by contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, and in some cases by government grants.

Its personnel are highly dedicated professionals who could probably make much better incomes in other circumstances. It is hardly an "industry." It is an organization that has spread to 70 different countries. Of the over 700 clinics it sponsors in this country, only two percent perform abortions, none with government funds.

Mr. McHugh described the state of abortion in Vermont where he said abortions could be performed without even the supervision of a doctor. If abortions were outlawed as he has proposed, all abortions would be performed without medical supervision or even sanitary conditions. Prior to the legalization of abortion, it is estimated that as many as 1,000,000 women died because of unsterile, unprofessional abortions.

Mr. McHugh has taken women into his own home. I only wish the zeal and energy that he and his fellow "Respect Lifers" exhibit could be directed toward the tens of thousands of children who suffer from neglect and abuse each year. He spoke of the thousands of parents who long for children to adopt. There are thousands of children who are available for adoption — they may not be the same race, they may not be considered perfect, but they do need

permanent families.

Melody Pullin of the Rocky Mount Pregnancy Center is trying to minister to the needs of women who will be keeping their babies, but she sounded as though their resources were not sufficient. Who can be there through all the years, that it takes to bring up a child?

"The Hard Truth," the video that ended his presentation, showed aborted fetuses. It concentrated on late term fetuses. In the case of these abortions, states can restrict access to them, and they are usually only performed in the event of danger to the life of the mother or problems in the development of the fetuses.

These are only a few of the problems I observed in Mr. McHugh's presentation. The main source of difference between his view and my own is due to a situation that he himself brought out. He openly admitted that he was asking for some of us in our society to make this crucial decision for others.

In my training and experience as a social worker and counselor I have grown increasingly aware that only the individual knows what is involved in his decision, or will be accountable for it. Counseling should serve as a means of clarification of issues, enhancing self knowledge and providing or improving the skills and strengths needed to carry out decisions.

At this time, the Supreme Court interprets our Constitution to make this possible. Mr. McHugh and Respect Life would

like to change this. They would like to be able to make this decision for everyone else. Would you like them to make this decision for you?

Betty Anne Whisnant
School Counselor

SNCAE appreciative of support of campus

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Wesleyan Chapter of SNCAE I would like to thank everyone who participated in some way in the Pie-Throwing Event held on Wednesday, March 31, on the patio. The event was very successful and through it \$112.50 was raised for children's books which will be given to children who visit area clinics.

I would like to thank all of the "purchasers" of the pies and I would like to extend a special thank-you to Trina Becker and Kelly Best for planning and publicizing the event. And I certainly would like to thank all of those who tolerated having pies thrown in their faces and for being such good sports: Judy Boyd, Nicole Cox, Dr. Burke, Dr. Joplin, Steve Brummett, Mel Oliver, Sue McCormack, Mike Sanseviro, Gail Stafford, and Dean Bennett (who raised \$25 alone). Thank you all very much!!!

If you have any children's books you would like to donate please put them in the box by the switchboard. All cash donations should be given to Janice Fleming in the EDU dept. by April 23.

Kristie Warren
SNCAE President

Group, 'Star Trek' keep idealism alive

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gan in 1979. The second TV series, then the third series continue the tradition of people and "others" working together.

For its part, The Grateful Dead represented the hippies' belief in the communal power to change the quality of human life. The 1967 Great Human Be-In was more than another of Phil Graham's and Ken Kesey's music-drenched, flower-powered afternoons in the park. When the anti-Viet Nam War movement found its voice in bands like the Dead and The Jefferson Airplane, the Force was with us. This rock group, through various re-births, has depended not on top-selling albums but on live performances to keep its proletarian messages before its audiences.

The Grateful Dead's improvi-

sational, country/blues/folk music, and long, free-form concerts now seem part of that innocent but wise belief in the power of good thoughts to change money-bagged, war mongers, or small-minded bigots' minds. I saw it again at the concert's teenaged and middle-aged impresarios wearing and selling tie-dyed t-shirts. If Spock had walked up to them, they wouldn't have blinked an eye at his ears.

To paraphrase my Humanities students, it's just a rock group; it's just a TV show. But I'm glad these two are still popular. Even though I don't think of myself as a Trekker or a Deadhead, I find some solace in the resilience of the belief that humans can live long and prosper together and in diversity during this long strange trip.

May they not fade away.