

Banks Knocks Medical Facilities

By John Banks

According to Webster, an infirmary is a hospital or place where the infirmed or sick lodges for treatment. The only element in common with this definition and the infirmary of North Carolina College is that it is a place for the sick and injured to lodge. Undeniably, the present state of the campus "hospital" is one of deplorable and inexcusable conditions.

The North Carolina College Bulletin-1965-66 states that the Health Service (infirmary) "is primarily to assist students in protecting and promoting their health and in preventing illness." After a casual or sedate visit or a discussion with someone who has visited the infirmary, however, it will become unmistakably evident that the place neither promotes, protects, nor prevents sickness. In fact, it appears to be more closely equivalent to an "inferno" instead of a place for the treatment of the ill.

Even merely a routine visit will be full of inconveniences, discouragements, and indifferences. First of all, the hours approximate those of the Chase Manhattan Bank. The regular dispensary hours are from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. After "signing-up" one has to wait in the typical North Carolina College line, regardless of the nature and extent of a person's ailment. When the physician does arrive for his two hours daily, the student is examined with unbelievable indifference. The dialogue in the antiquated office frequently follows this pattern:

"Where does it hurt?" "Right here."
 "How long has it been hurting?" "All night."
 "Tell the nurse to fill this prescription."

The prescription is filled in the most humorous manner. First, the nurse procures "three big brown jars" from the overcrowded and dusty shelves. No matter what the ailment, pills are prescribed. These pills appear to be given on the premise of pink ones for girls, blue ones for boys, and green ones for the neuter.

For the unfortunate student who gets to remain overnight, about the only comfort is the meal in bed. When the physician is not on duty, which is nearly always, the attending nurse is reluctant to give any constructive remedies. Some patients have been known to remain in the infirmary for over a week without the "infirmarians" finding the precise nature of their sickness. It is medical fact that a blatant disregard for one's physical health can lead to a deterioration of one's mental and psychological well-being.

Admittedly, one may argue, and quite validly, that: (1) there is a need for more money, (2) nurses are not authorized to give medicine without a prescription, and (3) that the infirmary is not intended to be a full-time hospital.

In almost any endeavor, there is a need for financial support. The infirmary is in on contrary position. Nevertheless, the present conditions of the "hospital" cannot be directly traced to economic disadvantages. For example, why is the personnel so unsympathetic, and sometimes impolite? It is true that nurses are not legally allowed to give patients unprescribed medicine, but why are they so useless when the doctor is not on duty? In addition, it may be vividly

seen that the present inadequate, inefficient, obsolete, and dilapidated structure was not intended for full-time operation when it was erected over 20 years ago. But today, North Carolina College is far different than it was two decades ago. The student body is growing and energetic. Over 3100 students are presently enrolled, but still the bed capacity and one physician are outrageously insufficient for our campus.

If the purpose of the infirmary really is to promote and protect student's health while preventing illness, better methods should be instituted. One plausible idea would be to hire students from the School of Nursing to supplement the inadequate staff. Another one would be to have thorough examinations not only for freshmen, but also third year students. Beyond a doubt, one ultimate solution would be for

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ing in business administration from Durham, N. C. "Yes, they give a student a great sense of belonging on campus."

Rossie Sutton, senior majoring in business administration from Farmville, N. C. "Yes, because they add more prestige to students and most students come

the school (state) to invest money into the Health Service Program.

In all fairness it must be realized that students pay only \$17.50 for medical expenses, but still how many students sincerely feel that their money's worth is used in medical attention and supplies?

So if any student "decides" to get sick, please do not do so before eight in the morning and after four in the afternoon because presently, North Carolina College is a great place to get an education, but "I certainly would not want to get sick there."

to college looking for something of prestige."

George Goss, senior, majoring in business administration and minoring in education from Durham, N. C. "Yes, they create a feeling of unity among those who participate. They also provide experiences in taking on responsibility, as do other campus organizations.

Arlene Marable, sophomore majoring in psychology and minoring in sociology from Henderson, N. C. "Yes, I think Greek-letter organizations have a place on campus because they give members a feeling of prestige knowing that their striving hard largely determines their acceptance into such organizations."

Wilbert Myatt, sophomore, majoring in political science and minoring in economics from Raleigh, N. C. "I would say that Greek organizations have a place on some college campuses and on some they don't. On

some college campuses Greek organizations do have enough money to function properly; the names of the organizations just stand out. Example, on some campuses, there are no fraternity house and I think if there were, the members could not afford to keep them up. Then again, on some campuses there are fraternity houses and the members can afford to keep them up. So I would say the economic status of the members of Greek organizations to a large extent determines their place on a college campus."

Lynn Scott, senior, majoring in business administration and minoring in economics from Roanoke Rapids, N. C. "Yes because they provide a social aspect for the students who join the organizations; they also gives members a sense of responsibility in trying to develop themselves into mature young ladies and gentlemen."

Ella Grimes, junior majoring in English and minoring in edu- (See Roving Reporter, Page 6)

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