



'SACK LUNCH BUNCH'—Shown above are scenes from the Thursday "sack lunch" discussion groups held during the regular school years here. Participants include faculty and staff members, as well as townspeople. Discussions range over a wide variety of topics, some of an academic nature, others dealing with pressing current issues.

'It's An Intellectual Oasis,' Say The Sack Lunch Bunch

By David H. Witherspoon

Take some 15 to 20 college faculty members, give one a topic in or out of his academic area, add freewheeling discussions involving everyone from artist to zoologist, and what do you have?

At most schools you would have a highly successful "interdisciplinary colloquium," and it would only happen once in a dozen semesters.

At North Carolina College, the miracle happens every week during the fall and spring, and they call it the "Sack Lunch Bunch."

Dr. Ray Thompson is given credit for the creation of this enduring program, an informal but well-planned meeting of minds. Appropriately, Dr. Thompson's field is education, an interdisciplinary field in itself.

Thompson asked some of his co-workers if they would like to start informal discussions. From the kickoff presentation by Dr. Joseph McKelpin back in 1962, the program has grown into one of the unique features of the NCC campus.

Regular Sessions

Laden with sack lunches, the

group converges in the Education Building at noon each Thursday during the regular school year. As they eat their lunches, members listen to well-planned, though often unwritten, discussions of everything from literary criticism, sociology, personality theory, art and music, law and political science to biology and physics.

After the speaker has finished his presentation, he is wide open to attack—questions, criticisms of his approach, and any thoughts the other members of the group may have on the subject.

The professors who lead the discussions apparently enjoy the grilling that comes from their cohorts, since all are volunteers and most will come back for more later in the year or during the following year.

Stimulating Qualities

The "sack lunch" is, for some of its participants, "a continuous, cost-free lyceum feature," "a symbolic colony of scholars engaged in intellectual pursuits," "an assembly of egg heads with a quest for broadening their intellectual horizons," "a refuge for college professors who seek to escape, temporarily at least,

from the preoccupation with course loads, class lectures, and grade reports." Townspeople and students attend also.

Humor is very much a part of the program. Laughter is reflected in the following topics for discussion: "How Teachers Who Don't Attend the Sack Lunch Lie About Grades," "What Are You Breathing?" "Heads or Tails," "The Worm Runners," "Mrs. Murphy and Public Accommodations," "Taking Care of Ego and Id: Pinter's Play 'The Caretaker'."

Law professors talk about such subjects as probate, conflicts, and taxation; while classics professors talk about "The Ethiopian in Greek Mythology." Biologists discuss the world around us, as mathematicians discuss computers.

Norman Padnos of the chemistry department and James Parker of the audio-visual center are among the most versatile contributors. Also a regular contributor is Dr. Leroy Swift, college physician.

While the fifth year of "sack lunch" just past, participants anticipate more stimulation in their "Intellectual Oasis" next year.

Whiting Assumes.. Fellowship Grant Given Instructor

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profession, served as dean of the college at Morgan State College, Baltimore, Md., from 1959 until he assumed his post at NCC. He has taught at Bennett College, Atlanta University, and Morris Brown College, where he was dean of the college for four years.

Author of more than a dozen articles on education and contemporary social factors, Dr. Whiting is listed in American Men of Science (Behavioral), Who's Who in American Education, Who's Who in the East, and Who's Who in America. He has held membership in the National Association of Collegiate Deans and Registrars, of which he is vice-president; the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity; the Eastern Association of College Deans and Advisors to Students; the Maryland State Teachers Association; the Baltimore School Advisory Committee; the (Maryland) Governor's Commission on Criminal Sentencing; and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

He is a native of Jersey City, New Jersey. He holds the A.B. degree in political science from Amherst College; the M.A. degree in sociology from Fisk University; and the Ph.D. in sociology and public welfare from the American University. He has also studied at Columbia University and the University of Pittsburgh.

President and Mrs. Whiting, the former Miss Lottie Luck of Danville, Va., are parents of a teen-age daughter, Brooke. They are Episcopalians.

Old Newspapers For Wrapping Fish Or For Art Work?

Newspapers, cans, discarded wire, coat hangers, detergent bottles, marbles, popsicle sticks, decanters, soft drink bottle caps, twigs, sand, fruits, vegetables, and other discarded objects become works of art in Miss Piccola Morrow's course, "Materials in Arts and Crafts for Teachers."

Elementary and secondary teachers learn the basics of line, shape and form as they work with everyday materials in the class.

Miss Morrow describes the course as designed to increase the teacher's skill in observation as well as to teach the skills needed to teach youngsters how to turn discarded everyday objects into decorative and useful products.

Among the products of the class are lamps, jewelry, wall hangings and plaques, model animals, gay party decorations, baskets and other useful materials.

Used in addition to the discarded materials are wheat paste, plaster of paris, pencil, crayon, paint and other easily acquired art materials.

Miss Morrow, who holds the rank of visiting assistant professor of education is a Winston-Salem schoolteacher during the regular school year.

C. James Dyer, North Carolina College psychology instructor, will begin work on the doctoral degree in school psychology at the School of Education, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in September.

The retired Marine major was named as the recipient of a grant from the Southern Fellowship Fund for the year from September, 1967, to September, 1968.

Dyer received the Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in psychology from the University of North Carolina in 1961. He received his master of arts degree in psychology from Duke University in 1962 and joined the NCC faculty in September, 1962.

Sloan Foundation Offer Sparks Drive

An offer made in October, 1965, by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation has sparked North Carolina College's first drive to match funds in order to obtain a foundation grant.

The Sloan Foundation offered \$33,333.33 to the college, on a graduated matching basis. The college has set a goal of \$123,000 from all sources to obtain the matching funds.

The offer was the first of its nature ever made in the history of the institution, and administration officials believe similar offers may be forthcoming from other foundations if the drive is successful.

Funds raised in the drive will establish a Scholarship Fund for the recruitment of academically talented students from across the state and the nation. Individuals who wish to honor a friend, relative, or loved one may establish a scholarship in that person's name.

Former head football coach H. H. Riddick, co-chairman of the drive with Dr. Charles Orr, has been assigned to work with alumni, local businesses and friends of the college in the drive. Orr is responsible for contacting businesses across the state and other foundations.

Coach Riddick, who has a desk in the alumni office in the Health Education Building, has issued an invitation to his friends, alumni and anyone else ("whether interested in the program or not") to visit him there.

June Graduate Wins Fulbright-Hays Grant To Study In France

Leonard King, a June graduate and Durham native, has been named recipient of a Fulbright-Hays grant for one year of study at the University of Montpellier, France.

He will leave for France to study French literature on September 15, 1967.



ARTS AND CRAFTS—Shown above are participants in Miss Piccola Morrow's course, "Arts and Crafts for the Elementary School," engaged in typical classroom activities. Upper left, Miss Morrow, right, shows students techniques of basketweaving. Upper right, Students work on reptilian animals constructed of papier mache. Lower left, These animals are also of papier mache construction. Lower right, Miss Morrow and students examine finished work displayed in the classroom.

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