

The Campus Echo

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Alpha, Omega lines halted temporarily, then reinstated

By Winfred B. Cross

The pledge activities of Alpha Phi Alpha and Omega Psi Phi fraternities were recently reinstated after being suspended because of suspected abuse to pledgees, according to Dr. Roger Bryant, assistant vice-chancellor of Student Affairs.

Phillip Rosser, president of the NCCU chapter of the NAACP, was hospitalized Feb. 16 because of "extreme illness," according to Bryant. Rosser was pledging Alpha.

Rosser was taken to the infirmary and then transferred to the emergency room at Duke Medical Center. He was released on Feb. 19 but suffered a relapse and was hospitalized again on Feb. 20.

Bryant said he suspended the Alpha's pledge activities to "insure that every means is used to investigate the situation."

Rosser was last seen leaving the Alpha house at approximately 12:00 a.m. Feb. 16 before being admitted into the hospital later that night.

Tests at Duke Hospital later showed that no alcohol or drugs were found in Rosser's blood stream.

Rosser stated that he did not feel the Alphas had anything to do with his illness because of "their concern when they found I had been hospitalized."

Bryant has since lifted the suspension placed on the Alpha's

pledge activities.

Omega Psi Phi's pledge activities were suspended after a pledgee identified only as "number eight" was hospitalized for an injury in his groin area. He was treated and released with no serious or permanent damage.

"The situation is under investigation so I am not at liberty to give any details," said Bryant.

Recently, a poster hanging in W.G. Pearson Cafeteria depicted Jim Jones, an Omega and a candidate for SGA president, kicking a pledgee in the groin area.

"I don't think Mr. Jones would hurt anybody in the manner in which the poster depicted," said Bryant.

Although the investigation is continuing, Bryant has lifted the suspension from the Omegas also.

Bryant said that at least one campus organization's pledge activities are suspended per pledge period due to rule infraction.

"Organizations must observe their national rules concerning hazing (extreme mental or physical abuse)," he said. "When they accept the fact that hazing has been outlawed completely, pledge periods will run more smoothly."

Bryant added that, contrary to negative views, fraternities and sororities do a lot of community service projects.

"I think it's unfortunate that the negative views outweigh the positive ones," he said.

the controversy continues

Pot: harmful or helpful?

Compiled by Vicky L. Wiggins from reports by English 3100

Once again the question permeates the air—tinkling in the mind of the weary juror preparing to hear testimony for the third day, bemusing the medical doctor as he prescribes the drug to yet another ailing chemotherapy patient, and haunting the student who has just puffed the butt-end of his marijuana cigarette.

The question: Is marijuana harmful (mentally or physical)? Does it cause negative after-effects?

In a recent survey of 178 NCCU students, 105 said it was not harmful and did not produce negative after-effects, 71 disagreed with the above statement, and 2 were undecided.

"Come on and help me smoke some of this bad herb (slang for marijuana). It's some killer." Does this sound familiar? Many of us have heard that or similar dialogue. But just how much of a killer is pot?

Although there have been years of testing the positive and negative effects of marijuana, controversial evidence still floods in. Even with this inconclusive evidence, marijuana is still reaching epidemic proportions on college campuses.

Last fall several students attending the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill participated in a "smoke-out," a festivity in which students smoked marijuana during the lunch hour every Friday for 2 to 3 weeks to protest the illegality of the drug.

Why is the use of marijuana now seeping through crevices that were once sealed tightly?

Dodson Barnes, a 21-year-old senior from Lincolnton, said, "For the most part, pot stimulates thought and activity." He added that the after-effects of marijuana depend on the mentality of the individual.

"I used to smoke it to solve problems; it never affected me mentally or physically and it never conflicted with my studying," said a 25-year-old physical geography major who asked to remain anonymous.

What about the cries and shouts against any form of marijuana? Is it as dangerous as the critics claim?

"The largest problem with the drug is that it is illegal and the research is still incomplete," said Dusty Stuab, clinical director for Hassle House.

Dr. Marcono R. Hines, director of student Health Services at NCCU, agrees with Stuab. "I would not advise any student to smoke marijuana because he does not know what he is smoking. It's not like alcohol which is bought in a sealed container."

Medical Uses of Marijuana

Recent research on marijuana is as an aid to chemotherapy and glaucoma patients. William Erwin, associate director of Public Relations for Duke Medical Center, pointed out that cancer patients who undergo chemotherapy and cannot get rid of nausea with conventional methods are given tetra hydra cannabinal (THC - the active ingredient found in marijuana) in pill form.

According to Sol Lucas, a clinical pharmacist at Duke, the conventional methods are standard nausea drugs such as Compazine, Thorazine, and Tigan. When these methods fail, THC is used. Some of the patients receiving the drug experience up to 75 percent reduction in nausea. The average is about 50 percent reduction. Lucas said a patient "receiving chemotherapy at Duke can get THC only if he has a prescription from a physician who has been approved by the National Cancer Institute (NCI)." The NCI requires that an oncologist (cancer specialist) meet the regular requirements of acquisition of a narcotic license and employment at a cancer treatment center.

How is the marijuana used? THC is extracted from the marijuana plant at the Research Triangle Park. It is then shipped to an unknown company in the United States to be processed into pill form.

Duke Hospital, the only one in this area that prescribes THC to its patients, is one of 500 hospitals across the country licensed to prescribe the drug.

Marijuana is also being tested to help glaucoma patients. Beta Adrenergic Properties (the active ingredient used in the treatment of glaucoma) causes a decrease in blood pressure. According to authorities, there seems to be a correlation in the decrease in blood pressure and the decrease in the pressure on the eyes.

Opponents of the legalization of marijuana cite that it causes serious damage to the brain, lungs, and reproductive organs.

So the controversy lingers on.

Pot and the Law

Is the 4 to 12 feet hemp plant getting too much attention? On August 10, Dr. Gordan Piland, a 34-year-old Hatteras Island physician was arrested for growing 111 marijuana plants at his home. Piland claimed federal regulations and limitations made it almost impossible for him to get marijuana or THC for his cancer patients so he grew his own. On

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Black leadership the focus

History program begins today

The fifth annual Helen G. Edmonds History Colloquium will be held Friday and Saturday at N. C. Central University.

The theme of the program will be "Black Leadership and the Shaping of 20th Century America."

Among the speakers will be Dr. Blyden Jackson, an associate dean at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and William A. Clement, chairman of Central's board of trustees.

Jackson will speak at a luncheon Friday at the Alfonso Elder Student Union, and Clement will speak at a banquet Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Ramada Inn in downtown Durham.

The colloquium, which honors NCCU's only Distinguished

Professor Emeritus, is designed primarily for teachers, who may earn one and a half hours of continuing education credit by attending, and for adult North Carolinians who are out of school.

The program is sponsored by the Edmonds Scholars, a group of 25 NCCU alumni who studied under Dr. Edmonds and now hold doctorates in history. Thirteen of the scholars will lecture and lead discussions during the program.

The colloquium is open to the public and free. Individuals and groups in the Triangle area who need transportation to the programs should call the Department of History and Social Science at 683-6321.



Like this picture? You can see Jimmie Green "whip it" in person in Eagles Nite Live Monday night at 8 p.m. in B. N. Duke. Photo by L. A. Fields

Four Nazis charged with G'boro bomb conspiracy

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (UPI) Four Nazi supporters charged with conspiring to firebomb Greensboro appeared Wednesday before a U.S. magistrate, who declared them eligible for court-appointed lawyers and continued their \$50,000 bond.

The men made a brief appearance before U.S. Magistrate J. Paul Teal Jr. and were then returned to the Buncombe County jail. None of them has posted bond.

The four, all from the Winston-Salem area, were among six people indicted Monday on federal conspiracy charges. The indictments said the six planned to set off napalm-like explosives in Greensboro last year had guilty verdicts been returned in the trial of a group of Nazis and Klansmen accused of killing five communists during a Nov. 3, 1979 clash between the groups in Greensboro.

The four who appeared before Teale were Raeford M. Caudle, 38; James Christopher Talbert, 30, and brothers Joseph Gorrell Pierce, 28, and Roger Allen Pierce, 25.

A fifth suspect, Frank Lee Braswell, 48, also remained in the Buncombe County jail Wednesday. His wife, Patsy Keeter Braswell, 32, was also charged, but released from jail Monday to care for the couple's three

children.

Federal agents have said an undercover agent employed by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms infiltrated the Nazi group. They have declined to name the agent.

But, state Nazi leader Harold Covington said the agent was a man named Mike McSwain, who approached him in the summer of 1980, offering to conduct assassinations and transport Nazis to South America. Covington said he referred the man to the Braswells, who later called Covington asking for his impressions of the men.

John Westra, the agent in charge of ATF operations in the Carolinas, refused Tuesday to confirm or deny Covington's account.

The agent was the second one to infiltrate Nazi and klan groups in recent months. During the murder trial of the Nazis and Klansmen, it was disclosed that ATF agent Bernard Butkovich had sat in on a Klan and Nazi planning session two days before the killings took place at a Greensboro housing project.

Westra denied that the two ATF agents were working together.

Caf rip-off goes on

By Letisa Yates

Instead of a decline in the number of eating utensils being taken from the cafeteria, there is a significant increase. Why?

The present meal plan system has worked successfully for years, but due to the changes in the attitudes of the students many problems have arisen.

Under the present system, the student can purchase food from the serving counter in an a la carte fashion, budget or minimize purchases to suit personal appetites, and share or exchange meal cards with visitors or relatives.

According to a pamphlet circulated by the food service department at NCCU, the cafeteria is designed to serve students living on campus only.

The pamphlet also explains that the meal

plan, based on the volume of students housed on campus, makes it possible to offer a mandatory "group plan" or "discount plan."

Now, back to the attitudes of the students.

On campus students who get "take-outs" and off campus students who may need to furnish an apartment are guilty of removing trays and eating utensils from the cafeteria. This causes more money to be spent to replenish supplies rather than for a wider variety of foods, and these expenses are charged to the on campus student instead of the off campus student.

If students continue to remove eating utensils from the cafeteria, the food service department could enforce the rule that only students residing on campus be allowed to eat in the cafeteria.

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