

NATIONAL STUDENT ASSOCIATION

A recent issue of the EAST CAROLINIAN, the campus newspaper of East Carolina College, contained information dealing with the National Student Association. The NSA, of which East Carolina is a member, is a student organization composed of member colleges from all over the United States. This association is interested in student ideas on international, national, and local levels, and it aids its members through prepared literature, speakers, films, conferences, etc.

Last year, the Vice President of NSA visited the Blon campus in order to give our SG information concerning the organization and the worth of our college becoming a member. At the present, the issue is being considered by our SG, but there must be a thorough investigation as to the value of NSA.

In August, NSA held its fifteenth National Congress at Ohio State University where member schools met to discuss problems prevalent on their campuses and to pass legislation dealing with these problems. Specific issues discussed at the conference were: nuclear testing, civil rights, academic freedom, the role of the student in policy making, freedom of the press, student rights, administrative violation of search and seizure laws, unfavorable parental control over students by administrations, and violation of faculty rights.

Following is a copy of one bill passed at the conference which may be of interest to students on our campus, as it expresses the attitudes of representative college students from all over the nation. The bill was printed in the EAST CAROLINIAN.

FACT:

In many universities in this country, the administration is concerned with various aspects of students' personal and non-scholastic lives. Schools have instituted regulations on the consumption of alcoholic beverages other than those imposed by state laws. They have imposed standards of dress, insisted upon dormitory curfews, and have restricted smoking for reasons other than those of safety and comfort.

PRINCIPLE:

USNSA recognizes that certain rules are necessary for scholastic achievement and for the maintenance of minimal order in the educational community. However, USNSA also believes that certain areas of student life are private concerns and should not be the subject of university regulations. We believe that the development of the ability to make responsible decisions about personal matters is both an important part of the maturation of the individual and an essential element of the educational process. We believe that the individual student must be forced to confront challenging situations on his own. Only by such confrontation can the student become prepared for his role as an autonomous individual in a democratic society.

DECLARATION:

USNSA deplors administration infringement upon the personal rights of individuals. Education consists not only of learning in the classroom, but also of active participation in self-direction. Upon graduation students cannot be expected to act responsibly unless the university has continually confronted them with situations which have required them to make decisions. When the university forces students to take the responsibility for the consequences of their decisions, it will have helped to develop reasonable men and competent citizens.

USNSA recognizes that perhaps early in a college student's career, transitional curfew regulations may be necessary. However, the final goal must be a situation in which the individual controls and is responsible for himself. We declare that administration restrictions concerning dress, alcoholic beverages, smoking, and curfews interfere with the private lives of students.