

EDITORIAL COMMENTS

A dropout? You?

Ridiculous, isn't it? You've finished high school. You are now enrolled in college. By definition, then, you are anything but a dropout.

It really is not an either-you-are-or-you-are-not question. It is instead, a question of degree. The student who is achieving below his ability is just as surely a dropout as is the student who severs his connections with formal education. Only the degree is different.

There are millions of dropouts for both high school and college. Many of these dropouts have gone as far up the educational ladder as their ability will permit. The "dorpout" who stays in school is a different matter entirely. He is giving up a degree of education that he could possess. He is cheating himself and his family — present and future — his school, and his country.

Are you, such a cheat? Or are you taking advantage of all your opportunities to absorb the education being offered to you?

Take those parallel reading assignments for example, do you read them or do you hear that the instructor never checks on them and you just don't bother?

Take your research paper — or should I say papers? Did you pick the topic you thought to be easiest or one from which you might learn more? Did you dig as deeply as you should or did you go only as far as the teacher required?

The course you are taking — did you choose them for their educational worth to you and your future, or because you thought they were "crip" courses or because they fit into your schedule easily. Surely you wouldn't take one just because Sue or Joe is taking it—would you?

Most important, are you doing the very best you can in whatever you are taking or are you satisfied with second best?

You are paying to come to school, in both time and money (your parents' and families' as well as your own). So why not get what you are paying for? Won't you? Or are you just another dropout?"

How Is A President Judged?

The American people have shown their true color within the last two or three weeks by their reactions to President Johnson.

Before his announcement that he is not a candidate for the next year's Presidential election, the majority of the American people scorned President Johnson for many of his policies, both foreign and domestic. This is not uncommon for any president.

Could President Johnson only take so much? Did President Johnson finally let some of the opinions and strong feelings sink in? Did he "accomplish" all he thought he could? Or, did President Johnson feel that by stepping aside he would best be serving his country? For any of these reasons for which President Johnson denounced his candidacy, he may have won the sympathy of the "before" critical Americans and non-Americans. Because of this sympathy, people may think that maybe he has changed his policy about Vietnam. This change of feeling shows that Americans do not know how to judge a president.

It seems that Americans should

realize that there are more than one issue on which to judge a candidate for president. Because Johnson has increased our wages, people praise him but they do not stop to think that the cost of living has also gone up. So really, we have not gained a thing. Also, because Johnson has kept America out of a "declared" war, people praise him.

What should be more important to Johnson is our country, but he seems to have forgotten it. Maybe he is looking into the future when he made a stand in Vietnam, but in the process he forgot the thing that are going on, right now, in our country--and for this reason we are suffering internally; in America.

We tend to judge a candidate on his appearance on television and also on his speaking ability and we do not think just because he looks good and speaks good that he may not have the background or capacity of being President.

The President should be chosen on what he actually says he will do--politicians are ingenious on how to not answer questions--and what he has actually done in the past. These

Term Papers Are Beneficial

Is there really any purpose to a term paper? Of course, this question can be answered by both yes and no.

In many cases the term paper is really of no substantial benefit to the teacher. Almost in nine out of ten cases the teacher already knows about the topic that is assigned to the student. Having to read fifteen or twenty term papers on a topic that a person is already familiar with, and probably knows as much about, if not more, on the subject than the student will find, is in many ways just a waste of time to the teacher. However, the term paper could be beneficial to the teacher if, like some teachers, he assigns the student a term paper to do on topics he himself knows little or maybe nothing about. In this way the teacher learns and the term papers are a help to him.

To the student naturally the term paper seems unnecessary. Term papers can be a complete nuisance. Teachers can be unreasonable and run the term papers into the ground by assigning three or four term papers for a student to do in one quarter, thus having no pity at all for the students. One term paper is all well and good in its proper place, but three or four are ridiculous especially in one subject with all the other work the teacher piles on the student. Students are human beings too and now and then they need some time to themselves, time to escape from the hectic pace of school life.

When a term paper is assigned, it is better if the topic is in some way one that the student is slightly

interested in. In this way the paper is more beneficial to the student because he already has an interest in this topic and the term paper will not seem as much of a chore to the student. However, no matter what the topic is regardless of the students' interest, the term paper should be a challenge to him because it gives an opportunity to broaden his field of knowledge.

Naturally the general consensus among students is that term papers are nothing but headaches. But there really is a point to doing a term paper even though most students do not think so. They think that term papers are just another means of taking up a student's precious free time. By doing a term paper a student learns how to organize and assemble facts in a logical order. Also, because of a lack of time, there are many facts that the teacher is not able to point out to the student during a quarter's work. By doing the term paper the student gets a well rounded background he needs to know but because there is so much material to cover in a quarter the student could not get these extra facts during the class meetings. Therefore, the term paper helps the student to broaden his background in different subjects.

Nancy Icenhour

Freak-In?

A number of students at WCC are interested in having a Freak-In where everyone, including faculty and students dress as hippies. Everyone's goal will be complete self expression in dress. If anyone is interested, confer your opinions to the Student Government Association.

Isn't it funny how little value other people put on your time.

The Cougar Cry

THE VOICE OF WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Wilkesboro, North Carolina

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