



The Cougar Cry

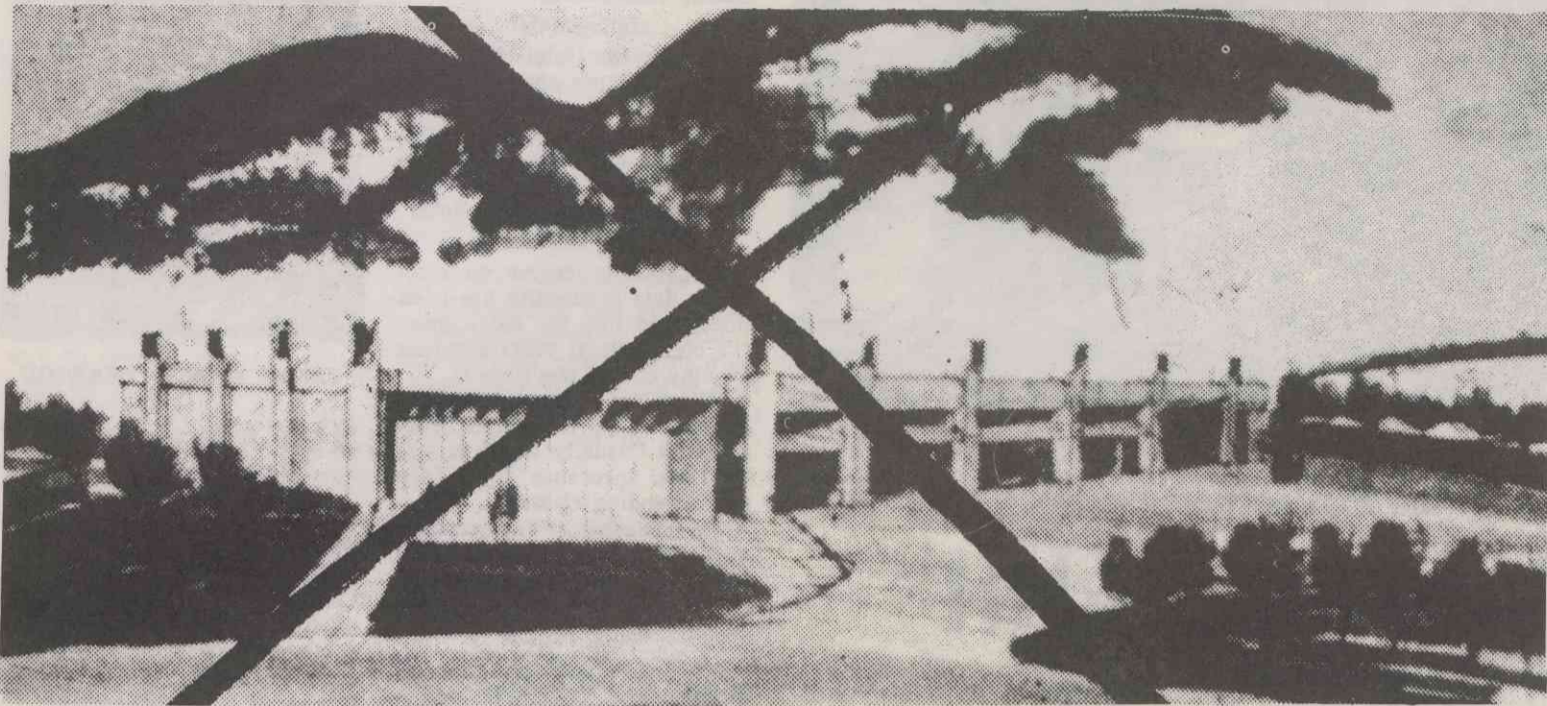
THE VOICE OF WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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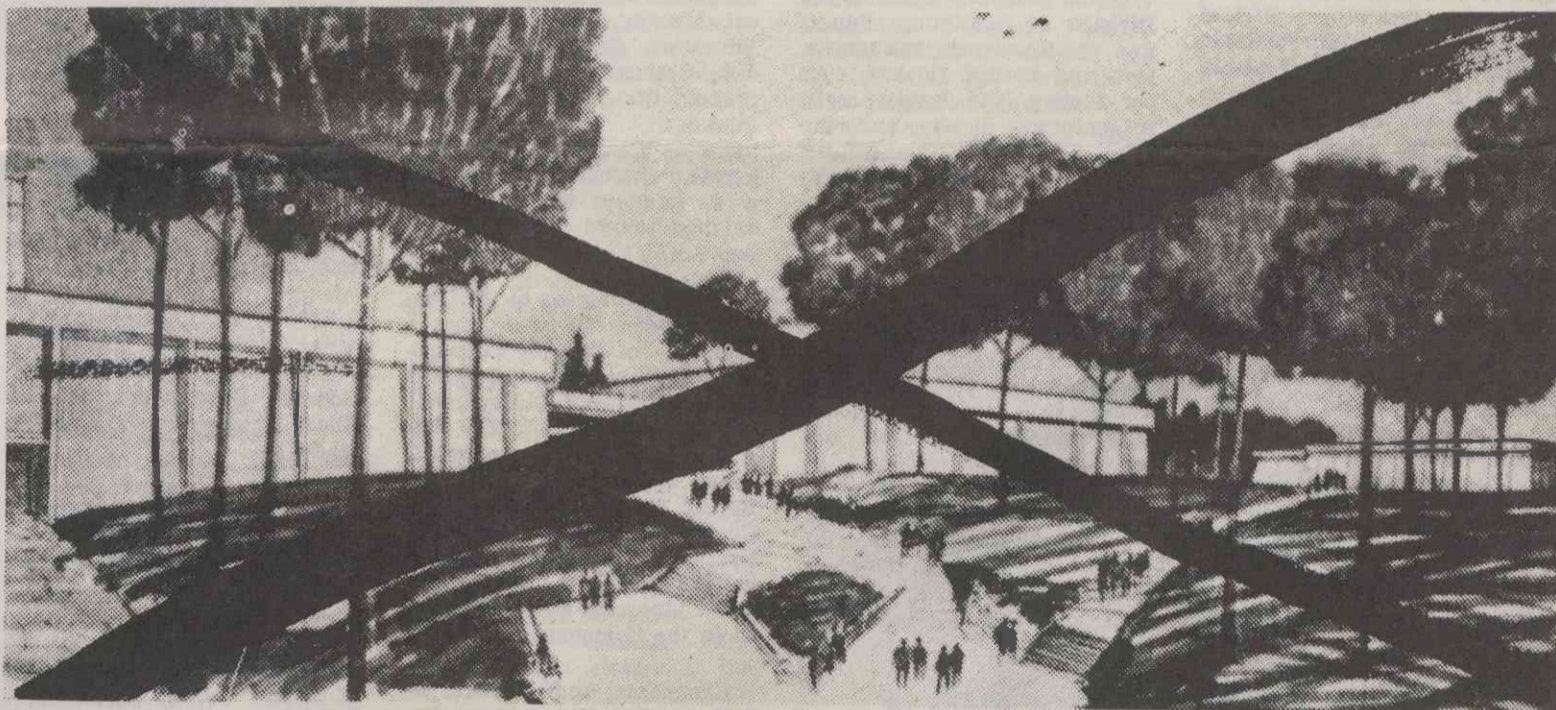
WILKESBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

OCTOBER 7, 1974



POWER MECHANICS
BUILDING

AUDITORIUM, STUDENT
COMMONS, GYMNASIUM,
TECH ED BLDG.



The Bond Issue: An Afterthought

"ALL WISH TO BE LEARNED ; FEW ARE WILLING TO PAY THE PRICE"

An oxcart is just as useful to a man as a rocketship if he doesn't know or care where he's going. By the same token our outmoded schools and inadequate college facilities are going to need to be as useful now as the passing of the bond issue would have made them, as it is apparent that the voters of Wilkes either don't know or don't care where education is going. Education is not unlike any other organization that exists. It must move, forward or backward. It cannot stand still.

EXAMPLE

Ruskin said: "Education does not mean teaching people what they do not know — it is a painful, continual, and difficult work to be done by watching, by warning, by precept, and by praise, but above all by EXAMPLE."

The recent example set forth by the voters of Wilkes contains many lessons for many people. Progressiveness is not among them. I have learned silence from the talkative, toleration from the intolerant, kindness from the unkind, and progressiveness from the backward. Yet strangely, I am extremely ungrateful to these teachers.

MINORITY RULES

Examine the ashes of the dreams burned by the ballot box, and you will discover the fire was kindled by insensitiveness. The opposite of education is probably not ignorance. It's apathy. (About 25% of the voters decided the future of education of the majority, the community college's \$2 million bond referendum losing 4712 - 2171.)

WHO REALLY LOST?

If the bond issue had passed the only tangible difference it would have

made to Dr. Thompson would have been an increased work load. It would not have affected his salary by one cent.

STAFF

None of the staff lost. Their salaries were unaffected, and there is no way to expect them to do any more work than they do now. It saved them work and headaches because now it may be necessary to limit enrollment.

FACULTY

The faculty didn't lose. Communication flows more easily in cramped up offices anyway, and it does project the image of togetherness. Most of the faculty have pretty full schedules. Their salaries would not have been affected.

STUDENTS

The new buildings would not have been ready for a couple of years anyway so the students who are here now would not have benefited. The only thing I can think of that the students may have lost is the pride of talking about the far-seeing citizens of our county.

That covers pretty much everyone directly connected with the college, and the loss from our standpoint is minimal. The real losers are in the future.

The community certainly has lost a valuable economic stimulant by virtue of the "new money" that will not come now.

SHALLOW VICTORY

Normally after an election victory, the winning side celebrates with a "victory party." I know of no such parties that took place on the eve of September 26. Such would have been a "victory wake" and probably would have been held in potters field. To the winners I drink a toast and suggest that your winning is a two-edged sword and remind you: "to the victors belong the spoils."