

The Editor Speaks

Editorial

Welcome to the wonderful world of Wilkes Community College. Whether you are back for another exciting year, whether you've been here for years already, or whether this is your first year, WCC is here to serve all year-round.

If you are new to the college, take advantage of the courteous and helpful faculty and staff. They will assist you in any way they can—so make 'em earn their money, you get your money's worth.

The "Cougar Cry" is the student newspaper, and it will keep you informed of events throughout the year. From inside the classrooms, to the intra-mural and nonmural athletics, through the dance floor, to the Walker Center, and any activities there and in between.

Since the "Cougar Cry" is your paper, we invite any comments, criticisms, suggestions, complaints, and certainly any compliments that you may have regarding the paper, campus life, classes, or anything else that's on your mind (see back).

It promises to be a great year at WCC—a year of intrigue, excitement, enthusiasm, comradery, motivation, stimulation, animation, and anticipation.

Anticipation for what?
For the year to end.

Matt Cashion

BSU News

The Baptist Student Union Club got off to a slow start in 1986-87 but is making plans now to start the 1987-88 school year on an active note! The club is a growing club and new freshman members are needed.

The club is called BSU because it is sponsored by the Baptist State Convention of N.C. However, any denomination is welcome to attend the club meetings and to be members of the club.

The club 1987-88 BSU Club Officers are:

President Jennifer Hayes
Vice-President Myra Lynn Dancy
Secretary Alisah Blevins
Treasurer Pam Marley
Reporters Amy Bauguess
Missy Wiles

The first club meeting of the 1987-88 school year will be in room 410 Hayes Hall at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 10, 1987. Items of business to be discussed include a membership drive, fall quarter activities, and the BSU Fall State Conference that will be held at the Ridgecrest Conference Center on September 25-27, 1987.

For more information about the BSU Club, see the bulletin board beside room 410 Hayes Hall or see Dr. Jo Hendrix in room 405 Hayes Hall or Mr. Alan Whittington in the Student Development Office.

Financial Aid 1987-88

Again we are encouraging students to investigate the possibility of financial aid. If you have not already talked with the financial aid officer in Student Services, you should do so.

Pell Grant money is still available; it is not too late to apply! Approximately 70% of all Wilkes Community College students who applied for the Pell Grant in 1983-84 received assistance. In general you are eligible for Federal Aid if you meet the following requirements:

1. You are enrolled at least half-time.
2. You are a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen.
3. You show that you have need.
4. You are not in default on a Guaranteed Student Loan, National Defense Student Loan, or PLUS Loan.
5. You do not owe a refund on a Pell Grant or on a SEOG.
6. You have signed a statement of registration compliance.

Also some money is still available for students wanting to work through the College Work-Study Program. You should see the financial aid officer and be sure you have the proper paper work completed.

Another source of assistance is the Guaranteed Student Loan. This loan is awarded by the College Foundation, Inc., and the interest rate is 8%. You do not have to begin payment until six months after you are out of school. When you apply for this guaranteed loan you make a commitment to paying it back. Honoring this commitment will strengthen these programs which will allow others to have the same type assistance that was available to you.

Again, you are encouraged to see the financial aid officer if you have financial needs. Information and assistance will be readily available.

Being All You Can Be

Down through life, we all seem to have some type of "Doubting Thomas" in us. We put ourselves down because we have little faith in our abilities and in what we can do. For example, if a person wants to become a lawyer, doctor, etc. he/she may fall short of that goal because that person doesn't think they have the ability to strive toward such a goal. If one doesn't think they can do something such as a goal of some sort, then they never will. **But**, when a person puts all they can into striving towards a goal, then **nothing** can stop them. We all have some element of determination in us, but it is those of us who use that element who will come out ahead.

Reggie Wiles

Dear Freshman

Welcome to Wilkes Community College where you can start to explore all fields of interest that, hopefully, will lead you to better knowledge and the pursuit of happiness.

I want to leave a few thoughts and helpful hints to make your new college life better and more memorable.

Take advantage of the friendliness of the staff and faculty. I found that relationships between students and instructors can be close. There is nothing better than having an instructor as a friend, so he or she can help with homework. Discussions in instructor's offices can be lively, especially in office 409, Department of Mathematics and Science.

Take advantage of your beautiful college campus. A lot of hard work has been put into the gardens and buildings so you can enjoy. Stop and smell a rose on the way to class, (a good excuse for being late.) Sit by the fountain and soak up the sun one spring afternoon. Walk around the track or play tennis one cool fall afternoon.

Enjoy the dreaded 100 steps to the Technical Arts Building. Enjoy the commons often. It's been a place to get away from the worries of next class tests. Ping-pong is the major sport around here, lots of frustrations can be worked out.

The library and media resources center can be a place of relaxation, curl up with a good book or get your homework done here.

Mainly, take pleasure in your free time between classes. Explore the campus or go out to eat at Burger King, you'll never be alone there.

To me, college life was more fun than high school. Mainly because I was determined to learn. It's not hard at all, only you can make it hard. I'd like to leave everyone with a poem by Helen Steiner Rice. It leaves, in better words than I have said, a thought you must choose now.

A NEW YEAR MEDITATION

As we start a New Year untouched and unmarred
Unblemished and flawless,
unscratched and unscarred,

May we try to do better and accomplish much more
And be kinder and wiser
than in the year gone before -

Let us wipe our slates clean and start over again,
For God gives this privilege to all sincere men
Who will humbly admit they have failed many ways
But are willing to try and improve these "new days"
By asking God's help in all that they do
And counting on Him to refresh and renew
Their courage and faith when things go wrong
And the way seems dark and the road rough and long -

WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THIS YEAR THAT'S SO NEW???

The choice is yours - God leaves that to YOU!
-Helen Steiner Rice

...David "Cosmo" Wiles
A graduate of WCC

JTPA

The JTPA Program is now accepting applications for Fall Quarter. JTPA will pay tuition and books for students that qualify. Eligibility is based on household income. For more information come by the JTPA office in Lovette Hall.

The Garden Spot

by Scot Jones

Fall Planting

As summer comes to an end and the blazing colors of fall draw near it is now the time to start planning your fall planting schedule. Fall is the best time of year to do your planting for obvious reasons. The heavy rains of spring that tend to wash away small seeds such as grass seeds are now gone, and now that they are the soil is not as muddy and hard to dig. Listed below are a few tips on planting bulbs, trees and shrubs, and roses:

Bulbs

Most bulbs need cold weather to break dormancy, but you don't want them to freeze so I recommend that you cover them with a thin layer of mulch to protect them from the ravages of winter.

The chart I consulted recommended planting these bulbs at the following depths.

5" - Crocus, Grape Hyacinths
8" - Tulips, Hyacinths, Daffodils, Iris

If the soil is dry when you plant your bulbs, due to a lack of rain it would be recommendable to water them to give their roots a chance to start.

Trees & Shrubs

It is best to plant trees and shrubs in the fall. The soil will be much easier to dig, and this also gives the plant roots time to get a headstart in growing and establishing a support system for the tree or shrub headed into its first winter. By the time spring arrives the soil will have settled around the roots giving way to growth of root hairs

which absorb nutrients and will promote leaf growth, and overall growth of the tree in the spring.

It is advisable to avoid planting trees and shrubs in areas where water stands or gathers. Other areas to avoid planting in are arid or underwatered areas, and areas in which herbicides have frequently been used.

Growth can be promoted by providing a "living soil." This is simply a soil that has had organic matter added back, such as manure or leaves. If you wish to add manure back into the soil you must give it approximately five months to decompose otherwise the excess nitrogen will "burn up" your plants, killing them.

Roses

Before you plant your roses, as with any other plant you should make an overall plan. The following things should be considered. Will your rose receive at least four to six hours of sunlight daily? Will the place where you plan to put your rose allow for easy watering access? Does the area provide good drainage? Will your rose have adequate nourishment? Will the rose receive proper air circulation? If the answer to all above criteria is YES then you have a prime spot to plant your rose. It is also helpful to remember to cut back the top of your rose to balance out the root system. This will promote the establishment of a sound root system, and your roses will thank you for it the following year with a beautiful display of color.

Well I hope these tips have been helpful. It is my intention to provide you with the information or prompting you need to create a beautiful landscape or to add beauty to the inside of your home. I hope you'll be looking forward to the next "GARDEN SPOT" when the topic will be about... another interesting facet of the plant world.

Need Money For College?

North Carolinians may borrow from \$2,500 to \$5,000 per academic year to attend eligible colleges or vocational schools anywhere in the U.S. The amount you may borrow depends on the student's academic classification, family income, other student financial aid, and the school's estimated cost of attendance.

College Foundation, Inc., makes the loans under the N.C. Insured Student Loan Program and the N.C. PLUS Loan Program. N.C. banks provide the loan funds and the N.C. State Education Assistance Authority insures the loans. More than 75,000 students have borrowed more than \$240 million through College Foundation, Inc., during the past twenty-one years.

For an application form and details about the loans, contact College Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box 12100, Raleigh, N.C. 27605 (919) 821-4771.

Important Notice

There are openings in the Wilkes Community College Symphony and Jazz Ensemble. For more information, contact Jerry Bangle at (919) 667-0319.