Letter to Paper

To my friends at Wilkes Community College:

As I conclude my second year here at Wilkes Community College, I face a new episode in a multi-faceted career. Like many other "mature" students in the community college system, I needed a year or two of field work to prepare myself for college. During my first bout with secondary education in Colorado, I resembled Bart Simpson with a new babysitter.

I am quite impressed with the quality of education available here. At WCC, a student can get better preparation for university work than at a four-year college. Not only are the instructors topof-the-line, but they have genuine concern for the students, and they fight attrition, rather than encourage it. As a two-year technical student, I find the instructors and facilities to be excellent as well.

All this stuff did not come from thin air. It is the result of three decades of pure dedication from innumerable instructors, administrators, citizens, and industries of Wilkes County. Our school evolved from a few borrowed buildings in the sixties to a beautiful campus with modern classrooms, a brand new technical building, the Walker Center, and the gardens.

This brings me to a sore spot. For two years, I have heard various people on campus poor-mouth college events. Ironically, they are the same folks who avoid these events like a social disease. I recently heard a student downplay the Watson Festival by saying, "Shucks, I can spend twenty-five bucks and hear Marty Stuart in CONCERT!" Well, on Saturday, April 27, we heard half-adozen national acts, including Marty Stuart, Kathy Mattea, and Doc Watson, with about a hundred other world-class musicians for only \$15.00 The sound quality was better than I've heard in a coliseum in 25 years. I think my little buddy needs a new calculator.

Throughout the year, the Walker Center and the Pit have bunches of excellent plays, symphonies, jazz, and pop music. I understand that many students have a civic duty to drive slow, disco, and razz the "flire gardens," but if they would check out the Walker Center one night a month, they might have fun and get lucky.

We have just experienced a four-day music festival of the quality that would rival any such event in the world. People came to Wilkesboro from all over the United States and Europe. Yet, tears fell like rain on campus due to a few displaced parking spaces. I even heard that it disrupted someone's education. I don't think so.

I come from a nearby town twice the size of Wilkesboro with half the college and none of the entertainment. Once a year, we can watch some balloons go up, hear a bar band, and eat cotton candy. In a state that is at the bottom of the heap in education, Wilkes County is blessed with facilities and personnel that far exceed those of most other counties.

Like it or not, fine arts is as important to a college as the three R's. Whether we prefer Mendelsohn or Millsap, we need entertainment. Private citizens and industries, through the Endowment Corporation, have given their money, not ours, to support the gardens and Walker Center. It took resourceful leadership to persuade them to do so.

We need that same type of resourceful attitude to keep our college from suffering the fate of other North Carolina schools. Our science labs and Daniel Hall need desperately to be equipped. Our hardest working teachers need the type of pay that reflects their efforts. I hope that our administration will work to get the money we need. The only way we can keep coasting is to coast downhill.

Thank you, Wilkes Community College, for a fine education and for many fine friends.

- Parker Steele



Friendship, Leadership, & Scholarship

On May 17, 1990, I was invited to attend a meeting with other prospective Phi Theta Kappa members. Fifteen people showed up, wondering about the future that this organization would hold for us. I knew only a few of those people. Others I had only seen in classes. Each of us held our very own quality that would make a difference in the future of the Phi Theta Kappa at Wilkes Community College. Soon we would get the opportunity to manipulate these qualities and grow as community leaders. And that was just what we did.

Today, as I look back over almost a year's time, I think of the fifteen close friends that I now have. And with us, twenty new members have joined since January and seventeen other new members join us in late May to share the leading experience.

I am very proud of the accomplishments that we as a group have made. This year we didn't want to be just another chapter. We set out to be different. And that was just what we did! We attended the leadership convention in Charlotte and the regional convention in Charleston. From Charleston, we left with two honors. We were voted the Most Improved Chapter in North and South Carolina, and drove home the new Carolina's Regional President, Roger Rikard, whose honor I envy.

One might ask how we became what we are today. My answer to that question would simply be - we began from day one working as a 'team.' No one person took on full responsibility. When we worked together we could do anything. Things would fall right into place.

To the members of Phi Theta Kappa that will be the 1991-1992 chapter, I wish the best of luck. You hold the future of our chapter. Begin now preparing to make the year a strong and honorable experience. To the new officers - It's all yours! You guys run the show now. Keep up and always be prepared for anything. You have two great advisors that will guide you in each step you take.

In closing, I would like to say thanks, to every person that had anything to do with this year's Phi Theta Kappa. Thanks to the faculty and staff for all of the support. To our two wonderful advisors, Jo Hendrix and Barbara Holt, thanks for everything. Good luck to all members of Phi Theta Kappa, old and new. And to Dr. Jim Randolph thanks for helping me in my nomination for the All American Team that later granted me high honors, and for being the college president that would go beyond support of our chapter.

Being a member of Phi Theta Kappa is something that will remain one of my best memories of Wilkes Community College, along with the many friends that I have been privileged to make during my time spent here.

Best of luck to all graduates and students of WCC. Farewell to all teachers and friends. May your futures turn out exactly as you plan them.

us you pian them.

— Michael W. Lyles
President,
Alpha Kappa Omega Chapter
Phi Theta Kappa

Ebony News

During the month of March, the Ebony club was re-organized at WCC. This organization was formed with the intention of promoting a positive image both socially and academically among the students of color at WCC. Anyone that is concerned with positivity and the striving toward excellence for students of color has an open invitation to come and be a part of this organization.

Ebony officers for the 1991-92 school year are: Pres. Wayne Jackson, Vice Pres. Sam Brown, Sec. Tracy Walker, Trea. Stan Chambers, and Reporter Michael Reese. Advisor to this organization is Cassandra Lanier of Student Support Services. We would like to say thank you to both Cassandra and Coach Herman Norman for their support in getting this organization going. The Ebony is looking forward to a productive future. Hopefully with the support of WCC society.

Best Wishes Graduates!

— Linda Carlton

Events In Phi Beta Lambda

Jason Martin served as WCC Phi Beta Lambda's representative to the North Carolina PBL State Leadership Conference in April. Jason competed at the state level in the Management competition and placed second. This second-place finish qualifies Jason to compete in that event at the PBL National Conference in Anaheim, California in July. Congratulations, Jason!!

Our PBL chapter also placed 5th in the state in the American Enterprise Project. Special thanks to Laura Zeigler, Jennifer Dolinger, Denise Saner, and Amy Pennell for their hard work on this project.

Financial Aid

It's not too late, but students needing assistance with educational expenses are encouraged to apply for student financial aid as soon as possible. In order to get funding by Fall Registration, students must file before June 1, 1991.

The following types of aid are available: grants, scholarships, part-time employment, tuition assistance programs, and VA benefits for qualifying veterans.

Students may use these funds to cover the costs of tuition, fees, books, and supplies. Some students may receive additional funds to cover a portion of their living expenses (room, board, transportation, childcare, and personal expenses).

For more information on the financial aid program or process for applying please contact:

Alan Whittington 651-8633 or Vickie Call 651-8630 - grants, scholarships, or college work-study.

Claudia Eller 651-8777 - JTPA Coot Gilreath 651-8638 - veterans benefits.

Blood Drive

On Friday, May 3, the Red Cross arrived at WCC to begin our bi-annual blood drive. With the help of Phi Theta Kappa members to carry in equipment, the Red Cross was set up and ready to receive donors at 10:00. Throughout the day students, faculty, and members of the community could be seen waiting in line to donate blood. There were many stops between filling out forms for names and addresses and the cookie table. The Red Cross made sure all donors were healthy. There were a few prospective donors who were turned away, for various reasons, but most were accepted. By 2:00 we had exceeded our goal of 65 pints, by one pint.

— Louise Mullis

1991 Yearbooks Have Arrived

Pick yours up in the business office

Whiz Quiz

Roseate Trivia

1. During the Roman Empire, who

spent about \$150,000 on roses for a

2. How did Hippocrates use roses?

call a rose by any other name would

smell as sweet," said which Shakespea-

4. Who wrote, "Rose is a rose is a

5. Which U.S. city is known as the

6. Four states plus one other U.S.

7. What famous armed conflicts

8. Who first planted a rose garden at

9. A rose can help a young girl, says

10. Thumbelina was covered with

11. Can you name at least three songs

12. What four roses are, or were, in

area have adopted the rose as their

3. "What's in a name? That which we

banquet?

rean character?

rose is a rose?"

flower. Which?

the White House?

the world of sports?

English legend, to what?

what in her tiny walnut shell?

with rose/roses in their titles?

name roses?

city of roses?

A Final Note

This being the final edition of the paper that I will be involved with, I would like to take the opportunity to express just what my two years at Wilkes have meant to me. At the age of 30, as mother of three, an education seemed like the impossible dream. But, on May 24th, I will joyfully graduate from Wilkes Community College with those people that have shared the college experience with me. We have spent endless hours preparing for tests, essays, term papers, and those dreaded speeches.

Maybe it hasn't been easy, but it sure has given me a great deal of satisfaction. Along the way, the staff and faculty have been there for guidance, motivation, and support. There is not room enough to list the people who have helped me along the way, but I would like to list a few of them.

Thanks first of all to Dr. Hendrix for pushing me above what I thought I could do. Being the editor of the paper and surviving Pre-Calculus in the Summer Block, has taught me that perseverance when challenged, pays off!

Speaking of challenges for students, thanks goes to Cliff LeCornu for increasing my vocabulary. The many nights I have spent preparing for your tests, I complained about — but oh, what I learned! Thank-you for making me expand my mind.

Of course, I can't forget anyone in the English Department for those papers you so lovingly assigned. You forced me to get over my fear of computers. I even like them ... some days.

Special thanks to Blair Hancock who helped me with the hardest speech of my life.

All the support staff at WCC have been terrific. Thanks to Larry Caudill, Allen Whittington, Cathy Annas, and Patricia Chambers for putting up with me.

Speaking of support, I can't possibly forget all the support that Student Support Services has given me. Each and every staff member has helped me to grow and has supported me when I needed them. Special thanks to Cassandra Lanier who has made me believe that I can succeed. Thanks to Cassandra for always listening when I needed to talk, and thanks for teaching me skills that will carry me through my career.

Thanks to all my fellow students who have made it fun! Thanks to: Phyllis Smith for her support of the paper and as my friend, Louise Mullis for keeping us young, Steve Gilbert for his friendship, Karen Miller, Kelly and Doris Hash, and Vicky Smith for those entertaining conversations as we tackled the mountain.

Many people have made the past two years at Wilkes some of the best years of my life. There isn't enough room to list everyone, but you know who you are. You know that the jobs that you do make a difference! So thanks goes to all the staff and faculty, as we graduate! We couldn't have done it without you!

— Sherry Miller Editor

HUG, ANOTHER CHANCE. American Red Cross

Hug a Blood

Donor Today!

WHEN

YOU GIVE

BLOOD

YOU GIVE

ANOTHER

BIRTHDAY,

ANOTHER

DATE,

ANOTHER

DANCE,

ANOTHER

LAUGH,

ANOTHER

The American Red Cross launched its Blood Services Program in February 1941 to supply blood for the men and women of the U.S. armed forces. By the end of World War II, in September 1945, the Red Cross had collected more than 13 million pints of blood through its 35 fixed centers and 63 mobile units.

Today, the American Red Cross collects blood through a nationwide network of blood regions, chapters, and stations on domestic military bases. These regions, chapters, and stations collect more than 6 million units of blood each year, making the Red Cross the nation's largest blood-banking organization.

But people, not numbers, tell the real story of the Blood Services program. These people — doctors and nurses, blood drive workers, laboratory technicians, blood donor recruiters, and, above all, patients and donors — know that blood is not just a product to be collected and transfused, but a precious gift to be donated and appreciated.

So, are you the type?

When you give blood, you give the most precious gift of all — the gift of life. After your first donation, you'll receive a donor card from the Red Cross that lists your blood type. A positive and O positive are the most common blood types.

But whether you're A positive or AB negative, remember: The only rare blood type is the one that isn't donated!

Phi Theta Kappa sponsored the blood mobile on May 3. There were 66 pints collected.

Blame TV for Ignorance

"Television is rapidly eroding the strength of our Republic from within." Ken Burns, producer of the CPB-funded Civil War, told the World Affairs Council in Los Angeles recently. According to the Los Angeles Times, Burns said, "Instead of dozens of options on the tube, we now see nearly the same thing everywhere." Burns said that Americans are addicted to personality, "to the breathless embrace of celebrity," ensuring the "tyranny of the televised over the great mass of the un-televised."



Answers to Roseate Trivia

1—Neto. 2—Like herbs, for medicinal purposes. 3—Julier, 4—Certrude Stein. 5—Portland, OR. 6—Ceorgia, Iowa, DC. 7—England's Wars of the Roses from 1455-85. 8—President John Adams. 9—Find a husband. 10—Rose leaf. 11—My Wild Irish Rose, Roses of Picardy, The Last Rose of Summer, Only a Rose, In the Time of Roses, Rose of My Gose, In the Time of Rose, Rose of My Gose, In the Last Rose Will Remind You, Secondhand Rose. 12—Rose Bowl, "Run for the Roses," Rosie Mittermater,



Happiness is ...

"Be satisfied!" lectured the psychologist. "You can if you wish. Simply have your own helping of happiness."

"But how does one have happiness?"
The psychologist realized the obvious, for he continued his lecture with these words:

"The joy and satisfaction, the happiness we seek from life depend a great deal more upon ourselves and the kind of people we are inside than upon the things that happen to us outside."