

# Choosing A Career . . . Needs A Little Guidance

By CHRIS FREEMAN

Before leaving high school, the average student has made several visits to talk with one of the guidance counsellors. Most of these visits occur in the senior year, and deal with college plans. However, the guidance department is now broadening its services to include every student and to make more information available to all students.

In a recent survey of seniors on the effectiveness of the guidance department, over one-fourth of those surveyed said that too often they had to wait some time to see a counsellor. To partially ease this situation, boxes will be placed on the guidance office doors so that students who simply wish to leave messages or applications with a counsellor can do so without waiting in line.

Many students reach college without knowing what career they wish to enter, and therefore find that they do not have the proper high school background when they do come to a career decision. Because of the high level of competitiveness in many career fields, the student who chooses the proper high school and college curriculum to prepare him for his chosen career has an advantage. To help students at Senior High prepare themselves for jobs or careers, Mr. Edwards and Mrs. Smith are now meeting individually with all students to determine class registration for next year. Mr. Edwards says that by talking with each student individually, the counsellors hope to guide rising seniors, juniors and sophomores to proper course choices which will meet graduation requirements and personal needs.

In an effort to make students more aware of the various career fields open to them and the requirements of these fields, the guidance office will soon establish a career information center to be located in a partitioned area of the library. This center will be open to students during all school hours as well as before and after school. Present plans are to include catalogues from virtually all two- and four-year colleges



Mrs. Jeneece Smith never tires of helping students.



Mr. Ken Edwards counsels another unruly student.

and technical institutions in North Carolina, along with the Occupational Outlook Handbook, Dictionary of Job Titles, and Encyclopedia of careers. These reference books can be very valuable in making a career or college decision, but often are not used by students, according to Mr. Edwards. All students will be allowed to check out catalogues and informational guides overnight if they wish to do so.

Other reference materials to be found in the career center will include a cassette and filmstrip series on many vocational and professional careers; the Job-Bank, a listing of jobs available in Charlotte and the surrounding area published daily by the Em-

ployment Security Commission; and the Co-ordinated Occupational Information Network micro-fiche system. This system contains information on most colleges, universities, and technical schools in the United States and on many career fields.

All these reference materials will be available to any student to use at his own convenience. Information previously available only from the guidance office will now also be found in the career center. By decentralizing these materials, the guidance department hopes to expose more students to the guidance information and to free the guidance counsellors to do more personal counseling.

## Editorial

# Final Exams — Necessary or Not?

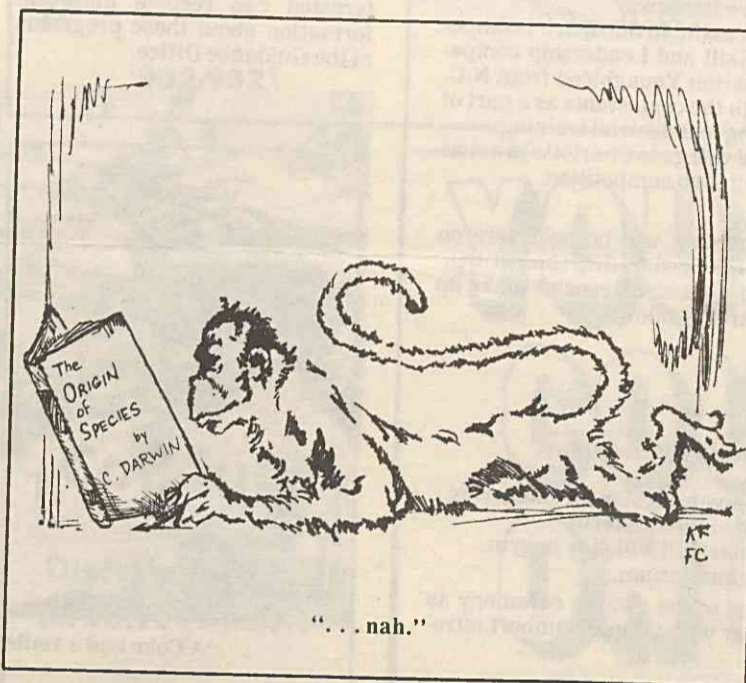
By: ANN NOVAK

A question often asked by most students is, "Why are exams necessary?" The student council has probed into this matter and they have created a new plan of exempting exams, for those students who have had outstanding attendance and who have made good grades. This policy would allow an average student to achieve a reward of exempting exams. This way a student would not have to re-learn the facts that they have already studied throughout the year. The proposal is as follows:

A student with an "A" semester average may have a maximum of four excused absences. A student with a "B" semester average may have a maximum of three excused absences. A student with a "C" semester average may have a maximum of two excused absences. A student with a "D" semester average may have a maximum of one absence.

This proposal would be a good idea because a student who has made both above average grades and who has had good attendance would not have to take a long and hard exam. Exams only test a student's memory, to see how much a student can remember of the things which they have already learned and been tested on. Exams are a very mental and physical burden, which are really unnecessary. Students obtain enough knowledge throughout the year from other tests that the teachers have already given. Why should a student have to spend the night before an exam cramming for a test, which really only tests a student's ability to memorize? Most students feel if they have not learned throughout the year, they cannot all of a sudden cram for one or two nights and know all of the answers for an exam. Also in many cases an exam grade can pull down an average grade.

I feel that the student council has created an excellent answer for a very common problem and question.



## Springtime Superstition:

# Looking Over the Four-Leaf Clover

By TRACY MORGAN

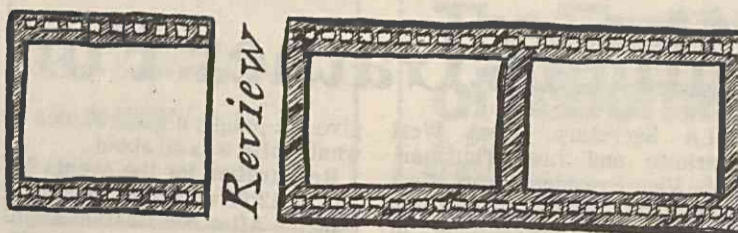
Spring begins this month. With it, comes the procession of buttercups, bare feet, birds chirping, blue skies, April showers, and all of the things associated with spring — including the four-leaf clover.

As warm weather arrives and days become longer, it is amazing to see the number of people crouched on their hands and knees in desperate search of . . . what? Obviously, they seek a four-leaf clover, but for what purpose? Why, to find "good luck" of course.

Since ancient times, people have considered the four-leaf clover to be one of the most common symbols. Superstition has it that if a young girl is lucky enough to find one, she should pin it to her door. This assures her of marriage to the first bachelor that enters.

This belief may be authentic and at times even profitable, but it does seem that one stands the risk of suffering severe eye strain in search of this good luck charm. Also, it is possible that one could look for hours on end and never even catch a glimpse of a four-leaf clover. Instead of gaining all this good luck, one might easily only gain a very painful backache.

As for me, I think I'll just take my chances and let Fate decide my future, be it good or bad. But for those of you who enjoy this type of sport, spring is just around the corner, and there are plenty of four-leaf clover just waiting to be found. Happy Hunting!!



## Ordinary People An Extraordinary Movie

By TAMMY DWIGHT

A recent encouraging trend in the film industry is the new-found popularity of movies which celebrate the idea of the family as a unit. "Ordinary People" is a realistic portrayal of a family struggling to cope with a crisis — specifically, the death of a son. The movie is filled with touching moments between father and son; mother and son; and husband and wife. Each character is affected differently, according to their personalities. Perhaps, this is why the movie is such a success, because the characters are real and identifiable. Mary Tyler Moore plays the cool, calm unaffected mother, who is unable to show her true feelings towards either her younger son or her husband. Donald Sutherland plays the loving, caring father who realizes, through his experience,

that he may not love his wife. All the realizations, however, stem from the son who survived, played by Timothy Hutton. He does a fantastic job as the guilt ridden younger son. From his visits to a psychologist, played by Judd Hirsch, he learns how to cope with his feelings about himself and his parents. Hutton's performance as a young man determined to find himself is excellent. Judd Hirsch portrays a caring concerned psychiatrist, who becomes a good friend. Due to the sensational performances by these actors, the movie is an excellent experience and deserves the six academy award nominations it is up for. Unlike most movies today, "Ordinary People" is worth \$3.50 and, in fact, is a movie that everyone should see simply for the experience.



### THE FULL MOON

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