Editorial

Undoubtedly, our front page story caught your attention. The subject material is a delicate, personal situation and The Hilltop was fortunate to have "Kris" grant us an interview. It was a courageous act to come forward and speak openly and give straightforward answers which permit a bit of insight into the situation in hopes of helping others who may be considering similar actions.

Don't picture "Kris" as an isolated incident. There have been at least two other attempts by students to take their lives that are known, and there may have been other "close calls" that have been secret.

An attempt to take one's own life doesn't indicate mental illness or even "weirdness." An astounding number of people have considered suicide at one point in their

College life can undoubtedly contribute to the feelings of loneliness and pressure that "Kris" mentions. Strange as it may seem, it is easy to feel lonely, even in a close-knit community of 1,200 such as the college community here. Feelings of being cut off from the securities of home, or the rejection of a girl friend or boy friend who may be far away, or any burdens that seem to loom large without any solutions can easily lead to loneliness and depression.

The pressures of college life, including the push for grades, keeping parents happy, and one's lack of self-esteem, can contribute to feelings of alienation. The sudden realization that the future may rest on accomplishments made here can become threatening. The compulsion to perform well in the academics can cause frustration and stress.

There is one aspect in a suicide situation that nearly all to attempt this act point to: if there had been someone who indicated that they cared, someone who would have made themself available to talk, the attempt would probably not have been made. Many times all that would have been needed is to sit down with another person and to be able to say "Here are my problems. Help me with them. Tell me what I can do."

If you or someone you know is feeling desolate, or uncared for, and even that the world's gone sour, turn to others instead of turning to a bottle of pills. There are excellent counselors and advisors on the college's staff, people who have that job because they care. If that doesn't appeal to you, go to your favorite teacher, he or she will be glad to discuss your situation.

Finally, include us, because we sincerely care. The vast problems of suicide cannot be solved with one editorial, but we will do our best because we think it's a nicer world with you in it. Glad you're still with us, Kris.



Campus Paperback Bestsellers

- 1. The Hotel New Hampshire, by John Irving. (Pocket, \$3.95.) Latest novel by the author of "Garp."
- 2. The World According To Garp, by John Irving. (Pocket, \$3.95.) Outrageous story of T.S. Garp.
- 3. Garfield Takes The Cake, by Jim Davis. (Ballantine, \$4.95.) Fifth book on the famous cartoon cat.
- 4. Real Men Don't Eat Quiche, by Bruce Feirstein. (Pocket, \$3.95.) A hilarious guide to masculinity. 5. Thin Thighs In 30 Days, by Wendy Stehling.
- (Bantam, \$2.95.) How to tone up and thin down. 6. Ogre, Ogre, by Piers Anthony. (Ballantine/Del Rey, \$2.95.) The latest Xanth novel. Science Fiction.
- 7. Spring Moon, by Bette Bao Lord. (Avon, \$3.95.)
- 8. What Color Is Your Parachute?, by Richard Nelson Bolles. (Ten Speed Press, \$7.95.) Career and job guide.
- 9. E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial, by William Kotzwinkle. (Berkley, \$2.95.) Novel of the popular film.
- 10. Rabbit Is Rich, by John Updike. (Fawcett, \$3.95.) The saga of Harry Angstrom continues

New & Recommended

by Douglas Adams. (Pocket, \$2.95.) The hilarious successor to "The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy."

The Read-Aloud Handbook, by Jim Trelease. (Penguin, \$5.95.) A program to help parents, teachers and librarians make lifetime readers of children.

The National Air and Space Museum Volume One AIR
The Story of Flight. Volume Two SPACE From Earth to the
Stars, by C.D.B. Bryan. (Peacock Press/Bantam, \$12.95 per volume.)

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN PUBLISHERS/NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE STORES

The "Inter-Greek attempt to introduce dents of some of the nity activities on and the year.

lota Alpha Omeg ternity on campus. service and fellowsh the Christian faith. the Lion Growl and booth in the Hallov Alpha Omega ha planned for this ye Working in various with the youth.

Omega Kappa Al ictive again this year eceived the Greek A re striving to achi his year. They s oughnuts for a fund he annual homecor anni. Later in the ye ^{1g} Smurf gift wrap anizing the annua or a local charity.

Delta Phi Zeta ha nion's organization cognize campus (lembership. The gir ampus clean-up wh orthwhile service I

30013

I Wasn'T always Like This. FOUR SOLAR I Was a U.S. Senator! THEN GOT CAUGHT WITH a CONGRESSIONALESMERELDA" Page. One Perversion Led To SRIGSNICKY"

P.O. Box 1148-C

Mars Hill, North Carolina 28754

Editors: Steve Ferguson & Gina Worley Staff Advisor: John Campbell Advertisements Manager: Christel Young Sports: Alisa Sampson Mary Ann Teague

Creative Consultants: Stefanie Briggs Wanda Dickey Cartoonists: Alan Drumm

John Hooper James Maxey Office Staff: Edith Harrison Reporting Staff:

Shirlene Addison Andy Behl Tammy Buchanan Jennifer Cadmus Robert Carmichael Cynthia Crawford Ken Edwards Jennifer Goodrum Daniel Harris Linda Judge

Photographer: David Wachter

