

Communication

Drawer A
 Tryon, N. C. 28782
 Jan. 29, 1980

Dear Mr. Vining:

A recent communication in the Bulletin aroused my attention, and a reply seemed imperative.

To begin with, the question is not why the young people in this area have no place to go, rather how we utilize the places we do have to go to.

It seems a bit broad to say all of the youth of the area have or have access to extravagant recreational facilities, obviously all of us don't. Even so, those who do have always used them. For example, there is hardly a teen in town who doesn't find a way to participate in summer skiing at Lake Lanier. Youth who play sports at Tryon High and who visit Harmon Field for exercise exist as they always have. In addition, we shouldn't forget the youth's participation in the Fine Arts Center, Church activities, local business and local education.

Although there may be various questionable influences in the area, they aren't as numerous or serious as adults suspect. Adults, police, bar owners and liquor store owners work hard to stop these influences. The effect of these influences is made negligible not only by their scarcity, but by most youth's refusal to be swayed by them.

In addition I cannot agree that youth admit to refusal to have chaperoned parties. This type of party is as numerous as those unchaperoned. Youth enjoy gathering and expressing their ideas to adults as well as themselves. It's when adults close their minds and refuse to listen to youth that youth would rather be alone with themselves. I also cannot agree that the only parties occur not only unchaperoned, but during lengthened parental absences. The majority

of youth do not participate in these 'wild' parties. Moreover, most of the small number that do, do not participate in sex, thievery, drugs and drinking.

Instead of constantly hassling our youth we should support them. They aren't ignoring the available resources and they aren't all bad. Most of us are looking towards goals in society like everyone else has done at some time. Youth don't enjoy prejudice any more than any other group. We merely ask for support in our area where our number is comparatively small.

Jeff Jaeger
 Senior, Tryon High

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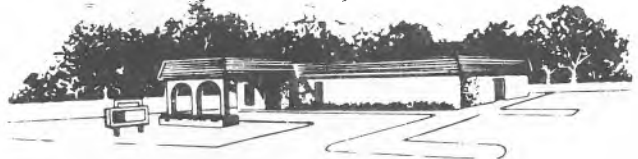
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