

Dear Liz' Student Complains Of Rules

Dear Liz:
 I am a high school junior at Reynolds. There are many black students like me, in both high and senior high school, that would like to participate in extra-curricular activities such as the cheerleader squad, majorettes, dancing, sports, etc. However few of us are given the opportunity because some of the qualifications are very rigid, but mostly the same ageless problem exist, racial prejudice.

When schools integrated, not only did we loose our high school of which we were very proud, but we also lost the privileges and opportunities to engage in these type activities.

There are so many really talented kids that are being overlooked under our present structured system. I am aware of

organizations such as ESR, the Recreation Department, and Community Groups that are trying to do things within our own communities to bridge this void.

We enjoyed taking part when it was within our own school structure. Maybe returning to neighborhood schools is the answer.

CONCERNED

Dear Liz:
 I was caught by my wife with my lover in an unexplainable situation. Even though I loved my wife at the time, I asked her for a divorce immediately because I knew I was wrong. She refused and said she would forgive and forget what had happened because she still loved me.

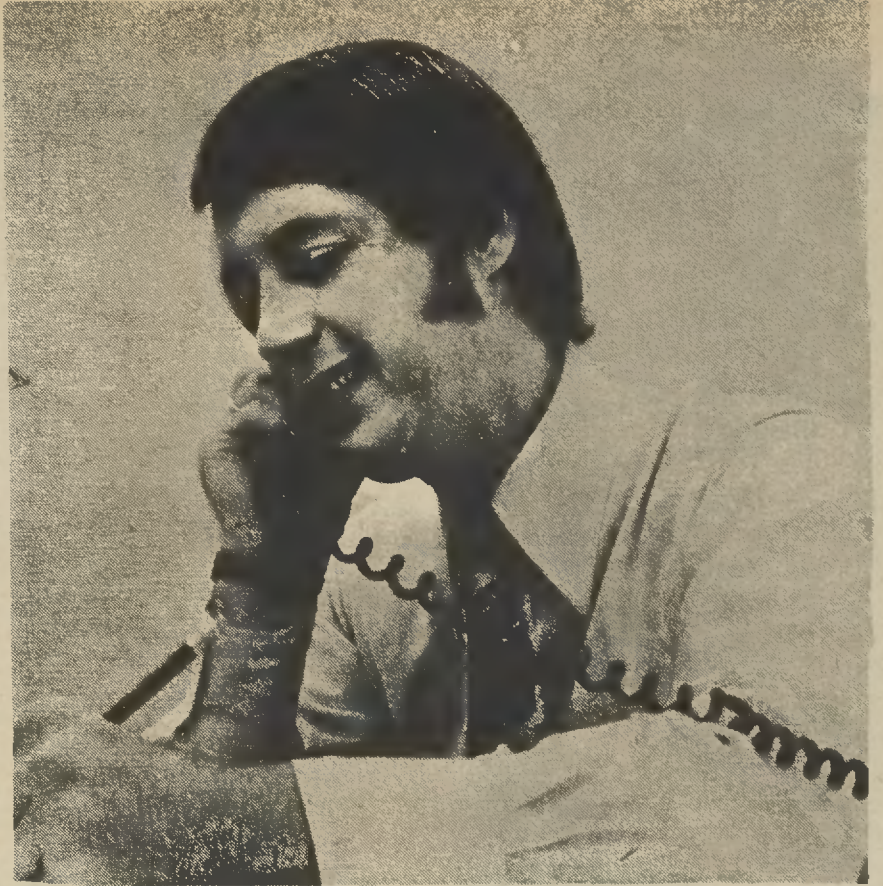
Well, that has been over a year now and she has neither

forgiven nor forgotten. She constantly reminds me of the situation. She has told me many times since that she will never trust me again. I have been faithful to her since that time she caught me. She also told me if I should try to get a divorce she would get all of our belongings which include a very nice home, furnishings, two cars, savings and a dog. She said when I leave her I would not even carry any clothes on my back.

I am living in pure hell and would like to get out. What should I do?

Trapped

Dear Trapped,
 You should have thought of the consequences before you were caught but since you didn't, legal advice is what you need and in a hurry.



Ombudsman, Fred Gallagher, answering the many calls that come through on the toll free line.

Chronicle Profile

Governor's Ombudsman Listens To The People

An Ombudsman is a government official who investigates citizens' complaints against the government or its functionaries. North Carolina has an Ombudsman. His name is Fred Gallagher and he is in Raleigh to help people.

The office of Ombudsman has been operating in the state for almost two years. The position was established by Governor James E. Holshouser, Jr. to create a direct line from the people to the governor. The office deals solely with people's problems that come under the jurisdiction of the state.

Fred Gallagher, the Ombudsman, was elected to office in 1973. Since that time he has handled approximately 9,000 calls and complaints. The type of complaints he has dealt with include utility companies charging late fees, arranging for an inmate to attend a funeral, investigating a person falsely committed to a mental institution and a request for the governor to pardon a narcotics conviction.

Many of the inquiries last winter concerned the gas problems and as public concerns shifted with the economic and energy status, so did complaints received in the Ombudsman's office.

In a telephone interview, Gallagher said his office is a "mirror reflecting the general concerns of the population." This year his complaints have been over unemployment checks, food stamps, mix-up in drivers licenses, loss of license plates and problems with utility bills.

So far this year, more than 1,000 cases have come before the office of Ombudsman. "In December our office was flooded with phone calls concerning high utility rates," Gallagher informed. "Our office talked with the utility company and suggested that something be done." As a result people were given an extended time to pay their utility bills.

However, not all the calls received by the Ombudsman are handled by his office. For example, complaints that do not come under the state's jurisdiction. The Ombudsman tries to contact the correct sources to alleviate the problems.

Complaints are said to be handled with expediency, properly and indiscriminately, regardless of race, creed or color. The governor also tries to reach citizens through his People's Day Tour. Out of 100 counties the governor has visited 40. In June 1973 he visited the Forsyth County area and hopes he will be able to return, Gallagher said, but "that depends on the governor visiting the other 60 counties in the state."

If you have a complaint the governor's ombudsman will listen. Write a letter, or call the toll-free number (1-800-662-7952) or wait for the governor's People's Day Tour in your county.

by Gwen Dixon

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