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Sample of opinions says 'no'

Do Students Take Advantage Of Library?

By Steve Bass

Colleges often present the appearance of illusion. Who among us, when younger, didn't imagine college as a mystical place where life existed only on football weekends? The periods between Monday and Thursday were spent on snowy campuses making angles in the snow with a lover. Then we grew older and our visions changed. College became a place of learning in libraries where on silently pursued the sources of wisdom lodged in those miles of aisles.

Then we became the students and our imagination became the pragmatism of reality. We found that student life wasn't normally spent in libraries preparing the latest in the long line of research papers. At least not at UNCC.

The philosophy of education at UNCC, if opinions of students concerning library usage are any indication, is that learning takes place in the classroom lecture and the study of assigned textbooks. Jerry Gilson, a junior history major, said, "I never have to research, just read for all my classes. I just never have the need to use the library. My professors don't demand it. We have a good library, from what I gather, but I personally don't have to use it."

Linda Williams, a major in criminal justice, concurs with Gilson. "I don't have to use it much at all. Frankly, I don't even know how to use it. The people there try to help you, but when I don't have to use it I don't, and, I still get lost."

Some students agreed with psychology major Amanda Hunnicutt, "About the only need I have with the library is using the abstract sections for my major. I just don't believe they have anything you can use up there."

Steve Schulman, a junior history major, said the time he spends in the library depends on the number of research papers he has due in any semester. "I don't like to write on something I'm not researched properly on, so I often spend a lot of time in the library. However, I don't check many

books out, mainly I just study. Normally, I don't use the journals too often with my major, mostly books. I do enjoy reading the New York Times whenever I can. The actual time I spend in the library...it varies so much I couldn't even guess."

Virginia Whitesides is a returning student who must take care of a home besides her studies. "I am the worst student ever. My kids keep on asking me, 'Mom, when are you going to study?' But, unless I am forced to use the library or study, I won't. My daughter, who is in nursing here, spends a good deal of time there. But not me."

English majors are faithful users of the library. Senior Susan Sluss said, "I always use it. I go regularly to check out books. I don't go just to study like some, but I do use the materials regularly. I also use the reserve reading room pretty often. I would like to say that I think the reference people in our library are excellent. I have never gone to one for help that they didn't spend as much time with me as I needed. I think you have to give them a whole lot of credit."

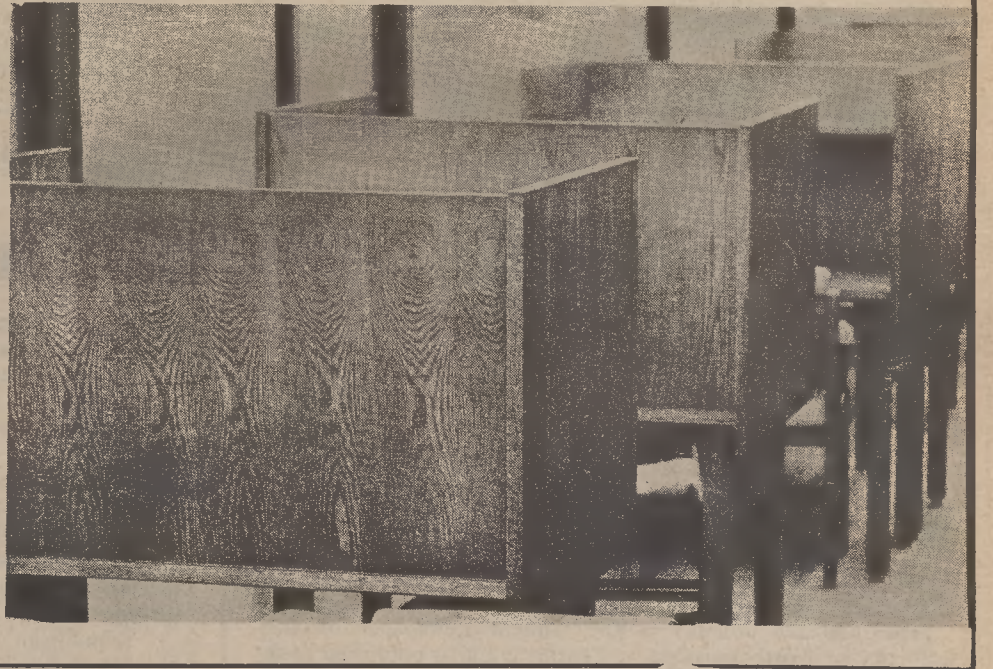
Richard Jameson, a political science major, said his use of the library is basically limited to one class. "I use it all the time in 'Urban Sociology.' The library has a lot of things in it you wouldn't know about if you weren't forced to use it. For instance, in 'Urban Sociology,' I have been using the census tracts they have, and have found a lot of interesting information. Mostly however, I just use the reserve reading room for my other courses. Still, I believe you get more out of research than you do lectures and textbook studying. I always come away with a feeling of really having learned something because I got it on my own."

Perhaps the most telling comment on the subject was one overheard while doing this article. "In four years at this institution, this is only the second book I've ever had to check out, and my grades have always been very good."



Which is the real picture of the UNCC library?

(photos by Dean Dugger)



Dr. Robert Rieke Writes History Of UNCC

(photo courtesy of Information Office)

By Brad Rich

Dr. Robert Rieke of UNCC's History Department has written a book entitled **A Retrospective Vision**. The book, which traces the history of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte from 1965 to 1975, is the first history of its type to be written about the University.

Rieke came up with the idea of writing a book about UNCC years ago. He said, "The idea was in my mind in the late sixties and early seventies, but I didn't actually decide to write the book until 1973."

Rieke went to the Chancellor in 1973 and proposed the writing of the book. At the time, he was Chairman of the History Department, so when Chancellor D.W. Colvard gave him the okay for the project, he took a leave of absence from the position to give himself more time for writing and research. He began the research in the fall of 1974, reviewing old newspapers, interviewing prominent people in UNCC's past, and going over his own notes from when he was secretary of the UNCC faculty.

About two thirds of the actual writing of the book was completed by the summer of 1974, so Rieke took a rest and let the book sit awhile. He said, "I took the rest to get a little perspective...if the

book was to be a 10 year history I had to wait until after 1975 to complete it anyway."

The rest of the writing was completed by the summer of 1976, and was added to the earlier part of the manuscript. Rieke said he didn't change any significant parts of the earlier manuscript, but because of the book's unique structure (it is not in chronological order) he did rearrange some segments a little bit. He said, "I discard very little of what I put down when I write. I let the ideas play a bit, then put them down. I work slowly, but my first writing is pretty much complete."

Rieke himself describes the book as "really a poem in prose — but it's a history..." He said, "The book is unusual in that it's not a chronological history...it's another type format, so what I put in was determined by the framework I chose to use as my form. That meant...I paid more attention to certain things than to others...but I tried to achieve a balance."

Rieke did all the research and writing of the book himself, and is handling the sales and promotion as well, but he is quick to give credit to others for help. The entire project was funded by the

UNCC Foundation, but Rieke doesn't know exactly how the money was raised, and doesn't want to know. "The Chancellor said 'go ahead and write it, I'll find the money,'" Rieke said. "The Foundation deserves a lot of credit, and will be paid back through sales of the book. If we sell out the printing, there will be enough money to pay them plus a little for the artist (Richard Gantt, a senior in the BCA program in 1974) and myself."

Will the book sell that well? Frankly, Rieke said he doesn't expect it to, but he'd love to see it happen. He said if it does, more copies could be printed. William Loftin of Heritage Printers in Charlotte was the printer, and Rieke said he, too, deserves a lot of credit.

Will Rieke stick around for another 10 years and write another book? "I don't know..." he said. "At the time of my retirement I might want to...I think a 25 year view at about the year 2000 would be interesting. That would put me, let's see...in my seventies. I don't know if I'll have the energy then, but I'd be glad to help if someone else wanted to."

(A review of the book will appear in this newspaper sometime in the near future.)



Dr. Robert Rieke