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Library Use Increasing, Circulation Director Says

By Steve Bass

"People do use the library, I know this for a fact," said Jean Meachem, Atkins Library director of circulation.

"I read, with interest, the story in the *Carolina Journal* about students not using the library. That is no doubt true to some degree. I'm not exactly sure why it is, I imagine its because most people just don't know how much information we have available.

"But people do use the library. We have seen a steady increase over the past three years of patrons using the library and in the materials in circulation," said Meachem. "We in circulation have noted that the kids are using the copy machines like the library is burning down."

According to the Circulation Report for the Fourth Quarter with annual totals and comparisons, 409,227 people used the library during the 1976-77 school year (July 1, 1976 - June 30, 1977). This compares with 375,146 people who used the library during the 1975-76 period.

"We get these totals from our daily turnstile count," said Meachem. "We also keep statistics for daytime and nighttime use of the library. We average about 450 patrons per day as it is. This, of course, varies from peak periods like early November to very slack periods in May."

The report also noted that during the 1976-77 period 151,354 materials were circulated from the library. Of this total, 148,666 were books and 2,688 were reference materials. During the 1975-76 year, 139,456 materials were circulated from the library. 18,211 students used materials from the library. 2,591 faculty and staff members checked out materials during this period. In addition, 469 non-students used materials from Atkins.

"I've done a little additional statistical research into the library usage to help determine peak periods of use," said Meachem. "I've found some interesting data. For example, I took a measure of the number of days of the week we were open last year, and found that more patrons visited and more materials were circulated on Tuesday and Wednesdays last year than any other days."

Meachem's research has also shown that more students used the library during the 1976-77 school than the two previous terms. The increase witnessed by month has been consistent over the last three years. "I think it is fairly clear that students do use the library here and are doing so in increasing numbers," he said.

"Many people just don't realize how much material we have in the library. Perhaps only really serious students like graduate students realize what all we do have. Everyday, particularly during peak periods like November, we have students enter the library who look absolutely baffled. They just don't know how to use the facility.

"We've been trying to do something about this situation for awhile. Circulation gets questions

about where the bathrooms and elevators are daily. To alleviate the problem we're going to put up signs directing people not only to the bathrooms, but to materials and resources. The reference people (headed by Dawn Hubbs) do an outstanding job of helping students find materials. Believe me we are not a pack of dogs ready to bite your

head off. We are here to serve.

"I do wish more people would use the library," said Meachem. "I still can't be sure why more don't but I would like to know. We can help."

Next week: The *Carolina Journal* will investigate the opinions of professors regarding student use of Atkins.

...And So Is Its Value

By Steve Bass

Amanda Harmon, director of acquisitions in the Atkins Library, said UNCC's material collection increases at a yearly rate of \$760,000.

"About the best I can do is give you rounded figures as to the breakdown of expenditures per year. The figure I gave of \$760,000 is a temporary one which has been used as catch-up funds. After next year, we will return to a more normal rate of acquisition.

"During the last fiscal year we spent almost \$500,000 on new books and general library materials. Almost \$200,000 were spent on renewals of subscriptions of periodicals and newspapers. We spend \$30,000 on bindings for the periodicals and

\$20,000 for gift funds," said Harmon.

Harmon said that to the best of her knowledge it would be impossible to assess the value of the materials in Atkins. "We don't have a record of the exact value of all our books. I dare say there is no way to know. So much of our material dates from the Charlotte College days, and good records were not kept. It would also be difficult to determine how much it would cost to replace the books we have. We have a problem in that many of the books were donated, and the donor probably feels like they are worth more than they're actually worth. About the only thing we have are records of recent expenditures, and for the last few years it has averaged about \$700,000.

Hard Work Pays Off For Stickell In District Five City Council Race

By Nancy Davis

No one seems surprised that two women, Billie Stickell and Minette Trosch, are the two Charlotte City Council candidates from District Five. That's a sign of the times. And no one seems surprised that Stickell won the Democratic primary run-off. That's a sign of hard work paying off.

Stickell, another UNCC student involved in the City Council elections, is experiencing the ups and downs of running for public office. She had to quit the UNCC women's volleyball team and described that decision as a "severe blow." Her husband has been very supportive, yet "I only see my husband in the car," she said.

After an overwhelming victory in it," explained Stickell.

The type of residents in the district are diverse. According to the young candidate, the area has everything from "silk stocking to low income and is five per cent black."

A second year student at UNCC, Stickell transferred from CPCC with an associates business degree. She is double majoring in business administration and political science. Her advisor, Dr. Louis Trosch, is the husband of her opponent.

She is receiving support from friends at UNCC and from some of her professors. "Dr. (Nate) Pruitt has

been actively involved. He's a Republican, too. He's worked the polls for me," said Stickell.

the recent run-off primary election against Art Lynch, Stickell says she is "gearing up for the partisan politics" she will be involved in between now and November 8th, election day. The idea of a run-off stayed with her up until election night, but was surprised Lynch did call for one since he only received 16.4 per cent of the vote.

Stickell believes that "issues and personality" will factor greatly in the race against Trosch. "Name recognition will be the key factor," she continued. "We'll talk issues and meet people."

The issues in District Five resemble the issues in most of the Charlotte districts. The problems of traffic control particularly involve "child safety, especially near Briar Creek...and a walkway across Independence," said Stickell. Other concerns of the residents are more parks and the scattering of the proposed housing projects in that area.

Stickell is also concerned with crim and the prospects of policemen being responsible for their own squad cars. "Police cars will be out more often and the results of visibilitiy should be very effective. The cars will last longer, because the men will take



Basketball??!!
Yes, and it's being played in Argentina, during the UNCC basketball team's recent trip south of the border. In his diary printed on page 13 49er guard Jeff Gruber mentions that things occasionally got a bit rough under the boards, but freshman center James "Popcorn" George seems able to take care of himself.

The
Carolina Journal
Is Late This Week
Due To
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