

# In Our Opinion...

## Nothing Concrete, Little Abstract From Reidsville

The value of the recent Reidsville Conference—billed as a time for student-faculty study of the student's role in University policy making—is questionable.

The Daily Tar Heel supports the idea that students should have a voice in making many of the decisions that so directly affect them.

We would like to see a student representative on such committees as the Buildings and Grounds Committee and the Faculty Committee on Student Discipline. We agree with those backing the conference that there are weaknesses in the University curriculum which student ideas and opinions could help correct.

But we doubt that the weekend at the Betsy-Jeff-Penn Four H Center did much toward the accomplishment of these goals.

Most of the students participating were ill-prepared to do so. Only a few of the conference's organizers had any real knowledge as to what would be discussed, and, therefore, only this small core of students had given any thought to the matter at hand and were prepared to express any clear opinions.

The first day's discussion group meetings and panel discussion left most of the participants encouraged about the conference. It appeared that everyone was gradually coming to grasp the idea of the problems with which the conference should concern itself.

and it looked like the next day's sessions might produce some guidelines for workable solutions to these problems.

The second day, however, was wasted on a "Case Policy Problem" concerning the University policy dealing with the consumption of alcoholic beverages on campus.

So, instead of concerning themselves with the general concept of student participation in policy making, and instead of trying to decide how student opinions might most effectively be introduced into the University's decision-making machine, the students and faculty members spent Sunday morning playing the role of committee members who had to decide whether or not to remove the printed cards which bear the drinking rule from the doors of residence halls.

Perhaps some good will come out of it all. Perhaps enough enthusiasm was generated in the souls of those attending the conference to keep them pressing the issue until a favorable situation is realized.

But, then, we believe just as much good could have been accomplished in a conference room somewhere on campus.

Student Body President Bob Powell lists academic reform as one of his top priority goals this year. But if the Reidsville Conference is any indication of how successful his work in this area is going to be, the future isn't too bright.

**'I'm requesting courses in Assyrian Musical Instruments and the Motor Mechanism of the Bulgarian Tree Toad.'**

**David Rothman**

## Students Angered By Phone System

The experience was just like being stopped by a cop when you didn't have your driver's license. You felt uneasy.

My roommate and I, while perfectly sober, were calling up the operator—pleading with her to tell us our own phone number.

"I'm sorry, sir, you'll have to call back later," she said. "I have no way of finding that out now."

Alas, in an age when many complain nobody knows their names, the operator didn't even know our number!

Finally, Information was able to help us find our identity, but we never would have gotten even that far if one day I hadn't wistfully picked up the receiver and listened for a dial tone. Several weeks after our phone had been hooked up at the company switchboard, we still hadn't been officially informed that the black box was operational.

Probably, in fact, we shall not be so informed until the bill comes.

Our experience is typical. We are victims of Chapel Hill's shoddy telephone service.

Brag the phone company does about its direct long distance dialing. Brag it does about the toll-free University connections with Charlotte, Raleigh and Greensboro.

But what good are connections with Charlotte—or even with Australia—if you can't carry on a conversation with your friend across the street without static or assorted pops and crackles?

Nevertheless, it is with long distance calls that the Chapel Hill phone company has its real problems.

For one thing, privacy at times is nonexistent. Due to "cross talk," one sometimes can pick up a phone, dial a long distance call, and while the other party isn't talking, hear a boss firing his employee, a wife nagging her husband or a student nervously calling up a girl for a date.

Federal Communications Commission regulations prohibit disclosure of the contents of telephone conversations without permission of the persons making them.

But tell that to people like the newspaper acquaintance of mine who gleefully disclosed the intimate content of a long distance dialogue between a Carolina freshman and a girl in Greensboro. In fact, not only had this guy listened to the conversation, he had also entered it; finding that the Carolina freshman had trouble getting up the guts to ask the girl out, the eavesdropping stranger said, "Do it." And the boy did.

Of course, how can you even be a victim of long distance eavesdropping when you might have trouble getting your calls put through in the first place? You might find you'll have to wait five minutes for the operator to answer.

Like the static and most other technical difficulties, that isn't the operator's fault. When she takes five minutes to get around to handling your call, it's probably because she's so overworked.

No, it isn't the operator's fault; it is the fault of the company which apparently has not hired enough personnel or installed enough equipment to handle the message load.

Moreover, quite likely many of the messages from the Chapel Hill area are going to Durham, 10 miles away. Real long distance!

This, perhaps, is the price we pay for having an independent phone company.

Finishing today's column, I'm about to call my editor to tell him I'm bringing it over.

"Hello, John? ... Yeah, you see I'm not exaggerating a bit."

Just as it does when 12,000 other UNC students use it, the phone is crackling with static.



**John Greenbacker**

## A Day In Reidsville

The Reidsville Conference on the student's role in University decision making concluded last Sunday on a note of cautious optimism from Student Government leaders.

Thirty students and thirty faculty members and administrators participated in about 15 hours of concentrated discussion, both in small groups and in plenary sessions, and they couldn't help but get some idea of what their companions were thinking about.

This was precisely the major goal of the conference as expressed by Student Body President Bob Powell. The students participating had some general gripes about the University and they needed a vehicle to get the University power structure taking about these problems.

The patterns of the discussions may have been varied, but initially they were concerned with how much of a role the students' representatives should play in rule and policy formulation by certain faculty and administrative committees.

The reactions of the professors and administrators were most revealing. Administrators, from Chancellor Sitter-

son and his assistants to Dean of Student Affairs C. O. Cathey, gave indications that they would be most resistant to changes in the University's structure. They were supported by the senior faculty members, who very frequently hold down administrative jobs in their departments.

Those who seemed most impressed with the students' ideas were the younger faculty members, who in this case were usually in their 40's. Maybe the older men who had weathered all the storms and dealt with the system for years felt the necessity to defend it.

The arguments, however, were all fairly logical on all sides, and only rarely did anyone play the role of the dogmatist.

On the key and all-important subject of education reform, which basically had precipitated the entire evaluation of the student's role in the University, the faculty members and administrator seemed interested.

One student after another attempted to let his elders know that there are many students on this campus who want to express their opinion in class on an academic subject just as much as the professor does.

The professors also pointed out that any student who comes to the University can choose any "major" he wants, of whatever specialty or departmental cross-section, provided he develops a list of the courses he wishes to take and gets them approved by the administration. Under this little-known plan, a student can by pass all the required courses and electives of the General College.

It's amazing so few have tried this system. The lack of interest may be attributed to ignorance of the program's existence.

The entire conference was characterized by this give and take, the kind that is so dreadfully lacking in the Chapel Hill classroom. At the dinner table, in the discussion group and over coffee, professors and students were rolling up their sleeves and letting down their hair about a good many problems.

There were, however, some who left the sylvan isolation of Reidsville with many sad doubts about the ultimate success of the weekend.

In the cool, bright air Sunday morning, Dr. William Koch snapped the inevitable chewing gum in his mouth and shuffled informally but briskly toward the dining hall.

His intent eyes, those eyes that make you think he is just an uncomplicated farm boy who somehow had been transformed into a trained botanist, swept over the nearby lake to the forest beyond.

## Grades No Measure Of Success In Life

(CPS) — There seems to be no direct relationship between high grades in college and professional success in later life, two recent studies indicate.

Dr. Eli Ginzberg, a New York researcher, studied a group of Columbia University graduate students who had won fellowships to the school between 1944 and 1950. Ginzberg's task was to find out how successful the 342 students had become 14 years after they completed their fellowships.

The findings showed students who had graduated from college with honors, who had won scholastic medals or who had been elected to Phi Beta Kappa were more likely to be in the "lower professional performance levels" than students who had not distinguished themselves while in college.

In another survey, a team of University of Utah professors found there is almost no relationship between the grades a medical student gets and his later performance.

There are numerous theories attempting to explain these surprising findings. The most common one affirms that the over-emphasis on grades which begins when a student is in junior high school and continues throughout his academic career tends to destroy interest in learning for its own sake.

John Holt, an educator and author of "Why Children Fail," observes that current school methods destroy love of learning by encouraging students to work for petty rewards—names on honor rolls, gold stars, for the "ignoble satisfaction of feeling they are better than someone else."

safety reminder as well as a new look for motorists weary of the old color scheme.

Governor Moore, hopefully, might press the issue for everlasting fame—a license tag stamped in the state's outline with a Variety Vacationland slogan for advertising mileage.

### Thought For Today

High school is where you find out how much you know; college is where you find out how much you don't know.

**The Daily Tar Heel**

74 Years of Editorial Freedom

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## A Study In Leftist Planning

ST. LOUIS (CPS) — Five "New Left" organizations have banded together at Washington University, with each group specializing in a different cause.

University reform will be handled by Students for a Democratic Society, the group revealed. SDS will work for a greater student voice in making the decisions which affect them.

The professors countered with another important point. In order to establish an ideal classroom situation, the professor would meet three times a week with about 10 students to discuss a particular subject.

With the given resources and manpower of the University, this is impossible. Professors Scott and Sloan of the Political Science and Art Departments respectively, advocated the use of modern electronic devices and closed-circuit television to increase the professor's audience and time so that he might be free to meet with small groups of students at least once a week.

All the professors favor personalized education for those capable of it, but, as Dr. David Lapkin pointed out, the strain this would place on the education industry would be too great.

As for the subject of curriculum changes and freedom of choice in course planning, the faculty and administration leaders could make no commitments. They weren't pressed for any, anyway. The student proposals were there as "advisements."

Some were quick to say that most departments would be willing and able to set up at least one course a semester that was the product of student suggestion.

**LETTERS**

The Daily Tar Heel accepts all letters to the editor for publication provided they are typed and double-spaced. We reserve the right to edit for libelous statements.

## Dan Moore's Claim To Fame

Durham Morning Herald. Evaluation of the Dan Moore administration will be a matter for historians to write when the full record can be placed on the table for an objective study in the light of time. What the score will total remains for history to decide.

Dan Moore may, or may not, be written into history for endeavors in education, in peacemaking, or in statesmanship. But at least one achievement will stand as a monument: Dan Moore, the governor who changed the color of the auto license tag.

That accomplishment will be reflected on every North Carolina motor vehicle when tag-change time arrives. For the green on silver tag, replacing the monotonous orange-black, black-orange switch from year to year, will shine as a

## Issues From Back Issues

Issues that made the news in The Daily Tar Heel on this date five, 10 and 15 years ago.

Oct. 11, 1961  
To alleviate library congestion and to provide better study conditions, a number of classrooms are being left open at night for student use, according to Tony Harrington chairman of the Student Government Campus Affairs Board.

Oct. 11, 1956  
The men in Old West Dorm are reportedly unhappy.

Very unhappy, in fact, their president says.

Why? It seems that the girls on campus fail to walk by the dorm. President Teddy Jones says!

Oct. 11, 1951  
Carolina, the grandfather of all state universities will be 158 years old tomorrow. Everyone is invited to the birthday party.

The colorful pageantry to be presented at 10:50 in the south court of South Building, will commemorate the corner stone laying of Old East, the oldest building on the campus.