

Technician

North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper Since 1920

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Video tapes have future

by Joanne Vetter
Staff Writer

Regular video tape programming has a future on campus, according to David Hinton, Student Center president.

Hinton feels future programming is possible because reaction to tapes shown at the Student Center this past week was favorable.

"I was delighted," Hinton said of both student reaction to and participation in the programming, which took place as part of Video Awareness Week.

"I feel video programming could benefit all the students," Hinton said. "It is unique, different, and unprecedented."

The Union Activities Board originally sponsored the tape presentations to determine if affiliation with the Video Tape Network of New York would be a successful venture.

Hinton cited information gained in questionnaires filled out by students to illustrate what he considers the program-

ming's success.

According to Hinton, the majority of the questionnaires showed overwhelming support for future programming.

Questions concerning the enjoyment of the tapes were answered affirmatively by a majority of those who filled out questionnaires.

Out of approximately 300 questionnaires, only 20 indicated that the UAB should not acquire equipment to begin regular video tape programming, Hinton said.

By far, the majority were in favor of more programming, and many indicated a willingness to get involved with the UAB in a video network.

Committee established

Possible involvement with the programming would include the establishment of a committee to oversee the venture, Hinton said.

However, according to Hinton, regular programming would not start until the

Fall semester of 1978 for a number of reasons, with the need to organize the committee to work with the tapes being one of the primary reasons for the delay.

Funding for the programming would also need to be established, Hinton said.

Borrowed equipment

Once funding is established, Hinton said equipment would have to be bought since the machinery used this past week was borrowed from the Counseling Center.

Hinton also pointed out that a location in which the programming will take place will have to be determined.

He said he chose the first floor of the Student Center for the trial presentations because it is a highly trafficked area. He also noted, however, that several complaints were voiced over the crowded conditions caused by the presentations, particularly on Tuesday when the NFL Football Follies drew the largest crowd of the week.

Hinton said possible sites for future programming include the second floor lounge of the Student Center, the game room, or the meeting rooms on the fourth floor of the Student Center.

In addition to programming in the Student Center, Hinton said "branching out to the residence halls would possibly be successful."

On Monday night, the Stevie Wonder tape was played in Lee Residence Hall, and according to Hinton, the presentation was a success.

Hinton "roughly estimated" that between 600 and 700 people watched this week's video tape presentations.



Staff photo by Chris Seward

The Union Activities Board's Video Awareness Week proved to be a huge success this week, according to Student Center President David Hinton. Hinton said that an estimated 600 to 700 students viewed the programs shown in the Student Center Lobby.

Senate meets

Honor graduates reclassified

by Robin Ludlow
Staff Writer

The Faculty Senate passed a recommendation by the Academic Policy Committee to change the classifications of undergraduates graduating with academic honors, in its meeting Tuesday.

The action is an effort to alleviate the confusion between students graduating with recognition of their participation in honors programs and those graduating with a recognition of their high academic achievement.

The past policy, as stated in the *Advisers Handbook '77-'78* is that graduation under the classification "with high honors" requires a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 and "with honors" requires an average of 3.0.

Under the new policy, which will be effective during the May, 1978, commencement, a student must have a GPA from 3.250 to 3.499 for the classification *cum laude*, 3.500 to 3.749 for *magna cum laude*, and at least 3.750 for *summa cum laude*.

"What in effect we are doing," explained Curtis Fitzgerald, chairman of the Academic Policy Committee, "is take a smaller group of graduates and divide them into three sub-groups instead of two."

"The reason for the higher cut-off point is the same reason Chancellor Thomas moved the dean's list up," continued Fitzgerald. "There are more students with higher grade point averages than there used to be."

The recommendation passed by a 24 to five vote. The dissenting voters complained that students with a 3.0 GPA should be recognized for their achievement. Under the new policy, 246 less graduates would have been recognized for

academic honors last May.

"It is a question of whether academic honors should be given for a certain GPA or for being in a certain percentage of the graduating class," said Fitzgerald. "We think 21 per cent of the class receiving academic honors is more appropriate than 37 per cent."

Duke University's designations and required GPA's are *cum laude*, 3.0; *magna cum laude*, 3.3; and *summa cum laude*, 3.7. At UNC-G the designations and required GPA's are *cum laude*, 3.3; *magna cum laude*, 3.6; and *summa cum laude*, 3.9. UNC-CH does not award degrees with honors.

Other action passed by the senate were recommendations from the Constitution and ByLaws Committee. The senate voted to require fewer committee reports. However, the Chairman will recognize any senator who wishes to report activities his committee is undertaking.

Meetings continued

The senate also voted to continue holding two General Faculty meetings during the year with the first meeting to take place just before the beginning of classes in the Fall.

Originally, Chancellor Thomas had recommended to the senate that one of the meetings be eliminated because of poor attendance. Faculty reaction to this suggestion, however, supported the continuation of the two meetings, according to Chairman of the Constitution and ByLaws Committee J. M. Anthony Danby.

Commenting on the attendance Danby attributed some of the problem to "apathy and bloody mindedness," but said that the main reason was that so many other meetings and seminars have been scheduled at the same time.

by Greg Rogers
Associate Editor

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare gave the first significant response to North Carolina's university desegregation plan received Monday night by William C. Friday, president of the University of North Carolina system.

Neither Friday nor HEW officials in Washington would discuss the details of the correspondence. Friday said he would make public the HEW report at a 9:30 meeting Friday of the UNC Board of Governors.

James L. Jenkins, assistant to President Friday, said Thursday that the HEW

response simply "pointed out the difference" between the UNC and HEW proposals.

Friday said the response, a 17-page report sent by special courier, was the first step in resolving the differences over university desegregation between North Carolina and HEW.

The document represents the first response by HEW since North Carolina submitted a desegregation plan in early September.

Jenkins said UNC officials would review the plan and then respond back to HEW.

"We plan to make a response to the response," Jenkins said. "I assume we will continue to negotiate on the matter."

Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr. has already approved the UNC desegregation plan and Jenkins said he would be "kept fully informed" on the matter. He said if negotiations continued, and a compromise was reached between UNC and HEW, then Hunt would have to "concur" with the final version of the desegregation plan.

More proposals

The plan proposes to reduce racially dual aspects of the UNC system by increasing minority enrollment by 32 percent on traditionally white campuses over the next five years and by other means.

The plan fell short of the guidelines proposed by HEW last spring. HEW had said North Carolina should shoot for a 150 percent increase in black freshmen enrollment on predominantly white campuses within the next five years.

The state rejected the 150 percent goal with HEW as "unrealistic."

The HEW letter of response received Monday night caused university officials to cancel a meeting with officials of HEW's Office of Civil Rights, which had been scheduled for Wednesday.

HEW has until January to accept or reject North Carolina's desegregation plans under terms of a court ruling by U.S. District Judge John A. Pratt.

HEW officials respond to UNC plan

Preregistration ends today for spring semester

by Laura Detwiler
Staff Writer

Today is the last day to preregister for the Spring semester without penalty, with preregistration tables being open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., according to David Lanier of the Department of Registration and Records.

According to Lanier, after 5 p.m. today, continuing students will only be allowed to preregister with permission from the Department of Registration and Records and after paying a \$10 late fee.

After this late preregistration period, which ends December 2, no one will be allowed to register for classes until Change Day, Jan. 10, when they will be

assessed a \$20 late registration fee, Lanier said.

As of Wednesday afternoon preregistration was proceeding normally, according to Lanier. Approximately 7,000 students had preregistered for the Spring semester. Lanier stated that this is a normal turnout for this stage in preregistration.

Preregistration rush

As usual there was a rush of students who preregistered on the first day, Lanier said. Over 4,000 students preregistered the first day, which was Nov. 2. He expected there would probably be a rush

of students today, since it is the last day to turn in prospective class schedules.

Lanier said that "people seem to be taking preregistration seriously and that there have been more questions this year than in the past."

According to Lanier, 14,000 to 16,000 students usually preregister and he does not expect this year to be any different.

A large number of students are expected to preregister today since only about half of the students who normally preregister have done so as of yet, said

Lanier.

Lanier said the Department of Registration and Records would not yet know how this week's turnout would affect enrollment for the Spring semester. Lanier said, however, that since the turnout for preregistration has been normal up to this point, there probably will not be a major change in the Spring enrollment.

Lanier's advice to students is to "preregister early, on the second or third day."

Philosopher says women can have place in sports

by Debbe Hill
Staff Writer

An assistant philosophy professor was breaking the five-mile record on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill track recently when she heard a member of the track team say: "Hey, miss, will you run in the other lane?" Jane E. English thought "Don't I have a right to a place to run?"

She related these thoughts to a small group of students during her talk on sex equality in sports Wednesday in the ballroom of the Student Center.

"Sex blindness is necessary, but not sufficient, for equal opportunity for women in sports."

She pointed out that many sports are male-dominated, so that women can only compete in women's classes. "Women should be allowed to compete with men whenever they wish," English emphasized. "They should be given equal benefits from socks to stadiums, and scholarships."

English discussed how the entry of women into competitive sports could bring a reawakening of values. "Although

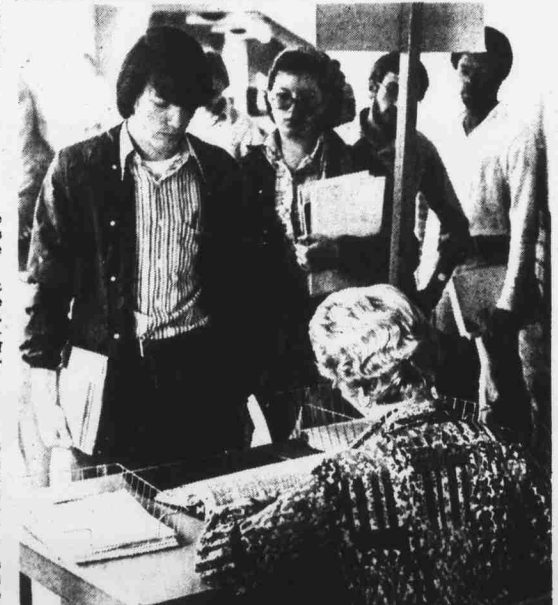
women lack massive muscles and are generally smaller than men, they possess greater flexibility (as demonstrated on the balance beam)."

English said that feminine self-respect could improve if more sports were developed in which women could excel. Women could then watch their counterparts become "the best athlete" instead of "the best woman athlete" in a particular sport.

Strong women

"I think it's great for women to take pride in being strong rather than pride in being weak," she said. English said that women were not respected as a group and this contributes to discrimination. Grouping women in sports competition according to ability would not be discrimination.

Expanding press coverage to women's sports and offering equal prizes for equal participation could do a lot to improve respect for women athletes, she said. According to English, only if women are given equal incentives can it be determined if they could achieve equal success with men in sports.



Staff photo by Ron Srebo

Preregistration for the Spring semester ends today at 5 p.m. Registration and Records officials estimate that between 14,000 and 16,000 students will register for courses at State for next semester.



Staff photo by Chris Seward

Lay it all down

The mid-semester slump and the approaching final exams have apparently taken their toll on this State co-ed. After a while, you just to lay down, take off those shoes and forget about the studying for a while.

Gallery exhibit lacks originality, focal point

by Everett Lewis
Staff Writer

The only responsibility of the Gallery, according to the N.C. State University Bulletin, is to provide a "Focal Point" for the arts on campus. Well! The current exhibition, however, seems to suffer from a distinct lack of a focal point.



The previous galleries seem to have done an adequate job of providing a transition from the mezzanine to the room itself. The works seemed to belong on exhibition and the task of viewing the "art" was somewhat easier.

shown. Pottery and weaving often mix, batik and fabric often mix. Photography often doesn't work. And it doesn't work in the Student Center. The whole flow of traffic is uneven. Pushed by the narrow hall, the viewer is subjected by four different exhibitions. He is forced to choose to look at pottery or photographs or



batik or fabric design. It is too taxing to be forced to make all these decisions. The exhibitors should feel a little used. It seems the Gallery decided to stage a Cecille B. DeMille extravaganza of art. Complete to backdrops, the thing just doesn't come off. The artists are the losers in the

exhibition. But the viewer, too, is



Camel—Kenya

subjected to a fairly lively display. After having to make all these choices, (it is so painful), he is subjected to some, well...trite work. The batik work is especially so.

There are two things one never does as an artist (except Picasso) clowns and butterflies! Yet, big, nay, bigger than life are two batik beauties winging their way to the land of kitsch. Two more lovelies, *Galaxy* (space name, huh!) and *Napoleon* hurry toward obscurity. Both of these would have been at home in *I Love Lucy's* 1950 living room. The idea to hang the fabrics was very nice. Very attractive, tra la. But are the fabrics worth hanging? Huh? That is the questions, you see, out of all those cloth cuties maybe one was of any value. I realize it is a very hard thing to be, an erstwhile fabric designer, but keep trying. Promise

seems forthcoming. The things seem to suffer from a lack of originality. A re-evaluation of cloth and the process and humanness of fabric design seems called for. The ability seems to be here, just carry the work farther, more imaginatively.

Talk about photographs! The photograph is a joyous medium. Properly understood and imaginatively used, a camera is as useful as a brush. For pure color and sense of place a photo



She

just can't be beat. But one landscape is like a bad batik. You've seen one, you've seen

them all, and all the photographer here offers is a huge collection of landscapes. Unfortunately, after the viewer first appreciates the artist's sense of color, he is inclined to wander off and look at the pottery.



Herr U. Frau Lot

Black and whites are fun, but no thanks. Trees are now trite. Thirty years ago, trees were exciting. But overkill has struck and exhibiting photographs is like beating a dead horse with a stick. It gets old.

The travelogue is well represented here, too. My, My, we go all over. While the colors are nice, the scenes are not very interesting. Some of the tropical scenes even seem slightly camp. While camp is a tremendous movement, I think that these photographs do not have it in mind.

The camel picture seems to say it all. "What am I doing here?" What indeed? Saccharine, boring and unlightening, these photographs really do not belong in the exhibition. The smugly NFS portraits, the well-to-do travel, the animals, are all just re-hashes of uncreative work. Why bother?

The viewer is almost inclined to like the pottery. The free forms seems delightful. "She," for example, (She indeed! It is obviously "He") doesn't claim to do or be anything. That is its joy. The feeling is much the same with "Herr V. Frau-Lot." They are not sugarbowl, nor do they hold electric batteries. Mr. and Ms. Lot are simply enjoyable in a freely entertaining way.



The Lean One

"The Lean One" is obviously a pitcher. It is a bit too pretentious perhaps, but one

feels an urge (and God knows, obey those), to...trust it, somehow: ("The Plump One" is represented, too.)

But the potter began to take himself too seriously. His work becomes less enjoyable, more labored and almost suburban. His teapots especially seem to work too hard to really be nice work. But this potter has it in him. If he, too, would decide if he is going to go toward true art or toward Belk Hudson, he will accomplish more, (he never dare to be original. As already accomplished something.)

There doesn't seem to be anything left to say. The exhibitors don't.

exhibit wasn't well planned. The work itself doesn't seem ready to be exhibited. None of the work is daring or original, it rather seems settled and smug. And that hardly seems to be the attitude for an artist (as all the exhibitors seem to be) to work under.

I hope a large number of students view the exhibition, for this is the pattern your life could take. Staid and afraid of ridicule and of society, you may never dare to be original. As artists are the only general exception, they should certainly take advantage. And these exhibitors don't.

Coffeehouse Coffeehouse

Bill Danaher and Roger Miller will be appearing tonight at the Coffeehouse in the Walnut Room. Under the name, Bill & Roger, they have played in Raleigh at Free Advice and Irregardless. They will be playing Blues and folk music. The show starts at 8:30 p.m. Come, relax and listen to some laid-back tunes.

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State travels to Duke for final grid game

"This is one year that I really hate to see the season end," said State football Coach Bo Rein, whose squad finishes its regular season at Duke Saturday. "For one thing, we keep getting better and better each week. And I don't think we've played our best game yet."

Last Saturday the Pack was on the verge of its biggest win of the season before Penn

State came back to win 21-17. "I haven't thought of anything to say to ease the pain of last week," reflected Rein. "I haven't thought of anything witty to say except for what I said after the game in the locker room. In defeat, the kids will remember that game for a long time. We played a great game."

SAE edges SPE 12-6 in frat football finals

SAE upheld its standing at the peak of Intramural Football's Top Fifteen, thwarting SPE by 12-6 in Tuesday night's fraternity football final.

John Frazier intercepted a Joe Trotter pass in the end zone with just 30 seconds left to kill SPE's last gasp. Frazier's second theft of the evening ended a drive which began at SPE's 27-yard line with three minutes to play.

final with semi-final shutouts of different natures. SPE scored in the dying moments, then survived near-heartbreak when a Delta Sig pass was dropped in the end zone, settling a 7-0 game. SAE, on the other hand, blasted Theta Chi, 36-0, scoring all its points in the first three quarters. SAE (9-0) now takes its 20-game winning streak to the Super Bowl final, while SPE closes at 6-3 following a second consecutive bitter pill in the fraternity final.

Both teams had reached the

"The big thing right now is that we just end this on the right note," he emphasized. "This game is the last for the seniors, and they are making it the most important."

What about a bowl possibility?

Banged up

"All we want to do is beat Duke," stated Rein. "Physically we're at our worst. A.W. Jenkins and Timmy Johnson are hurting. Timmy, a senior, may not play. Ralph Stringer's shoulder hurts him badly. Ted Brown's foot that took him out of the Penn State game still hurts. He didn't practice on Monday, a little on Tuesday. He's a day-by-day thing. He'll play Saturday, but I don't know if he'll be at full strength."

If State is able to overcome its injuries and beat the Blue Devils, it will have to stop dangerous quarterback Mike Dunn.

"Duke is Mike Dunn," assessed Rein. "He impresses me with his high percentage of completions . . . and he can score points. Another thing



Bo Rein

that worries me is that he always seems to get going late in the season. He scores points in the fourth quarter and that's important. So goes Mike Dunn, so goes Duke.

"This will be an emotional game, one that's decided in the fourth quarter."

Sailing club competes in regatta at Kerr Lake

The State sailing club will compete in a regatta Saturday at Satterwhite Pt. on Kerr Lake.

State will be competing in the Northern Division along with Virginia, Duke and Old Dominion. The College of

State tops Blue Devils

by Larry Merrell
Staff Writer
DURHAM—The familiar chant "We're number one" was heard from jubilant State Fans at Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium Tuesday night following a Wolfpack victory over the Blue Devils.

The confrontation was not a men's basketball game, nor was it a game involving the heralded Wolfpack women's basketball team. The scene followed the State women's volleyball win over Duke, the defending state champions.

The match, which Duke coach Emma Jean Toward called "very familiar to the earlier match," a 15-13, 6-15,

15-8, 13-15, 16-14 Pack victory here in Sept. was won by State in five games.

In the first game momentum was an important factor, as it was throughout the match, when Duke knotted the score at 10-10 after State had jumped out to a 8-0 lead. The Wolfpack turned it around to finish on top 16-14.

Duke flurries

In game two the Pack led 9-3 until the Blue Devils came up with a 12-3 flurry and took the game 15-12.

The Wolfpack broke a 5-5 deadlock in the third game by blowing Duke off the court with a 10-1 barrage for a 15-6 victory. Junior starter Christine Chambers came on strong with several excellent blocks and a well-placed hit to the Duke backcourt to bring the game to an end.

Duke leveled the match at 2-2 by defeating State 15-10 in a game in which the Pack never held the lead. State cut a 9-1 Duke lead to 10-9 before absorbing the loss.

The fifth and final game, a 15-4 State win, exhibited total effort by the Wolfpack. To the pleasure of the loyal State fans, the Pack breezed to a 9-0 lead.

Unlike the previous game the trailing team was unable to mount a comeback as State gained a 14-4 lead. Then Chambers exploded an awesome spike to the feet of the defenseless Duke players to bring an emotional end to the hard fought match.

Olga's setting

Despite the powerful front line play of Donna Andrews, Sherri Pickard, Kit Rea, Lynn Davidson and Chambers, both coaches agreed that the excellent setting of Olga de Souza was an important, if not deciding, factor in the win.

"State's setting may have been the key," stated Coach Howard following the match. State coach Nora Lynn Finch felt that de Souza's play was as outstanding as it has been throughout the year.

"Without Olga we can't play," explained Coach Finch. "Olga is the backbone of our team."

Fine defensive match

Finch also felt that State played a fine defensive match by being in the right place at the right time and blocking

better than in the past. The win brought Finch's first regular season at State to a successful end as the Wolfpack finished atop the Division I standings with a 7-2 league mark and 17-5 overall.

Winning the NCAA Tournament in Durham (which concludes tonight) is obviously the next goal for the Wolfpack women's volleyball team.

Big Four tickets on sale Monday

Student tickets for the Big Four Basketball tournament Dec. 2-3 in Greensboro will go on sale Monday at the Reynolds Coliseum box office.

Tickets will be \$24.00 each and will be sold on a first-come-first-serve basis. A student may purchase one ticket for himself and one guest ticket maximum. Students must have their ID and registration card.

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Technician Opinion

Poor loser

No one really thought it would ever happen, but Tuesday it did.

Isabella W. Cannon, a 73-year-old, retired library administrator, defeated the incumbent Jyles J. Coggins for mayor of Raleigh.

This little lady, who Coggins said was "basically the same age as my mother," scored a stunning upset over Coggins, who had served four terms in the General Assembly before serving as mayor. A recognized underdog by many political observers, Cannon becomes the first woman mayor in Raleigh's history.

But as spectacular as Cannon's election was, a lot of the sweetness of her victory certainly was taken away from her by her opponent who clearly was embarrassed by the defeat, and what's even worse, didn't really expect it.

Coggins acted like a poor loser after Tuesday's election. When a candidate is defeated in an election, most of the time it is because the voters simply didn't approve of the candidate. But Coggins couldn't gracefully accept the defeat; he found it necessary to make excuses for the loss, something which leaves a bad taste in everyone's mouth.

Coggins initially used Cannon's age in an apparent effort to discredit her ability to perform

as mayor, using the "old as my mother" statement to add some dramatic and even sympathetic attention to Cannon's age. The poor lady is simply too old to be mayor, and we should leave her at home to keep the grandchildren on the weekends for the parents, was apparently Coggins' inference.

But after the loss, he attributed it in a large part to *The News and Observer*. Coggins was endorsed in an editorial by *The Raleigh Times* and *News and Observer* Publisher Frank Daniels, Jr. in a signed article on the editorial page last Sunday, but Coggins criticized "misleading and erroneous articles and headlines" and other editorials.

That's really a fine thanks for Raleigh's two newspapers to endorse Coggins and then he has the audacity of blaming them for his defeat. Coggins was looking for someone to blame his defeat on, and it appeared the *News and Observer* was the easiest thing he could find.

Cannon's surprise victory stunned Coggins and the nearest thing available to which to attribute his loss was insupportable excuses. He was a poor loser, and with that knowledge of his character, we certainly are glad he was defeated.



Letters

Equal coverage

To the Editor:

This letter concerns Mr. Arthur Riddle's article on service organizations (Nov. 7). While coverage was given to only three organizations on campus, one organization was overlooked. I commend the *Technician* on its reporting of service organizations on this campus but I feel that equal coverage for all service organizations should be given.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is a nationally and internationally based organization of predominantly black women dedicated to the service of the community. While the concept of a sorority may be that of a chic with the intent on coming together only for "partying" and having a good time, this is Theta Sorority stands for.

Our ideals embody a vital concern for social welfare, academic excellence and cultural enrichment. Our organization holds the distinct honor of having the highest accumulative grade point average of any fraternity or sorority on this campus.

While only being in existence on this campus for two years, our projects to the community have included sponsoring outings and other activities for the women inmates at the Women's Correctional Center and sponsoring parties, making toys and serving as teacher's assistants at Walnut Terrace Day Care Center. We are currently working with the Red Cross Platelet Drive, the Meals-on-Wheels Program and various other projects.

Sororities may not be thought of as vehicles for performing worthwhile services to the community but Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. is an exception rather than the rule.

Anita L. Campbell
Sr. BSM
Pres., Mu Omicron Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
A Public Service Sorority

Feel sorry

To the Editor:

Do fraternity "people" think they are any better than everyone else? While at the Penn State football game on Saturday, we were appalled to see at least three groups of "people" who call themselves N.C. State Fraternities, totally disregard the playing of our National Anthem.

True, there is always movement during the playing of the anthem, but we think mixing and drinking drinks, crude and boisterous comments and general disrespect for our flag should not be tolerated.

Don't get us wrong, for we are not saying all fraternities act this way, but the actions and attitudes of three such groups sitting in Section Seven made a bad name for fraternities in general.

Even during the playing of our school *Alma Mater*, they did not have respect for their own school. It was during this time that these three fraternities decided to make fun of us, who were respectful enough to be singing the *Alma Mater*.

We feel sorry for the fraternities of SAE, KA and Sigma Nu if this is how they act in public. Drive that these three fraternities should form a common group and call themselves Apathetically Sorry Students, (ASS, for short).

Jim Bostedo
Sr. CSC

Missiles

To the Editor:

In response to the article in the Monday *Technician* by Sidney Lens, I would like to ask Mr. Lens how much science fiction he has been reading. He seems to have a "Dr. Strangelove" complex.

In his article, Mr. Lens talks about how the "Imperial Presidency" has the unchecked power to push a button and initiate a nuclear war. If Mr. Lens would spend an hour in his local library he would find out that not only is this impossible, it is laughable also.

In the first place, I would like to point out that the President could "push the button" until he got blue in the face and it would not result in any missiles being fired. It takes at least five people, one of whom is the President, to fire a missile. The system of checks and balances between the President and the men in the silos is so strict that without the certainty of hostile missiles approaching our country the possibility (sic) of any of our missiles being fired is nil. Secondly, there is no button. If you go down the chain of command from the President, through the chiefs of staff, through SAC headquarters, to the men in the silos, you will not find a button to launch

missiles anywhere.

Let me explain: If and when this country comes under a nuclear attack, The President has, not the right, but the responsibility to order our strategic missiles launched. This order filters down through the higher echelons of our country's military organization until it reaches the men in the silo responsible for the launching of the missiles. If and when the order gets there, and it is checked and rechecked, the two men then go to a steel lockbox with two combination locks. Each man knows one of the combinations but not the other. When the open the box, each man takes out a key, and goes to his station. Each man then inserts his key into his proper keyhole. These keyholes are separated by at least twelve feet making it impossible for one man to turn both keys. The two men must then simultaneously turn their keys. But even this will not fire the missile. It takes two more men in another silo, who turn their keys at the same time as the first two to fire the missile. Even if this weren't enough, if any of the other six men in three other silos were to place their keys in the override position, the missile would not fire. So you can see that it is impossible for a President to "push the button" and start a war.

He further states that in the last 27 years there

have been 13 near misses. I will use one of these as an example. He states that in 1950 an alert radar picked up a formation of unidentified objects that would reach Washington in 2-3 hours. These objects disappeared, but what if they had been real? Could we have expected to get an OK from Congress in that time period? What the problem comes down to is that while we may have a great deal of time in a crisis, we will probably not. Experience shows that the responsibility for the decision must come down to one man.

I think that we in America should be proud that the ultimate power for nuclear war lies not in the Military itself, but in a civilian authority appointed by the people. I think it should be pointed out that the United States is the only country in history that has not, at some time or other, had to be protected from its own military. In short, Mr. Lens, you need not worry about being plunged into a nuclear war by the "Imperial Presidency" as the President cannot use his responsibility to keep himself in power.

David I. Brandon, Cadet
2nd Lt. AFROTC
Junior Aerospace Engineering

Treading on the toes of English

by Wendy McBan
Contributing Writer

For an English major, I have a long record of infringements upon our mother tongue including gross misspellings and mispronunciations. I cringe with embarrassment to recall the number of times I've treaded across the toes of the English language. To give you an idea of exactly how serious the problem is, I had to consult the dictionary five times for just this first paragraph. For a long time I managed to conceal this defect. In fact, by some fluke, I won the class spelling bee in the eighth grade. (I lost further glory in subsequent competition by spelling "breath" as "breath"). Any facade of written and verbal dexterity I might have maintained, however, pitifully crumbled one day when I asked a friend about a course's prerequisites, accenting the "qu" syllable. "Pre-re-QUIZ-it." That single slip marked me for life.

It wasn't the last ravaged word to sabotage my dialogue. If, in the midst of conversation, someone gives me a quizzical look, I automatically retrace what I've said looking for stray accents or maladjusted meanings.

Attempting to track my vocabulary to its perverted roots, I've determined it to be more environmental than hereditary in origin. I do have a very young relative who's earned herself some notoriety through her speech. One night during this precocious four-year-old's first vacation away from her parents, someone heard her in bed crying. "Dana, are you scared?" the concerned host asked. Wide, wet eyes looked up and her little voice trembled. "Damn right I'm scared," Dana pouted. This story, besides being really cute, proves one point—our patterns of speech are molded at a very early age.

I remember when I was young hearing my mother answer the phone with "Hello, _____ the caller would say, "Hello, how are you?" _____ would answer, "Fine. And you?" Invariably, however, she would slur the polite inquiry into one word, "finanyou," which I thought was a handy little greeting.

My mother also had the habit of mocking an acquaintance's pronunciation of Saturday by leaving out the middle syllable and saying "Satday." Her satire was lost on my small ears. I interpreted that there were eight days of the week, the standard seven plus "Satday" which,

Reckonings

deducing from context, lay somewhere in the weekend, probably between Saturday and Sunday.

It also took years for me to realize that the good ol' "Arsh" potatoes grown at home were distinguishable from the Irish potatoes sold at the Winn Dixie only in our rural vernacular.

I really began a full-scale massacre of the language when I began to read. I was a ferocious reader, plowing through all manner of literature and laying to waste many a word and phrase in my haste. Dictionaries were too much trouble. I derived meanings from context and pronunciations from God-knows-what murky region of my brain. From mysteries I got "sleuth," which I saw, for some reason as "sa-leuth." To this day I cannot see that word without thinking of it as two syllables. In the *Readers' Digest* I read "Towards More Picture-sque Speech" with fervor as I unknowingly "picture-squed" the language.

There were whole classes of words like "gnu," "knapsack," and "gnaw" to baffle me. "Guage" and "cliche" puzzled me for years. I consistently defiled those unfortunate foreign words adapted into English use: a collection was a "pot-pourri"

and a "fox paw" was a social impropriety. In this manner I amassed an entire vocabulary of expressions just waiting to slip out in some mutant form.

Misspellings entered the picture whenever I tried to exercise one of my words in writing. I tended to spell them with a rough similarity to either how they looked or how I pronounced them. The discrepancies produced some colorful prose. In an early lab report I noted that, "The orgasm appeared to use sillia to move."

It seemed that I always got the words just a little wrong and it's the same way today. Grades on my written work are constantly eroded by "careless errors," and "sloppy misspellings." Looking over just this semester's work, I see "distain" where I meant "disdain," "tenant" for "tenet," and "coincide" for "concurrent" (or was that the other way around?). On one test I wrote for two pages about William Bradford's *Of Plymouth Plantation* rather than *Of Plymouth Plantation*. My last returned paper carried the usual preponderance of scribbled sp.'s and this little note: "Please lurn to spel better."

Nothing seems to help. The harder I think about a word, the more possibilities for spelling it occur to me. I'm getting a little paranoid. No word seems too small or too simple for violation.

One friend, in exasperation over my maligned speech, said, "You're enough to make a person go into phonetics."



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