

Letters to the editor

Repeating NC courses would take time

Dear Mr. Beebe:

I cannot help wondering whether many of the students who have received Ds in required courses this past semester are not relieved to have these courses checked off in spite of the inevitable lowering of their GPRs.

If the general faculty sustains the decision of the Faculty Senate to convert these Ds into NCs (which really amounts to converting them into Fs) all such courses would have to be repeated at much expenditure of energy, time, and money.

What is student opinion on this point?

ROSAMOND K. SPRAGUE
Professor of Philosophy

Petition for progress

Dear Mr. Beebe:

Recently the Faculty Senate passed a new grading proposal eliminating the grades D and F. However for some reason, the faction against this proposal is trying quite hard to see that it will not become official.

In December, the Academic Affairs Committee of Student Government sponsored a straw poll. The poll was well publicized in The Gamecock, and yet the turn out was quite shocking. I personally talked to some 450 students who approved quite zealously of the new proposal. I am not quite sure the exact number voting, however, I believe it was around 700 people with 650 in favor and around 50 against. Amazing! There are about 13,000 students here and only 700 people even turned out to vote.

The Faculty Senate is, I feel,

quite receptive to progressive proposals. However they must know how the student feels. I urge all of the students here at USC to take the minute or so it takes to actively participate in determining your future here at USC and vote.

Now, we are sponsoring a petition acknowledging support of this new proposal. The petition will be passed around your dorms, in the Russell House, and if you can't find one, stop by the Student Government Office in the Russell House and sign the copy there; but please sign the petition!

This might well be the decisive first or last step of progress we will have done in the field of education for us, and only you can determine that future.

Thank you, and let's stick together

JIM LENGEL,
Co-ordinator
Academic Affairs Committee
Student Government Association
WUSC's problems

Dear Mr. Beebe:

I read with interest Mr. Hedden's letter in Monday's Gamecock regarding his WUSC reception problems in "N" dormitory. His complaint is, fortunately, valid. In fact, most of the students residing on this campus have a valid complaint.

In Mr. Hedden's case, the equipment installed was received defective from the manufacturer. Because it was a new model and we were the first station to use it, several weeks were required to

locate the problem. Obviously, to find the problem we had to leave the equipment in operation. We were not ignoring Mr Hedden's complaints; we were working with the manufacturer to correct it.

The honeycombs now have six brand new, modified transmitters; one for each building. Hopefully, that problem is licked.

The real problem exists elsewhere on campus. Because of dorm wiring changes made this summer changes which we were not consulted on or even advised of, WUSC is no longer broadcasting to the Horseshoe, Fraternity Row, and most of the women's housing area comprised of South, South Tower, Wade Hampton, Sims, and McClintock. The University has indicated a willingness to correct the problem. Indeed, early last

summer our engineering staff made the necessary studies and recommendations for work to be done by the University Maintenance Department. To date, the work has not been begun.

WUSC is supported by student activity fees. As a result, we feel that every Carolina student living on University property has a right to hear what they are paying for. Many students are not. We've done everything we can, but the Administration is slow in cooperating. I strongly urge Mr. Hedden and all other dissatisfied students to make their complaints known to Vice President for Business Affairs Harold Brunton.

JAMES M. ELLIOTT
General Manager

Our man Hoppe

Ethna: A miracle of stupidity

By ARTHUR HOPPE
Columnist

It is doubtful that mankind would ever have achieved universal human brotherhood had it not been for the discovery of the Lost Kingdom of Ethna

Its discoverer was the noted sociologist and humanitarian, Dr. Benvenuto Beane. His study of the Ethnans -- "Ethna: A Sociological Analysis" -- quickly became a runaway best-seller.

In it, Dr. Beane reported that the typical Ethnan was either very short or very tall, very fat or very thin and had slanted eyes, a large

nose and dark orange skin.

They were also, he found, universally oversexed, lazy avaricious, devious and blessed with a natural sense of rhythm. But what characterized them most was their incredible stupidity.

Their language, he said, was limited to a few phrases they had somehow picked up from the outside world -- phrases such as "begorrah," "mama mia," "oy vey" and "fled lice."

But it was his accounts of the Ethnans efforts to deal with life and its problems that made his study a best-seller. For though the good scientist surely didn't intend

it so, the accounts were invariably hilarious.

The Ethnans never could seem to do anything right. And soon people everywhere of all races and faiths were talking and laughing about little else.

Let two men meet in the street and the first would begin: "Say, do you know why it takes three Ethnans to screw in a light globe? One to hold the bulb and two to turn the ladder."

Then the other, wiping tears from his eyes, would answer: "Did you hear the one about this Ethnan named Pat..." (Or Mike or Abbie or Sambo or McTavish or

Giuseppe, for the names of the Ethnans, as Dr. Beane reported, were severely limited in number.) And both story-tellers, after slapping their knees, would go their ways happy and rejuvenated.

At cocktail parties, guests regaled each other with tales of the cowardice of Ethnan soldiers. (Dr. Beane had included an account of how, on being photographed with a flash-bulb camera, the entire Ethna Army surrendered.)

On television, comedians expanded on Dr. Beane's description of the unemptiness of Ethnan women: "You can always tell an Ethnan airliner by the hair under its wings."

But, oddly enough, the discovery of Ethna could not have come at a more fortuitous time. Ever since the Cro-Magnons had made disparaging remarks about the Neanderthals, man had sought out a group to be the butt of his deprecating humor

In the past century, the Irish, the Jews, the Orientals and the Blacks had all suffered in turn. In recent years, Italian and Polish jokes had come into vogue. And while this was probably a tribute to the success of the Italians and Poles at being assimilated, it caused pain nevertheless.

But the Ethnans afforded the easiest target of all. At last, all races and faiths were united in their contemptuous superiority to the Ethnans. At last, all dwelt in mutual tolerance and brotherhood.

Dr. Beane grew rich in years. On his death bed an aide said to him admiringly, "Isn't it odd, sir, that nothing creates love and respect between men like a mutual hatred and intolerance of a group they think inferior?"

Dr. Beane nodded and smiled. "That," he said, "is the only authentic Ethnic joke."

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