

# Ciotta Ask Student Organizations to Back Education Bond

By Chip Jean

Mr. Julian Ciotta, MCC's Director of Public Information, recently asked student organizations on campus to help support the \$155 million Higher Education Bond which will appear on the ballot in the November 2 election.

At a conference on Thursday, October 14, attended by representatives of Alpha Phi Omega, The Black Cultural Association, Delta Sigma Psi, Quo Vadis and The Student Government, Ciotta explained that the bond is important not only to MCC for the \$1.3 million it will receive, but to the whole state of New Jersey.

N.J. 48th Out of 50

New Jersey ranks 48th out of all states in per capita appropriations spent on colleges, although it is the seventh wealthiest state in per capita income. Consequently, New Jersey is losing many of its students to out-of-state schools because it lacks facilities; it ranks 38th in students attending college in their own states.

Ciotta, who was recently named the college's liaison with the state's, explained that a bond is the easiest and cheapest way of

paying for education. It takes approximately 35 years for tax payers to pay off a bond, so the sum they have to pay is spread out.

A campus committee for promotion of the bond was proposed by Ciotta. It would be made up of representatives of the campus organizations, individual students and a few faculty members. Some of the activities of the committee, as proposed by Ciotta, would be: special promotions to the public, a radio program in which students would answer listeners questions on the bond, a parade held jointly with Rutgers in support of the bond, and student speakers to community groups.

Chambers in Favor of Bond

President Chambers, who also attended the meeting, reiterated his enthusiastic support for the bond and stated that MCC alone could theoretically influence 20 to 30,000 voters, students, alumni and their families. In this same way, New Jersey colleges could influence half a million votes.

Passing the bond could also help lower the unemployment rate in the future, according to Chambers. The new buildings will provide more classroom

spaces, thus providing a low cost education for more people who otherwise could not afford it, he reasoned. They would be prepared for jobs they could not handle without the training.

Chambers further released the following statement:

"Our State has pressing need for trained and well-educated men and women. It is a fact that physicians, nurses, engineering aides, and many other technical specialists are being recruited from other states, and in some

instances from other countries, to fill essential positions in business firms and institutions of New Jersey. The colleges and universities of our State must expand to accommodate more young men and women who will prepare for occupations requiring complex skills and higher education.

"The community colleges of New Jersey were established to help alleviate the acute shortage of technical personnel in business, industry and health related occupations, and to help young men

and women fulfill their aspirations. Two-year colleges like Middlesex are graduating substantial numbers of laboratory specialists, technical engineering personnel, business office workers and technical specialists critically needed in hospitals and medical agencies.

"I urge all of the voters of New Jersey to approve the \$155 million Bond Issue to finance college expansion and educate the additional numbers of professional, scientific and technical personnel needed in New Jersey."



Volume 6, Number 5

MIDDLESEX COUNTY COLLEGE

October 19, 1971

## Walsh Feels that Students Would Hamper Union Contract Negotiations

By Ed Acker

In a few weeks the Board of Trustees and the Faculty Union will again meet in their annual contract negotiations. In the past there has not been any student participation during these talks.

This year, however, there is much concern regarding the rights of students having a voice in contract matters. Dean William Walsh, the board representative at the negotiations, discussed such a student voice during a recent interview.

Students Excluded

The reason students are not at the bargaining sessions is primarily due to the nature of collective bargaining itself, said Walsh.

As a rule any collective bargaining usually does not take place in full view of the public eye. The serious give and take procedure is often hampered by participation from outside interests, he said.

The 1968 Statute, which governs public employee bargaining, states that parties to the contract are entitled to collective bargaining for salary, conditions of employment and grievance procedures. Walsh stated that under its legal terms the contract does not entitle students to participation at the talks.

Student Opinion Welcome

Although students are not parties to the contract the fact that they are directly affected by it's terms, necessitates a need for their opinion, Walsh said.

"I welcome constructive opinion from students in regard to the contract," said Walsh. He added that the students should decide on a formal method for communicating their views to the bargaining parties.

Concerning faculty evaluation, Walsh stated that as long as department chairmen are responsible for the operation of their de-

partments it is they who should decide which teachers are recommended for re-hire or dismissal.

Although input from students could conceivably aid a chairman in evaluating a teacher, the students could not be held accountable for department performance therefore student evaluation alone would be impractical, he said.

Knocks Coaching Clause

Walsh also stated that the

Board of Trustees feel that coaching fees should be excluded from the bargaining agreement, because the fees come from the Student Activity Fund and also because coaching is not part of the regular duties of the faculty.

But as long as the coaching section remains in the contract, students, Walsh feels, should be able to advise the handling of the fees and the scheduling of the events.



Dean Walsh



Wilma Thompson

## Thompson Urges Students to Negotiate through AFT

By Ellen Hall

Wilma Thompson, chief negotiator for the faculty union, welcomes students to participate in talks with the union concerning the faculty contract. She feels that the student body is entitled to a voice in the contract which affects them in many ways.

Mrs. Thompson proposes a student chapter to her A.F.T. local 1940 where student grievances could be examined and brought into contract negotiations by the faculty without the students acting as a separate bargaining unit.

"Students shouldn't be considered in negotiations until they have elected representatives and until the student body is willing to undertake the consequences of legal action," she said.

Audio-Visual Clause

Many items in the faculty contract directly involve students. One such item is the Audio-Visual clause. It is not the wish of the faculty, according to Thompson, that MCC should go the route of Brookdale and Somerset by implementing programmed system courses without study by the faculty or students.

"Our A.V. clause says that a request to utilize innovative teaching techniques will be studied by a committee made up of half faculty and half administra-

tion and which requires a two-third vote before the program is initiated, therefore protecting sound education as well as our own legal rights," she stated.

By this process, she feels, a decision can be made by an uninvolved committee which would determine whether the program is in the best interest of all involved, students and faculty.

Mrs. Thompson further commented on several issues raised in a QV editorial last week: Why are coaching salaries negotiated by the Union and the Trustees when the money comes from Student Activity Fees?

The faculty feels, that, since sports are not open to all students but to a choice few, fees should not come from Student Fees. However, when the contract was signed this was overlooked. If the students were involved then, they could have prevented this.

Student Evaluation of Faculty

The faculty is a little hesitant. They feel that student evaluation should be encouraged and should be a factor, however not a determining one in faculty promotion. The teachers want to reserve the final determination for themselves, establishing a criteria as to how they should be evaluated, and have an evaluation based heavily on classroom performance.

## Student Senate Reneges on Foose's Disciplinary Board

By George Kennedy

The SG has cast aside Dean Foose's outline for a judicial board. A committee co-chaired by Eugene Wesniewski and Art Vida was mandated by the Senate at

its Oct. 13 meeting to create a new judicial board structure.

The outline submitted by Foose at the Sept. 29 meeting was originally accepted. The decision to set aside Foose's outline was the result of later criticism of its wording by a number of senators.

Foose attended the Oct. 13 meeting and said he considered the need for an improved judicial board urgent. He said he was reluctant to convene the current board, which consists of two faculty members and two students in addition to himself, because under this system he has to bring charges against an individual and then participate in the judicial process.

Elections Committee Dispute

Jim Mastrich and Mitchell Goldstein, co-chairmen of the elections committee, repeated their criticism of President Pete Abatemarco for his alleged interference with the running of the Oct. 8 elections. Specifically, they charged that Abatemarco had prepared and distributed petition forms without consulting the elections committee.

They cited the fact that the elections committee had requested, without success, that elections be held on Oct. 21 and 22 in order to allow candidates more time to return petitions and to develop interest on campus.

Their report concluded with the charge that the entire senate must share the blame for the poor turnout because of: 1) lack of cooperation with the elections committee in publicizing elections; and 2) their general lack of interest in the election.

## Night School Meeting Fails; Only One Student Attends

By Tom Rauen

Plans to organize a group to plan night student activities have been temporarily stopped due to a seeming lack of interest on the part of the night students.

A meeting, whose purpose was "to develop the structure and programs of the activities for the Division of Continuing Education students," was held on Oct. 14 at 6 p.m. in the small lounge of the

College Union. The meeting was attended by only one night student.

A questionnaire will be distributed to the night students in the near future and will contain various questions concerning the night students feelings about activities.

After analyzing the results of the questionnaire, a decision will be made as to what the next step will be.



Photo by Mike Pearce

Dean Foose

Students Say No

## ECPD Endorses Our Engineering Tech Curriculum

By Ed Acker and Ralph Netta

MCC has become the first community college in the state to receive accreditation by the Engineer's Council for Professional Development.

The accreditation by the national agency, effective in September, means that graduating engineering students from MCC can look forward to an increased opportunity to either receive a better job or to transfer to a senior institution. In terms of earning power, engineering graduates can now compete with the top in the country.

According to the Director of Engineering Technology, David H. Tyrrell, the ECPD visited MCC last March and found that the Electrical and Mechanical technology programs did meet the requirements of accreditation. Tyrrell added that, in light of the accreditation, MCC graduates will not be required to take the Institute for Certifications in Engineering Technologies Exam. Tyrrell also added that the accreditation should make recruiting of Engineering Tech students easier.



# QUO VADIS



Quo Vadis is published on most Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the school year. Editorial policy is determined by consensus of the Editorial Board at regular weekly meetings. Members of the Editorial Board are: Michael Pearce, James Dolan, Michael French, Frank Fiorello, Richard Leppig, William Larsen, Joe Pariso, Carol Buckalter, Steve Mallia, Ed Gelowitz, Jim Schlett and Ed Acker. Advisor: Jim Gallagher

**Executive Editor — Michael Pearce**  
**Business Editor — James Dolan**  
**Managing Editor — Michael French**



## Editorial: Student Union — Instant Replay

Union Contract negotiation sessions begin in a few weeks, and from the looks of things student representation at these meetings will not be possible.

Union President Gene Gralla has invited students to voice any opinions they might have concerning this matter directly to him. These suggestions would then be given "due consideration". What exactly is "due consideration"? Will it depend upon the nature of the student demand? For instance, will those suggestions benefitting both Faculty and Students receive more consideration than those benefitting only students? And what about those suggestions which may benefit the Board of Trustees and students — will they be considered at all?

It seems that Mr. Gralla has overlooked the possibility of student representation at these sessions. Yet we do not blame either he or the Union alone. Both the Board of Trustees and Union decided long ago that only those persons directly effected by the outcome of bargaining table discussions would be allowed to attend these meetings. As students we are not included in this stipulation. Apparently, some people felt, and still do feel, that we are not directly effected by the results of these sessions.

The fact that our comment on coaching fees is beyond Mr. Gralla's "competence" is beyond us. The question of coaching salaries takes up a good part of the contract under Article IX. But the most obvious fact is that coaches received a substantial increase this year, meaning there must have been a fair share of "discussion" taking place at the bargaining table. We find it hard to believe that the Union negotiated a large part of our Student Activity Fee away without knowing they were doing so.

According to the Union, the audio-visual aid section of the contract is written in such a way as to keep machines from replacing good teachers. This may be so, but what has the contract, or the Union, or the Board, for that matter, done in the area of eliminating bad teachers?

The present evaluation process does not include student criticism and the only solution Mr. Gralla suggested was a student evaluation 6 months after the completion of a course. He seemed to think that a student who had just received a "D" could not evaluate a teacher fairly. We would argue that a final grade of "D" or below is a direct reflection upon the students' teacher, namely, bad. Furthermore, those students who would bother to fill out an evaluation form 1/2 year later would be those who did extremely well or exceptionally bad. One other point, would we get in touch with the students at their new colleges or at their place of work?

We suggest that if students were allowed to choose their own teachers the amount of students enrolling under a particular teacher, or not enrolling, would be ample criteria in determining a teacher's true worth.

Student questionnaires is another alternative, but students should evaluate teachers before final grades are given out, so as not to be swayed, as Mr. Gralla feels, by either a low or high grade.

The Union tried to insert a clause in the contract terminating the yearly raises in tuition, but they went ahead just as rapidly in asking for wage increases. The extra money has to come from somewhere, yet our pockets are already empty.

The Unions' response, although rapid, was unsatisfactory. And we can't help but wonder if their solicitation of students has anything to do with allying faculty and students against the Administration. It seems to be a "we'll help you, if you'll help us" proposition.

Since we received no direct response from the Board of Trustees, we can only assume they are happy with the present negotiation procedures and do not wish to change them. That in itself is unusual, for the Board has as much to gain through a change as Faculty and Students do.

### COLUMN:

## News of Lesser Interest

By Richard Leppig

I graduated from Sayreville High School before they immortalized war, but even then, the teams were called the "Bombers." I thought it was because of long shots they took in basketball games, or long passes in football games. But I have since learned that the Sayreville mascot is a bomb. You may think that, because a bomb is inanimate, it is less trouble to maintain than a goat or a horse. After all, live mascots must be fed. What do you feed a live bomb? I don't know about locally, but in Viet Nam, the diet of a live bomb is about 5 Viet Cong for each pound of high explosives.

QV seems to be going for a record year. The general feeling is that, because nobody except President Chambers, Mr. Gralla, and Mr. Ciotta has written to the editor, we have accomplished our wildest (or most conservative) dreams. In fact, we feel so good we have agreed not to count administrators or union officials among the discontented. We just feel bad about having to let our Letters Editor go.

We see that the Foreign Languages Department is getting involved in seminars and conferences. We hope it doesn't become just another "Tower of Babel." Right now, only two factions are supporting foreign languages locally: the Foreign Languages Department and the ghetto.

The response to our creativity contest has been underwhelming. We had two entries but unfortunately, they had to be disqualified. Hereafter, contestants are requested to restrict their entries to inanimate objects. (For those concerned, we sent the little boy to a local adoption agency and we buried the duck.)

## Transfers Spark November Talks

By Bob Cloney

MCC is planning to announce an organized schedule for all colleges visiting the campus this year. Kenneth B. Maugle, the school's transfer coordinator, has designated November 1 through 12 as the days on which representatives from colleges in and out of New Jersey will be visiting the campus. This is being done to help eliminate confusion as in the past when students were not always aware of what schools were being represented on campus.

Previously, other colleges would send representatives to MCC at any time during the year making it impossible to distribute a master schedule to the students.

## Coffee Session Attracts Seven

Only seven students attended the Foose, Ciotta and Chambers coffee meeting held last Thursday at the Student Union.

Topics brought up by students included MCC's possible transition to a 4 year college, and Rutgers Medical school. A suggestion also arose concerning the feasibility of broadening the background of computer science students.

## From The Far Corners

A survey of local, national and international news affecting students, teachers or the college community as a whole.

Edited By Steve Mallia

### Youth Registration Is Small but Democratic

The 18 to 21 year olds finally have a chance to flex their political muscles but it appears that they are bypassing the opportunity in the upcoming elections. One of the main reasons seems to be that this election is "just for a bunch of sheriffs and petty officials," according to William Brockman, a 21-year old Rutgers student.

Many students have been confused by the various court rulings on where they could and couldn't vote. In Mercer County, for example, Superior Court Judge Frank Kingfield's ruling allowed students to register and vote where they went to school. Even with that ruling behind them, however, only about 400 Princeton students registered to vote. The 400 votes could make a big difference in the elections, since many races in the county have been decided by the scant margin of five votes, but it still is a very small percentage of the Princeton population.

The other counties are going with Judge William J. Camarata's decision that barred a Seton Hall student from registering in South Orange because he was not domiciled there. In Middlesex County, a class action suit was to be filed by the American Civil Liberties Union after two Rutgers University students were denied permission to register there. Despite this, however, the county is stick-

## Students Ineligible for Deferments

The Selective Service System recently clarified expected policy changes on undergraduate student deferments.

College students who were enrolled full-time in the 1970-71 academic year will be eligible for student deferments in the 1971-72 school year if they continue to make satisfactory progress in their programs of study, Selective Service officials said. However, young men who entered school for the first time this summer and those who enroll as freshmen this fall will not qualify for student deferments.

Dr. Curtis W. Tarr, Selective Service Director, said: "Few incoming freshmen students are likely to be inducted in the near future because of the student deferment phaseout. Of the 1,034,000 incoming freshmen males estimated by the Office of Education, approximately 80% are 18 years old and only 20% are 19 years of age or older. The 18 year olds will receive their lottery numbers in 1972, and they will not be subject

## White Student Wins Discrimination Suit

New York Times — A white student has won a suit for admission to the law school of the University of Washington after contending that he was passed over while 30 minority students with lower qualifications were admitted. The school says it will appeal the ruling of Superior Court Judge Lloyd Shorett to admit Marco Defunis, a Phi Beta Kappa member.

Judge Shorett said the law school enrollment methods discriminated against caucasians because minority applications were set aside and considered

## UN Fighting Role to End June 30

New York Times — United States military sources said that the American fighting role in Vietnam would end formally next June 30 when, according to plans, the United States military forces will turn to advisory and support activities.

After that time, the sources said, United States combat in-

ing to its guns and is refusing to register anyone who does not intend to reside in the county after they have finished their schooling.

So, all in all, young voters are seemingly very lax when it comes to the local issues but many political observers feel this could change when the presidential elections roll around. In New York, for example, Board of Elections Commissioner Maurice J. O'Rourke estimates that 250,000 of the 383,000 potential first-time voters have already registered. Absentee applications from college students are coming in at the rate of 40 to 50 a day.

Of those who have already registered, the ratio is about 3:1 in favor of the Democrats. This trend could mean the Nixon will lose nine key states in his bid for re-election.

"What we are doing," comments Allard Lowenstein, the leader of the dump-Johnson movement in '68," is turning the country around the only way it can be turned around. You can't do it by blowing up a toilet. The whole debate about whether we should work in or outside the system is bull. The question is whether you do the rational thing and get something done, or whether, out of frustration, you do something irrational or drop out entirely."

to induction until 1973, when draft calls should be low. The 19 year old freshmen received their lottery numbers August 5 of this year and will be subject to induction next year; at least 1/2 should have high enough lottery numbers to preclude their induction. Of those remaining, approximately 50% will be disqualified on mental, moral or physical grounds. This means that a maximum of 50,000 men will be directly affected in 1972 by the student deferment phaseout and one-half of these, or 25,000, will probably not be inducted because of enlistments in Regular, Reserve or National Guard units, participating in commissioning programs or because of procedural delays.

Dr. Tarr said that college students will not be drafted in the middle of a semester or term. "If called while enrolled, they will be allowed to postpone their induction until the end of the semester, or term. If in their last academic year, they will be able to postpone their induction until after graduation."

separately, and those applications were handled by a black student member of the law school's admissions committee and a faculty member deeply involved in minority programs.

"So, when the recommendations went to the full committee, the minority applicants had been treated more favorably than others," the judge explained. He also said that some of the qualification scores were "so low that had they been white, their applications would have been summarily dismissed."

volvement will be limited to air support for South Vietnamese forces.

Between 40,000 and 50,000 American troops should still be in Vietnam in support and advisory capacities when the planned command changeover is made, the sources said.





## Hockey Girls Can't Find the Net

By Joe Pariso

It has been a slow starting season for the women's field hockey team. They have been burdened with pre-season and last minute cancellations from three teams thus far. Bergen County forfeited, while Cumberland and Burlington County both cancelled their matches before the beginning of the season. The match with Gloucester, cancelled on Oct. 5, has been rescheduled for Oct. 15. The games that the girls have played have been scoreless disasters. Against Ocean County MCC lost 4-0. Coach Marilyn

Jones attributes this loss to the fact that Ocean had played 3 games previously while this was her team's initial encounter.

MCC will meet Ocean again at the end of the season and with the Colt's newly shifted defense, it may be that Ocean will be in for a surprise.

Coach Jones excused her squads 8-0 loss to Camden by saying that Camden was more experienced and had the opportunity to play more out of state teams.

Excuses aside, the girls are now 0 and 2.



Photo by LaRo

A Camden runner flashes the victory sign at the start of last weeks cross-country duel. Maybe he knew something the Colt harriers didn't. Camden crushed Middlesex.

## Harriers Win One, Lose One

By Joe Pariso

The MCC cross country team expected a strong team and a tough match from Camden, and got just that. The first man to place for MCC was Pete Wright as usual, in distant seventh place at 21:59. Chip Jean followed in eighth position; Terry Lyons finished tenth; Bill Burns and Phil Terrio finished 15 and 16 respectively.

Steve Mortrano of Camden

shattered the 4-day old course record of 21:13 with a time of 20:29. He bested Wright by a minute and thirty seconds, a substantial margin. The final score: Camden 15 MCC 48.

The harriers managed to beat Ocean County 26-29. In this meet MCC placed 2,3,4,8,9. Wright took second at 21:15. Jean third and Lyons fourth.

The teams record to date is 5-3.

## Camden Edges Colt Kickers

By Joe Parisi

In a closely contested battle marked by "score for score," Camden edged the MCC soccer team 5-4.

Many players on the team feel that if more passing was evident, more goals would have been scored. All four the MCC goals were scored by Jimmy Young.

The game started out with MCC leading 1-0 in the first quarter. Camden tied it up 1-1 in the second quarter. MCC went ahead again in the third 2-1. The score was tied for the second time when

Camden hammered in another goal. The fourth quarter was the most exciting. Even with a display of sparkling goaltending efforts by Bill Garth, Camden pushed across three goals, while MCC could only manage two.

After the game Coach Plant had nothing but praise for his team. The coach felt that if there were only a few more minutes in the game MCC would have won.

This final quote by the coach sums up the game. "If we had to lose, at least we did it with class."

Students of New Jersey have taken the first step in setting up a Naders Raiders type group on a statewide basis.

More than 70 students, representing 15 colleges, attended the first organizational meeting of the Public Interest Research Group on Saturday in New Brunswick.

Participants in the one day conference elected an ad hoc steering committee, drew up a statement of purpose, and met with area schools to map out regional strategies.

### Public Interest Advocacy

Based on Ralph Nader's concept of public interest advocacy, the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group is a student run organization that will hire a full time staff of professionals to do research, citizen action, and litigation on specific issues.

New Jersey students are being asked to contribute \$1.50 per semester through their student fees to finance the project. The staff of lawyers, scientists, engineers, etc. will be responsible to a student Board of Directors elected by students in the state.

In New Jersey, the procedure for raising the student fees differ on each campus. In some schools the Student Government has complete control over funds. In other campuses any fee raise must be approved by a Board of

## Foreign Language Conference Held

Edison, New Jersey, October 18, 1971 — A conference of foreign language faculty of two-year colleges of New Jersey met at MCC on Oct. 16 to discuss the development of foreign language study in two-year schools. Sixty representatives from 18 colleges participated in lecture and workshop sessions in the Health Tech Amphitheater.

The program was coordinated by Professors Edith Margolin and Margarete Driver. Topics discussed included audio-visual techniques, individualized study and language requirements at the colleges, among others.

MCC President Frank M. Chambers welcomed those who attended and indicated the general role of foreign languages in the two-year colleges. He stated that education must be patterned to meet the needs of both the student and society and that less emphasis should be placed on the idea that education must take four years. He added, "Education should take as long as necessary to properly train the individual to do the job he is being trained to do. It is useful for language instructors to meet, as they are, to concern themselves with the importance of the language in the college program."

John Callahan, Dean of Faculty, also participated in the program and welcomed the language instructors, who heard lectures on "Motivation in the Learning Process" and "The Place of the Language Laboratory in Foreign Language Instruction."

Workshop sessions included "Foreign Language Requirements in New Jersey Two-Year Colleges"; "Individualized Instruction", mini-courses, and term-projects.

The success of the conference has led the group to charter themselves as the New Jersey Foreign Language Conference of Two-Year Colleges and agrees to meet twice annually. The next meeting will be held at Brookdale Community College.

# Students Asked to Mobilize for Public Interest Research Group

Governors. Representatives agreed to conduct a petition referendum at individual campuses to be preceded by a four to six week educational campaign.

### Policy Statement

Edward Rosenthal, a Rutgers junior, was elected chairman of the ad hoc steering committee. Rosenthal presented the unanimous policy statement of the group which outlines some of its priorities: "The general areas of the New Jersey Public Interest Research Group (NJPIRG) concern will include urban revitalization, consumer protection, resource planning, urban and rural occupational safety and labor conditions, protection of natural areas and environmental quality, racial and sexual discrimination, landlord/tenant relations, delivery of health care and similar matters of urgent or long range concern to the welfare of the people of New Jersey."

There are between 170,000 to 200,000 students in this state, which could mean from \$500,000 to \$600,000 to operate in the public interest. This amount of money could hire a staff of up to fifty professionals, according to Brent English of Nader's Washington office. English, after completing a four day tour of New Jersey schools on behalf of the NJPIRG spoke at the meeting on Saturday on organizing techniques.

"We are depending," he told the delegates, "on the students of this state to mobilize the massive resources of New Jersey to confront its massive problems."

If the New Jersey project succeeds, according to English, the next target for a PIRG organization will be New York City. At present similar groups are operating in Oregon and Minnesota and 15 additional states are getting up these types of student funded research groups.

## Colleges Could Raise \$ \$ \$

There are eight million students in over 2,000 colleges and universities in the United States. Their energy and idealism should be a potent force for the betterment of society. This fact is not apparent even to the most optimistic observer of the student movement. There are many explanations for this failure. The extreme mobility of the campus population prevents the growth of lasting student organizations. Too often vacations, exams, and the sheer burden of course work frustrate student campaigns.

In an effort to surmount these difficulties and build bases of real student power, Ralph Nader's Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) has embarked on what may be the most ambitious project of student organization ever attempted in the United States. Its aim is to encourage students of form, finance, and direct groups of full-time professionals to engage in research, citizen action, and litigation on behalf of the public interest. These student-funded professionals would work on issues involving environmental preservation and consumer protection, racial and sexual discrimination, product safety and corporate responsibility.

### Financing Plan

The financing plan is simple: Students on each campus would vote to increase their fees by \$1.50 per student/per semester, or

\$1.00 per quarter, an amount less than the cost of a new record or a local movie. This money would be used to fund a full-time group of plus or minus fifteen professionals. A campus of 30,000 students can raise \$120,000 per year. Clusters of campuses, by pooling resources, can easily fund a group with a \$250,000 base.

Neither Mr. Nader nor the Public Interest Research Group in Washington, D.C. will have any control over the local group. A student elected board of directors will control its own team of professional advocated. All funds raised by the fee increase will be turned over to the student board which will hire the professional staff and direct it to ensure effective and proper use of funds. Any student who does not wish to participate in the plan would be entitled to a full refund.

### Student Response

Students have responded enthusiastically to this prescription. In Oregon and Minnesota, students have formed the first two public interest research groups in the nation. Students in 12 other states are mobilizing support for their own PIRG's.

In all, the Public Interest Research Group idea offers a new alternative to student activism; combining the concerns and frustrations on college campuses, into effective action arms for the general public interest.

## Off to a Campy Weekend



Photo by James G. Schlett Jr.

Last Friday, students waited for two buses to take them to Stokes State Forest for a weekend camping trip. The event was sponsored by the Social Committee and all 80 spaces were occupied. Cost to each student was only a dollar and although the weekend weather was overcast, it was an ideal chance to "rough it."