

Consumers too protected—speaker

By Kim Wilt

After admitting that questioning the "consumer protection movement" may be an unpopular stand, Clemson professor of economics Richard McKenzie did just that Thursday afternoon.

At a speech sponsored by the ASUN's Convocations Committee, McKenzie said that putting the government in charge of consumer protection was "like putting Dracula in charge of the blood bank."

"How do we regulate the regulators?" he asked. "How do we protect consumers from the protectors?"

McKenzie said that while product quality, safety, and consumer confidence in products were desirable, they came at a cost that was too high.

"Not all consumers want the same amount of safety," he said. He cited Health, Education and Welfare Secretary Joseph Califano's recent anti-smoking drive as an attempt to "lead us all down the path of righteousness," and said that people will continue to smoke if they want to, regardless of the dangers.

Give consumers choice

McKenzie said that he was in favor of government's requiring information disclosures, as in labeling of products, because "it still leaves a choice for the consumer," whereas making products meet certain standards eliminates such a choice.

"It is apparent that the general well-being of consumers

is being exploited by special interest groups (in government) in the name of government regulation," McKenzie said.

As an example, he described Transportation Secretary Brock Adams, who has proposed that airbags be mandatory for all cars, as "apparently oblivious to the social consequences of forced airbags. He assumed that he had an obligation to force the purchase on the consumer."

Increase recklessness

McKenzie said that the forced use of airbags will ultimately lead to an increase in the amount of reckless driving, because the person in a car supplied with an airbag will not feel as concerned for his own safety. He said this would result in increased traffic deaths.

McKenzie said the voluntary wage and price controls recently requested by President Carter, which would ask workers to hold wage increase requests to 5 percent or less, and businesses to keep prices at no more than 5 percent of last year's increases, were ineffective and too complex.

He said it was uncertain whether Carter's proposals will increase or decrease worker incentive and productivity.

"One may suspect that the regulators do not always know what they are doing," McKenzie said. "We have an obligation to seek out information about our purchases, to know the imperfections of the corrective proposals, and to find alternative means to correct problems."



Photo by Bob Pearson

Clemson professor Richard McKenzie says government protection is like "Dracula being in charge of a blood bank."

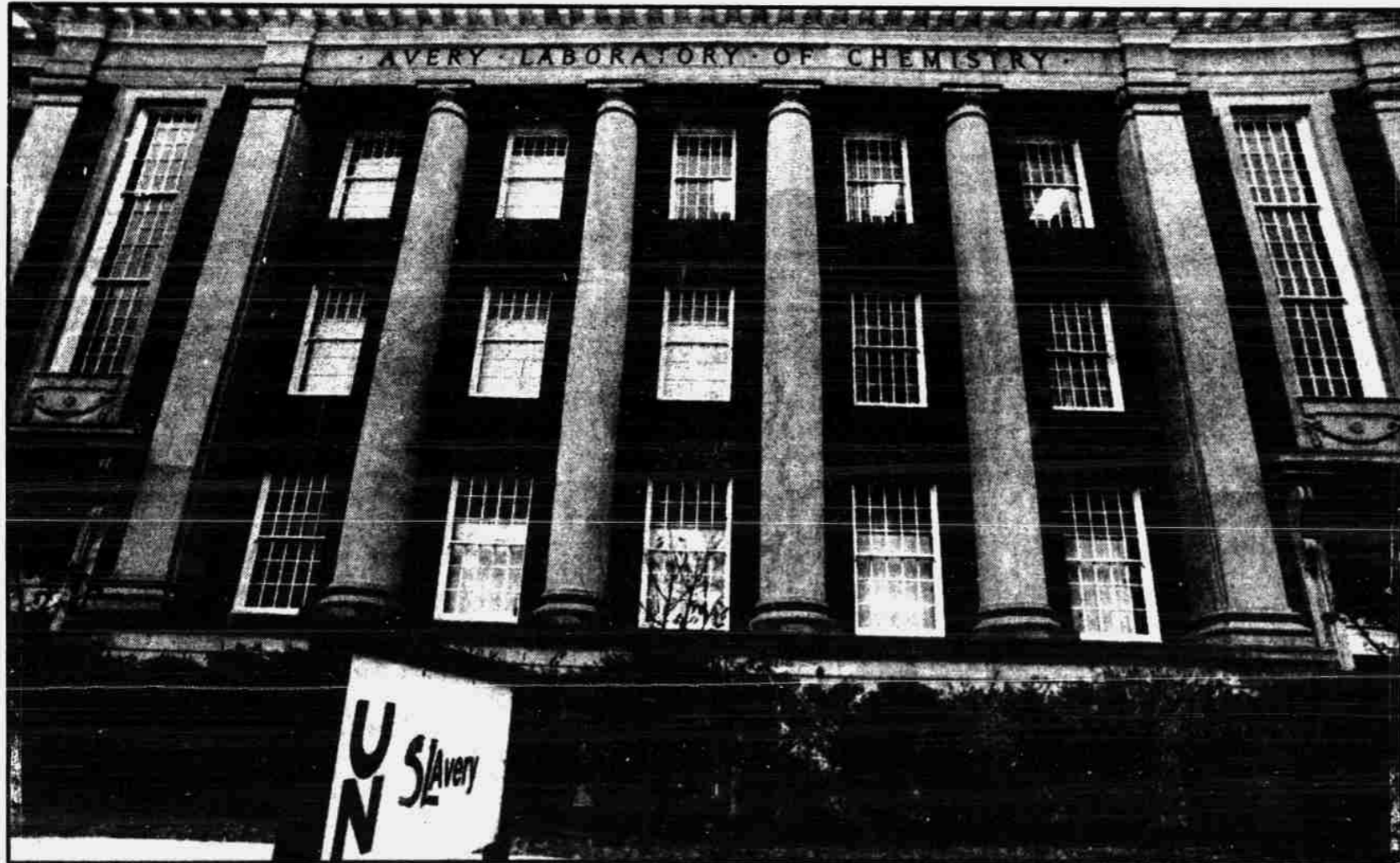


Photo by Mark Billingsley

Avery Hall, second home for journalists, historians, geographers and chemical engineers may or may not be any worse than any other building on campus, but someone, sometime, could not resist the urge to speak his or her mind with a black grease pencil.

More BEOG grants possible next year

By Cindy Coglianesi

The abolition of some income limitations for Basic Education Opportunity Grants at UNL will allow a greater number of applicants in the 1979-80 academic year.

Financial aids officer Debbie Knight said students eligible for BEOGs may be double next year nationwide. There are 2,500 BEOG recipients at UNL this year. There were about 8,000 applications for financial aid, and Knight said about 5,500 students have been granted some type of financial aid.

Knight said the income ceiling dropped on the BEOGs so now families who were not eligible under the old formula may qualify depending on the family finances.

Knight explained that a typical family of four with an average annual income of up to \$26,000 with one child in college and one parent employed would be eligible for a grant. The minimum grants available will range from \$200 to \$1,800 a year. Knight also said that special consideration has been given to the assets of farm families.

"By getting more funds for the BEOG," Knight said, "we will be able to assist other students with campus-based loans and more institutional funds will be made available."

Knight said interested students should complete a Financial Aid Form in January. Forms are available in the Financial Aids Office in the Administration building.

Doug Severs, financial aid officer, said a job location development program is being implemented for students. The program is a type of work-study program that locates jobs for students in the surrounding community.

Severs said the program has been successful since its implementation, adding that the number of positions has increased at least 50 to 75 percent.

Education for blacks stressed at seminar

By Doreen Charles

Atlanta—Despite the progress made by blacks in the 1960s toward acquiring higher education, the struggle for equality is not over, according to Dr. Benjamin Mays, president of Moorehouse College in Atlanta, Ga.

Mays, along with National Black Journalists Association Chairman Vernon Jarret and civil rights activist Dick Gregory, was one of the many speakers featured at a conference sponsored by the National Organization of Black University and College Students. A group of UNL students from the Afro-American Collegiate Society and the University Program Council-Culture Center attended the NOBUCS convention, which was held over a three-day period from Thursday, Nov. 16 to Saturday, Nov. 18 at Moorehouse College.

The first recipient of the United States Education Award, the 81-year-old Mays stressed the importance of education as the key to success. Black colleges must continue to provide high quality education, he said.

"Black colleges are the last frontier in the civil rights struggle," Mays stated. However, he noted, Blacks should strive

to obtain an education the best way they can, whether attending predominately white or black colleges.

Bakke decision

The recent Bakke decision marks a reversal of the progress made during the period from 1954 to 1965, Mays said. Blacks can no longer be assured that funds will be available to them for various programs oriented towards minority students.

Karen Zuniga of the White House minority affairs staff agreed that obtaining money was a problem. A large number of students were denied Basic Educational Opportunity Grants and, as a result, could not afford to attend school this semester. Zuniga suggested that schools invite Washington federal officials to their campuses to discuss problems.

Civil rights activist Dick Gregory urged black college students to take the lead in the continuing struggle for equal rights.

"These fraternities and sororities should be providing role models for black children," said Gregory. "Students should concentrate on the more serious aspects of college and not just the social life, he said.

Gregory also pointed out how blacks must realize that the struggle in America for equal rights is connected with that of

the people in South Africa. Instead of senseless violence, blacks should organize an effective protest, he said. General Motors is a harmful corporation to the South African people, he said, and blacks should concentrate on organizing effective activities, such as large scale boycotting of GM products. Creating violence in this country will not help their situation.

"People in Rhodesia do not need your ability for revenge," he said.

Effects of propaganda

Gregory warned students against succumbing to the effects of the propaganda spread by the media.

"Movies which glamorize dope and materialism are affecting blacks minds," he said. Blacks must not let themselves be brainwashed, he said.

"Black people must also realize their connection with the struggle of the American Indian, Gregory said. Blacks must unite with Indians and help each other in the struggle. Gregory proposed National Red Brother Week to emphasize the need for unity between the two groups.

In addition to the presentations from the speakers, students were able to attend several workshops in which problems of black students were discussed.

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