

### NOTES for QUERIES

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On June 21-22 Bill Monroe's BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL will be held in Bean Blossom, Indiana. (It is a half-hour east of Bloomington). Bill Monroe, Ralph Stanley, Mac Wiseman, the Osborne Brothers, Jim and Jesse and others will be performing.

Is there any support for the idea of instituting tenure for graduate students?

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sirs:

One of the persistent questions emerging from the demonstrations occurring at many universities here and abroad is whether the administration and faculty really run the schools for the students; i.e., whether they really care about the students. In folklore, we have had occasion to wonder for whose benefit the Folklore Department is being run. Though slightly misleading, the question is relevant.

For example, in the recent announcement of assistantships for next year, did the department realize that in waiting so long the deadline for NDE loans was passed? I understand that the department was looking for more money, but did it realize that by waiting it jeopardized an important source of loan funds for those who did not receive assistantships?

Then there is the matter of grading. A couple of F's and a sprinkling of C's were handed out at the end of first semester in core courses. In the case of such grades, did the instructors fully appreciate what these grades meant to the students, especially in the case of the F's. The obvious effect was to terminate the careers in folklore of those receiving them. It would have been a small courtesy to have at least called in those students and warned them of their contemplated grade. Other incidents which have made me wonder whether the faculty has had the students in mind was the recent promotion to full professor of the instructor many of us regard as least effective (with students, though perhaps a brilliant scholar) at the Institute, while instructors that we feel are the most effective are passed over. We also wonder if we (individually, of course) are kept in mind when, repeatedly, important deadlines are missed, dissertation proposals are too easily turned down, Master's examinations remain unmarked for long periods, candidacies are interminably delayed, dissertation drafts sit unread for months, and there is too frequently on the part of the folklore faculty ignorance of basic university regulations affecting folklore students.

Yours truly,  
(name withheld on request)  
c/o Folklore Institute