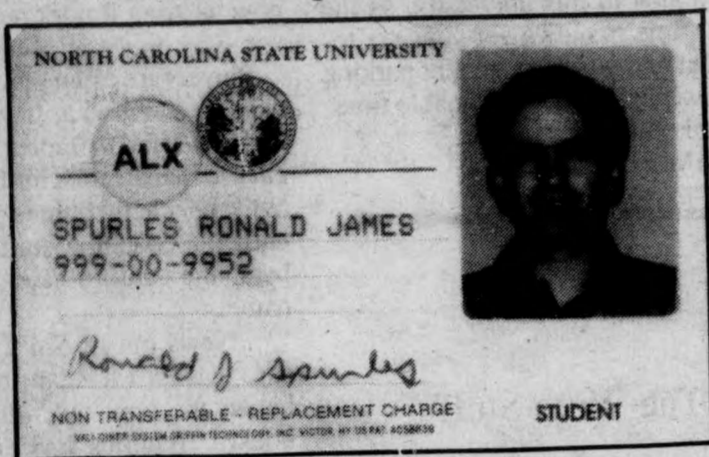


A Year at North Carolina State (Confessions of a UNB E)

Written by: Ron Spurles



It all started rather innocently. A friend of mine had spent a year as an exchange student at a British University. He claimed that it was the best thing he had ever done.

I had already spent three years working on my degree at UNB and I felt a change of scenery might do me good.

Encouraged by the staff of the International Student Advisor's Office, I began to look into the International Student Exchange Program (I.S.E.P.) - an American program based at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. This program allows foreign students to study at American schools. These schools, in turn, send American students abroad.

A student from UNB need not be replaced by a student from the school he attends, but simply by any American student. Each exchange student pays the tuition and residence fees of his home institution (for example, I paid UNB fees).

Filled out form after form

I filled out form after form and read through stacks of calendars from U.S. universities. I narrowed my choice down to three. Much to my surprise, I was accepted by North Carolina State University (N.C.S.U.).

I really had no intention of going through with it. I kept playing along with the idea, until before I knew it, I was waving good-bye to my brother and sister at the Boston Airport. All of a sudden, I was on a plane to North Carolina.



North Carolina State

North Carolina is the tobacco capital of the world. It is also the home of Senator Jesse Helms. It is where the Wright brothers first took flight (it says so right on their license plates!). North Carolina borders the Atlantic on the east. On the south (no surprise), it borders South Carolina. It is about as far from New York as New York is from here, and about 2/3 the way to Florida.

Began as an Agricultural School

North Carolina State University is located in Raleigh, the capital of NC. NCSU has approximately 25,000 students. It began as an agricultural college and is now known for engineering. The school was celebrating its Centennial when I arrived. NCSU forms an apex of the research triangle with Duke University and the University of North Carolina. This is a very fast growing area.

I arrived August 13, 1986, a couple of weeks after the drought had ended. Everything seemed a little scorched around the edges (including the people), but luckily the water shortage had passed. After a mediocre summer in NB, I found the 100°F+ weather exhilarating (although most of the natives did not share my enthusiasm).

Dorm Life

I was assigned to Alexander Hall - the international student residence. The building, about 40 years old, was fairly nice. It held roughly 180 co-ed students. Each room was shared by an American and a foreign student. My roommate turned out to be a misplaced Yankee, who was also a physics major. Stuart turned out to be a great guy. Besides which, he had a fabulous stereo!

I really enjoyed meeting so many international students. It was amazing to see how much we were all alike, and yet different in so many ways. Most of the Americans I met had either spent some time out of the country, or had a lot of non-American friends. They tended to have a slightly different perspective on life than what you might expect from the average American. Rather than finding this a drawback to the program, I found it a bonus.

TOP TEN THINGS YOU AT NORTH CAROLINA UNIVERSITY THAT YOU DO AT UNB

10. Work on a Republican Campaign.
9. Wake up the President of the University, see him in his office and make the international student a priority.
8. Buy a car for \$60 and drive it with three friends.
7. See the University basketball team on DAVID LETTERMAN.
6. Attend a University of North Carolina game.
5. Visit Heritage U.S.A.
4. Meet Leonard Nimoy, Bill Chapman and Linus Pauling.
3. See Billy Joel, Genesis, and the Pips in person.
2. Meet a CIA recruiter.
1. Go to a house party with beer kegs and drink all night for \$3.

(Compiled by F)



"And good times were had"

Technic

North Carolina State University's Student Newspaper