



## BC students learning and serving in Cherokee

by Libby Enloe  
Clarion Co-Editor

Instead of heading for the beaches for Fall Break, eight Brevard College students traveled to Cherokee, N.C., to learn about and work with the Native Americans of Western North Carolina.

The five-day trip, Oct. 19-23, was the third such major work trip since BC started Project Inside-Out, its service program coordinated by Sybil Dodson.

Accompanying Dodson on the Cherokee trip were BC Biology Instructor Geneva Shaw, Director of Public Information Jock Lauterer and Editorial Assistant Lin Redmond.

The work team spent one day painting the house of Dorothy Johnson, a Cherokee widow. Mrs. Johnson, whose husband had died this summer, told the students, "If you all hadn't come, I don't know who would have painted my house."

After the day was over, team leader Dodson commented, "This was kind of a dream for Mrs. Johnson. My feeling was, If we hadn't painted the house, no one would have."

The team spent the rest of the trip learning about the Cherokees. Dodson, who identified them as a "special-need population," said, "This represents an opportunity for our students to gain an appreciation for and a better understanding of this particular Native American culture -- and not just what happened to the Cherokees in the past, but also what is happening to them and other Native Americans now."

After the BC students visited the Oconoluftee Indian Village and the Cherokee Indian Museum, work team member Thomas Smith said, "I was impressed with the idea that the Native Americans still hold to their traditions. Most Americans don't care enough to think about or find out about the Native Americans."

All the students admitted they were surprised to learn that stereotypes of the Cherokees were wrong. "I came up here expecting people to be chasing each other and screaming -- That's the way Hollywood portrays them -- with teepees and tomahawks," said freshman Sarah Neutles.

Thomas Smith added, "They were a farming tribe. I didn't know that." Cherise King said, "I thought Indians were sort of extinct. Instead, I learned that they are a proud people, preserving their heritage and their language."

To freshman Edwin Mutua of Kenya, the opportunity to see "real Americans," was enlightening. "These days have been special," he said. "I feel what we did for Mrs. Johnson was something real nice...The trail of Tears, it really touched me; that they had to be chased out of their own land."

Native American lay leader Tom Queen provided the BC students with their clearest glimpse of what life is like for the Cherokee. Queen, the coordinator for outreach ministries at the Cherokee United Methodist Church, gave several orientation sessions, explaining the

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BC workers Aldrin Catabay and Cherise King slap the paint to the home of a Cherokee widow. (Clarion photo by Libby Enloe)

## BC hosts cross country nationals Nov. 17

For the first time in its history, Brevard College is hosting the National Junior College Athletic Association's Men's and Women's Cross Country Championships, Saturday, Nov. 17.

It is a historic event for BC, whose men's team won the national title four times in the '80's and placed second three other years.

"This is a great honor for Brevard College," says BC Sports Information Director Jock Lauterer, "and it's the largest sporting event ever to take place at BC."

BC Cross Country Coach Dave Rinker says that the school's dominance in the junior college cross country ranks "supplied us with the pull to bring

something like this to the area."

According to the late October rankings, the BC men are ranked 7th in the nation behind: 1. Blinn 2. Central Oregon 3. Central Arizona 4. Southwestern Michigan 5. Ricks, and 6. Sante Fe Colleges.

BC's top runner, Jeff Campbell, who finished 10th in the NJCAA Cross Country Nationals last year, is ranked fourth in the nation behind: 1. returning national individual champ Micah Boinett of Blinn 2. Returning runner up Willy Songok of Blinn, and 3. last year's seventh place finisher Jimmy Rodrigez of Central Arizona.

BC freshman runner Chris Hogan sums it up this way: "Either way, the

title will be and be won, so it's up to us as a team to make something happen and bring the trophy home to BC." The BC men finished third in last year's nationals at Overland Park, Kan.

BC's women are not ranked in the top ten.

Rinker will serve as the national championship meet director until the actual day of the event, when he will be busy coaching. From then on, former BC Cross Country Coach and NJCAA Hall of Famer Norm Witck will serve as meet director.

The meet will bring approximately 24 men's teams and 16 women's teams to campus. Rinker estimates that close

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After finishing one-two in the State finals, Campbell and Goodroe flash the No. 1 signal. (BC News Bureau photo)