

Chowan

A newsmagazine for alumni, parents and friends

Today

Braves' boss reaches coaching milestone

Win gives Burke title of second winningest active collegiate basketball coach in North Carolina



Head Basketball Coach Bob Burke

photo by Cal Bryant

Cal Bryant
Roanoke-Chowan News Herald

Signed, sealed and delivered.

When the game clock hit all zeros in the second half, Friday, December 5, veteran head basketball coach Bob Burke strolled past the scorer's table to shake hands with Greensboro College skipper Bill Chambers, his staff and his players.

Returning to the Braves bench, Burke was sought out by each of his players, especially son Rob — a junior guard who exchanged a "high-five" with his father. Joining the legendary coach at courtside were his wife, Jane, and daughter, Ashlyn, both darting in for a quick embrace.

What made the scene even more special was that the 76-60 Chowan victory marked the 400th career win in Burke's long and illustrious 28-year coaching career.

"It was nice to get it, especially at home," said the veteran Braves skipper, who currently stands in second place in career victories (400-192 overall) among active collegiate coaches in the state of North Carolina.

"I really appreciate the turnout we had for the game," said Burke. "The crowd really got behind us and added a lot of enthusiasm to our victory." Added the coach, "The win was even more special with my son, Rob, on the team and the fact that my wife and daughter were there to witness the occasion."

The victory even carried a bit of irony, as Burke's very first coaching win in the collegiate ranks came in his rookie season (1971) as the basketball boss at Greensboro College. "That was kinda unique," observed Burke. "I got my very first win while coaching Greensboro and number 400 came against them."

In between those important victories have come a lot of memories for the New York native. "Way too many [memories] for you to have the room to print in your paper," stressed Burke. "But I can say a big thank you to all the players, assistant coaches, administrators, staff and fans who have shown their support for the things we've accomplished over the years."

Listed among those accomplishments are three
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Victory over Greensboro College marked the 400th career win in Burke's long and illustrious 28-year coaching career

Sewing up a first place award

Jessica Lee Britt's work is about women's desire and responsibility

Frank Roberts
The Sun

The lady across the way is sewing a shirt and some baby clothes, Jessica Lee Britt is sewing a work of art.

The lady across the way is watching the tube, Jessica Lee is concentrating on her creation.

The lady across the way thinks of sewing as a household chore that just has to be done, Jessica Lee sees sewing as an enterprise involving self-expression.

"Traditionally," she said, "sewing is a woman's job, but it's one of the few women's tasks considered noble."

Jessica's tasks are many — she is a sculptor, a printmaker, a painter, she carves, she draws, she is into photography and metal work.

"Sewing has been my favorite," she said. "It's the most important element of my work."

Her work was on display at the Suffolk Museum where she won first place in the annual Juried Art Exhibition, judged by Gil Leebrick, director of the Wellington B. Gray Gallery at East Carolina University in Greenville. Of the 193 works submitted, he selected only 61 for exhibition, including two by Jessica.

A 21-year-old Chowan sophomore, she was a second-place winner in May 1997 during Chowan's Juried Art Exhibition and, earlier, a second-place winner in the Student Art Show at Suffolk Museum while she was in high school. Her latest top spot at the Suffolk Museum show means she will have a one-person art show in 1998. That should be something to behold.

Putting it mildly, Jessica is a way off the beaten track — a good example being her winning piece, "So Woman Created Herself." She created a

white banner on which sits a piece of wood carved from a solid block of poplar. Inside is a ball of tissue wrapped in a wire. A blueprint can be seen above — either a dress pattern and/or a plan of creation. "The exhibit represents a woman and the reproductive system, but," Jessica points out, "anyone can interpret it as they wish."

If your mood of interpretation is still active, take a look at "Give and Take: Night" and the accompanying, "Give and Take: Day," fabrics with photo transfers.

Daytime shows a face — Jessica's — each expression subtly different on each panel. Night time shows legs and torsos — Jessica's — posing at times with chunks of hair which she says "are the most personal objects you can have of yourself. You don't want your hair to fall into the wrong hands."

Indeed.
"Day — is like the face you show everyone," Jessica said. "Night is for people on a more personal level."

The artist made the following statement about her works at the Suffolk Museum: "They are both about women's desire and responsibility to make new places for themselves in society. In our society, women are valued only for their bodies, and only in roles which have been defined by men. In my art, I explore the possibilities for women to define themselves."

The movement lives.
Jessica resides in Sunbury, N.C. with her parents, Ann and Henry Britt. Her dad works at Norfolk Naval Shipyard. His artist-philosopher daughter studies studio art and works in the library.

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Jessica Britt '99

photo by Michael Kestner