

# Letters to the Editor

## Open Forum

### Student Legislature

To the Editor:  
There has been some controversy in recent weeks over the student legislature and its power or should I say lack of it. As it now stands there are 33 members of this elite group. They are elected at-large from the student body, and have no true constituency to answer to for malfeasance. The root of their ineffectiveness is in part, due to this very problem.

Under the present plan, it is possible for all of the male legislators to be elected from one dormitory thus leaving the other six unrepresented. A striking example of this flaw in election procedure is being evidenced this semester as the Barracks, College Street Hall and Stone Hall have no representatives whatsoever.

There is an alternative to this problem. We must reorganize the legislature. First of all let each hall of each dorm elect one representative to the legislature. College Street and Stone Hall will elect one representative each. The Day students and the off campus students will be allowed one representative each. The faculty also will elect one of its members who will have only one vote as each student representative will. This brings the number of representatives to 30. The elections for these offices will be held twice yearly, during the first month of school in the fall and again during the first two weeks of the spring semester. In this way each floor would have the option of returning a diligent representative to the legislature or rejecting him in favor of another representative who maybe more receptive to its needs. To further strengthen the legislature its meetings would be held bi-weekly instead of the present monthly meetings.

This reorganization will by no means rectify the conglomeration of problems which bog down the legislature, only a united effort by the students

can make the process of true Student Government work, but maybe this is the first step in that process.

Dear Bill,  
Upon receiving I was prompted to do some research on this matter. I found out that last year during the rewriting of the constitution, the matter was of a controversial nature, much debated, pro and con. Obviously the pro's won out. The only way to change this matter is through amendment to the Student Constitution which is possible through two-thirds vote of the at least ten percent of the student body to the Student Government Association President. Good Luck and Best Wishes. A-ED.

—Ron Dunn

### Apathy

Dear Editor:  
In the last issue of SMOKE SIGNALS, there was a comment by the editor on the student apathy that exists at Chowan. Although some of this can be traced to the students, I think the editor, in his future comments, should look toward the apathy of the administration of this institution.

The administration here does not encourage student participation in campus affairs or campus events, for that matter, and neither does the administration encourage students to stand up for what they believe in, which should be a basic part of the educational process.

Of course, the student body here is to be reprimanded for not standing up for what they believe in, for what is right and what is wrong, even though they have no encouragement from administration or faculty.

I might mention that Mr. Billy Graham's article on law enforcement 101 was in poor taste. His approach to handling his job creates nothing but mutual distrust among students, faculty, and administration. Mr. Clayton Lewis, our Dean of Students, got a first hand example of this the

night of the snow ball fight in the park.  
If we, the student body and the administration, would think and then take some mutual, constructive action on issues that are not right and logical, Chowan would be a much better school and one that we (the students) could say that we were proud of. At least we could say that we came from a school that was progressive.

—Billy D. Mills

Dear Mr. Mills,  
As for your comments on apathy, thank you for not being apathetic. I can't do much to get rules changed but I can bring them into focus with the help of the student body, the Student Government Association, and the Administration through the student newspaper. It would surprise many students if they realized how many times solutions were made possible through one small letter to an editor of a newspaper. I consider your letter an open challenge to the Administration and other student body members to answer your thought in the next issue of the Smoke Signals.

—Ron Dunn

### Reply to "Black Boss"

I believe you have a problem all right, a serious one at that; and its quite obvious you brought it all on yourself. I think it is safe to assume you have a serious complex and I feel for you. You think you have a problem now, with an attitude like yours your troubles have just started.

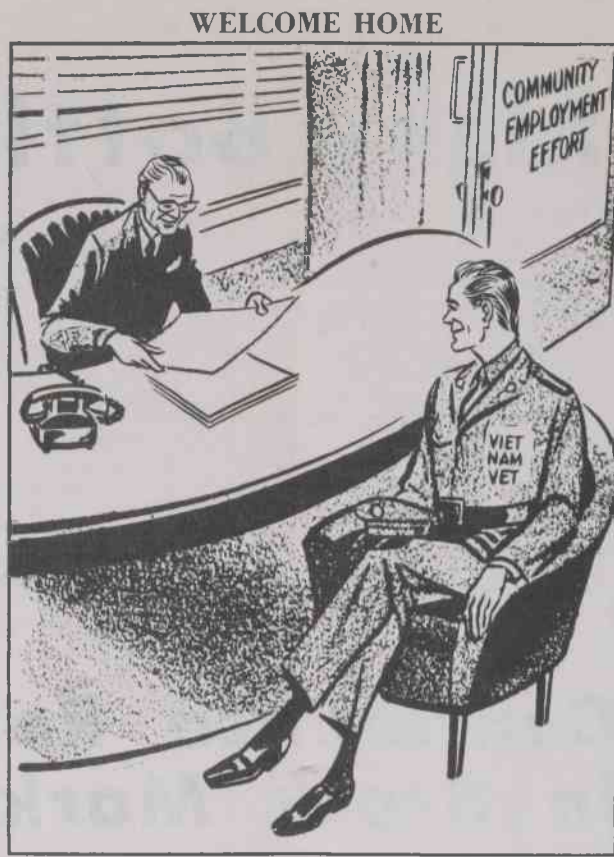
You have developed the false idea that everyone is out to "shaft a nigger," not so. Sure, I will not deny there is prejudice, but remember things like this are developed; they are not instinct. I am not prejudiced usually, but you have developed a certain air about your writing, not only this semester, but soon after Homecoming there was a similar article, that could instill a lot of resentment.

This resentment stems not from the color of your skin but because of your irrational reasoning power in concluding why you are being ostracized. Not because you are "black," but because you are a Resident Assistant. This is not a popular job especially if not handled correctly. Instead of helping matter with your article, which was only one bias version you just flapped your gums and added fuel to the fire.

I know this will shock you but people make mistakes, both "black and white", including Resident Assistants. I am sure your call-downs were not the first to be repealed. There was a R. A. who was asked to resign and I know it's to your surprise that he was WHITE. He was asked to resign ONLY because he was not doing his job adequately. What ticks me so much is because you were wrong and not able to accept the fact (people make mistakes) you take what seems to be a pretty popular alternative, blame it on discrimination.

I am also a Resident Assistant and too am entrusted to power that can be misused. It would probably be easy to give 15 call-downs a night (when do you find time to study) but this is not necessary, with less call-downs in two semesters than you give in one night, our hall is as quiet as any other.

I know I would not like to be in a hall where the R.A. had a quota of call-downs to give. I could shortly learn to dislike my R.A. and maybe cause a little more trouble just to give him a hard time, white or "black." It seems, however, some people just go "ape" when given power they do not know how to handle. Because of your incapability of handling the problem and not being able to face the fact you're not the leader you think you are, it is easy to use



the excuse "I'm being discriminated against."

You said you were referred to as "General." This idea comes from your cocky attitude; this is not the army and the hall is no place for a many with the attitude of a Drill Instructor. This information was gathered from a member of my floor who once was a victim of "Patton's Army." The threat of a calldown is almost as effective as a calldown itself. You can not control a group of men who have developed an advanced case of resentment. Your lack of control was not because of your color but because you could not deal with your residents in a reasonable manner. Face the facts yourself, with a little less bias you might be able to see the true picture, not everyone is "down on Don," it also might help you find a solution to your hang-up.

I have worked pretty close with the administration this year and especially the man you referred to as Mr. Charley. Mr. Charley probably has more influence in working with the R.A.'s and I can truly say he was concerned with your problem. If not, can you explain the long meetings with him for you and your residents to work out their problems, one lasted I believe until almost 2:00 a.m. To me, this shows, contrary to your thought, they were truly interested in solving your problem. However, once a Resident Assistant fails to maintain respect of his residents, he is doomed, there is no redeeming himself. Especially, with his calldown book. Another misconception you seem to have is you were hired to satisfy the black students. You were hired as a Resident Assistant because you were thought capable of handling the job, that's all. You are so blinded with hate and prejudice yourself you can't see beyond your nose. When you stoop so low as to stab in the back someone who would have liked you to be effective in your job as much as any one else, you are desparate. The Dean of Men is probably one of the fairest men on this campus. According to school rules, there are about thirty men who should have "hit the road" but are still with us. I am still amazed how a man who is so burdened with prejudice and hate managed to get elected as President of East. That's why I concluded; these things you blame everyone else for are brought upon yourself and only you.

One more thing, I do believe your capital W (as in WHITE) is broken on your typewriter. Green, Yellow, and Black are working fine. (My big b is broke.) You speak of changing times, I believe you are the one who needs to change. It is people like yourself that are so filled with hate and prejudice that causes needless trouble.

—Sidney Francis Young  
President, Men's Council

### Chowan A "Home"

Have you ever stopped to think that we, the students of Chowan, have by fate met here at Chowan College, the institution for mental correction. Take Graham for instance, he is the main system for correction here at the Home. The Columns building is a restricted area where the female inmates are subjected to the best torture that the institution provides, calldowns.

Walking along the walks, I see many types of people all of whom I can see as being neurotic, and disillusioned with the college so to speak. Freshmen are the worst of all because they haven't had the

training and rehabilitation the sophomores have had.

The Men's dormitories are excellent places for the study and conjunction of psychotic people. Many of these neurotics can only communicate by using foul language and a method of talking called a "rap session". Only by the control and restrictions placed on them by the Resident Assistants and the Head Residents do these people stay in touch with reality.

The girls at Chowan are the worst of all they have no privileges. They are kept under lock and key. They must be in at certain hours, and must wear restricted garments because their intellect is not capable of good dress. They are made to act in certain ways, made to say certain things, and can only talk during certain hours.

All and all, the co-eds get along fine. There are no murders, rapes, or suicides, or are there? Only Graham would know that and he can't tell because he's the biggest NUT of all.

SKIP HOLLAND

### Beware

There is a person on campus who you should avoid. This person is loved and respected by all students here at Chowan. (ha ha) If this person was running a race for popularity I am sure he would come in last.

Some call this figure "two faced," some say he "beats around the bush," and some people call him names of which I am unable to mention. Ask yourself, "is this person one who students can respect and trust?"

This person can be called two faced because he tells students he will voice their opinions and when confronted by the authority he voices his opinions and the administration's. This person has also been said to "beat around the bush" which was proven in the open forum of the affidavit system last semester.

This man should be called "Dean of Administration" instead of "Dean of Students." Don't you agree?

—Steve Cooper  
Vice-president, SGA

### SURPRISE!

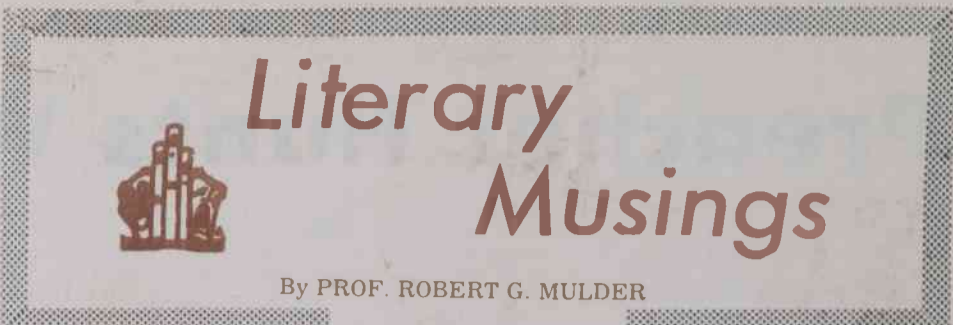
Another Christmas has reminded us of how difficult it is to con the kids. Having weighed, shaken, rattled and pinched every present under the tree before the big unwrapping, they delight in informing parents what is in each box.

It creates a challenge for the adult gift buyer. And a shattering of self-confidence if there are no surprises left. So it's a great Christmas Day moment when the youngster rips open a box and yells, "How did you know I wanted this?"

Now you are in command again. You know that occasionally you can pop something on the kids that catches them off-guard, and still pleases them. Who says there's a generation gap when you can pull such a coup? — Memphis (Tenn.) Commercial Appeal

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP) —For the second year, students at State College High School are raising money to build a school in a foreign land.

Working through their International Relations Club, the student body started their fundraiser—for a school—in AKFN? PIA. The money will be passed on to the Peace Corps, who volunteers plan the schools, oversee construction and become the teachers.



**The Unpleasant Sounds of Silence**  
At first I couldn't believe the sign that I saw; it looked about as out of place as a clothes line in nudist camp.

Everything seems to be in a state of change now, and some libraries seem to be in on the revolution. The sign to which I refer is one stating NO SILENCE, and is found in the Walter Cecil Rawls Library at Courtland. According to Mrs. Frances Crockett, head librarian: "We'd rather have a little noise from constructive activity than quiet from boredom."

The place wasn't noisy but obvious holy hush has been absorbed in nice, conversational atmosphere. Patrons speak freely and activity moves along much like in a super market.

Such a sudden change may be too much for our people; however, the pendulum could swing a little and I think it has. I have in the past heard some of our students say they couldn't study in the library because the forced silence made them nervous. That was a while back, however, because the trend seems to have changed.

A library should be a relaxed disciplined place of learning to be sure, but the storehouse of knowledge defeats its purpose if students are afraid to frequent it.

### Writings By Our Faculty

It may be of some interest to learn that a few members of our Chowan faculty are making literary contributions of note.

My long-time friend and office mate, Professor Charles Paul, has published in a recent edition of North Carolina Historical Review an article entitled "Beaufort, North Carolina: Its Development as a Colonial Town." (N.C.H.R., autumn, 1970, pp. 370-387.) The fully documented and illustrated account presents an interesting portrayal of the importance of this early coastal town.

More recently Professor Herman Gatewood of The Graphic Arts Department has had published in The Junior College Journal (J.C.J., March, 1971, p.57) an informative article entitled "Chowan Graphic Arts Program Keeps Pace." The highly optimistic article reveals how our unique School of Graphic Arts prepares students to serve in the printing and publishing field across the nation.

A new book of 113 pages by Chaplain Hargus Taylor presents the history of Cashie Baptist Church. The documented account is on display in our library, and copies are available through the church office.

Poetry by Professor D.H. Nicholson is being published in several reputable magazines, and history professor Barry Cohen has recently had a book review accepted for publication.

### The Hymn Book Goes Popular

In a survey of favorite hymns made several years ago, "Amazing Grace" was easily among the top ten. A now, after Judy Collins has popularized the number, there may be no stopping at what's done with our hymn book.

This doesn't alarm me in the least because the message from this hymn (or any other for that matter) is just as profound when it falls on good ground whether it be on a car radio or a well-lighted choir loft.

Many of you will recall the group who popularized "Oh Happy Day" last year. In the last week in April 1970, the best-selling song in the country was "Let It Be"—about receiving advice from Mary, the mother of Jesus—by the Beatles. The next week that was replaced as No. 1 by "Spirit in the Sky," with its refrain "Gotta have a friend in Jesus," by Norman Greenbaum. "Jesus Christ-Superstar," a rock opera about the seven last days of Christ, by a couple of Englishmen, ages 19 and 24, selling as a two-LP set with the suggested retail price of \$11.98, exploded onto the market at the end of October. Nearly 500,000 sets have sold so far in the United States. Broadway and film rights have been bought.

In December, "My Sweet Lord," about joining God in heaven, written and sung by ex-Beatle George Harrison, became the country's best-selling record, and remained so for four weeks.

Who knows which hymn will be next "to make it Beg?" There are still some good ones left.

Let me assume the role of prophet and predict that in the future something extraordinary will be done with "Old Rugged Cross" and "Rock of Ages."

## I Remember Chowan . . .

by JETE EDMONDS

(Editors note: According to hearsay, Jete has been enrolled at Chowan for "quite some time" so he should remember well past history).

When I first entered Chowan College, it was an all girls' (except for me and a few others). All the girls wore maxi-skirts and there was nowhere in existence any wearing apparel considered mini-skirts or "hot pants".

Tuition was a buck, forty-two eighty a semester and books were 19 cent a copy (except for them big ones—they was 25 cent). The Chowan Indians would come by and give mohawks, until it was halted by Chief Lewis (that always did cause a big shoot-out on campus).

The first gala event of the year was parent's weekend. The parents would 'a' start arrivin' in their covered wagons and stay at Hollomon's log cabin or Chief Cowabunga's wagon motel just past the Chowan reservation. On Friday night we'd have the biggest square dance you ever see'd with music by Tom Tom and the Rain Makers. Then on Saturday, everyone would pull his wagon into a circle and from the center a horse shoe match with the Ferrum Cowboys was held. The winners would gallop to Roanoke Rapids where they'd a meet the corduroy trail, and they took I-95 (the "I" in those days stood for Injuns) to the Raleigh Fort for finals. Finally, on Sunday, we'd attend the church of no choice (we only had one) and wind things up with a picnic down by the Chowan Pond.

Every night before the Christmas Holidays and on all thursdays nights, the students would file down to the Murfreesboro Fort and celebrate at Walter's Saloon and drink gallon after gallon of 3.2 sassa-parilla. Then would come the big weekend, for in those days Chowan was a satchel, or carpet-bag college. The major event of spring was May-day. People would come from near-by villages and tee-pees and dance around the May Pole, which was donated from the reservation by vice chief Collins. Music, was

performed live, by Bob Brown and his back of the wagon, wax-comb band.

When we didn't have those events, we created our own excitement. Yes, I remember the pit parties. We'd get our dates and climb into our buckboards and head for the stables, where we did all our spoonin', then the pit parties were held back of the school, at the sight of "old man Taylor's speak-easy (still).

I even recall the time when the girls had to be in at dusk, but after several petitions, we got it extended to a half-hour after sun down with written permission and two weeks notice. I even remember when Mrs. Collins coached the girls croquet team on the green, and rounded up the state champion title in N.E. North Carolina.

I seen flames and I seen water, but I ne'er thought I'd never see the time the girls held a party raid on the 21st Calvary when they was camped out under the bridge. I even remember when we

used to go skinny dipping' in the Chowan Pond. Remember the Chowan Pond? Well, I remember when we didn't have a pond, and we just ran around, naked, through the woods.

The classes were a little different in those days. I recollect my chemistry teacher, looking' down on me through her granny glasses, and that great big "D" on her blouse, just a starrin' me in the eve. We'd study our chemistry and come to class and make peach preserves. In lab, we'd mix vinegar and baking soda and blow corks out of the bottles. She was a great teacher and she always taught by the light of her kerosene lamp.

Yes, Chowan was the center of the Universe when the world was square. One of the last memories I have is the time that Thomas Edison spoke in Chapel about the bite friture and Micky Mouse spoke at the Assembly and for his great patronage, was awarded a Chowan watch. Yes, these were the good old days.

## Happiness at Chowan Is

By SHERYL RAGINS

- . . . Making the Honor Roll, Dean's List and President's List.
- . . . Studying for an unannounced quiz and you make an "A" on it.
- . . . Breaking in the cafeteria line and you don't get caught.
- . . . Getting an excuse from the Infirmary when you're not the least bit sick.
- . . . When the professor doesn't call the roll on the day you took a cut.
- . . . Making the highest grade on a test.
- . . . Leaving the campus every weekend.

### SADNESS AT CHOWAN IS . . .

- . . . Getting campused the weekend you planned to visit Nags Head.
- . . . Flunking a test after staying up all night studying for it.
- . . . Making the lowest grade on an easy test.
- . . . Having three or more tests in one day.
- . . . Being asked a question in class and you don't know the answer.
- . . . Not having a date for the Spring Festival.
- . . . Having to go before the Woemn's or Men's Council.

## EDITORIALS

### Our Responsibilities

Does a man have the right NOT to fight in the defense of his mother, father, wife, family, or country? Before the reader ponders this further, allow me to define your country—that area which you and those of similar minds reside. It is your family, future, past and present. It is up to you to defend it dictate its path of progress or road to disaster.

Are you mature enough for these decisions? Do you think yourself aware enough to determine a path safe enough to travel? Unfortunately, many are not. They prefer to mimick others in a blind rush to destroy themselves. But must they take us with them?

Religion is just a tool of many, an excuse to hide their lack of moral fortitude. To them principles, home, family, and friends mean nothing as long as they are safe and secure in their world of make believe where they make their own rules and save their own skins.

I do not consider myself un-Christian and have endeavored to life a Christian life yet I cannot harbor the concept of not fighting for my right to believe in Christ, which in my opinion coincides with my family. In other words, to believe in Christ is to love, and to love is to protect. Many are trying to protect their families in America by hiding in Canada. They are fooling themselves and cheating their families and countrymen. Some religious persons call themselves "conscientious objectors" and are relieved of the trouble of protecting you, me, and themselves. Contrary to popular belief, the entire American Army is not in South Vietnam. They could make themselves useful somewhere. The task of the military is defense, not just the making of war, and personally I think they've done a marvelous job, possible too marvelous judging by the flse security many Americans are reluctant to be jostled from.

Many CO's are of the opinion that the Vietnam was wrong. In answer I say: "The executive and legislative branches of the U.S. Government are elected by the people (meaning the majority) to make these decisions and enhance their enactment. In a Democratic Society such as ours, the majority rules and this majority chose these men and their decisions and intend to "stick by them". The conscientious objectors of the Vietnam War only echo the shins of many during past wars who lacked the courage to fight for their freedoms and the rights of others. They would rather pass the buck, than risk their own lives.

In conclusion I state, if I were in an organization and failed to carry out my responsibilities for the good of the whole, I would probably be asked to leave. For after all, if one doesn't do his part he does not deserve to reap the rewards. The United States is an organization of sorts and we are its members, therefore, I feel if a capable person fails to carry out the duties owed to his country, he also should be asked to leave. Heaven is a destination which has to be worked for, in effect, all things worth having must be fought for, not excluding freedom; mine, yours, and theirs.

—Ronald G. Dunn



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