

# 'Mark Twain Tonight' Slated for Thursday

## Chappell To Perform

On Thursday, September 30, the clock will roll back some sixty years for the audience at Mc Dowell Columns Auditorium, when the Events Committee presents JOHN CHAPPELL in his amazing recreation of America's funniest observer, Mark Twain.

The program is appropriately called "Mark Twain Tonight!", for it is more than an evening of Samuel Clemens' biting wit and thought provoking comments. It is, first and last, incredibly effective theatre; a three-act encounter with the man who once said "The rumors of my death have been greatly exaggerated." Those who have seen it come away with the uncanny feeling that they have seen, not JOHN CHAPPELL but Mark Twain himself.

Every moment is carefully planned to create that effect. The stage looks much as a lecture hall platform of 1910 might have looked: arm chair, library table, an ornate reading stand. One sees some well worn books, a crystal pitcher of ice water and a goblet. The lighting evokes thoughts of gaslamps.

The make-up, carefully created from rare, actual photographs of Samuel Clemens takes three hours or more to apply. Mr. Chappell's white suit is a copy of one Mark Twain wore in his lifetime.

The result is that rare event in the theatre: a complete illusion of reality. From the moment the seventy-year old Twain shuffles on stage, audiences laugh at his tall stories and wry guips, are moved by his humanity, occasionally squirm at his savage irony — and above all, thrill to the presence of the man himself. In look and voice and in appearance and gesture, the creator of Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn lives again.

"Mark Twain Tonight!", an actor's portrait of Samuel Clemens, will be presented at the Mc Dowell Columns Auditorium on September 30. Admission is by ID card. The program will serve as one of the optional chapel-assembly features for the semester.



John Chappell

## A Word About Chappell

JOHN CHAPPELL comes most recently from Atlanta's Memorial Arts Center, where his cameo appearance in LIGHT UP THE SKY won applause from audiences and plaudits from critics. Last season, he created the role of Harold P. Brown in the world premier of D. Melmouth's THE GREAT AMERICAN LIGHT WAR. He was seen as De Sade in Peter Weiss' famed Marat-Sade, and has toured in two productions of WAITING FOR GODOT, one of which he directed. Noted Broadway director Joe Layton chose him for the principal role of Governor John White in his production of America's longest-running outdoor drama, THE LOST COLONY, a part he was asked to repeat on film. Mr. Chappell was heard nationally on "The Reviewing Stand", a program about theological dimensions in contemporary theatre, which he produced for The Protestant Council over WOR in New York. He is the author of one published play, THE MURDER OF JAMES CROW, and is currently at work on another, a dramatization based on the Boston Massacre. Recently, he has undertaken a further adventure: the creation of a new solo performance, a theatrical encounter with the famed defense attorney Clarence Darrow.

Mr. Chappell began work on his characterization of Mark Twain in 1968, when he secured the approval of Hal Holbrook, acclaimed creator of "Mark Twain Tonight!", for his bringing the Missouri sage to life in those towns and colleges unlikely to see Mr. Holbrook himself. He made his first appearance that July after months of work, which included painstaking study of the life and character of Samuel Clemens. Rare actual photographs of "Mark Twain", on loan to Mr. Chappell from the Special Projects Division of NBC Television provide an accurate guide for the creation and make-up as well as detailed studies of the humorist's characteristic ways of sitting, standing, smoking, etc. The result is a complete illusion of reality: audiences seem to recognize, and fall in love with Mark Twain himself. Critics have compared Chappell's performance to that of

Holbrook, with acclaim for both. At present there is about twelve hours of authentic Twain material on hand, most of it from Mr. Holbrook's rare, personal collection, though there is also much new material, assembled by Mr. Chappell. No two performances are ever the same, since Mr. Chappell does not program an evening in advance, but chooses his material as he goes along. Some selections like the "Water Closet" story are whole pieces of material lifted from source (in this case a letter in Mark Twain's Notebook) and then additional lines from other sources are sewn into the fabric of the piece to sharpen its dramatic or humorous possibilities. Other selections, such as the routine on "Lying" or on "The Damned Human Race", begin with an idea of some topical value, which is then researched and certain comments and anecdotes about it are then wrought together to form a satire on the subject. The material is all ninety-nine per cent pure Twain.

John Chappell is originally from North Carolina. He made his professional acting debut in 1957 at a summer stock playhouse in Dorset, Vermont, and has appeared in various professional stock and road companies, while continuing his education. Mr. Chappell received his Bachelor of Science degree in the teaching of mathematics and physics from Wake Forest in 1961, and has since received two graduate degrees: a Bachelor of Divinity, and, from New York's prestigious Union Theological Seminary, a Master of Sacred Theology in religion and drama; he has recently spent some time working on his Ph.D. in his field at Emory University's Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts. He is married, with no children, and his wife Laura accompanies him on tour when possible.

### "MY SWEET LORD" IS YEAR'S BEST

LONDON (AP)—A poll by the music publication Melody Maker has picked Beatle George Harrison's "My Sweet Lord" as the best single record of the year, in both the international and British sections.



**HAT DANCE**—The Spanish Club will be guests for the Mildred Alexander Show on October 5 from 1-1:30 p. m. on WTAR-TV, Channel 3. Following a Mexican custom, Martha Lynch, sophomore from Virginia Beach and Wayne Ferguson, sophomore from Newport News, Va., are featured performing the Mexican Hat Dance.

## BSU To Hear Missionary

Miss Sue Thompson, a teacher and student worker stationed in Minna, Nigeria, will be guest speaker at the regular weekly meeting of the Baptist Student Union Campus Christian Fellowship on Monday, October 11 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting is scheduled for the lounge of the Askew Student Union, with all students invited to attend. A native of Warrensburg, Missouri, Miss Thompson received her bachelor of science in education degree from Central Missouri State College, and the master of religious education degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Between college and seminary years she taught English in Kansas City, Missouri, high school. She also worked for three summers in the summer missions program of the

Home Mission Board, serving in Louisiana, Missouri, and Oklahoma. Although the Foreign Mission Board has never had a policy excluding Negroes from service with that agency, Miss Thompson was the first Black to be appointed a regular missionary of the Board in 84 years at the time of her appointment in 1967. The constitution of the Southern Baptist Convention does require that all missionary personnel be members of Southern Baptist churches. There have been few Black members of such churches since the days of Reconstruction.

The nation's smallest coin, the half-cent piece, was first issued in 1793 and last struck in 1857.

## South Hall Residents Help Foreign Student

By TERRY SHOULDERS  
The students of South Hall have helped considerably to further the education of a foreign student, now studying at Chowan College. The new dormitory residents contributed \$93.50 from their treasury to be applied to the tuition costs of Anthony (Tony) Ehidame Obion-Esene, from Lagos, Nigeria. The money is that portion of funds left from last year.

Carlton Crooks, Associate Head Resident of South Hall, suggested that the treasury residue be expended in this

manner, and according to Crooks, "we are all pleased that we can help this young man further his education."

Tony received the Competitive Honor Scholarship sometime ago, but found that this was not enough to cover his expenses while a student here. He is almost self-supporting since his father was killed in 1966 while fighting in the Biafra war.

The Nigerian native is a Baptist by faith, and is studying toward a degree in accounting. He is quick to testify that "a high school education is not enough in Nigeria, and therefore it is very important to me that I complete my education."

Tony is one of several foreign students on the Chowan campus who are learning the ways of American way of life, and enjoying a wide friendship among fellow students and faculty members.



**HELPING FOREIGN STUDENT**—Dean B. Franklin Lowe, seated, presents a check to Tony Ehidame Odion-Esene, as a gift from the residents of South Hall dormitory. The money will be used to assist Tony in his efforts to gain a college education. Looking on, left, is Norman Eddleton, a representative of South Hall.

## SGA Minutes

On Monday, September 13, there was a meeting of the S.G.A. officers in the cafeteria. All members were present and accounted for. Mr. Wooten attended along with a guest, Barry Bradbury. Barry, a freshman, is the newly proposed male social co-chairman.

First of all, representation in the Student Legislature was discussed. It was decided to attempt to ratify a bill to the S.G.A. Constitution giving the Student Legislature representation by dormitory floors. The present method is that of free election, but it was believed in all fairness, this would be the better way.

A vote was taken by the S.G.A. officers concerning whether to sponsor a dance or a concert on Friday night, October 29. A tie followed and it was then decided to postpone the issue until the next meeting.

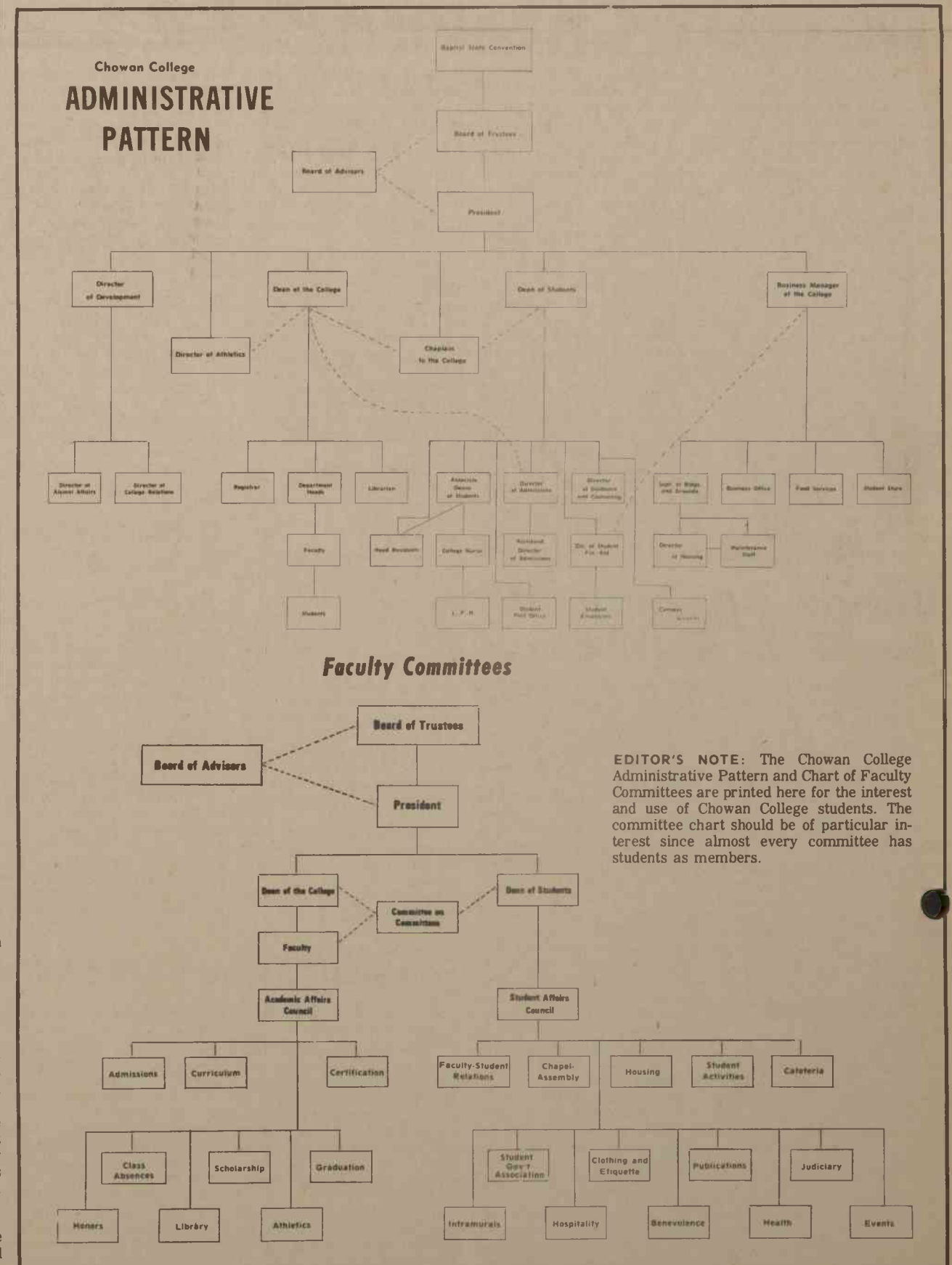
A decision was made to charge students at the next S.G.A. concert on September 28. The amount of two dollars per person was agreed upon. It was felt that since the S.G.A. movies shown recently have had unusually high attendance, the remainder of the year would be free-of-charge. Thus it would be imperative to set a price for the concert admission.

The meeting was adjourned. Respectfully submitted, Joel W. Rose



**SPANISH CLUB OFFICERS**—The Spanish Club again is very active at Chowan. The officers for this year are: Danny Holton, President; Doris Smith, Vice-President; Jane Paul, Secretary;

Eddie Lineberry, Treasurer; Martha Lynch and Wayne Ferguson, Social Co-Chairmen; Richard Jackson and Cathy Ritko, Program Chairmen. Dr. Morris Carson is sponsor for the group.



**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The Chowan College Administrative Pattern and Chart of Faculty Committees are printed here for the interest and use of Chowan College students. The committee chart should be of particular interest since almost every committee has students as members.