

EDITORIALS

Is Chowan Here to Stay?

Looking into the future and predicting startling events, the writer will leave to Jeanne Dixon; but I would like to take a look at Chowan College and its immediate future.

College education in the United States is on a dramatic, sweeping, upswing. Every man wants his boy to have a college education. Therefore, most colleges are experiencing increased enrollments and overcrowded conditions. In the face of this, one wonders why Chowan is facing another possible drop in enrollment after a huge drop this year. It's very hard to figure. Chowan is located on a beautiful campus, with new buildings, comfortable dorms, all types of athletic events and teams, and a very dedicated, hard-working administration. On the whole, the faculty is excellent, with a few exceptions; of course, perfection is not expected from anyone or anything. For a private college, the prices of tuition, room and board, etc., are very reasonable. Why, then does Chowan College face another possible drop in enrollment?

I'm sure that it would take a book to explain all the reasons, but I would like to attempt to list a few.

Primarily, and most importantly, is the peace of mind of the student. If the student is not happy here, he will not return for his sophomore year; moreover, he will relate to his friends his bad experiences. This hurts the college in numerous ways. The main gripe among students is constant harassment by our security force. Anytime you look around the campus, you are sure to see one of our security officers writing up a ticket for someone or prying into someone's business. This greatly annoys and insults the student and possibly turns him against the college. I am not, however, suggesting that all rules and regulations should be abandoned. Quite the contrary, this place would be impossible to imagine if all the students were given absolute freedom. The administration should still enforce the major, more important rules, but take emphasis off the trivial parking tickets and other violations of insignificance.

However, the most important factor in determining Chowan's success is the quality of instruction made available to the student. The administration should make quality instruction their primary objective. Professors who are too old or incompetent should be released and replaced with ones who are capable of demanding respect from their students. As long as the administration lets academics suffer for a little money saved, Chowan will not grow. Academics must be placed first.

In May, I hope to graduate from Chowan. It is my hope that Chowan thrives and flourishes after I leave. But I feel the administration must re-evaluate their priorities in order to drop this drop in enrollment.

—Richard Jackson

Columns Restoration

No person at Chowan College within recent weeks could possibly leave the campus without realizing that major repairs are being made on McDowell Columns Building. Numerous local newspapers, The Chowanian and Smoke Signals, have carried accounts of this work. This is all good and well. However, all of these accounts have not only spoken of "extensive repairs" but used the word "restoration." This is a gross misnomer.

To restore a building is to return it to its original state. Although McDowell Columns is being renovated, it cannot be claimed by any stretch of imagination that its 1852 appearance is returning. In fact, it is departing more and more from the original plan. Just yesterday I noticed that one of the basement windows is being bricked up! To do this at any time would be unfortunate as it detracts from the appearance of an architectural treasure. To do this during the year of our 125th Anniversary is absurd!

A "restoration" of McDowell Columns would require removal of the auditorium and replacement of not only the back porch, but the numerous shutters which were removed years ago. In addition, the floor plan would be returned to its 1852 format complete with a two-story chapel where the Business Office is now situated. I do

An Editorial

Structure of Chowan Reviewed by President

In response to a suggestion from Editor Richard Jackson and Associate Editor Steve Bowman, I am pleased to write "an editorial" from Smoke Signals.

This year, Chowan College is celebrating its 125th anniversary. This College has a rich heritage. Moreover, it is both "old" and "new." The College was closed 1943-49. No one who taught or worked at the College prior to 1943 is officially associated with the institution today. Yet there is a "string" which ties together both the early beginnings and the College of today. Certainly this is true as regards its purpose then and now.

For instance, the people who inaugurated "a school of high order" for young women in 1848 were churchmen. Moreover, most of them were Baptists. They believed in character, honor, duty, respect for the individual, and had a "world view" or philosophy which was rooted and grounded in truth, beauty and goodness. They believed that these issues from God as revealed in Jesus Christ. Thus Chowan was founded as a Christian college for Christian purposes.

It is the same today. The people who are interested in the progress, program and service of Chowan for the most part, certainly, are active churchmen. Though not all of them are Baptists, by any means, the fact is that the College is owned, operated and supported by the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. Involved are some 3,600 churches and more than one million Baptists in the State. Seven higher educational institutions are involved: two two-year colleges, four four-year colleges, and one university. The Baptists and others, including those who serve on the Board of Advisors, who are interested in the cause of higher education as expressed through Chowan are interested in it, fundamentally, because of the Christian emphasis and thrust. Any program of the College, rules or codes of conduct and the activities of the College, must of necessity, be viewed and dealt with in light of the fact that Chowan is, even legally, a child and function of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. The rationale for Chowan, in the view of those who own it, is that it shall function as an institution of Christian higher education.

Baptists historically have not interfered with the internal operations of a college except

that the Convention nominates and elects the members of the Board of Trustees. Persons elected to the Board are those deemed by the Convention to be in sympathy with the tenets of belief, theologically and as regards overall acceptable conduct, which are in line with the basic and prevailing views of the Baptist of the State. It is in this light and against this background that the Board of Trustees makes or sets policies. The Board of Trustees elects a president and, on his recommendation, others employed by the college. An effort is made to seek out and employ only those who are sympathetic with, indeed enthusiastic about, the role and function of the college as a church-related institution, as over against a public institution.

Now, I have indicated that Baptists historically have left teaching to the faculty and administrative functions to the administration chosen by the Board of Trustees. However, and this is something of which students, faculty and the administration must ever be aware, Baptists do not, and will not, condone or permit, as an example, the illegal use of drugs, the possession and use of alcoholic beverages on campus, or the interruption of the educational process. Moreover, they expect there to be a positive witness on campus in line with Christian presuppositions. It is their view that students shall find on the campus a setting and atmosphere whereby they can "put it all together."

I believe the students, faculty, staff and administration can operate within the aforementioned described structure—that we can have a quality institution which maximizes majors and minimizes trifles and relatively unimportant differences in points of view. At any rate, a recognition of the above does enable all members of the college community to operate from the same "point of reference" or consensus.

I love and appreciate Chowan College, for what she has been across the years and for what she is today. I want our students to learn, to find themselves as individuals and to work out their own value system. However, all of us must, and I believe do, realize that any and all communities must operate within a frame of reference including rules or codes of conduct. The recognition of "ground rules"

freed one to learn, to grow, to work out his own world view and to design for himself his place or function in society and the world. I am proud that hundreds of our alumni tell me that while at Chowan they "found themselves" and are better people today because of their Chowan experiences.

These views I am happy to share with the members of the Chowan College community through the pages of Smoke Signals. I hope and believe they will be received in the spirit stated and that they will help to provide some guidance toward better understanding, communication, mutual respect and acceptance on the part of all concerned.

Bruce E. Whitaker
President
Chowan College
February 16, 1973

Stolen Car Gets New Transmission

JOPLIN, Mo. (AP) — A Joplin woman who failed to heed the admonition "Lock your car and take your keys" came out ahead anyway.

Mrs. Elizabeth Holland of Joplin parked her 1965 Plymouth on a parking lot Monday and left the keys in the car while she visited a friend. When she returned, the car was missing, and she assumed it had been stolen.

But she had the car back—with a new transmission—on Tuesday.

Authorities explained that an employe of a nearby transmission service had gone to the lot to pick up a 1965 Plymouth left there by a customer before the business opened. When he saw Mrs. Holland's car, he took it to the garage and installed the transmission ordered by the customer.

Gun Toting Pupils Are Out

DUBLIN, Calif. (AP) — When a 220-pound man tried to slip down the chimney of a pizza parlor Santa Claus style, it took three firemen to pry him loose and haul him to the roof.

Daniel Fred River, 28, of Oakland, Calif., was wedged in the chimney about five hours before a janitor heard his muffled cries and notified the fire department.

River told police he did it for a joke, but the unsuccessful chimney climber was booked for investigation of burglary and released on \$3,000 bail Tuesday.



"The political pot never boils much. The old apple-sauce is only warmed over."

not see any of this being done at the present time.

Also, I encountered several remarks about the "original" arch over the twin stairways in the entrance hall. Neither of these staircases is over fifty years old. Formerly, there was only one set of steps and this was on the west wall starting at the door to the President's Office and was identical to the flight still to be seen on the second floor level.

Therefore, it is obvious that McDowell Columns is not being restored—only repaired. In the future I would recommend that the Administration be more careful with the historical information that they hand out and in their choice of words. Also, I feel the Board of Trustees should consider complete restoration of the structure to its 1852 appearance. This institution is privileged to have such a building for its administration facility and it is a tragedy for it to be constantly changed.

—James Elliott Moore, Esq.