

Are You Involved?

Throughout the years, student governments in high schools and colleges have been burdened with many problems. On one hand, the administrations of the respective institutions limit their powers greatly. Nothing can be done without direct approval of the top administrators. On the other hand, student governments are faced with a lack of interest on the part of the students. Most students know little or nothing about the S. G. A., its officers, its powers and policies or its activities. When elections are held in the spring, students are unconcerned about who is running, what he represents or what he promises. Student governments, by the mere application of the name, simply cannot be effective unless the majority of the students become interested and involved in its activities.

If the students would cooperate instead of criticize the powers of the S. G. A. would be unlimited. Just imagine what would be possible if all 1,000 of Chowan's students got behind any issue taken up by the S. G. A. The Administration could not turn a deaf ear to one thousand voices in unison.

If there is something here you don't particularly like, tell you student legislature representative about it. By the way, in case you didn't know, every floor of every dorm is supposed to have a representative. If he or she is not doing his job, find out why. If they refuse to do their job, replace them with someone who will. The Student Legislature has been meeting regularly this semester and many halls have never been represented. David Talton can tell you whether or not your floor has been represented. If it has not, then it's time for action.

It's up to you to see that the S. G. A. officers live up to the oaths of office they take. We don't need any titleholders. We need responsible, dedicated, hard working representatives.
—Richard Jackson

Some Improvements

What are some real necessary improvements for a small community, especially a community that we call college. Regardless of its location, fame, size or any other specific point whatsoever, we—and everyone of us as a member of this college—have the strongest right to give our opinions and recommendations for some reasonable progress in our community.

But unfortunately, since I remember, whenever in some occasion the members of the college paper, SMOKE SIGNALS, ask and interviewed a few students and want them to present some of their suggestions for getting better this community as a college, usually the answers are such as "allow drinking on campus, having open dorms more often, and more dances . . ." etc., which obviously show how narrow these bunch of people are thinking of improvement for their community.

Criticizing the strict rules from the college toward student body is getting to be an old and obviously useless subject. However, if the rules are so strict, the only reason that I can think of is the way that former students have behaved, and the next group have kept behaving in the same manner.

Rules wouldn't be made so strict if the student body of the college had more qualifications for more freedom and less strict rules. Not being frustrated, and being young at the same time, proves the fact that the young people of this world are more important and capable of doing more constructive things than they seem to be.

My lovely friends, let us think of some real and reliable improvements for community before it's too late, for our sakes, and the next young generation to come. Let's don't just say "let's" and then put it off, for it would never get done that way. Thus, let's get on the action and show interest for some respective progress in our lovely campus.
—Reza Sigaroodi

A Man

A Man
A real man
An immortal man, with his strong manhood.
A man who dies, who cries!
A man whose spirit stays alive,
after his death.
O yes, A man, A man.
A man with his strong manhood.
A man whose strength does not die
within himself at the time of year.
What a man, with no strength on him.
The man with his sould game!
That's that man! . . .
A man.
A man who does not lose his temper
At the time of trouble.
A man whose spirit is strong enough,
That can stand still,
when the trouble is up!
What is the unique symbol of manhood?
His mustache? His physical power?
Or his Soul and Spirit?
The choice is yours! MAN.
—Reza Sigaroodi

Letters to the Editor

To the Editor:

I will like to express my opinion on the 1973 Spring Pageant.

I think it was a very nice pageant, but I believe the Blacks were done wrong. There weren't but two Blacks in the Pageant. I am not trying to start a racial problem, but to see why a Black didn't get a placement in the pageant. For example, some of the Black contestants were good and the judges knew it, I believe.

For myself, I know some were better than some of the girls that were picked as runners-up. Other people have complained about the same situation. I know you can't win all the time, but it seems like a White wins all the time.

But I think that the Blacks at this school should have their share also, don't you, Blacks?

Right on!!

—Bor. Otis Matlock

Dear James Elliot Moore, Esq.

In your editorial concerning the repair work being done to the historic McDowell Columns building, you mentioned how the Administration and news agencies upon campus were free in mis-using the word 'restoration' in place of the word 'renovation'. According to you, this was a big misnomer, but according to the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language (Copyright 1969) pages 1102 and 1108 respectively, it defines renovate as, "to restore to an earlier condition; improved by repairing or remodeling"; it also defines the word restoration as, "the act of putting someone or something back into a prior position, place or condition. That which has been restored, such as a renovated building." It therefore appears that due to the nature of the above definitions, in that they both use the opposite word in their definition, it seems that both words are interchangeable and there exists no difference. So, it seems that the Administration was not wrong in using the word 'restoration' for the work being done to McDowell Columns.

You also pointed out how disgusted you were with the fact that 'original arches, windows and stairs' have been removed or altered along with the removal of the back porch. I apologize in that I cannot share in your grievances of such tragic historical, architectural losses. The present work being done on the building is for the purpose to make the building structurally sound and have enough support to stand a few more years so that people like you can be awe inspired by its majesty. I suppose too, according to your definition of renovation that the college should not only go so far as to restore the architecture of the college to its past basis, but also go back to having hand water pumps, kerosene oil lamps, horse and buggies, and 'Johnny houses'. Oh! and most of all to achieve total restoration—the college must revert back to becoming an all girls school and one again bear the name Chowan Baptist Female Institute. If this were the case, I would have to sadly inform you, Mr. Moore, that the college would lack your esteemed presence due to the fact that it would be an all girl school.

I am not advocating the complete destruction of McDowell Columns—for it is a historical landmark and symbol of Chowan College. But, I am suggesting that the Ad-

ministration should do its best with present finances to keep this building in good shape, but not to the point that it prevents funds being allocated for other more important needs. Such urgent things as science laboratory equipment for our new science building—test tubes, chemicals and microscopes, etc.; a new gymnasium and athletic equipment; desks and much more. These more pressing needs can better accomplish the requirements of helping students achieve a college education in the 20th century better than an architecturally historical renovated building into original 1852 appearance.

You mention how the Board of Trustees should be shocked at the present status of this historical landmark and how they should strive to renovate it back into its 1852 appearance. I'm sure that they would be more than pleased to comply with your request if you or someone donated them the necessary funds to do so.

The only other grievance I have to your editorial is that of the title of Esquire. It appears that you, too, have made the same mistake that you have accused the Administration of doing—that is the misusage of words. According to

Webster's Third New International Dictionary (Copyright, 1969) page 776, the word esquire is defined as, "Esquire is a member of the English gentry ranking immediately below a knight; a candidate for knighthood serving as a shield bearer to and attendant for a knight; used as a title of courtesy that is usually placed in its abbreviated form after the surname in written address and that is infrequent and of no precise significance in the U.S." So, it seems that according to the above definition—since we no longer live in the days of knighthood and chivalry and that it is not significant in the U.S.—your usage of the word Esquire is a gross misnomer.

My only suggestion to you Mr. Moore is that you gather your history books, historical artifacts and proudly carry you shield of Moore heritage and bear your sword of Esquire mounted upon your noble stead Antiquity to become the modern-day Don Quixote. To go out and conquer the evils of a warped society, of which I am a member, that is no longer interested in the dusty cobwebs of the past.

Sincerely,
Steve Bennett

Happiness Is . . .

By SHERI LEE McKEE

Do you know what I like?

I like to smile. I like to laugh. I like to make others laugh. I like to run barefoot through the grass. I like to get out of class early and ride my bike on a sunny day. Most of all, I just like to feel content and happy.

What does it take to feel content or happy? According to an old cliché, happiness is "different things to different people". For those on the cigarette commercials, its a cool menthol smoke. For those of the beer commercials, "Budwiser makes it right". I'll tell you what keeps me happy and content all of the time and I don't even have to go broke, get a hangover or take a chance on getting cancer. Since this is Religious Emphasis Week, you've probable already guessed what it is. Yep, God keeps me happy and content—even in this crazy mixed up world.

If you'll pardon the expression, God is like "a bridge over troubled waters." Think about it. That bridge is always there, twenty-four a day, and doesn't cost a thing. To get this happiness, you have to believe in God as your savior, or rescuer, because that's what he is—he saves and rescues you from all of your mistakes and watches over you when you're in trouble. Why don't you check it out? I'd sure hate to miss out any longer. Christians aren't perfect—we can't be perfect any more than you can. We have just as much fun as non-Christians, too—only ours is a *lasting* happiness.

I love God and I know that he loves me. What could make anyone more happy than to know that out of millions and trillions of people, God, the ultimate being in the universe, cares about YOU?

SMOKE SIGNALS

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