

Union Grove Fiddling Draws Many at Break

By MIKE BARNHARDT
spring break — two words that are music to the ears of thousands of college students each year, especially those who invade the remote village of Union Grove, located between Winston-Salem and Statesville in western North Carolina.

Last year, more than 100,000 bluegrass fans, mostly young people, spent Easter weekend on the farm of H.P. Vanhoy, drinking, smoking, camping and listening to the competition in the Old Time Fiddler's Convention, held annually for over 50 years at Union Grove.

Convention crowds of the past were older, quieter and smaller than those of recent years. The growing popularity of bluegrass among young people has swelled convention crowds above 100,000 for the last few years.

smoe residents from the area claim that convention goes to Union Grove to get drunk, not to hear bluegrass. Booze and pot were evident at last year's convention.

How does North Carolina's attorney general, Rufus Edmisten, fit into such a scene? Last year, the head of the state's law enforcement strolled through clouds of marijuana smoke en route to the stage, only to bring the crowd to its feet, stomping and clapping to the two bluegrass songs he sang.

The convention begins Thursday night and officially ends at midnight Saturday, when the world's champion fiddler is named. Jam sessions can usually be found around the camping area throughout the event, with some lasting on into Sunday.

The beaches also suffer, or should I say prosper, from the tremendous influx of college students.

Students annually converge on Florida, jamming beaches from Daytona to Miami. Looking for sunshine and fun, these students pack the bars and beaches that scatter the Florida coastline.

Walt Disney World near Orlando and Busch Gardens in Tampa are also top attractions in Florida.

In South Carolina, the Myrtle Beach area is a popular place in spring, while in North Carolina, Carolina Beach and Cape Hatteras annually entice Chowan students. Virginia Beach offers a beach and a large city.

Those students who don't have the money or ride to reach such places as Union Grove, Florida or Cape Hatteras can do what thousands of other college students do each year at spring break — go home.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

By Richard Barkley

"Students are expected to attend all meetings of their classes," reads the college handbook.

Students have submitted to this ridiculous requirement for years assuming that there is nothing that can be done about it.

This is an example of the administration doing what is best for the student. Or is it?

The result of this is that students who are not sick enough to get an excuse are forced to go to class. Teachers waste the first five minutes of class taking role, and it creates unnecessary paper work for all involved.

Granted that students are given three of four free cuts per semester, but that is like giving a teenager fifty cents allowance to last a month.

The administration somehow fails to realize that students are able to make their own decisions regarding the number of absences they can afford.

Why should a student be required to sit through a boring lecture on U. S. History when he has an upcoming exam in English Literature?

Why shouldn't students be able to decide which courses they can get by on and which ones they want to emphasize?

If the University of North Carolina and North Carolina State University can look on class attendance as optional, certainly Chowan College can.

FIRE

I wonder how long it would take the fire marshal to condemn Parker Hall if he knew the fire alarms are inoperable!

DREAMS

The late Dr. Martin Luther King once made a speech entitled "I Have a Dream."

Like the late Dr. King, I also have a dream. I have a dream that the library will some day be open for the convenience of the students and not the librarians.

I have a dream that Dean Winslow will some day quit playing Columbo. And finally I have a dream that Anita Bryant will some day attend one of Dr. John W. Gosnell's Sociology classes.

Do Those Mysterious Monsters Of Ancient Lore Actually Exist?

By EDD MOORE

For centuries man has feared, wondered of — perhaps prayed to — creatures which would seem to be, at least to logical, realistic points of view, mythical.

But the existence of guys like Sasquatch and the Loch Ness Monster is a bit less skeptical now than it use to be. In fact, a substantial percentage of this

country believes they are running around out there somewhere.

Somewhere is the key word. People's belief in monsters reaches only as far away as they're supposed to exist. It may be some sort of "defense mechanism" (a condition bestowed upon us by local psychologists), or it may be the assuredness of this not being the right area, as far as longitude

and latitude go, for such undesirables to inhabit.

But if you are somewhat superstitious, imaginative, perhaps even a bit of a gullible person, as I sometimes find myself to be, such thoughts are not taken seriously.

It's those who don't who can be seen walking through Squirrel Park at night somehow anticipating being abducted by a giant hairy arm that mysteriously creeps up behind them. That anxiety is considerably increased when, through peer pressure, these people find themselves venturing down the nature trail which finds its origin opposite Thomas Cafeteria.

While no actual sightings have been made in the area, it was reported that on a spring afternoon three years ago two students made their way down that path and never made it back. But that evidence is not conclusive, since quite often many Chowan students mentally disappear and have difficulty returning.

Another possibility is Lake Vann, Chowan's answer to a body of water. Several students over the last three semesters have confided in me on their strange sightings while journeying alongside the man-made lake. All said they saw the same thing, "something dark in the water." This also does not constitute conclusive evidence, but other questions have been raised.

One of these is, "where did the ducks go?" asking why the 50 or so ducks that were swimming around at the end of the last spring semester numbered only about ten at the beginning of this past fall. It was also said they just sort of "disappeared." I bet they did. Logic indicates they got munched.

All this might seem superficial and may have no place in the refined minds of those attending Chowan.

However silly, it is still something to consider before being dismissed as ridiculous. There are some who can't be made to believe it.

But if you are ever walking through a dark path, especially after having been at a jungle party, and you are confronted by "something" just remember not to believe everything you hear, but also that, believe it or not, — not everyone around here talks B.S.

Majestic River

By RONALD L. THOMAS

Upstream before their union,
Two rivers' waters flow,
With sovereign strength their progress,
Disregarding any foe.

When then upon their marriage,
White-caps will rough the calm,
For each a frantic fight,
To become the dominate one.

A look downstream will find,
The flow, tranquil and calm,
Has surrendered to one river,
More majestic, great, and strong.

I wonder then if maybe,
Benefit is found in fight,
For out of depths of conflict,
Deeper union is in sight.

I find it's much like marriage,
As the flow of rivers merge,
Each partner finds the struggle,
Of their personalities surge.

Yet love which can survive the clash,
And white-caps at the fork,
Returns a stronger marriage,
Majestic river of a sort.

DEADLINE

for next
Smoke Signals
April 5

How to Write an Effective Letter of Application and Data Sheet

Prepared by Alpha Pi Epsilon as a Public Service Project

When you write a letter of application, you are selling yourself— your background, your training, your personality do the work required in the position for which you are making application.

Like any other effective sales letter, your personal sales letter must (1) attract attention at the beginning, (2) create interest in your possibilities, (3) convince the prospective employer that the services you have to sell are what he needs and wants, and (4) persuade him to do what you want him to do—ask you to call for an interview.

WHEN YOU WRITE A LETTER OF APPLICATION

1. Make an analysis of yourself—your personal characteristics, training, and experience.
2. Get all the information you can about the position for which you are applying.
3. Write your letter so that it progresses from Attention to Action.
4. Compose the first sentence or paragraph in a way to attract attention. As a general rule, refer to the source of your information about the position.
5. State the facts about yourself to create interest in you and conviction that you have the qualifications required for the position.
6. Give exact information about your training and experience.
7. As a general rule, give references. Include the addresses of the people whose names you give as references. By a title or in some other way indicate the standing of each reference. Give the telephone number of each.
8. Make it easy for the prospective employer to take the action you want him to take. You may enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope for his convenience in replying.
9. Show how your education fits the requirements of the position you are seeking.
10. Show how your experiences fit these requirements.

FIFTEEN DON'TS FOR APPLICANTS

1. DON'T brag.
2. DON'T use superlatives.
3. DON'T use flowery words.
4. DON'T use old-fashioned cliches.
5. DON'T sound stiff and insincere and artificial.
6. DON'T play on sympathy. "I support my family."
7. DON'T assume a know-it-all attitude.
8. DON'T use your company letterhead, if employed.
9. DON'T use social, club, hotel, fraternity, or fancy stationery. Use plain, fine, white bond.
10. DON'T use a postcard. (It has been done!)
11. DON'T let your application sound like a wholesale broadcast. Sharpshoot for one job.
12. DON'T be dull. Use a flash of "human interest."
13. DON'T generalize. Be specific with spike-sharp facts.
14. DON'T make a statement you can't back up in an interview.
15. DON'T copy an application from a "model book" unless you want to take a short cut to failure.

EFFECTIVE OPENING SENTENCES

1. Everyone wants to enter a field in which he can render his best service. I believe I can give my best service as a secretary in an office such as yours.
2. Through your ad in the NEW YORK TIMES, I have learned that you are looking for a reliable young man to work in your office.
3. I believe I can prove to you that I meet the requirements for the position of receptionist, described in your advertisement in the TIMES for Sunday, May 11.
4. Mr. Paul Rigdon, Manager of your Sales Department, has told me that you are in need of a thoroughly qualified business correspondent.

EFFECTIVE CLOSING SENTENCES

1. I am eager to be considered as an applicant for this position. A stamped addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience in writing me about an interview.
2. May I come in for an interview? My telephone number is WESt 3487.
3. Please give me an opportunity to answer any questions you may have in mind about my qualifications for the opening.
4. Please suggest a time and place for me to call on you on the occasion of your next trip to the New York market.

WHAT PERSONNEL OFFICERS PREFER ON DATA SHEETS

The letter may be less than a page in length, but the data sheet should be complete in every detail. This second sheet conserves time because its carefully prepared outline of qualifications can be quickly scanned.

To include a data sheet outlines makes it much easier for a personnel man to review a candidate's qualifications.

All employers prefer a brief letter with an attached data sheet.

PERSONAL DATA
(Applicant's Name)
(Address)
(Telephone Number)

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Age
Birthplace
Date of Birth
Marital Status
Height
Weight
Physical Condition
Nationality

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (affiliations, lodges, clubs special interests, hobbies, sports, etc.)

HONORS

EDUCATION List the names of schools, degrees, and dates (most recent first)

University or College
Junior College
Business College
Institute
High School
Major field of study
Courses taken in major field
Courses allied to major field
Books read on major field and allied subjects; magazines read
Theoretical training, laboratory training, field training

MILITARY RECORD (if any)

EXPERIENCE AND PRACTICAL TRAINING

Positions held with dates of tenure (most recent first) and exact names and addresses of employers.

Any special training gained from practice:
Knowledge of any skill (typewriting, shorthand, etc.)
List of office machines used and ability to use them.

REFERENCES (by permission) List at least three names with exact addresses.

WHAT PERSONNEL OFFICERS SAY ABOUT APPLICATIONS

Any deficiencies or careless errors tend to cause an employer to judge the applicant accordingly.

A well set-up application with good grammar and spelling, as well as good presentation, gives the applicant an immense advantage.

We try not to be too greatly influenced by these factors, but subconsciously we are swayed by them far more than we realize.

Often these factors determine whether an applicant will receive the consideration of an interview.

If an applicant were appearing personally for his interview, he would naturally shine his shoes, brush his hair, put on well-pressed clothes. That application of his is going in his place. Its appearance is just as important as his appearance would be.



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