



EDITORIAL OPINION

Thank You, Chowan

By HARRY PICKETT
1979-80 SMOKE SIGNALS Editor

This, the last edition of the 1979-80 *Smoke Signals* has finally rolled off the presses. And for me, the editor, in many regards it's a relief. However, it is also very saddening.

Yes, this is the last *Chowan College Smoke Signals* that Harry Pickett will ever edit. The constant running and nosing around for news, and the demanding pressures of deadlines are finally over—but definitely not forgotten.

I will always treasure my two years of school here at *Chowan*. Without much doubt in my mind, the years have strengthened and matured me not only mentally, but spiritually as well. *Chowan College* has taught me to become self-reliant and has been a spring board in my becoming aware of life's successes and adversities.

As editor, and being a disseminator of news for the campus community, I've inevitably grown closer to what the college stands for. I realized an obligation and a responsibility to inform members of the college of events which would significantly affect each and every one.

I'm aware that Harry Pickett would not win any popularity contest for his stand on certain issues during the past year; but they were issues he thought were newsworthy and deserved to be printed and disseminated. The job of an editor is not an easy one, and it shouldn't be. One has to be "thick-skinned" and not succumb to heartless attacks which he may encounter. He has to stand tall and fearless, holding his head high and being certain that the decisions he has made are not questionable in his mind, but are definitely the right ones.

I owe *Chowan* for the opportunity of being one of the editors in a long line to edit the student newspaper. For me, I look at this selection as a distinction, and I thank everyone on the Publications and Scholarship Committees for the chance to do what I consider a service to my college.

This opportunity is a "stepping stone" in my future career in journalism-communications. When I applied for the job there was never a doubt in my mind that I could create an interest in the student paper. After four years of journalism, where I have been an associate editor on my high school newspaper, a sports stringer for a daily, a sports writer for a weekly and a full-time reporter last summer for a weekly paper, I feel I have created that interest.

During my tenure there were many supportive individuals whom I shall never forget. Their help has proven invaluable as I evaluate my years as associate editor and editor. They were there when I needed them, and were never reluctant to go out of their way to aid me in my times of desperation.

Dean R. Clayton Lewis has been a big advocate of *Smoke Signals* and has been an inspiration when I needed it most. When the paper was "hard up" for news, Dean Lewis always had a scoop of some kind to pull us out of the "fire".

And I can't say enough for Phil Royce, director of college relations. Mr. Royce, from the first day we met, has been one of my best friends. His encouragements have meant more than he will ever know. Mr. Royce went out of his way to help me get a \$1,000 grant as a writer in the office of Sports Information at Appalachian State University, and a job on the student newspaper, *The Appalachian*, this fall.

Others I would like to pay gratitude include Mr. Herman Gatewood, chairman of the Department of Graphic Communications; Mrs. Marianne Jackson, *Smoke Signals* co-advisor;

Coach James Garrison, director of athletics; Mr. Roy Winslow, associate dean of students; Mr. Jerry Smith, head basketball coach; Mrs. Elizabeth Parker, public relations secretary; and Dr. R. Hargus Taylor, chaplain to the college.

Most of all, I would like to express special gratitude to one Mr. James Burnside Graham, professor of newswriting, and my advisor. I don't think any one person has inspired or influenced me more than Mr. Graham has in two years. I have learned so much from this veteran newsman that words could not fully describe. Without a doubt, I will miss this man dearly next year, but the memories shall always linger as good ones.

Thanks, Mr. Graham. This writing is one of the 100 items I have written since becoming a *Chowanian* in 1978. Some have said verbally that Harry Pickett does not deserve the \$600 scholarship grant he has for being editor or the \$400 he received as a freshman associate editor. Now, that smarts. After the completion of two years, no other associate editor-turned-editor of *Smoke Signals* ever wrote as many as 30 news items. How much did they deserve?

Again, I enjoyed the times I had to share with you, and I hope you enjoyed *Smoke Signals* as much as we enjoyed the work it took to produce it. Next year there will be a new editor, and I hope he or she will enjoy serving you to the best of his or her ability. You deserve it.

Chowan College...thank you.

The Year in Retrospect

This being the last issue of *Smoke Signals* for the 1979-80 school year, it is time to reflect on the accomplishments of the newspaper and its staff. This has been an unusually active and controversial year and *Smoke Signals* has been right on top of the stories that *Chowan* students want to know about. *Smoke Signals* has acted as a vehicle for student expression through the provocative student forum and various campus question columns.

Chowan's newspaper has not only done its job of informing the student body, it has also well served its purpose as a place where future journalists can learn the foundations of good newspaper reporting.

Smoke Signals owes much of its success to editor Harry Pickett. In his two years at *Chowan*, Pickett has written over 100 stories ranging from thorough sports coverage to sensitive SGA reporting. Even the most controversial issues have been reported by Harry in an effort to let the students know accurately what was going on and then allow them to decide how they felt about the things happening.

No one has been as dedicated to the *Smoke Signals* as Harry Pickett and few have spent as many hours seeing to its preparation. He is a good reporter and writer who will no doubt go on to a successful career in journalism. His presence, knowledge and leadership will be greatly missed.

The 1980-81 staff will also miss the other sophomores who have contributed much to *Smoke Signals*. This year's staff was unusually able and talented and hours of hard work will be missed.

Kathy Fisher has written many interesting stories for the paper this year and her column "Bite the Bullet" has entertained and informed many. Kathy has also done much of the behind-the-scenes work in preparing each issue.

Dean Lowman has covered several stories this year ranging from men's basketball to the panty raid. A Pre-journalism major, Dean has freely worked for *Smoke Signals* despite his many other campus obligations.

Barbara Parker, a true inspiration to the newspaper staff, will not only be missed for the fine stories she contributed, but for her warm personality and fine sense of humor.

Jane Bridgforth and Shelly Jankosky, two fine contributors will also be missed by next year's staff.

These six sophomores, along with the *Smoke Signals'* advisors, James B. Graham and Marianne Jackson, deserve a salute from the student body for their excellent work over the past school year. Each issue of *Smoke Signals* is a result of their unselfish dedication and hard work. Good luck to all of them.

—GREG BASSETT

Students Reminded They Need ID To Get Chowanoka

By BELINDA ELMORE
Students must present an ID card to receive their copies of the *CHOWANOKA*, the college yearbook. Almost every year, a large number of students do not have ID cards and are required to go to the Business Office and pay \$3 for a duplicate. To avoid this, the college urges each student to "HOLD ON TO HIS ID card!", and avoid the delay and expense of another card. According to Mr. Sutton, business manager, there are over 40 students now on campus who do not have an ID card. These students are requested by him to obtain a duplicate as soon as possible.

Current Issues

As Bad As It Seems, It Could Be Worse!

By DEAN LOWMAN
The political primaries are now half complete and early projections indicate projections indicate landslide victories for Ronald Reagan and President Jimmy Carter as they seek their respective party's nominations.

Hopefuls such as Dole, Connally, and Crane found out that you can't make someone like you. John Anderson is talking about possibly seeking an independent nomination while Jerry Brown is seeking something on a higher plane of consciousness (or maybe a couple of Linda Ronstadt concert tickets).

George Bush is the stereotypical politician as he goes from town to town befuddling many with b.s. while apparently baffling the rich kids with a small amount of brilliance.

Regan (the old folks remember this weinkled skin when he was a famous actor) is obviously the only choice left for Republican voters. Maybe they feel that if he is elected, quality westerns will reappear on the silver screen. Or is it that they love their grandfather.

Edward Kennedy remains in the race for the Democratic nomination by virtue of name alone. It is a shame however that honorable Americans like Bobby and John are brought to mind with the mention of Chappaquiddick and ego-trip.

Inevitable, we arrive at the current leader — our very own peanut farmer on the hill — Jimmy C. Here we have a man toasted by Billy, roasted by Carson, raised by Lillian, amazed by Arabians, inflated by the economy and created by the Lord. A man who complains about a do-nothing Congress while taking swift and direct action to protect our fellow Americans in foreign arenas.

Prevention Increases Life Span

By SARAH G. WRIGHT
Director of Health Services
Health Agencies are hoping to increase the life span by preventing diseases rather than waiting to cure them. There is the possibility that by changing one's life style one might avoid the consequences of a tendency to a disease.

Years have been added to the expected life span of Americans. Changes in lifestyle such as eliminating smoking, getting more exercise, and moderation in the use of alcohol has decreased the number of deaths due to heart disease.

The American needs to be aware there is still wide use of cigarettes by women and teen-agers. Smoking is a major health problem contributing to cancer as well as circulatory diseases. Why not have one's blood pressure checked periodically, so that the pressure can be kept under control? This would be better than waiting until one has a stroke.

As a result of immunization smallpox is no longer a disease among us. Childhood inoculations have also reduced cases of polio, measles, whooping cough, rubella, mumps, tetanus and diphtheria. Many children were once lost to these diseases.

Teeth are being saved by water fluoridation. This eliminates many large dental bills, plus much discomfort. There will be many health problems caused by smoking of marijuana. The smoke of marijuana is inhaled deeply for the effect, and only time will tell how much lung damage is being done. Americans have a bad diet habit of eating too much fat. There is a need to increase the amount of fresh fruit and vegetables in the diet.

This is the man we want to lead the United States through its next depression, a potential WWII, and the first alternate Olympic games?

Although Jimmy makes as many boobos as the Atlanta Braves while adding points to the inflation rate like Magic Johnson, I guess we could have it worse.

We could have a lack of free enterprise, an anti-draft registration victory, or a K-Tel collection of pop favorites as done by the B-52's. Even worse, the coming years could bring such worrisome things as the realization of George Orwell's 1984, a nuclear plant in Murfreesboro, or the death penalty for traffic violations.

Or, at the very very worst, we could have to put up with another political campaign with the quality of candidates that is competing in the current Presidential race when the time comes again in 1984.

Student Forum

Cutting View On Cut Policy

To the Editor:
I am writing to voice my opinion on a few policies at *Chowan College*. I have attended *Chowan* for two semesters and feel it is time that I speak up. I came to *Chowan* with the understanding that there were limited cuts in classes, but did not get the policy fully explained to me until we were in classes and had overcut. I did not overcut because I was too lazy to face a classroom. I have failed some classes in which I had good grades because I missed for acceptable reasons but could not get them excused from the "White House."

I also think it's ridiculous that the teachers tell students not to bother to come back to class after they overcut. I get the impression that some teachers are not concerned as to whether a student passes or fails. I have worked hard to get here and my parents pay a good sum to get me an education. If I make good grades, I should get them instead of an "F". That will ruin a transcript for life. This is not 13th grade. Wake up! We are living in the 80's and I feel that the absentee policy should change with the times.

I would also like to express my opinion on attempting to get classes excused. It seems that in the past I have gotten little cooperation. We know that a lot of stories are told and can imagine that it gets tiring to listen to story after story.

This brings us to the infirmary. What is its function? I feel the school is wasting my money on this facility. If anything, I feel we should have a doctor. The nurse sends me to town to the doctor anyway, which costs an unaffordable \$20, plus medication and a long wait. Furthermore, the nurses will not excuse anyone from class unless they have a fever or are near death. I know that other students and myself don't necessarily need to have a fever in order to be sick. A nurse should know that.

I feel that in the future we will make it to class, and if we need an excuse we hope to obtain one. We would rather not deal with the hassles of the infirmary.

It is my opinion that a big change should be made on behalf of our rights as students. If more students would voice their opinions, a change may be on the way.

Deborah Chappal
A former student

SMOKE SIGNALS

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