

## \$196,000 Campus Energy Conservation Plan Under Way

By GREG BASSETT

Efforts to cut campus wide energy use will continue again this winter as the college has its first chance to implement its \$196,000 energy control plan.

Last spring Chowan was named by the U.S. Department of Energy as the recipient of a \$98,266 matching grant which would be used to equip and renovate the college facilities to reduce energy consumption.

The federal grant was part of \$15 million allocated to North Carolina by the DOE for distribution to various energy saving programs throughout the state. Chowan was recommended for the grant by the North Carolina Department of Commerce before being selected by the DOE in Washington.

Under the terms of the grant, the college must use the money for the insulating of buildings, the double paning of various windows and for the installation of a special computer system that will control and regulate the use of

energy all over campus.

The grant also stipulates that the money must be matched with non-federal monies provided by the college. College business manager Ben C. Sutton said last spring that the matching monies had already been obtained and were available.

The first phases of the energy program have already gone into effect, according to buildings and grounds superintendent Jack Hassell. Over the summer maintenance personnel were able to reinsulate Belk Hall, Marks Hall, McSweeney Hall, and Askew St. in the Housing-Maintenance Building, quite completed in Whitaker Library and Camp Hall. Mixon Hall and West Hall are also scheduled to be reinsulated sometime in the future.

The buildings which are being insulated suffer from heat loss, according to Hassell, because they are either poorly insulated or not protected at all. Many returning students may have

noticed that the stairways in Camp Hall have been enclosed in order to cut down on drafts and save heat and air conditioning. Hassell noted enclosing the stairs also made the building safer.

Jenkins Hall and McDowell Columns are slated to receive storm windows sometime before Christmas break. Mixon Hall will also receive many energy saving improvements when it undergoes renovation later this year.

Soaring electricity and fuel oil costs prompted college officials to ask for an energy cutback effort by the students last year. Timeclocks were installed to control temperatures in all dormitories and lecture halls. The individual air units in Parker Hall, which are manually operated, were adjusted for the winter so that residents could not raise the room temperature above 70 degrees.

The college's electric bill has jumped well over 20 percent during the past year, Hassell said. The bill for

September 1979 was \$20,074, while the electric bill for September of 1980 was over \$25,000. Since September of last year the college has opened Jesse Helms Center, which has added to energy consumption, but most of the increase is due to increasing electric rates.

The main portion of the grant, approximately \$125,000 to \$175,000, will be spent on the installation of the complex computer system which will monitor and evaluate all of the campus' energy needs.

According to Hassell, the computer will constantly monitor inside and outside temperatures in all buildings on campus. In winter the computer will signal furnaces and heating units when temperatures reach certain levels, and will activate air conditioning units in summer.

Minimum temperatures of 65 degrees in winter and 78 degrees in summer will be maintained by the computer through

strategically placed sensing devices.

The computer, which will be located in the Housing-Maintenance Building, will dispense energy to priority areas during peak electrical periods. This should save the college a great deal each month, Hassell said, since electric companies charge more for power at hours when it is in high demand.

Students will probably not notice any alterations in their lifestyles and will probably be unaware of changes made by the computer. According to Hassell, similar computers have worked very successfully in operations larger than Chowan. The computer system, however, will be the first of its kind in the area.

It is projected that the expensive computer system, which the school will soon put out for bids, could pay for itself in three and one-half years through its savings. The storm windows and insulation should pay for itself in seven years, according to Hassell.

## Additional Open Dorms To Be Sought by SGA

By GREG BASSETT

Chowan's Student Government Association is considering a move that would push for open dorms on a regular and more frequent basis in the campus' seven resident halls.

The effort to push for open dorms was discussed at the body's regular meeting November 10, and was brought up by SGA President Sharee Atkinson.

Miss Atkinson said she would like to see dormitories open to both sexes every Thursday night, but conceded that the specific arrangements would have to be worked out before the idea could be submitted to the administration.

Two years ago the 1978-79 SGA received approval for an open dorm policy that allowed visitation each Thursday, but the visitation soon got out of hand and was short-lived. Finally, college President Bruce E. Whitaker took away regular open dorm privileges.

Then last year the 1979-80 SGA, under the direction of Mike Burke, proposed a similar open-dorm policy which the administration immediately rejected.

"This is going to take a lot of planning," Miss Atkinson told the student body, "Hopefully, nobody is going to get caught and screw it up for us," she said, if the dorm policy can be approved.

SGA Representative and Parker Hall Assistant Head Resident, Bennie Bridgewater, noted that the open-dorm policy failed two years ago because both male and female dorms were open at one time.

"The RA's were not very happy about it because they couldn't go to the other dorms," said Bridgewater, "they were stuck watching the dorms."

He suggested that some sort of alternate arrangement should be tried so

that female dorms would be open one week and male dorms the next.

Miss Atkinson said the SGA would have to get together with all of the dorms' head residents and RA's and try to draft a letter to the administration sometime after Thanksgiving.

"We have to have enough people behind us in order to get it approved," Miss Atkinson said.

### Canoe Repair Sought

George Welch, a member of the schools' Outing Club, approached the SGA for the second time November 10 to ask that the student body do something to replace or repair the school's three canoes which he said were in "desperate shape."

Welch said the canoes and paddles

are practically "useless" because they can't be taken off campus by the students.

Miss Atkinson suggested that Welch get some prices on new canoes and make a presentation at the next meeting.

Welch said a "decent" canoe would probably cost about \$400 and agreed to bring details to a later meeting.

### Attendance a Problem

Poor attendance at recent SGA meetings has become a bit of a problem for the body.

Less than half of the body's members attended the November 10 meeting. At a special meeting held on November 17, so few people attended that the body could not vote on any measures.

## Mixon Hall Slated for Massive Face Lift

By GREG BASSETT

Mixon Hall will undergo a massive renovation next semester that should transform the college's oldest dormitory into one of its finest.

Approximately \$125,000 to \$150,000 will be spent to remodel the men's dorm that was built in 1954 and named after F.O. Mixon, a former college president.

Work on the building should begin after the first of the year, before students return from Christmas break. The dorm is expected to be ready by the opening of school in Fall 1981.

According to Jack Hassell, college superintendent of buildings and grounds, the 80 residents of Mixon will be moved during Christmas break to rooms that are vacant in other dorms. Hassell said there is also the possibility

of opening College Street Hall to accommodate the Mixon residents.

"We want to try to move roommates together," said Hassell. "It wouldn't be fair to split up roommates who have spent the first semester together." He added, "We want to keep everyone happy while doing this."

The entire building will practically be rebuilt, with the most visible external change being the dorm's entrance which will feature large twin glass doors. Also, new windows will be installed throughout the entire structure, which will change the building's appearance.

Each room will be paneled, with one section wall left as a floor-to-ceiling bulletin board. The floors will be carpeted in each room.

A heating-air conditioning unit will be installed in each room. Similar to those



**HALLOWEEN VANDALISM** — Chowan students woke up Saturday November 1 to find an unusual object on the banks of Lake Vann. Some unknown force propelled the college athletic department's 1965 Chevrolet pick-up truck into the lake. The culprits are still unknown, as is the time the accident occurred. According to the maintenance department, the truck received only minor water damage and is back in operation again. Here, freshman Tony Nicely checks out the old truck early Saturday morning. (Photo by Greg Bassett)

## Leaf Fire Quickly Doused

Mrs. Louise Cook, who lives on the corner of Union and High Streets, answered the doorbell last Monday afternoon to find two Chowan students standing there.

They quickly told her that the large pile of leaves she had paid to have raked from her lawn into the gutter just an hour or so earlier was on fire.

Mrs. Cook, who had lain down for a nap after the raking was completed, said it took her a moment or so to comprehend what had happened.

However, she said, the students quickly asked where her garden hose was and began watering down the burning leaves, staying to rake through the sodden mass until they were certain the fire was extinguished.

In her excitement, Mrs. Cook failed to learn the identity of the young men who came to her aid.

She asked Smoke Signals to express her gratitude so that they can know how much she appreciates their concern and their efforts. She added that she also welcomed this opportunity to show some of the good things that students do for the people of Murfreesboro.

## Freshmen Elect Horne President

By NANCY KEEN

The Freshman Class showed a great deal of interest in holding offices this year — so much, in fact, that three new positions have been adopted.

In addition to the traditional president, vice-president and secretary offices, the Freshmen also have a treasurer and two social co-chairmen. Holders of these offices, in that order, are: Jeff Horne, William Mercer, Lisa Chappell, Mark McDuffie, Don Scarborough and Richard Shaw.

Their activity plans include a spirit chain starting after Thanksgiving, and a car bash — which will allow the student body to take out their frustrations on junk cars personified as professors and administrative faculty.

## Satirical View of Life at Chowan Unfolds in Student Movie

By GREG BASSETT

If you thought it was safe to come back to college, you were sadly mistaken.

When "The Chowan Experience," a student-made movie production which pokes fun at campus life here in historic Murfreesboro is finished sometime next semester, there will be no doubt in your mind that college is anything but safe.

The film, which is now 60 percent complete, should be ready for its unveiling at Spring Festival during the second semester, according to the movie's director and executive producer, Rhett Coates.

The motion picture could never be interpreted as anything but a true comedy spoof. After all, any movie which features scenes such as a shark attack in Lake Vann, a chemistry lab explosion in Camp Hall, cafeteria activities (complete with gross food), a wild panty raid, and the ultimate scene: the entire campus being destroyed in an earthquake; a movie like that could not be considered a compelling drama.

"What we do," says director Coates, "is to take complaints from Chowan students and exaggerate them to the extreme. We're taking another approach to looking at things here."

Observes Coates, "By looking at our complaints comically, maybe there's something we can do about them. It's all very positive."

Coates claims his principal cast numbers in excess of 200 throughout the production, with two

people, Aubrey Cuthrell and Diane Hassell, starring and introducing each scene in the movie. The pace and action in the 45-60 minute movie (the exact length is still undetermined) will build until the tragic, but comical, earthquake sequence destroys all.

Although there is no shortage of comedy and satire in the movie, there is one thing the producers are short on: money.

"We are very short on money," concedes



Alison Bass (left) and Jennifer Wicker (right), seated, receive director's instructions for a scene filmed on the movie soundstage. (Photo by Gary Joyce)

Coates, "and we need several hundred dollars to finish up."

He estimated the production is costing approximately \$6 a minute in film alone.

"We've had little or no interest from the SGA," Coates says of the student government. "Some members are concerned, but we haven't asked the SGA for money. I hear they're not giving out much money this year," he adds.

Coates says the picture's producers' major task has been to gather money from any who would like to see the movie's completion. Coates himself has put several hundred dollars into the production and declares that several people have given over \$50 in hope of seeing the film completed.

A 19-year-old sophomore from West Point, Va., Coates first got involved in movie making during his senior year in high school. A friend of his, Walter M. Jefferies, who happens to have worked as an art director on television shows such as "Little House on the Prairie," and "Star Trek," influenced Coates' decision to possibly make the entertainment business his career. He first got the idea of making a movie about Chowan last year and began filming during Spring Festival.

Although some school officials have been concerned that Coates is making fun of the college in a derogatory way, Coates defends his film as being nothing more than light-hearted comedy that is for and about the student.

"After all," he says, "It's people who make up a college, not buildings."