

# Plates Personalize Chowan Cars

While it is not a scientific survey, it would seem that Chowan students from Virginia may have more money to spend than students from other states. Why? Take a walk through the parking lots and look for personalized license plates. Virginia cars with the special tags out number vehicles from other states. North Carolina and Virginia are only two of several states that allow motorists for an extra fee, to tag their car with a special message.

The fee in both states is ten dollars over and above the regular plate cost. North Carolina has had personalized plates since 1968. Over 188,000 have been issued. Virginia two years ago switched over and allowed motorists to request up to six characters. North Carolina drivers can get eight characters.

Both states have inspectors who look out for lewd, suggestive, or obscene phrases that some drivers request. Officials in Raleigh and Richmond quickly pull those requests and send them back to the driver who has asked for them. Both states advise the driver to find another choice.

Where does the extra money go when it gets to the department of motor vehicles? In North Carolina, five dollars goes to promote tourism and five dollars goes to highway beautification.

Thanks to these plates, normal driving can become all the more interesting, but it is important for the driver to watch the road and not try to figure out the ingenuity of the driver of the personalized plates auto in front of him.

Some of the drivers with personalized plates are quite clever and like to stand out in the crowd, or the traffic—whatever the case may be.

Yet others are content to be part of the crowd and merely acquire plates bearing: TO U, 2U, or 4U followed by their initials or name.

Some personalized plates from other states may take time to interpret. There are plates with UQTPIE, WE12SKI, or POOPS Z, just to start out that have been reported riding the roads of North Carolina or Virginia.

Still further, the personalized plates may be the ultimate way of stating to the world that the driver has made it to the top. Spotted along the highways have been IQIKVET (one quick Corvette) and IMXLNT (I'm excellent).

Motor vehicles with the X-SWITCH or PAID-4 legend speak for themselves.

Chowan students support the BRAVES (Atlanta or Chowan), SOUP, the TWIST, or other causes.

If you 1A-ROCK, then you would have to be in FOCUS to do it and then only in a S-FIRE.

Still, the final parody is seeing two almost identical plates that are wheeling along in California. RUNVS is on a Ferrari and the other is RNUNVS on a truck? WER-2.



Layout by Jeff Miller

Photography by Ken Keefner

## Selected Chowan Students Provide Campus Tours

A select group of Chowan College students has been entrusted with the responsibility of guiding prospective students and their families on campus tours.

The students supplement the efforts of Chowan's admissions staff members who are not always available to give tours, according to Lynn Gruber, associate director of admissions. Gruber coordinates selection, interviewing and training of the Student Admissions Representatives, as they are called.

Gruber said the campus tour is an important part of Chowan's admissions program. She said a number of colleges no longer provide this service. But Gruber said Chowan feels the campus tour gives the student the opportunity to

ask questions that arise as he views the facilities and grounds. It's another way Chowan is able to give students and their families the personal touch, she related.

The position of SAR entails responsibility, tactfulness and good communication skills, Gruber noted. She said a Student Admissions Representative must possess "neat appearance, good personality, good academic standing and positive attitude about Chowan College. The impression the SAR's make is very important. We have been very pleased with their dedication and the results of the program."

She said students "are chosen on recommendations from our meeting with them, recommendations from

deans, counseling office or faculty and then interviewed. Many also volunteer for this position."

Gruber said about 35 students serve the volunteer position. Each student conducts about five tours per semester.

"SAR's provide our guest with a student's perspective of Chowan and serve as liaisons to the admissions office prior to or after our interview with the prospective student," Gruber explained.

She said they also assist with special events such as Spring Festival, campus preview, orientation, etc.

The volunteers cover the entire campus as the tour including all of the major buildings. These include Marks Hall, Camp Hall, Daniel Hall, Green Hall, Whitaker Library, Thomas

Cafeteria, Helms Center, Lakeside Student Center, Graphic Communications Center, Penny Infirmary, bookstore and residence halls.

The SAR's show their guests one or two classrooms in each academic building. Extra time is spent in the building related to the students intended field of study.

Gruber invited local students who are attending Chowan to contact her for additional information. She said she's hopeful area students will volunteer to serve SAR's.

"Being selected as a Student Admissions Representative is a real honor. They provide a valuable service to the college and the prospective student and his family. In the process they grow in confidence and the ability to communicate with visitors to our campus."

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 In Next Issue

The complete fall semester examination schedule will be carried in the next issue of Smoke Signals. Examinations will begin on Friday, December 9 and will continue through Thursday, December 15.

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