Page 2—Smoke Signals, Friday, November 18, 1983



Thank-You

Webster gives several definitions for the word CHEER. One is a mood; disposition; state of mind or feeling. Another is anything that makes one happy; encouragement. Another is to fill with joy, good spirits, hope; gladden; comfort. "I've never seen her in a bad mood," said one co-worker.

'She has made a lot of people happy in the classroom and outside," said another

peer. "Joy, hope, and comfort are a part of her," said another co-worker. While Webster's definition has been in the book for a number of years, we could safely say that Chowan has had the personification of CHEER on campus for the of her classroom. When they've left, they've carried with them part of that cheer. They are also better people for having been associated with her. Chowan College is better because she has been here.

Whatever event was going on, she was there. Whatever the challenge she was given, she tackled it. Whatever it took to get the job done, she did it. One year it was teaching physical education and coaching basketball. Another

year it was Religion and Music Appreciation. Another year it was Speech and English

Not only has the Chowan Family been touched by her cheer and loyalty, other people in other places have been touched by her work

Church congregations, military bases, and prisons have all been made somewhat better because she was there to cheer, to comfort, and to encourage. Miss Anna Belle Crouch will retire at the end of this semester.

A lot of water has passed under that proverbial bridge in those years since she came to Chowan in 1958. That water touches a lot on its journey to the sea.

And like the water, Anna Belle Crouch has touched a lot of lives in her journey We aren't going to say good-bye to her. Instead, we have to say thank you.

You Know What I Mean

by Dr. Kenneth Wolfskill

A student in Chapel Hill was heard to remark, "Because, well, you know, I mean, like, I don't know." Period. That, apparently, was the best he could do to explain cause behind some event. His words seem meaningless, but the phrase shows that he tried to think ("well" fills up time, allowing the mind to function), he depended on his friend's support in interpreting his words and gestures ("you know"), he tried to start the thought process over ("I mean"), tried and failed at analogy("like"), then admitted his absolute defeat ("I don't know"). Mind you, I understand the air-headed Valley Girl is in fashion fer sher (though I think she's neturally already "certific provider between the start of the start actually already "out," leaving only her costume around for us to enjoy); and certainly the Tarheel was just talking in youthful, idiomatic English. But the words as they came out of his mouth mean something, and, as I interpret them, his words convey his inability to express any understanding of his situation.

"But Dr. Wolfskill," you say, "you're a tyrant, trying to make a common-place conversation about something that was, after all, probably trivial into something profound and insightful." Well, like, maybe. But consider a basketball player a few years back who wrote about his most serious problem with the sport, "dull drilling," which, he explained, is not something painful or boring in a dentist's other the set of balance the backetball between the set of balance. chair, but the act of holding the basketball between bounces. And consider another case: A football player has to understand the imaginary line on which the football rests at the beginning of a down in order not to be called off-sides; but a freshman wrote once that the ref puts the ball on the "linascrimmage." Don't you suspect the line of scrimmage is, to him, the point where the ball rests? Here, then, are two cases where people find it hard to see the relationship between words and what they mean

I know, I know, if you say "They ain't no difference" instead of "There isn't any difference," people will think you're normal, and if you say, "You haven't any sense" instead of "You ain't got no sense," folks will look at you very carefully before getting too close. Here, the problem is not only the relationshop between words and their meaning but also the meaning of grammar. It's perfectly ac-ceptable to be ungrammatical with the uneducated. But with lawyers and doctors and most composition presidents and shore summary with need partners a better and most corporation presidents and shop owners, you need, perhaps, a better lingo.We're talkin' class distinction, ain't we? Use the word ain't and you've marked yourself. Use the double negative and you seem emphatic, perhaps, but ignorant("I ain't got no quarters!" assures the beggar he won't get a handout from

you, even though, grammatically, you've said you do have quarters). Words have fairly precise meanings. The way we use them has meaning. I am convinced that a person doesn't have an idea until he can put it into words. Thus a man's word-power is his ability to understand himself and the human condition, and the form his word-power takes distinguished him from others You know what I mean?

Smoke Signals Welcomes Letters

SMOKE SIGNALS welcomes letters to the editor and contributions of columns to the editorial pages. ld be typed, double spaced, and are subject to editing

JENKINS HALL

The ladies of Jenkins Hall went all out for Halloween this year. The costume residents gathered in front of their dorm Halloween afternoon for the chance to win prizes for the best costumes. Janine Papproth won first place with her pumpkin suit. Debbie Underwood put color into the affair as a crayon. Third place went to Marian Gilbert and Susan Utt for their horse

Rainmaker: A Review

A Review by Dr. Ken Wolfskill

In one of the finest productions I've seen on the stage at Chowan College, the Chowan Players gave performances that lifted Richard Nash's The Rainmaker beyond mere fun to delightful comedy.

Sandra Boyce, producer and director, has done serious things like Our Town and The Crucible, colorful musicals like Godspell and Guys and Dolls, and classic comedies Arsenic and Old Lace and The Front Page. But of them all, I think this production of a play that may be the least unusual and most traditional of them is the most thoroughly enjoyable. Because of the players.

The Rainmaker is about a family that needs rain for a drought-burdened dirtfarm and a husband for a bookish and plain daughter. Enter the charismatic rainmaker, the con artist or "confidence man" who must, if the play goes right, bilk the farmers and seduce the daughter and leave when everybody has what he or she wants, including the audience. So it goes in this play, and, just like The Music Man, implausibility in the plot just doesn't matter.

Implausibility doesn't matter because our interest is in the characters, who, like us, are weak but have dreams and aspirations. Like us, they have no confidence in themselves and try to be what they think other people want them to be lest they seem foolish: Deputy File calls himself a widower rather than admit his wife ran out on him; Lizzie Curry, the plain daughter, plays the coquette rather than appear bookish; poor ol' Jim Curry, the dim-witted son, repeats his older brother's words in order to keep from seeming stupid. They are all foolish, conned not so much by the rainmaker as they are by themselves: the whole world knows that File's wife ran off, that Lizzie is plain and Jim's dumb. What delights us is that, in the end, they all find love because they are who they are. Rather than conning people, the play teaches, honesty-being who you are-will get you what you want. (And the Heavens will rain on your crops and shine on your picnics, right?) In this productions, our interest in the characters was due more to the players

themselves than the roles. That's especially true of Dr. R. Hargus Taylor who played the father, H.C. Curry. Setting his dignity aside to play the bumpkin, he could say anything and get a laugh (and that included, unfortunately, some fine, significantly outbursts). Generally in amateur productions we are aware that people are acting. That didn't seem the case with Thomas Gale as the older and wiser son Noah; his timing and subtlety of tone were exceptional. Scott Canfield, playing the tall and lanky, dim-witted brother, was hilarious and, remarkably, not because of tricks of slapstick, but because of his real ability to play the slack-jawed idiot. Michael Hewitt, as Sheriff Thomas, seemed right out of Southern farce, and Greg Lowe, though at times too tense, seem the real straight-shooter who ought to get the girl

In Act I, I was uncomfortable with Laura Crum, who made Lizzie so serious she whimpered rather than showing the sensible self-possession the sister of Noah Curry ought, I think, to have. But the first scene with the rainmaker gave her strength and, by the time she showed joy in the rainmaker's arms, she was con-vincing. Thomas Cole as the rainmaker Bill Starbuck was also convincing after that scene; but in his first scene, playing the shyster, he made Starbuck seem to believe his claims for his powers rather than enjoying the con; thus Starbuck seemed deluded by his sense of power rather than consciously fostering wild hopes. But once he showed the character's human side, confessing his weaknesses to Lizzie, Mr. Cole seemed quite comfortable.

With clever lighting and set design, Mrs. Boyce staged the play so that three

New **Ethics** Course

The Department of Religion and Philosophy announces a new course beginning in the spring semester, Religion 131, Introduction to Ethics. This is a practical introductory study of Christian values and their relationship to the decision-making process, the principles of biblical ethics, and specific issues in contemporary society.

Some of the issues will be: Can the ten commandments tell us in our time and place what God expects of us? Can certain things be considered "right" or "wrong" depending on the situation? Can Christain love and justice alter decisions? How can students "honor" their parents? If life is sacred, what about abortion, suicide, capital punishment, war, and letting people die? Must one always tell the truth? Is it ever right to take something or use something that is not yours? Do human beings have rights simply because they are human?

Introduction to Ethics will be an elective course. Religion 101 and 102 are pre-requisites. Mrs. Esther A. Whitaker will teach the course.

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Thanksgiving Buffet **Thomas Cafeteria**

Monday Evening, November 21, 1983

Relish Tray Potato Salad Jello and Cottage Cheese Mold Fresh Cranberry Relish Waldorf Salad Cole Slaw

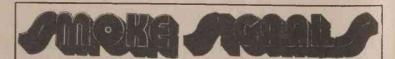
Roast Turkey Breast with Cranberry Sauce Old Fashioned Cornbread Dressing **Giblet Gravy**

Fresh Baked Virginia Ham with Pineapple Sauce Whipped Potatoes Candied Sweet Yams with Marshmallow Whole Kernel Corn in Butter Sauce Green Beans with Bacon Chips

Fresh-Baked Pumpkin Pie with Whipped Topping **Apple Pie Mince Meat Pie Fresh Fruit Display** Fresh Apple Cider

> Assorted Dinner Rol **Assorted Beverages**

Thomas Cafeteria will be closed after lunch Tuesday, November 22 for the holiday and will re-open for supper Sunday, November 27.



Edited, printed, and published by students at Chowan College for the students, faculty, and staff of Chowan College.

Column writers should include their majors and hometowns; each letter should include the writer's name, address, and telephone number. Unsigned letters will not be printed.

Bring letters and columns to the Graphic Communications Center

different scenes were possible without a major scene change, and players were able to use a number of stage areas and levels, none more important than the platform at center stage that brought H.C. to eye level with his sons

The Rainmaker is a fine play, giving new meanings to the word confidence. The cast gave the play real life. And the audience (you could tell by the laughter) was delighted.

Eric Kaiser	EDITORS	Richard Michae
	NEWS STAFE	

Cindy Pike

Fred Barnes Jeff Miller

Tom Florence

Ken Keefner **Jerry Sutton**

Sisari Suwanparpaisri



One of the annual Fall happenings at Chowan is the visit of the Bloodmobile from the First Colonies Division of the American Red Cross. Chowan students have supported the Bloodmobile in the past enthusiastically. In fact Chowan has for the past three years had the highest percentage of blood donors based on students enrolled of the schools and colleges serviced by the First Colonies Division. This year's visit was no exception as 145 students rolled up their sleeves



RESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS AND THE PRESIDENT....Chowan's Presidential Scholars gathered recently to have dinner with Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker and Mrs. Whitaker. Presidential Scholars maintained a 3.3 or better during high school as part of the requirements for the award. Left to right, Yvonne S. Eliason of Windsor, Alysan Barnes of Lumberton, Dr. Whitaker, Donna Orbison of Kannapolis, and Charles Poole of Lamar, South Carolina. Ms. Eliason commutes daily from Windsor and Ms. Barnes and Poole are athletes.