

Fire in Columns

An early-morning fire was contained in the old swimming pool area of the Columns Building, the administrative center of Chowan College.

Phil Royce, community relations director for the institution, said, "We were fortunate two ways: the fire was in some old mattresses stored in the pool so that helped contain it. And the other thing is, there is a false ceiling over the pool and that protected the floor of the stage area."

The auditorium of the building was constructed in the 1920s, behind the original building which was built in 1851.

Fire chief Gene Byrd has called in the State Bureau of Investigation arson unit from Greenville, stating, "It looked suspicious to me. They are on the way up here so I can't say what the cause is, right now."

Byrd and Royce agreed there was heavy smoke and water damage in the three-story structure. "We saw a lot of heat damage in the ceiling after we got the smoke out. There is heat stress in the stage floor," Byrd reported.

There were 250-300 mattresses in the pool and all around the walls the chief advised, adding that such material smolders quite a while before it flares up.

The smoke was detected by Dean Franklin B. Lowe about 6:15 a.m. as he arrived to open the building. He investigated the origin of the fire before calling in the alarm about 6:30. As the fire department reached the campus, Ahoskie and Winton departments were

asked to stand by until the extent of the fire could be determined.

Portable exhaust fans were located at several openings in the building and smoke poured out both sides as firemen donned air packs and crawled inside in an attempt to pinpoint where the smoke was centered. Because of the size of the structure, the Murfreesboro fire chief requested additional fans from the Ahoskie department. These were transported to the scene by an Ahoskie police officer to help clear smoke more quickly.

The long ladder truck was brought to the campus and firefighters went to the top story, formerly used as a dormitory, to open windows and doors to further ventilate the building. Rescue squad units stood by but no injuries were reported during the incident, although firemen reported intense heat.

The Chowan cafeteria supplied fire personnel with coffee, hot chocolate, cold drinks and doughnuts as they continued working to contain the fire, which was brought under control within about 30 minutes, according to the chief.

Royce indicated a clock in his office showed electricity went off at 6:25 a.m. and there were no lights in the building at 9 a.m., although the telephones were working. He anticipated chapel services would be canceled today but added all personnel were working.

Byrd said he would not have additional information on the fire until investigations were complete.

—THE AHOSKIE NEWS HERALD

Most students at UNC flunk geography test

More than 90 percent of 1,875 University of North Carolina students flunked a geography test, some estimating the state population anywhere from 25,000 to 250 million.

Less than half the students recognized Alaska and Texas as the largest states.

The exam was given "not expressly to embarrass North Carolinians or to indicate our educational system, but to link our state with the nationwide deficiency in geographic training," said UNC-Chapel Hill geography chairman Richard Kopec.

N.C. Agricultural Enrollment Steady

While enrollment at some agricultural schools in the Midwest has been declining, North Carolina has been able to hold enrollment in agricultural disciplines steady, officials say.

Enrollment at four-year agriculture colleges across the nation has dropped 21 percent since 1977, according to the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges in Washington.

But agriculture colleges on the East and West coasts have fared better than those in the Midwest, where the current farm crisis is having its most devastating effect, said E.W. Glazener, associate dean for academic affairs at N.C. State University.

Glazener estimated that enrollment in NCSU's School of Agriculture and Life Sciences has fallen about 3 percent or 100 students to a total of 3,600 this fall. Overall enrollment at N.C. State is estimated to be up nearly 2 percent.

"There were significant increases (in agriculture school enrollment) in the 1970s," Glazener said. "We've been fairly stable for the last five years. We are

like everybody else. We are feeling the effect of a national trend. (But) so far we've remained fairly stable."

Enrollment figures on agriculture students this fall weren't available from North Carolina A&T State University in Greensboro. But Burley Webb, dean of the School of Agriculture, said he expected enrollment to remain steady despite decreases in the past few years. Last fall 455 students were enrolled.

"In the last five years, the overall decline has amounted to 12 percent to 15 percent," Webb said. "It's kind of hard to say why. I think the state of the economy associated with farming somehow gets translated to a negative image about all of the opportunities in agriculture."

Glazener said enrollment had been constant or increasing in programs in the animal sciences but decreasing in the plant sciences. Like many other agriculture schools, the one at N.C. State is planning to boost its efforts slightly, with an emphasis on out-of-state students, he said.

Draft Rule Dropped

The Department of Education has quietly dropped its controversial rule requiring colleges to verify that male students receiving federal financial aid have registered for the draft.

The rule has been set to go into effect this fall.

A department spokesman said the rate of compliance among young men is so high that it isn't necessary to have college aid administrators police the requirement.

"It's been going about 98 percent perfect, so there's no need to verify," said Duncan Helmrich.

"There's just no reason to hold the schools up" on awarding aid, he said. "Things are going so well that we're not going to bother to have the schools seek proof."

Congress in 1982 passed an amendment sponsored by Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y., requiring student aid recipients to sign forms certifying that they had registered for the draft.

The Education Department then proposed a rule holding colleges accountable for verifying that the students ac-

tually had registered before awarding them any federal grants, loans or other financial help.

Some students and civil liberties groups challenged the Solomon amendment, but the Supreme Court upheld the law, 6-2, on July 5, 1984. Chief Justice Warren E. Burger said it was "plainly a rational means to improve compliance with the registration requirement."

Although the military is not now conscripting anyone, draft registration was reinstated in 1980 under a law signed by then-President Carter. All male citizens and resident aliens born after Jan. 1, 1963, must register within 30 days of their 18th birthday.

After the Solomon amendment took effect in October 1983, more than 300,000 students registered who had previously failed to do so.

The retraction was not widely publicized by the Education Department. It first came to light in a government-wide list of planned regulatory actions compiled by the Office of Management and Budget.

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SIGNALS



Chowan Trustees Meet and Adopt New Budget

Chowan College trustees adopted a budget of \$7,450,000 for 1985-86 during their semi-annual meeting Monday in the office of President Bruce E. Whitaker. They also heard a report of the increase in the fall enrollment over last year.

The trustees, headed by chairman Felix Arnold of Enfield, met jointly with the board of Advisors, chaired by Dr. Melvin Kunkle of Portsmouth, Va.

Dr. Whitaker reported that Chowan concluded the past academic year operating in the black for the 27th straight year. He said many groups and individuals made this possible through their contributions to the college, to include the Annual Giving Fund.

He commented, "This achievement over the years could not have been done without the increasing support of North Carolina Baptists through the Cooperative Program."

Dean of Students Clayton Lewis reported that Chowan's enrollment for the current fall semester is 954 full time students, an increase of 55 over 1984-85.

Whitaker thanked Lewis, the admissions staff and the faculty and staff members for their efforts in the recruitment of students. He said the enrollment was an indication of the continuing need for a two-year college such as

Chowan "where students receive individual attention in a liberal arts atmosphere."

Reports were presented by chairmen of standing committee of the Board of Trustees which met Sunday. They included: academic, The Rev. Bennie Pledger of New Bern; student affairs, Mrs. Frances Farthing of Durham; development and finance, Robert Spivey, Windsor; and religious life denominational relations, Dr. Hargus Taylor, Chowan's chaplain.

Chaplain Taylor reported that Chowan will be featured on Nov. 12 in Charlotte during the annual meeting of the Baptist State Convention. Taylor said the college will present a 30-minute program utilizing color slides and both taped and live narration.

Mrs. Farthing reported that behind the "fine enrollment picture" was the dedicated work of the admissions staff which included some 1,200 visits to private and public high schools located in eastern United States.

Pledger praised Chowan's academic chairmen and faculty for their "team spirit" as demonstrated by the way they relate to the students, each other and general support they give Chowan.

Business Manager Ben Sutton reported that the total endowment of

the college exceeds \$3,351,000. He said Chowan received \$201,722 in 1984-85, the largest single-year income ever from endowment.

Sutton also reported that the remodeling of existing buildings is continuing. He said Simons Hall was remodeled this summer to include installation of air conditioning in the men's residence hall.

Following are part by Dean of the College B. Franklin Lowe Jr., the trustees authorized the college to enter into an institutional self-study leading to the reaffirmation of accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools in December, 1988.

Lowe noted that the reaffirmation of an accreditation is required every ten years. He said the self-study is "comprehensive and involves every aspect of the college and all members of the college community."

"Trustees adopted resolutions of appreciation to the memory of Elwood Whittier Parker, Arelia Ruth Adams, and Frances Elizabeth White Coleman.

Parker died on Feb. 15, 1985, at the age of 92. He served as a member of Trustees from 1947-49, Board of Advisors from 1972-85, and Endowment Committee from 1959-82.

Parker was praised for his efforts to

resume operations of Chowan following suspension of the college in 1943 and for his "record of generous personal benefactions towards Chowan College."

Adams served for 18 years from 1952-70 as the college's bursar. She was cited for her "dedication to all tasks assigned; devotion to sound fiscal policies and procedures;" and her "diligence" in carrying out her total responsibilities.

Coleman taught for 15 years from 1953-68 in the English and Religion departments. She also served as Baptist Student Union advisor. Her service was characterized by a "genuine concern for the well-being of her students, academically, socially, and spiritually; and for the welfare of the larger campus community in which she served and of which she was a part," according to the resolutions.

Spouses of trustees and advisors toured remodeled and expanded Green Hall and observed a demonstration of the potter's wheel by Art Professor Doug Eubank. Following the meeting and luncheon in the President's Dining Room, trustees, advisors and their spouses toured remodeled Simons Hall. Professor emeritus Anna Belle Crouch (English) guided the tour.

Non-Credit Courses

Beginning in October, Chowan College will offer two non-credit evening enrichment classes in Basic Photography and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation.

Basic Photography will be taught by Chowan photographer, Doug Gleason. The course will meet from 7:30-10 p.m. each Tuesday from Oct. 1-Nov. 5 in the Horner Graphic Communications Center, Room 111. The cost is \$30, payable to Chowan College at the first class session.

The CPR instructor is Jerry Hawkins, assistant football coach and baseball coach. The sessions will be held in Room 204 of the Helms Center from 7-9:30 p.m. each Wednesday beginning Oct. 2. The final session is Oct. 23. The cost is \$20, payable to Chowan College at the first class session.

The minimum enrollment for each class is 10. Those wishing more in-

formation may contact Gleason or Hawkins. Chowan's phone number is (919) 398-4101. Registration will be held at the first class session.

Gleason received his B.A. with honors from the University of South Florida in Tampa and M.A. from the University of Florida. He also is a graduate and former photography instructor at Randolph Technical Institute, Asheboro.

Before coming to Chowan, Gleason was an advertising photographer with one of the nation's largest commercial photography and printing companies.

Hawkins has served at Chowan since 1957 after receiving B.S. and M.A. degrees from Western Carolina University. He served as president of the Murfreesboro Rescue Squad which he helped organize. He is certified by the American Red Cross as a CPR instructor.

Mulder Speaks to Women's Club

"With faith in your heart, climb and reach new accomplishments," urged Bob Mulder when speaking to Murfreesboro Woman's Club Tuesday at College Inn Restaurant.

"I never cease to be amazed at the potentiality of people," continued the English professor from Chowan College. "We are created next to the angels; we are builders of eternity."

He noted many great people who accomplished much in spite of their handicaps.

A 93-year-old woman who lived on a mountain near Asheville inspired Mulder so much, he reported, that he wrote her recipe for a good life:

"Keep excited; keep building my

spirit daily by Bible reading; nothing is too great for me and God to accomplish together if it's within His will."

Mrs. Shirley Pike gave an inspirational talk on "Grandmothers" before lunch.

Mrs. Lessie Deanes, president, led a business session during which she announced that the club gave \$2,000 to Mrs. Helen Burleson for Hospice.

The woman's club will have a table at Bonnie Gray's annual Craft Show and Sale Nov. 2. The committee for this activity is Mrs. Lavinia Vann, Mrs. Lorene Hill, Mrs. Juliette Liverman and Mrs. Etta Griffith.

Hostesses for the meeting were Mrs. Betty Batchelor, Mrs. Mildred Hill and Mrs. Liverman.