

## Faculty Profile

By Brian Mosley  
Special to *Smoke Signals*

Melvin Monroe White, Jr., was born on November 6, 1950. He is married with two sons and one daughter. Mr. White now resides in Ahoskie, North Carolina. He enjoys living in Ahoskie, because it is large town for the area. Mr. White enjoys biking, reading, and playing with his kids.

To further his education, after high school, Mr. White attended the University of North Carolina at Asheville and McDowell Community College.

When it comes to having a job, Mr. White has had them all. His jobs ranged from being a chicken catcher to being a graphic designer. His most exciting job was working for security in the Air Force.

Chowan College is very lucky to have Mr. White teaching photography here for the past two years. Mr. White has had a photography exhibit held here at Chowan College. He has also had many of his pictures published in the Ahoskie News Herald.

When asked who his favorite actor was, Mr. White is quick to respond with Kevin Costner and Robert DeNiro. He was also quick to say that Glenn Close and Meryl Streep are his favorite actresses. Mr. White lists "Terminator 2" and "Dances With Wolves" as his favorite movies. His favorite book is *The Hunt For Red October*. If Mr. White were to win a million dollars, he would buy his parents new houses, buy himself a new car and a new camera, give some to the church, and invest the rest. Mr. White thinks that the biggest problem facing the world today is how we handle world peace.

Mr. White is an intelligent man, who gives 100% to everything he does. He is also a pleasure to listen and talk to!



Mel White

## Antiquities Room slated to be open in April

The Whitaker Library plans to open its McDowell Antiquities Room during National Library Week April 5-11. The staff plans to use prizes and drawings to draw people into the library during the week.

The Antiquities Collection officially began in 1968 when Mrs. Carol Sexton came to the library. "The collection began as people began giving the school things that we should save because they were important to the college," recounts Mrs. Sexton, librarian in charge of the Antiquities Room.

"In 1968, the Antiquities Room was built and I began to put in order what was already here. I made Finding Cards with information on who gave what to the school."

The Antiquities Room has a two-fold purpose: 1) to preserve Chowan College history and make it available to scholars and researchers; and, 2) hold the school's collection of rare books. The room holds all of the books that Chowan professors have written that the library is able to get a copy of, a copy of all books of the late, local

publisher Roy Johnson, and other articles relevant to Chowan history such as paintings, wax flowers made by students, class rings, and photographs.

"I did not know that the Columns Building had been yellow until I began to sort through the material in this room," confesses Sexton.

The history is rich and alive in this room. A freshman English project by Emma Gay Stephenson (now a college trustee) in 1928 is a sketch of the Chowan campus during her first year as a student here. It includes photographs, and personal sketches of the faculty, student body, and facilities. Stephenson was hesitant to give the report to the library because it was so old, but that is exactly what makes it so important to the school. It is a first hand account of Chowan Female Baptist Institute.

Mrs. Sexton is always anxious to collect more of the school's history. The student body is invited to view this collection during national library week or by appointment during the school year.

## April Events

- April 3—Roanoke-Chowan Honor Band Concert  
7:30 P.M., Turner Auditorium — Free
- April 4—Lincoln Mayorga, Pianist  
8:00 P.M., Turner Auditorium — Free with I.D.
- April 7—Rick Kelly, Musician  
Thomas Cafeteria — Lunch
- April 14—Bob Garner, Magic and Comedy  
7:00 P.M., Turner Auditorium — Free
- April 20-25—SPRING FESTIVAL  
Monday—Movie, Braves Den, 7:00 P.M.  
Tuesday—Mud Volleyball, 3:00 P.M.  
Movie, 7:00 P.M., Braves Den  
Wednesday—Outdoor Movie,  
"The Hand That Rocks The Cradle"  
8:30 P.M. (or when it gets dark), Campus Green  
Thursday—KARAOKE — 12:00 - 5:00 P.M.  
In front of Braves Den  
"Record your own audiotape"  
Dave Glenn — 7:00 - 9:30 P.M.  
Campus Green  
Friday—Concert - watch for details  
Saturday—Dance - "The Janitors"  
8:30 - 11:30 P.M., Braves Den
- April 28—Chowan Chorus and Band Spring Concert  
Turner Auditorium, 8:00 P.M. — Free

## Horoscope

by DCB

### Taurus

If you made it through last month, this month will be a breeze. Just don't push your luck! Your day will come soon, but be cautious, for many false hopes will arise.

### Aries

It is important that you don't overstress yourself. Remember that some things can wait. Rest will be imperative to your health this month.

### Gemini

Yes, life can be boring, but you have to make the most of what you have. Try a hobby. I recommend something like skydiving, juggling (knives), or something exotic like swallowing swords.

### Scorpio

Bribery always works, but it is not the answer to your problem. Try burying yourself into your foe's butt, licking is a sure bet. Don't get up there too far because you might get stuck... or worse, you might like it.

### Capricorn

Isn't it great being near perfect? Of course, you will find great riches and happiness this month, but try not to gloat over your greatness, for perfection doesn't make friends.

### Aquarius

The third moon of Jupiter is disaligned thus, you probably feel awkward for the next few weeks. Don't chew gum and walk at the

same time and try not to do anything that requires coordination, you might hurt yourself!

### Pisces

If you play your cards right, you will get anything you want out of life. This month is crucial to your existence. It will decide whether you become the prince or the pauper.

### Cancer

Bad news is good news and good news is bad news. Friends are enemies and enemies are friends. Get the point? Your life will be backwards for the next month.

### Leo

If you were to jump out of a window fifty stories high and land on your head, you would not die. You will be immortal this month. I wouldn't recommend doing anything stupid because your tolerance for pain will be extremely low.

### Virgo

If you spin around for a long time then stop, you will probably fall down but you will have a lot of fun doing it.

### Libra

Someone of the opposite sex will enter your life and cause chaos. He/she will have a great influence on you. Don't greet this person with open arms and try to avoid them at all cost. He/she will be bad luck and cause you much stress.

### Sagittarius

Why are you wasting your time reading this when you should be doing something more important? Get your priorities straight.

## The Editor's Box

Welcome, my friends, to the only place in the world where you can go to jail for tearing a tag off your mattress.

Hmm... Sitting around, thinking of something to write for the upcoming issue of *Smoke Signals*. Not an easy thing to do. Sure, this weekend, (the weekend of Feb. 21) has been eventful, but nothing worth devoting an entire column to.

I could talk about the police, but that subject is overdone. I could talk about toilet paper, but that won't get us anywhere. I could talk about the food again, but people will gripe about that no matter how good it really is.

Wait, there is something out there worth talking about: trivialities.

There are few things on this earth that make me laugh, while at the same time being irritated, as much as people blowing up over the smallest things.

Are fifth-grade boyfriend/girlfriend relationships still around? I had hoped that college life would provide a stop to this incredibly ignorant phenomenon, but I see that it is still a predominant issue.

Posing as mature, intelligent young adults, why is it that people get mad when someone does something to someone else when that someone has absolutely nothing to do with them in the first place? Then, all that person's friends get in an uproar and band together to make the other person feel bad. I get a certain amount of joy in watching people wallow in their sorrows because someone broke up with someone else and they get mad when they do something with someone that they don't like. Don't they realize that they have no ties whatsoever with the person anymore? Why can't people just grow up a couple of steps on the social maturity ladder?

Another thing, how is it that people can gripe about the most trivial thing in the world all day long? For instance, did everyone hear about Crayola renaming their colors? Instead of yellow, it would be some new, playful, modern term, like "neon-lemmon." Now, I understand that the grownups of today grew up with the standard red, blue, green, and black stuff, but they really need to be open to change. Do you realize that, in the midst of Crayola targeting the younger generation, parents and kids alike banded together and actually picketed the corporation. This is the honest truth. I, along with several million other viewers, saw them marching back and forth in front of a crayon factory with picket signs, chanting senseless phrases that they thought would actually amount to a hill of beans. This is the point when I lost all faith in America. For all you idiotic, conservative, classic idealists out there, I have one thing to say, "GET A HOBBY!!"

For someone to drop their day jobs and pursue a cause like protesting against the renaming of crayons is beyond me. And what if the best possible outcome happens - Crayola doesn't change the names of the colors. Whoopie. Congratulations, nimrod, you've just wasted time, money, and your child's ideals on a perfectly useless cause.

Self-pity is an interesting self-indulgence that I witness nearly every day at Chowan. When someone has acquired a major personal problem, such as losing a game of pool, and they proceed to run to their room with head down and ears closed, I find that very interesting, as well as entertaining.

What kind of person does it take to feel sorry for yourself when you make a 94 on a test, instead of 100? What kind of person does it take to burst into tears because someone, who is a geek in the first place, calls you an insulting name? Who in their right mind lets something like a minor fender bender inflict permanent, deep emotional scars?

Hey people - get a grip! As a select few of you know, there is something soothing about mellowing out, and letting the world revolve as it may, without trying to slit your wrists because you broke up a month old relationship. So remember, next time you think the world is falling down on you, cheer up - the rest of the world couldn't care less about what you are doing, much less about how many parking tickets you have accumulated in the past few weeks because you were too lazy to buy a parking sticker.

Enjoy the rest of your life,

—Marty Grebing, Editor



## AAE concert a success, 200 students attend

MUSIC REVIEW—The best entertainment Chowan has ever seen rolled onto campus on January 31 and performed in the Braves Den at 6:00 p.m.

It was the dread locked reggae band hailing from Richmond, Va., called the Awareness Art Ensemble (or as most people know them —

AAE). The show they put on was by far the best this campus has seen and brought out the biggest turnout of students, estimated around 200.

Even with the great musical talent the band possesses, the night would not have been as great a success without the sound system supplied by a group from Virginia Beach. They brought a very large professional sound board and speakers.

A lot of money was spent on this concert on that one Friday night, but it was money well-spent for Chowan entertainment.

Maybe, just maybe, we can get them to come back again for an outdoor concert (how about a barbeque in "squirrel park"?). What do you think?

You bet AAE would sound even better outside. Keep hoping, and I'll see you there.

—Trey Booker, Photographer.

### Red Cross Bloodmobile visit to campus successful

The Red Cross Bloodmobile was a big success at Chowan on March 3. The goal of 80 pints from 90 people was almost reached with 70 pints from 71 people. That's an increase from previous semesters with about 14 new donors, according to Jon Olsen, activities coordinator.

Thanks to the Chowan College community for a great response.

## Chowan students visit penitentiary

By Al Biddlecomb  
Staff Writer

Every day, news of crime floods our media. Like a broken record the stories of scandal, robbery, and murder are lived out in our society. Few people get the opportunity to see what the consequences of crime bring. On Thursday February 20, the Social Science Club visited Odom State Penitentiary in Jackson, North Carolina. The prison offered the student a first hand look at the reality of the society within the prison.

Odom Prison has a population of approximately 558 inmates. Like the majority of our nation's prisons, Odom is overcrowded. According to the federal regulations, a prison must have 50 square feet per inmate. Evidence of overcrowding could be seen along the tour of the penitentiary. Inside of the inmate's day room (an area for reading, watching television, etc.) were rows of bunks lined up for the overflow of prisoners.

Prison Classification Director, Pat Smith, who led the students on the tour, said that expansion is planned to bring the prison up to standards.

"In 1981, we doubled the size of the prison and 10 years later we are faced with the same situation of overcrowding," Smith said "The voters recently passed a bond issue that will allow us to make the necessary improvements for the 50 square feet per inmate standard."

Smith also pointed out many tragedies of prison life. Statistics show that 80% of all paroled inmates commit more crimes and return to prison. The main reason for this retention rate seems to be the inmates inability to adapt to society and the slumping economy.

"A majority of inmates find themselves unable to find a job to

support themselves," Smith said. "Also, many former inmates find themselves alienated from their families and there is virtually no one to offer moral support."

Prison life can be frightening to an outside observer. Smith stated that homosexual behavior is the problem among inmates and that the H.I.V. virus among the population is as high as 60%. Violence among inmates is common, but seldom fatal. Also, the number of suicide attempts are low.

"Most of the suicide attempts are not serious," Smith said. "When an inmate attempts suicide, he is usually trying to get attention for a certain problem."

The final event of the tour was a question and answer with two inmates. This opportunity was the highlight of the tour. Both inmates sat at a table and encouraged the students to ask what ever was on their mind.

Leon Miller, a middle-aged inmate serving his third year, was the first to take questions. Miller is a "born again" Christian and answered his questions with a Christian approach. When asked about the crime he had committed, he told the student that only God and himself need to know the offense. Miller did, however, have many opinions on prison life and society.

"I believe that everyone should acknowledge that there is a higher force guiding our lives," Miller said. "I had everything a man could ask for in a great job and loving family, but faith in the Lord was something that I lacked. This void in my life has since been filled and I feel that I can face life with more purpose."

Miller also believes that education should be a high priority in a young person's life.

"If there is ever an occasion

when government has to choose between spending on education or prison improvements, education should be given the higher priority," Miller said.

The second inmate to answer questions was Kevin Massey. Massey has been in prison for seven years and is serving a life sentence for first degree murder. He is not eligible for parole until the year 2005.

Many of the questions to Massey dealt with his crime and his feelings towards what he has done.

"I feel that I should be dead because I took a life," Massey said. "I was on the streets at age 14 and by 17, I had to face the reality of committing murder."

Next, Massey was asked if he has ever contemplated suicide to make up for his actions.

"These days, I have learned to

appreciate life," Massey said. "I have found more value in life though the Bible. Taking my own life would not make up for the life that I took away."

Both Miller and Massey are part of the growing numbers of "born again" Christians at Odom Prison. Many inmates feel that religion is the only means of moral support in such a grim setting. The two inmates could not say enough about how the Bible is the answer to said deviance.

When the tour ended, the students did something that 558 others could not. They left the confines of the prison and went their own way. This is a freedom that many people in our society take for granted. This trip shed some light on what many people would rather not see. One of the best crime deterrents is the sight of the reality of incarceration.

## Cafeteria Committee Needs Your Suggestions

The newly formed Cafeteria Committee composed of students, faculty, and staff, met with Pioneer Caterers staff on February 18, to discuss the food service to the Chowan community.

Areas discussed were: menu changes, food display and arrangement, the positive and friendly attitude of Pioneer Caterers staff, having a suggestion box in the cafeteria, purchase of a microwave, and other general concerns about the food and services.

It was very evident of the real concern displayed by Pioneer Caterers to meet the needs of Chowan students and the college community. In order to meet your needs the Cafeteria Committee wants your opinion, ideas and suggestions. We want you to give your compliments, opinions, and suggestions, in writing, to the committee members listed below. These concerns will be brought to the attention of Pioneer College Caterers management. We look forward to hearing from you.

Committee members are: Winslow Carter, Susan Fecho, Bill Sowell, John Virkler, Joyce Garrison, Aldeen Gatewood, Jack Hassell, Kelly Brame, Antwyne Tyson, Mark Old, Ben Daniels, Britt Russell, Michelle Hilliard, Heidi Steiniger, Noriko Yoshimoto, O. C. Chanthirat.

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