



The Cougar Cry



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"New President on Board"



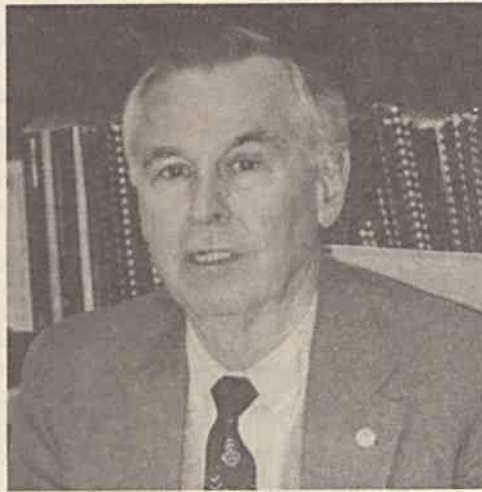
Dr. Gordon G. Burns, Jr.

New President Takes Office

On Friday, March 1, the most recent addition to the Wilkes Community College administration, Dr. Gordon G. Burns, Jr., officially assumed the office of president. Dr. Burns most recently served as Executive Vice President of Lenoir Community College and has been employed in various administrative positions since 1973.

Dr. Burns seemed very optimistic about his new position, and he was able to relate, in general terms, several ideas for the growth and promotion of Wilkes Community College. As president, Dr. Burns seeks to stress the value of community colleges, specifically WCC, to the current "down-sized" work force, emphasizing the schools' value to future economic development. Along with retraining the employees affected by down-sizing, Dr. Burns also intends to attend to the needs of those lacking basic education, including literacy training and the GED program. Of course, the college transfer program will also receive attention. In 1997, WCC will begin the semester system, which will provide for an easier transition for transfer students to four year schools. Dr. Burns hopes to lead WCC into Vision 2000, a national effort to create model rural community colleges for the twenty-first century.

Dr. Burns was welcomed to WCC and to the county during a reception held in his honor on Thursday, March 7. The Wilkes County Chamber of Commerce hosted the reception, which was held in the John A. Walker Center.



Dr. Swanson Richards

Richards Honored for Services as Interim President

The faculty, staff, and trustees honored Dr. Swanson Richards, WCC's Interim President, on Tuesday, February 27 with a reception in the Commons, Thompson Hall. Appreciation was expressed to Dr. Richards for the capable leadership he has provided during his administration as Interim President. A bronze plaque was unveiled that will be placed in Dr. Richards' garden with the following inscription: IN HONOR OF DR. SWANSON RICHARDS INTERIM PRESIDENT WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE IN APPRECIATION FOR HIS LEADERSHIP, SERVICE, AND DEDICATION TO THOSE FOR WHOM WILKES COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXISTS JULY 10, 1995 - FEBRUARY 29, 1996.

The Wilkes Community College Board of Trustees at a recent meeting honored Dr. Richards, WCC's Interim President, by dedicating a garden to him for the valuable service he has rendered during the past eight months. Dr. Richards left the College on Thursday, February 29 with Dr. Gordon G. Burns, Jr. assuming the role of President on March 1.



Easter: New Life with Peace

Easter is thought to derive its name from Eostre, a Teutonic goddess. Legend has it that she opened the gates of heaven to receive the gods who gave purity and intelligence to humans. This, in turn, was associated with spring festivals which celebrated the revival of all living things.

Enter the Easter Bunny, thought by the Teutons to turn up each year with a new egg, symbolizing fertility and new life. Decorated or plain, they were also given as tokens of long life and good fortune.

The sun, rising in the east, also played a large role in Easter and spring symbolism. Rising with the sun on Easter morn was thought to come from an ancient peasant belief that those who saw sunup on a certain spring day would be blessed with good fortune.

Some Europeans practiced the ancient custom of "sunning" their Easter food by laying it on the ground outside to absorb some rays. Others brought their animals out for some morning sun, supposedly to ensure a goodly amount of cream, milk, bacon, etc.

So as you color and hide eggs, wait for a colorful sunrise, feast your senses on newly-revived spring flowers and trees, or whatever Easter/spring rituals you follow, be hopeful that the renewal all around means more peace for all living things everywhere.

The moment of victory is much too short to live for that and nothing else.

—Martina Navratilova

Have a Safe and Joyous Easter