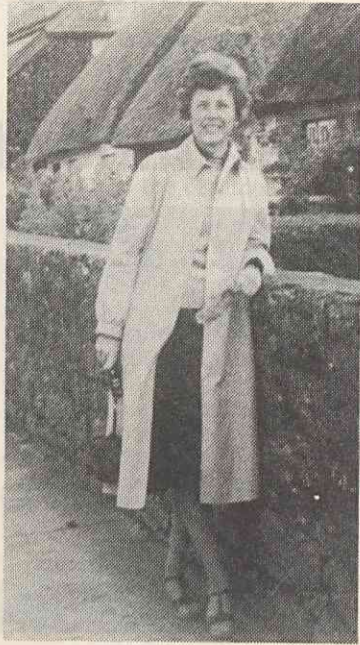


Librarian Tours Europe in the Fall

Mrs. McKeithen Takes The High Road

While most of Albemarle's students and faculty could be found in class this fall, one face familiar at Senior High could be seen abroad. For twenty-two days, in September and October, Mrs. McKeithen, librarian at Senior High, toured England, Scotland, and Ireland. She was accompanied by her mother and other members of a tour group which left for London on September twenty second.

While in London, one of the world's largest cities, Mrs. McKeithen was exposed to the



were friendly and interested in talking to Americans.

From Scotland, the group flew across the Irish Sea to Shannon Airport near Limerick, Ireland. Mrs. McKeithen spent two days in Edinborough with Graham Martin, who spent a year in Albemarle as an exchange student. Mrs. McKeithen said Graham was anxious to know about his friends in Albemarle and was a good host. Mrs. McKeithen also visited Cork, Glasgow, and Kilarney in Ireland.

According to Mrs. McKeithen, "Life in Great Britain is on a smaller scale. Material possessions seem less important, and many people live unaffected by technology."

Mrs. McKeithen says she thoroughly enjoyed her travels and recommends such a trip to anyone.

cosmopolitan atmosphere of modern Britain. Next, the group travelled to Plymouth, Bath, and Stratford-upon-Avon where they saw the Royal Shakespeare Theatre perform "Romeo and Juliet" and "As You Like It." Before leaving England, Mrs. McKeithen visited Stonehenge, the British Royal Museum, Westminster Abbey, and several of Britain's ancient and beautiful cathedrals.

From scenic northern England, the tour progressed into Scotland, which Mrs. McKeithen described as "rugged and scenic." The group travelled in a bus, which limited contact with native people, but those the group did meet



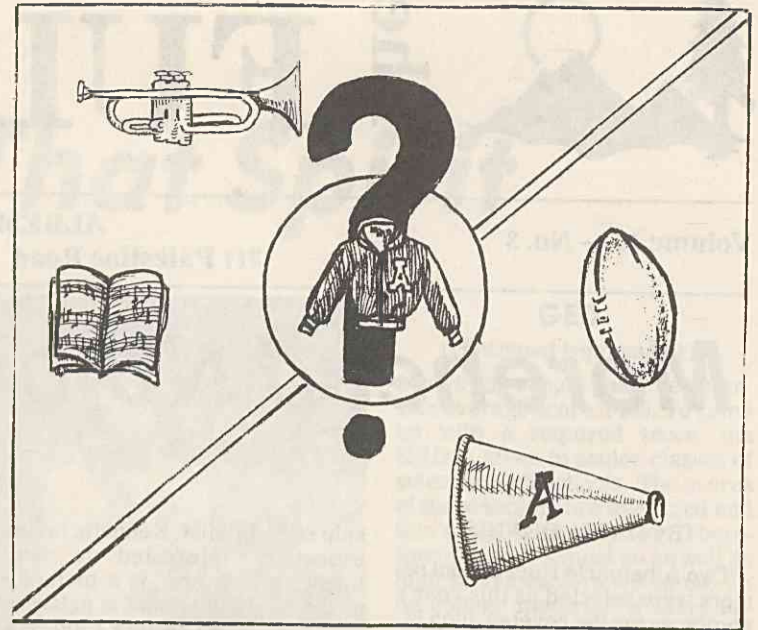
Mrs. McKeithen pauses on a busy street in Dorset.



Big Ben is one of the famous sights of Europe.



While in Edinborough, Scotland, Mrs. McKeithen visited Graham Martin and his family. Graham spent a year in Albemarle as an exchange student.



Letter To The Editor

Letter Jackets Cause Controversy . . .

By MARK CRISCO

A misunderstanding has arisen at school involving the qualifications of a letterman. Previously, the only activities that provided opportunities to earn a letter were athletes and cheerleading. This year a program was enacted to present letters to those students in the marching band and chorus who have shown outstanding participation, dedication, and leadership. Unfortunately, some students who have letters in athletics and cheerleading are complaining. These students feel that they would be "degraded" if band and chorus members would receive letters. Because of these complaints, the band and chorus have been excluded from the Monogram Club.

I wonder whether the athletes and cheerleaders have stopped to think about what activities the band and chorus perform. Each year the band begins practice about the same time that the football team does. Band members put in long hours in the evenings, after school, and during band class. In addition, the band and chorus work longer during the year than the football team or the cheerleaders do. Football, basketball, etc., are competitive sports. Both the band and chorus go to several contests during the year. The cheerleaders never compete against other cheerleading squads, yet they earn letters.

In addition, marching requires stamina, endurance, and self-discipline. Much more physical activity is required in marching than yelling and jumping up and down. Usually the only people in the stands that cheer at football games are the band members. In many instances, the band has to start cheers while the cheerleaders stand around talking amongst themselves.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not against athletes or cheerleaders. I feel that they are a vital part of our school activities. Without them, school would not be as exciting. But, perhaps our school is a bit too sports minded. Too little emphasis is put on other activities such as chorus, band, and drama. These, too, are important activities involving many students.

Long after the football and basketball seasons are over, the band and chorus continue working, preparing for contests and spring concerts. At these events the band and chorus represent our school, just as football players and cheerleaders do at football games. The band and chorus do not expect praise or special recognition. They simply want to be treated fairly and equally. For these reasons, many think band and chorus members deserve the same letter recognition as athletes, cheerleaders, and members of the Monogram Club.

Musical Forum . . .

Another Rock Band Tragedy

By DAN McKEITHEN

The heavy metal rock band Led Zeppelin has had its share of crisis during its existence. For example, a 1975 car crash seriously injured singer Robert Plant, and Plant's son, Karac, 5, died of a virus in 1977. But the most recent setback came on September 27, 1980, when drummer John Bonham, 32, was found dead in bed one morning at the two million dollar estate of guitarist Jimmy Page, the group's founder. After a late night practice during which "a large amount of alcohol had been consumed," Bonham apparently choked in his sleep. Earlier reports had indicated some connection between the death and Page's interest in black magic and the occult. These reports were later put aside.

John "Bonzo" Bonham set standards for drummers that will seldom be matched. His virtuoso drum solos were unmatched in complexity and stamina, and helped to make Led Zeppelin one of rock music's greatest touring acts. Bonham holds a concert

record of 37 nonstop minutes; a feat that very few drummers could hope to accomplish.

Bonham's death produced some speculation as to whether or not the band would continue with its U.S. tour or not. Led Zeppelin has not appeared in concert in the United States since 1977. The group has eliminated all speculation by canceling the 1980 North American tour which was to have begun on October 19th in Montreal.

Former vice-president of Swan Song Recording, Danny Goldberg, commented on John Bonham: "I don't think there's ever been anybody like him. As brilliant as Jimmy Page is, Led Zeppelin will never be the same without John. It may be better, it may be worse. But there's no one else in the world that can play drums like that."

Survived by his wife Pat, son Jason, 14, and daughter Zoe, 5, Bonzo will be missed by not only family and friends, but also millions of rock fans and the entire music industry.



THE FULL MOON

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Albemarle, N.C. 28001

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