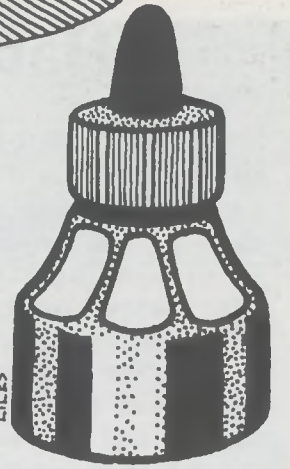
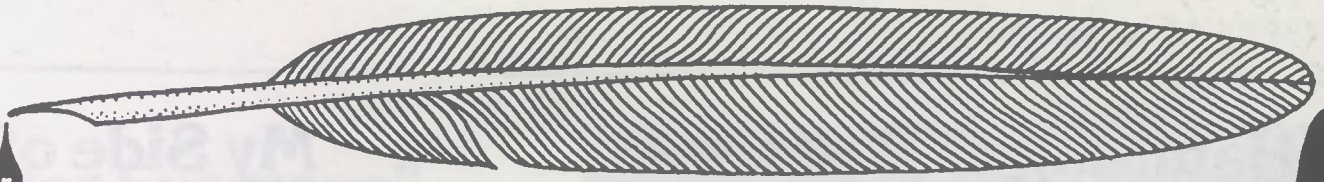


The Stentorian



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Stentorian Interview

After the Trustees Board meeting on Oct. 2, 1981, a member of the Stentorian staff had the opportunity to speak with one of the trustees, Betty Abernathy of Wilson, N.C. Mrs. Abernathy is a chemistry and physics teacher at Fike Senior High School. She was appointed to the board in 1979 by James C. Phillips, the N.C. School Superintendent. Excerpts from the conversation follow.

Stentorian: Do you think the school (NCSSM) is what you thought it would be at this early stage?

Abernathy: Yes, in fact, I believe that it's in excellent shape, I mean, we could have waited and opened it when the physical plant was complete. Yet, then there would have been so many gifted students who would have missed out on this wonderful experience.

Stentorian: What do you see as the biggest problem facing the school right now?

Abernathy: Too many construction workers on campus. Seriously, though, I know we need all the construction. Honestly, I don't see any major problem confronting us right now.

Stentorian: What was the main topic of discussion in the meeting today?

Abernathy: We went over the Director's report, of course. Beyond that, there was talk of whether or not we should freeze the student body at 400 after next year. I believe that there was a general agreement on that point that we should.

Stentorian: What is your view on admitting out-of-state students?

Abernathy: Personally, I think we need them to give the school a broader spectrum of experiences from which to work. I'm not sure, though, if the next few years will see the school ready for it.

Stentorian: Therefore, would you say that the school has filled a need in our state and/or nation?

Abernathy: I think it has filled a need, but it has not filled the entire void in gifted education. There are many gifted students in the eleventh and twelfth grades who aren't here. Many of them simply had no desire to leave home. Yet, this school should produce an impact on education that will foster many new programs. Some day I would like to see a school similar to this for every three or four counties in the state.

Williamsburg Invaded

Sleepy yawns and drowsy sighs dominated the scene as forty-six early risers set off for Williamsburg, Virginia, on September 28, at 6:45 am. Faculty members Dr. Virginia Wilson, James Litle, Jackye Meadows, and resident advisor, Tim Bodie accompanied the mixed of juniors and seniors.

Specifically aimed at those currently taking American Studies, the field trip's purpose was to enrich each student's understanding and concept of the pre-revolutionary era in colonial America.

Three tour guides were obtained to elaborate on the colonial atmosphere present in Williamsburg. Evidence of class distinction was illustrated by the showing of Wythe House owned by an aristocratic family; the middle class Powell-Waller House; and the slave quarters. Other sights encountered include the old Capitol Building (meeting place of the House of Burgesses), taverns, carpenters's workshop, pewter ware store, and a candle makers's shop. Students were also given the opportunity to break flax in the weaver's store.

A long, full day of sightseeing came to an end as students returned to campus that night at 11:00.

"I felt the trip was extremely worthwhile and that the students benefitted as great deal. We hope to make this a yearly event," commented James Litle.



The Stentorian Journey

Since the time of Homer to the present day, the ability to speak with power, sincerity, resonance, and influence has been admired by spectators and prized by possessors. Just as the Stentor, the loud-voiced herald in the Iliad, was admired by his fellow villagers, so too are modern day speakers who can capture an audience with the voice of fifty men and the persuasiveness of fifty politicians. People rely on the "village herald" to supply not only the news but also tales and ideas from all parts of the township, a collection of ideas to be shared among the contributors. To possess the true virtues of a "Stentor", one must persevere and deliver the message (truth and the sincerity of knowledge) to the curious citizens.