

Visiting Artists Are Being Sought For Community Residencies

Artists are now being recruited by the N.C. Arts Council for residencies in communities around the state.

The Visiting Artist program, which the Arts Council co-sponsors with the Department of Community Colleges, places artists at technical and community colleges to serve county-wide residencies. Visiting artists are not formal teachers but work with various groups with the county in workshops, lecture/demonstrations, exhibitions, in-school activities, readings, concerts and productions.

The application deadline is March 1. Of the 58 technical and community colleges in the state, 52 currently participate in the program. Once selected onto the program, artists are chosen by the individual schools and may participate for up to four years. Application is encouraged in all art forms.

Because the intent of the program is to provide communities with a visiting artistic resource, artists must be willing to relocate to any part of the state. Positions in the program are full-time. Once hired, artists cannot commute but must work and live in the community of the residency.

Salaries for residencies generally range between \$11,500 and \$16,500 for the nine-to twelve-month period. The minimum requirement for participation in the Visiting Artist program is a masters degree or equivalent training and experience in the applicant's art form. Applications are reviewed by arts professionals in the appropriate discipline; an audition may be required. Artists who pass the initial screening may then

be interviewed and selected by participating institutions.

The Arts Council is also looking for applicants for its Artists-in-Schools program, in which artists generally serve semester-long residencies in elementary and secondary schools. There is also a March 1 deadline for these applications. The number of positions is limited.

For more information and application forms for either program, artists are asked to contact the Artists-in-Residence Coordinator, N.C. Arts Council, Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, N.C., 27611; telephone (919) 733-7897. Arts Council staff will be available to help disabled people or others who may require assistance in completing application forms.

The Arts Council provides equal opportunities for participation in its programs to all citizens regardless of race, color, national origin or disability.

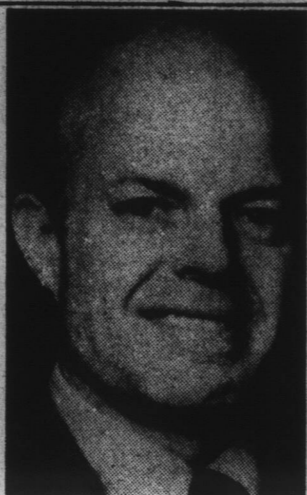
Lady J.V. Warriors Still Undeclared

On January 11, the J.V. Warrior girls played Halifax and won by a score of 28 to 12. At the end of the first half, the Warrior led by only 1 point, 10-9. Jackie Williford scored only 4 points in the first half, but came out and scored 15 in the second half to lead the scores with 19. Jackie Tetterton had 7 points and Tracy Lindsey had 2 to round out the score.

The Lady J.V.'s are now 6 & 0.



The average depth of the Pacific is more than two and a half miles.



John P. East

Students Are Back To School

By Pat Halsey
Students and teachers alike returned from the Christmas holidays last Monday, hearing signs of the many presents received and having made New Year resolutions.

The basketball teams at John A. Holmes were victorious over Ahsoskie last Friday night and they will be competing against Bertie Wednesday.

Mid-term exams will be administered Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of next week after which the students will be given a two day break.

Many English students at Holmes were given a treat Tuesday. They were entertained with "Mountain Tales" by a trio with the Edwin Gill Company. In addition to the stories, students were also entertained with a banjo and fiddle by two of the players. I'm sure it was a pleasurable experience for all involved.

Letter To The Editor

To the Editor:

I wish to express to you and your readers several (there are many more) of my objections to the recent \$29-billion federal gas tax bill.

The new tax of five cents on a gallon of gas is a regressive tax that comes in a time of recession and is added to the existing four-cent federal tax and to the North Carolina state gas tax which is already one of the highest in the nation. That is not good economics nor sound tax policy. This tax will hit the working people of this country harder than any other single group and that alone made it worth resisting.

In addition, this gas tax of five cents a gallon will have an adverse effect in our rural areas. North Carolina is a major agricultural state, thus this state will experience a negative impact. Sen. James Exon (D-Neb.) stated in a letter to his colleagues and on the Senate floor: "The clear predictable effect of the cost of his program will fall disproportionately on the rural areas." Why? Among other reasons, this tax is called a "user fee" but in fact it is not a "user fee," for one-fifth of this tax will be diverted to mass transit use in large cities of the North and particularly the Northeast. As a practical matter then you are taxing agricultural and rural users of roads, bridges, and highways to subsidize mass transit use in other parts of the country. Call it what one will - that is not a "user fee," and the economic impact is negative in agricultural states.

Moreover, the formula used to compute what North Carolina will receive from its contribution to Washington indicates North Carolina will not receive back a dollar for every dollar paid into the trust fund. Historically we

have gotten back seventy-four cents on the dollar. We have tied with Texas and Oklahoma for the last place as a "donor" state, and under the new formula we will remain a "donor" state receiving far less in return than we will be contributing.

Furthermore, this tax will adversely affect the trucking industry of this nation and North Carolina. Trucking is a major industry in North Carolina (we are the seventh largest trucking state in America) and many trucking businesses, particularly those of middle and small size, will feel a heavy brunt from this tax and added license fees. In this time of a weak economy it could force many of them out of business. In good conscience, a senator from North Carolina, keeping in mind the trucking interests of this state, could not support this tax and dramatically increased license fees this registration imposes.

Beyond burdening agricultural and trucking interests so vital to the economic well-being of North Carolina, this tax also could have a negative impact on tourism in our state. To increase the costs of driving clearly may discourage tourist activity so critical to the economic health of our entire state.

As regards the use of the filibuster to prevent passage of this bill, Sen. Russell B. Long (D-La.) stated on the Senate floor that the North Carolina senators "had every right to do what they did. The people don't want faint-hearted senators. People want senators who will fight for their position."

Finally, it is worth noting that the fruit of this lame-duck session of Congress is basically two-fold. One, it raised the pay of members of Congress (nearly \$10,000 per member in the case of the House of Representatives) which I vigorously opposed. Secondly, with enactment of the gas tax, it imposed a new tax on the working people of the country, and likewise I strongly opposed that even to the point of filibustering. I felt enough was enough. I make no apologies for my stand. I think it was right that this tax be resisted, and I trust that the people of this state, if they study this measure carefully and fully, will understand this was a carefully reasoned and principled decision, and there was no alternative but to stand and to resist. In fact, Congress should have reflected longer on this important and far-reaching legislation than it did. Obviously, thirty-two other senators, who voted in opposition with me, agreed.

Sincerely,
John P. East
United States Senator

"Art Of Fishing" Course To Be Held

Have you ever wondered how to catch those big-or even small-fish? Chesapeake Campus of Tidewater Community College is offering a course in "Art of Fishing" which covers the "how to" of surf, freshwater and big-game fishing. The course-taught by Bob Hutchinson, "Virginian-Pilot" Outdoor Editor-provides special information on fishing the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel and emphasizes bluefishing and fishing with light tackle.

The course will meet on Mondays from 7:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M. January 24 through February 28.

The fee for the course is \$30. For more information, call the Office of Continuing Education at 547-9271, ext. 270.

FACTS & FIGURES

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are more than 86 million Americans in the work force. It's also been estimated that nearly two-thirds of these workers are engaged in service activities such as communication, finance and insurance, wholesale and retail trade and government.

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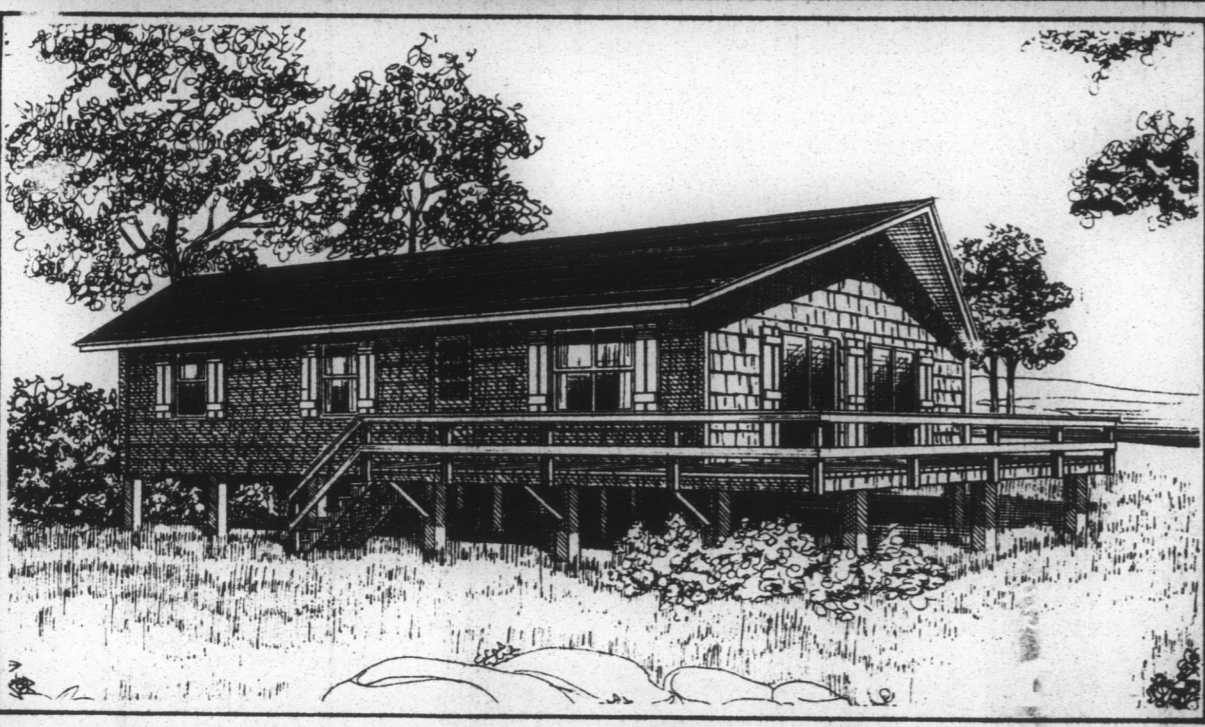
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