

Star Wars Lowered

Biotechnology development funds are back in the biennial budget being developed by the General Assembly — and this time they are likely to stay.

Ever since the legislature convened back in February, funds for accelerating biotech research in North Carolina have led an off-and-on existence, a sort of now-you-see-it-now-don't situation.

Sensing that North Carolina might be a more fertile ground for research in biotechnology than in microelectronics, a blue-ribbon study commission last fall recommended that the state put up enough seed money to attract one or two would-class researchers in such fields as agriculture, animal husbandry, forestry and pharmaceuticals.

Aware that the state had already committed some \$45 million to the development of microelectronics research, with the idea of making a Silicon Valley of the Research Triangle area, the biotech backers took the position that North Carolina offered far greater opportunities for development in the fields of biology and medicine than it did in microelectronics and computers.

Gov. Jim Hunt went along with them to the extent that he included something like \$5 million in the budget he prepared for the next biennium. His successor, Gov. Jim Martin, however, who was a chemist as a college professor, saw no need for hurry and deleted the sum from his expansion budget recommendations.

But there was need for hurry. Already such states as Massachusetts, New Jersey, Maryland and Texas were getting into the act, some of them putting up far more money than had been recommended for North Carolina. New Jersey, for example, had set about establishing a \$30-million public-private fund dedicated to biotechnology research. Massachusetts, already a leader in microelectronics, which just then was beginning to turn a little sour, began to devote more of its considerable research resources to biotech. So did Maryland. And Texas, always one to throw around big bucks, was reacting as if it had just seen the light.

Now, the General Assembly's Joint Appropriations Committee has decided to restore the \$5 million in biotech seed money to the budget. This money will be used by our research universities and the newly-established Biotechnology Research Center to generate additional millions from private industry and foundations, as well as from some of the billions made available by the federal government for research.

Through such techniques as gene-splicing, it may be possible to develop new strains of trees and plants, more resistant to drought and disease, to speed up growth and increase yields and, short, to work revolutions in agriculture as we know it today.

And through such studies as monoclonal antibodies, our researchers may be able to develop specifics for a wide range of viral and bacterial diseases, not to mention a wider range of vaccines and medicine. Or by new and original applications of enzymes, develop new and more efficient means of recycling our wastes, cleaning up our environment and establishing renewable sources of energy.

This is Star Wars brought down to earth. We are happy our legislators have been able to see it.

Discipline Program Selected

The Assertive Discipline Program in Edenton-Chowan Schools was one of fifteen programs statewide to be selected as a Governor's Program of Excellence in Education for the 1984-85 school year.

The highly successful program was designed to decrease the incidence of office referrals for minor rule infractions and set standards on classroom behavior. During the three years the pro-

Continued On Page 4



During a Monday evening fishing trip, Buddy Phillips (second from left) and Tim Brabble (second from right) managed to spot members of the Pearce family from Louisburg who were stranded on John's Island in Edenton Bay. The two men then hollered to Steve Brabble (left) and Chris Brabble who were fishing from a pier. The two boys notified local authorities of the stranded family which was soon rescued by the Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad.

Family Rescued From John's Island

Buddy Phillips and Tim Brabble were fishing in Edenton Bay Monday evening when they discovered a family that had been stranded on John's Island for two days.

The two men said they set out in their small boat from the pier next to Edenton's police station at 6:30 p.m.; at 7:30 they saw what ap-

peared to be somebody on the island waving a red vest.

The vest turned out to be a life preserver and soon Joseph and Ruby Pearce, and their grandson, Charlie Evans, all of Louisburg, would be rescued from John's Island, a swampland described by locals as an area full of snakes, insects and wild animals.

Before spotting the family, Brabble and Phillips said they heard noises coming from the direction of the island, but figured it was just the sounds birds make at the end of the day.

"At first I thought it was an owl," said Brabble, 20, of Merry Hill.

Buddy Phillips, 28, of Edenton, said he kept hearing something he thought sounded like a whistle. He soon learned that it was in fact a whistle Mrs. Pearce had found on the bank of the island.

When the family told Phillips and Brabble they needed help, the two men began hollering to Steve Brabble, 15, and Chris Brabble, 13, who were back at the pier doing some fishing of their own. The two boys alerted the police who in turn related the message to the Edenton-Chowan Rescue Squad. Soon the squad's rescue vessel, manned by Doug Belch, Thomas Jackson, Franklin Jackson and Jimmy Allgood, was on its way to the island.

At the same time Brabble and Phillips were also on their way to the stranded family, but the rescue squad beat them there. The three family members then walked out into the ankle-deep water to the rescue boat and safety. Dough Belch said the family members looked "tired and worn out" at the time of their rescue. He added that they were scratched up and were suffering from a number of insect bites.

Ruby Pearce, 49, and Charlie Evans, 13, were both treated for exposure and released from Chowan Hospital on Monday night. Joseph Pearce, 57, was not treated. The family spent Monday night in an Edenton motel and left for home on Tuesday.

The family's ordeal began as a fishing trip. At noon on Saturday, Joseph Pearce launched his boat near the Chowan River Bridge

Continued On Page 4



Pam Spruill (right) was awarded a gallion pin Tuesday at the Jaycee sponsored Bloodmobile held at Chowan Hospital. The pin was in recognition for the 8 pints of blood Pam has donated to the American Red Cross. She is shown here with a Red Cross worker.

Superior Court Session Held

Chowan County Superior Court was in session the week of June 3. The Honorable William C. Griffin presiding over the criminal calendar; Kenneth W. Patterson was the prosecutor.

Everett Felton Small was found not guilty on a charge of communicating threats.

Herbert Ray Lane pleaded no contest to a charge of trespassing. He was found guilty of the charge and ordered to pay court costs.

Larry Robert Privott was found not guilty on a charge of assaulting a female.

Nelson Issac Jones pleaded guilty to a charge of uttering a forged instrument. He received a two-year commitment.

Patricia Epps was found guilty on four counts of issuing worthless checks. Her judgement for three of those counts was three separate sentences of 181 days each suspended for 2 years on the condition she pay court costs and make restitution for each count. On another count, she was sentenced to 30 days suspended for 2 years on the condition she pay cost of court and make restitution.

Francis Patrick Jones was found guilty on a charge of assaulting a female. He received a 9 month commitment. He also pleaded guilty to a charge of misdemeanor breaking and entering. He received a commitment of not less than and no more than 18 months.

William Lloyd Berry was found guilty on a charge of exceeding 55mph (posted speed). He was fined \$25 and cost of court. He appealed to the N.C. Court of Appeals.

Grace A. Holly pleaded guilty to 2 counts of writing checks on a closed account. She was sentenced to 29 days suspended 1 year on the condition she make restitution and pay court costs. She received an identical judgement for the second count.

Melvin Lee Combs was found not guilty on a charge of DWI.

Mildred William Hayes was found guilty on a charge of assault inflicting serious injury and a charge of injury to personal property. The two cases were consolidated for judgement and Hayes was sentenced to 12 months suspended for 3 years upon condition of payment of court costs and restitution.

Ivey Lee Basnight pleaded guilty to DWI. He was sentenced to 180 days suspended for 2 years and placed on special probation. As part of the terms of the probation, Basnight must spend 7 days in Chowan County jail. He is not to operate a motor vehicle on the highways of North Carolina for 2 years.

Martin Bateman pleaded guilty to 10 counts of issuing worthless checks. For 6 of those counts he was sentenced to 181 days suspended 3 years on the condition he pay a fine of \$100 and cost of court and make restitution. For the other 4 counts he was sentenced to 30 days to run at the expiration of the 181 days. That sentence was suspended for 3 years on the condition he pay a fine of \$50 and cost of court and make restitution.

The following cases were continued: Timothy Mark Glasgow, charged with DWI, Indecent liberties, 1st degree sex offense and another charge of indecent lib-

Continued On Page 4

Budget Approved

Edenton Town Council on Monday unanimously approved the town's \$7.7 million budget for Fiscal Year 1985-86.

No one spoke at a public hearing concerning the budget which includes the first property tax increase in four years. The two cents increase will raise the ad valorem tax rate from 49 cents per \$100 valuation to 51 cents.

Also included in the budget is a 5 percent cost-of-living increase for all town employees and the elimination of a \$6,000 a year part-time clerk's position.

"We're happy we're only having a two cents increase in taxes in four years," said Councilman Steve Hampton, chairman of the Finance Committee. "We're able to keep that low of a rate by seeing that everything in town runs on budget."

Hampton said a big factor in keeping the tax rate down is the airport which has been "paying its own way" since becoming a town department. "We're also proud we're spending over a million dollars for our own hear power generating plant," he added. "That plant will help keep the power bills down."

Jaycees 1st Acoustic Jamboree

The Edenton Jaycees will host the First Annual Triple A Acoustic Jamboree on Saturday, June 22 from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. at the Jaycee Building on Base Road.

The music of Andy Faircloth, Al Briggs, and Aces-Up will be featured.

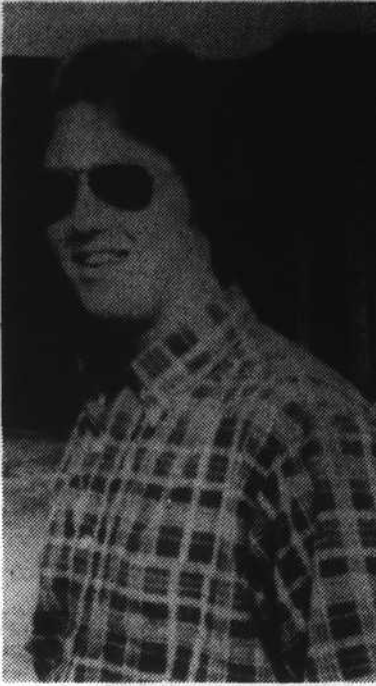
For more information concerning this event, contact Kel Elmore at 482-8411, Alan Mills at 482-4186 after 5 p.m., or any Jaycee.

Red Cross Swimming Classes

American Red Cross Swimming Classes will be held during July at the Coach House Inn pool. The first session will be July 1 - 12 & the second will be July 15 - 26. Mrs. Elizabeth Zarbock will again be teaching.

Parents may sign up their children for the morning classes (8, 9 & 10 o'clock daily) at Edenton Savings & Loan beginning Thursday, June 20, 1985. No telephone registrations will be accepted.

Those adults interested in beginning instruction should also sign up at this time. If enough adults are interested, classes will be arranged for beginners and more advanced instruction.



Neal Bass

Workshop Delegate

Neal Bass, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Bass of Route 3, Edenton, has been selected as Chowan County's delegate to the 1985 Resource Conservation Workshop.

The Workshop will be held June 23-28 on the campus of North Carolina State University.

According to Lloyd C. Bunch, Chairman of the Albemarle Conservation District, the week long course is held each year for high school students and is designed to educate and impress upon a selected group of young men and women the importance of conservation and natural resource development. The selected group will study various subjects perti-

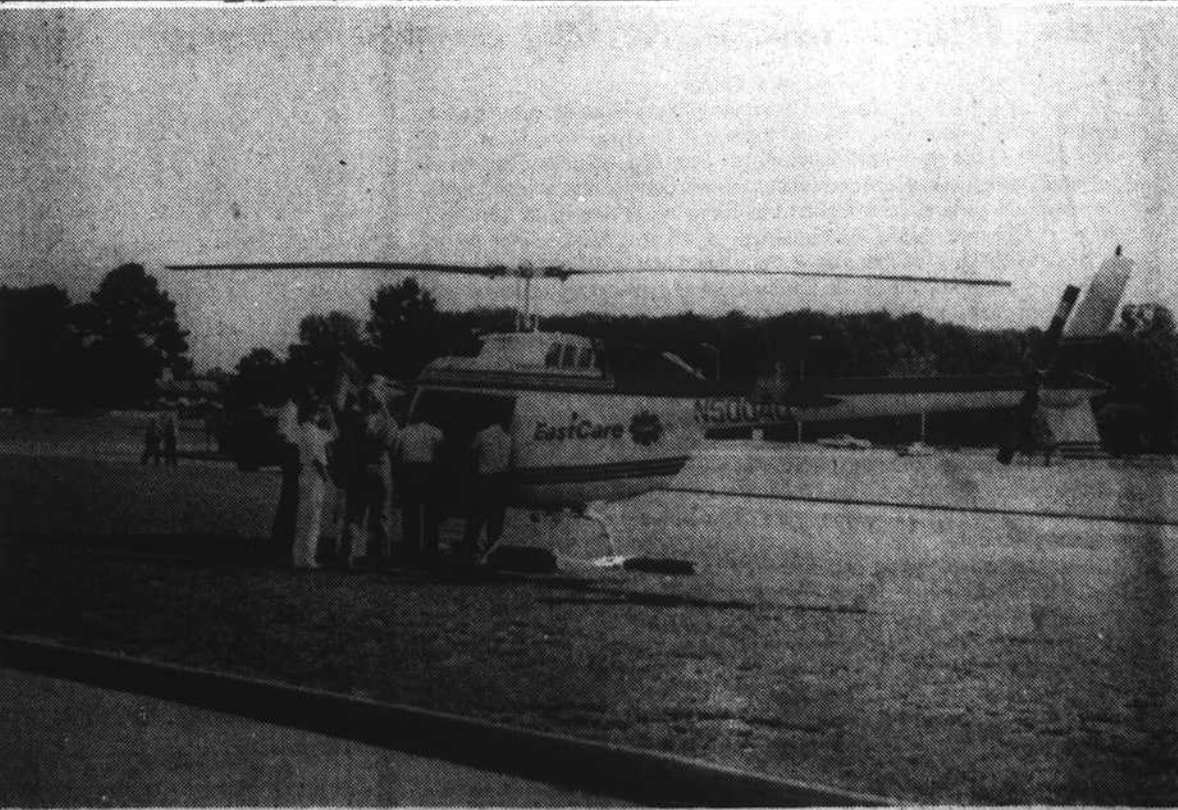
Continued On Page 4

Library's Reading Program

"Imagine...Just Imagine" is the theme for Chowan County Public Library's Summer Reading program. Children ages K to 12 are invited to join their friends in reading about anything that catches their imagination. These opportunities abound at your public library and bookmobile.

Children may begin reading in the program on June 25 and continue through August 7. Those completing reading requirements will receive a certificate signed by Governor James Martin who has endorsed the program along with State School Superintendent Dr. A. Craig Phillips.

The Shepard-Pruden Library staff is planning varied programs using the overall theme "Imagine...Just Imagine" Story times and special programs will be offered. The special programs will be held on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. beginning on June 26. Story Time for the pre-school children will continue on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 a.m. Contact the library for details.



EastCare, an emergency air ambulance provided by Pitt County Memorial Hospital and ECU School of Medicine, was at Chowan Hospital last week for an orientation session. EastCare is one of three air transport services now available to the local hospital. Others include Nightingale of Norfolk, VA, and LifeFlight of Durham, NC.