



DOUG COX, Sears-Roebuck local authorized agent of Murfreesboro, presents to President Whitaker a check from the Sears-Roebuck Foundation.

Foundation provides grant to support college work

Chowan has received an \$800 unrestricted grant from the Sears-Roebuck Foundation, and is one of 38 privately supported colleges and universities in North Carolina to receive such unrestricted grants.

The check was presented by Sears-Roebuck authorized agent Doug Cox of Murfreesboro.

The North Carolina colleges and universities are among over 900 private accredited two and four year institutions across the country which are sharing in Sears Foundation funds, which may be used as the colleges and universities deem necessary.

Other Programs

In addition to its unrestricted grant program, The Sears-Roebuck Foundation each year conducts a variety of other pro-

grams in elementary, secondary and higher education. Altogether, the Foundation is providing approximately \$2.3 million nationally for its 1984-85 education activities.

President Bruce E. Whitaker commented, "In behalf of the Board of Trustees and all of us who are privileged to live and work on this campus, I express our genuine appreciation and sincere gratitude for this gift. We commend The Sears-Roebuck Foundation for its support of privately supported colleges and universities in North Carolina and across the nation.

"The support of independent higher education by one of our nation's largest corporations not only helps to meet a great need, it helps to preserve our free enterprise system."

Batchelor discusses solar flares at Forum Lyceum

David A. Batchelor (B.S., MIT; Ph.D., UNC), Postdoctoral Research Associate at John Hopkins' Space Physics Group, was guest speaker for the Chowan Forum Lyceum in April. He discussed movies of solar flares taken with NASA's Solar Maximum Mission spacecraft.

Dr. Batchelor's academic interests include X-ray and microwave radiations from solar flares, plasma physics theory, and general astro-physics. He has published articles in the *Astronomical Journal*, the *Astrophysical Journal*, the *Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society*, and *Medical Physics*.

While he has ethereal interests and stellar achievements, Dr. Batchelor has roots in Murfreesboro. He is the son of Professor Betty N. Batchelor,

Independent colleges:

A Boon to State

WILLIAM D. CAFFREY, the author of this article, is a Greensboro attorney and chairman of the Board of Trustees at Greensboro College. This article is adapted from recent remarks before a meeting of the Guilford legislative delegation at Guilford College.

I do appreciate the opportunity to speak with our legislative leaders about an issue as vital as the continued colleges. These church-founded and church-related liberal arts institutions are in the finest historical tradition of this country. Independent colleges, in the liberal arts tradition, have been not only the cradle of liberty and justice in America, they have been the nurturing ground for that liberty and justice.

These schools and the liberal arts ideal have given us educated people who know how to learn. Modern business and industrial leaders now tell educators to give them not a finished skill product, but individuals who know how to learn and who appreciate the value of learning. Modern technology and information grow too rapidly for a finished educational product to be of much value. The ability to learn more and to recognize that need is far the more valuable education than skills that may be outdated by the time mastered.

As most of you know, I cherish the public schools. As a former teacher and principal there, and having been a product of a public university, I cherish and lift up the contributions of publicly supported institutions of higher education. My background and my learning make me know the contribution of state-supported colleges and universities to our democracy and this is especially true in North Carolina.

Yet, I am also the product of a private institution and serve as a private college trustee and as a result of those experiences, and as a taxpayer (aren't we all?), I want to lift up and recognize the substantial service rendered in the past and to be rendered in the future by our independent colleges in North Carolina—all 38 of them—and I submit they deserve the active and significant support of not only alumni and students, but of the whole broad spectrum of the community, including you as our political leadership.

Further, I submit that on any reasonable evaluation scale our independent schools should be graded "A."

First, independent colleges and universities are autonomous. Selected as they are outside the political arena, the trustees of these schools are not usually swept up by the political whim of the moment and can be a stabilizing influence in the general and, especially, the educational community. Yet, at the same time, their very autonomy avoids the danger of standardization of policy and practice sometimes present in the public sector.

Second, independent colleges offer an educational alternative (another "A") to tax-supported institutions. After World War II the ratio of public to private students was about 50/50. Since then, the percentage of private or indepen-

dent students has dropped about one percent per year. The drop has not been quite that dramatic in North Carolina. We have 44,394 full-time equivalent students in North Carolina in our 38 independent schools. In the last four years, we have lost a net of 837 students. Just about one small college.

A healthy dual system of higher education strengthens both the public and the independent sectors and is enlightened public policy. Support for North Carolina's independent colleges is the wisest possible investment of our educational funds. Educational diversity is too valuable a legacy to lose by slow starvation.

Third, independent colleges offer another "A"—accessibility to leadership development. Classes

individually are, in addition, a taxpayer's bargain. If all these students and those to come were enrolled at tax-supported schools, the costs would soar many times beyond the grants that you have provided. Increases in facility and support services might not equal the even-greater capital expenditures for new dorms and food facilities. To provide grants to North Carolina students at North Carolina's independent colleges at a lower level than students from out of North Carolina are subsidized at tax-supported universities is not an over-burdening concept.

I truly rate our independent colleges "A"—they are autonomous, an alternative, accessible, adaptive and an economic advantage, and they need to be maintained

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are small and taught by the professor who is committed to teaching. Students are also offered the opportunity to develop leadership styles and skills. By being accessible to those students who will benefit from this individuality, our independent colleges contribute more to the leadership potential of this state (and nation) than can be measured in dollars and cents.

Fourth, these small independent colleges are adaptive. They have is mutually beneficial to the taxpayers, the state and the colleges. Our common goal is to provide educational opportunities for the ed about that concept. Curricular experiments have been adopted subsequently by tax-supported schools. The pilot programs of the independent schools have provided a pattern of success for the tax-supported schools and enable them to avoid costly large-scale errors.

With primary economic dependence still upon the private sector, the independent schools remain the most free enterprise in our free enterprise system.

Fifth, independent colleges are an economic advantage to North Carolina. Employing thousands of people and adding millions of dollars to North Carolina's economy, the independent colleges are a major industry in North Carolina. They, collectively and in-

and enhanced by an enlightened policy.

Strengthening independent higher education in North Carolina is mutually beneficial to the taxpayers, the state and the colleges. Our common goal is to provide educational opportunities for the people of North Carolina and to strengthen our democracy and the fabric of our society. We continue to need your help.

Memorial scholarship established

A science scholarship fund has been established in memory of John Wesley Raymond, Sr., and Major John Wesley Raymond, Jr., who was a Chowan alumnus, Class of 1970.

Those wishing to make a donation to the Raymond Scholarship are asked to send their gifts (payable to Chowan College) to Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker, President, P.O. Drawer 37, Murfreesboro, N.C. 27855.

John Wesley Raymond, Jr., also graduated from the College of William and Mary and the Medical College of Virginia School of Dentistry.