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Interview with Charles Smith, new drama director.

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Mike Cross lights our way

by Stuart Parrish

A shadow loomed over the front row seats. The stage was dark; the house lights were out. A few tentative notes from a violin came through the big ring side speakers. The bow was drawn back, and the lights came up on Mike Cross, fiddling furiously, tapping time against the mike stand. He'd finish a tone, shake off the applause with a smile and "whoop" and dash for another instrument. Back and forth like a bird feathering a nest, he went from tune to tune. Six and twelve-stringed guitars to his left and his right; two violins rested behind him, and he, like a whirling dervish, never let the music die away.

We witnessed two cases of astral projection, the possession of a local boy by an Irish brogued minstrel, and a gospel tent finish, where he clapped and sang an a cappella encore along with his fans. A chain of children, moved by the spirit held their hands in the air and brought them together to the tapping foot on stage. They circled the auditorium and grew in number. The songs were familiar to my neighbors. Mike would play "Knobby" and smiles would break

into applause. The song "Chicken Hawk and the Buzzard" soothed several people, all waiting for their special tune.

The tunes are all special. Mike Cross is special. Deep inside an easy going, friendly fellow that I sat with in Dicks Drive-in, there looked an entertainer. He is special as an entertainer because he let someone like me sit there at Dick's Drive-in with him.

He stops in his show to do requests when he hears them, and he goes and goes. He is our spokesman, for he was no more ambitious of fame and fortune before his freshmen year than we all are. He keeps a place in Carolina hearts because we know he's never far from home in his performance.

I recognized some of his songs as those my grandmother sang and also accompanied herself on harmonica. Although his music is original, the lines are familiar to us in an almost subconscious way. He has returned to the happiness of childhood in his songs. A mind has matured, but not imposed on his soul. The wide-eye shining face of Mike replaces the face we may too often see in the mirror. That is his mission, to be our happiness when we have lost it.



Highlights during Fall Weekend included a Mike Cross concert and a special production of the play "Our Town."

H. E. W. financial aid program

By Debbie Barnes
News Editor

The Department of Health, Education and Welfare has adopted a new program that will provide approximately \$6.2 billion to students this year to help defray the cost of postsecondary education.

There are six Federal Financial Aid Programs: the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant (BEOG), Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), College Work-Study (CW-S), National Direct Student Loan (NDSL), Guaranteed Student Loan (GSL), and Health Education Assistance Loan (HEAL). All of these programs (except College Work-study), set limits on the amount of money you can receive and the number of years you can receive it. These

programs are offered here at Louisburg except the Health Education Assistance Loan (HEAL).

To be eligible for financial aid under these programs, you must be enrolled at least part-time in a college, university, or technical school.

Each program falls into one of these categories; grants, loans, or employment. Grants are gifts of money that don't have to be repaid. Loans are borrowed money that must be repaid with interest. Employment allows you to work and earn the money you need. To be eligible for aid you must fill out an application and submit it to the Financial Aid office. Then you must reapply every year. You must meet the requirements for citizenship. Undergraduates may apply for any of these programs.