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The Columns

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Auditorium/Theatre Complex-Center Stage

By BRAD JOHNSON

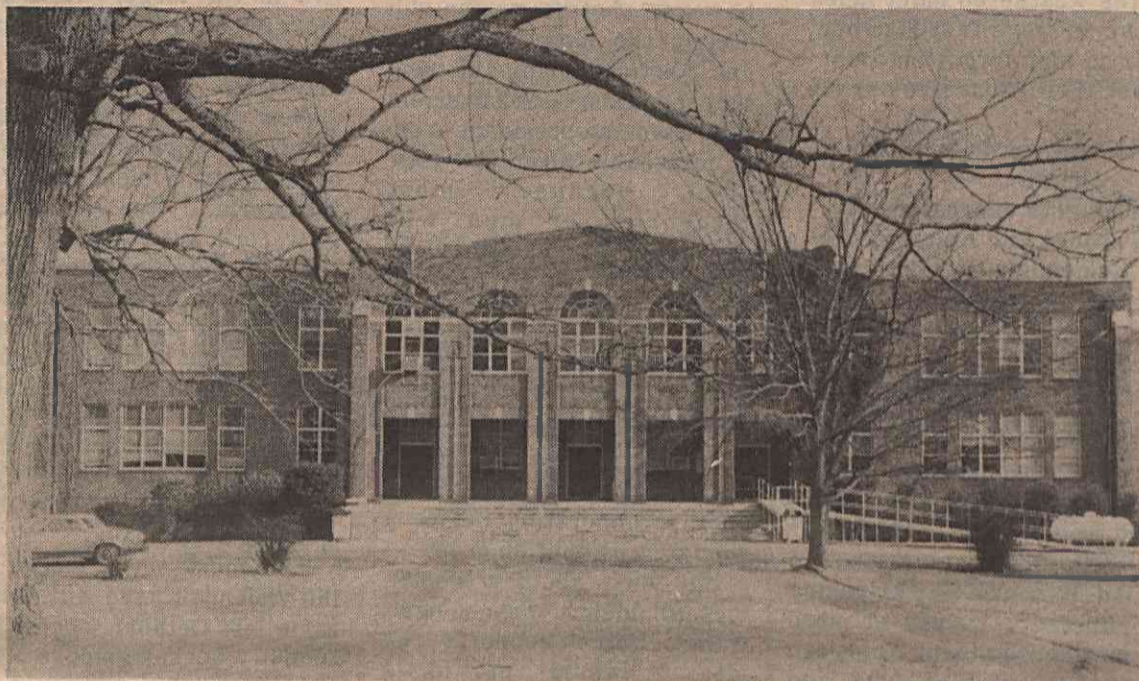
In June 1961 Louisburg College purchased the William Robert Mills Building, for the sum of \$230,000 from the Franklin County Board of Education. An additional, \$150,000 was appropriated for renovation and furnishing of Louisburg College's new classroom building.

The William Robert Mills Building was the Franklin County high school facility for more than forty years. It was named after the Franklin County School Superintendent. When Louisburg College bought the building they changed the name from the William Robert Mills Building to the Auditorium Classroom Building or the AC Building. The AC Building was to be the scene of many cultural and educational experiences in the years to come.

With the \$150,000 budget the building began to take a new shape. The seating capacity of the auditorium was increased and the lighting and acoustics were improved to make the audi-

torium the best in the northeastern part of the state. The basketball court was converted into a theatre that could seat about 110 people. This theatre is now referred to as the Plank Theatre. In addition, to the expanded auditorium and theatre, a hall was built between the auditorium and the theatre, and offices were built beside the classrooms.

The AC Building has been very useful during the past 20 years but it is over 60 years old and the cost of maintaining a building this old is unbearable. The college is now directing its attention to building a new Auditorium/Theatre Complex. The plans for this new addition are exciting. It would put Louisburg College back into the spotlight for local and regional activities. The new Auditorium/Theatre Complex would be the best facility of its kind between Raleigh and the Virginia state line. This facility will be able to offer learning experiences to either a small group of students or to a group as large as 1,200 people. The construction of this



Louisburg College A/C

Photo by KITTY McFARLAND

new complex would result in the destruction of the AC Building.

With the destruction of the AC Building the campus will have the addition of another new building; however, it will end an era. The AC Building has had many top name performers grace its stage, such as, The Guy Lombardo Orchestra, Paul Anka, and Ken-

ny Rogers. When Allen DeHart, director of Cultural and Public Affairs, was asked how he felt about the destruction of the AC Building, he replied, "When I think about the stage in the auditorium, I am mesmerized not only by the sounds of the performers, but also by those sounds that came from the audience." He concluded by saying, "Even

though I have many great memories of the AC Building, I am anxious to develop new memories about the new Auditorium/Theatre Complex." Not only are the faculty and administration ready for a new complex, the students are also anxious about the possibilities of a new Auditorium/Theatre Complex.

Brotherhood & Unity Celebration

By KELLI SWINSON

"Come on people now, smile on your brother. Everybody get together, gotta love one another right now..."

During the turbulent 1960's, this popular song expressed a message of brotherhood and unity. Today that message can be heard through the music of Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder.

"... ebony and ivory, livin' in perfect harmony... side by side on my piano keyboard, oh, why can't we?"

The Louisburg College Office of Student Affairs is sponsoring the "Brotherhood and Unity Celebration" February 19-23. The idea behind this celebration is to bring community and campus together.

The scheduled activities are geared to bring different

groups of people together for a common goal. Traditionally, February is Black History Month. This celebration should bring about a campus-wide awareness of the black history, the campaign for equal rights, the cultural, social, and aesthetic contributions Afro-Americans have made to our society.

The first events begin Sunday, February 19th. Two movies will be shown in the Multi-Purpose Room beginning at 6. The first film will raise questions on prejudice. The second film is a musical tribute to such performers as Billie Holiday and Woody Guthrie.

On Monday, February 20th, Dr. Oliver C. Johnson will speak about achieving unity. Dr. Johnson is from Cary. He works for the North Carolina

Department of Education.

Louisburg College Faculty and students will share the stage Tuesday evening for a poetry reading. Dean Eller, Ray Mize, Molly Barnes, Byrd Williams and Patricia Dunston will recite poetry from black poets such as Langston Hughes and James Weldon Johnson. They will share original poems as well.

A lot of talent will be present Wednesday, Feb. 22 in the college cafeteria. The program will last from 4:45 to 6:15. Along with a "home cooked" meal will be down-home entertainers. Among the performers will be Lori Collins, Kristina Smith, Bobby Armistead, Connie Fogg, David Critz, Charles Johnson and Dean Eller. Former students, Cindy Morris and Sonia Galloway will return as

Computer Voting: How Far Away?

By CARLA A. JOYNER

Telephone, television, automobiles, and, other technological developments have revolutionized the way we live, work, and play. The computer will probably do no less. In fact, the computer could have a greater impact on our lifestyles than any invention so far. Computers could eventually revolutionize the way we vote.

This election year people will vote by marking ballots or manipulating levers in voting machines. But in the future, instead of going to the polls, people could vote electronically from their own homes. Such a procedure would be much more convenient for voters and eventually less expensive for the government, thus allowing for more

elections and giving people a greater voice in government.

Although it seems possible to incorporate electronic voting systems for national elections, presumably they would be better suited for discussing issues at the local level. Let's take the issue of busing for example. Many town meetings have been held to discuss this particular situation. People were forced to leave the comfort of their homes, as well as waste valuable time and gasoline in order to attend these meetings. For these reasons, and many more, it has been suggested that such issues be presented on television and a system of electronic voting be established. With the use of television, people for and against an issue could be on the same program. Thus, the