

The Columns

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The Student Voice of Louisburg College

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County Fights Illiteracy

by Lisa Turner, Staff Writer

There is a new woman wandering around on the third floor of Taft. Her name is Marjorie Starrs, and with the help of Louisburg College, she has her own office.

Marjorie Starrs is the president of the Franklin County Literacy Council. It was established with combined efforts from the local branch of the American Association of University Women, Louisburg Baptist Church, and Vance-Granville Community College in May 1988. The project is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to reduce illiteracy in Franklin County.

With the help of tutors, this goal is being accomplished. Tutors are volunteers who can read and write and who desire to help others learn. Their purpose is to increase the individual's ability to read and help the individual reach his or her goals. The volunteer must complete twelve hours of training which is taught by certified trainers of the Laubach method. Volunteers pay the training cost which is approximately \$12.50. Training sessions are held frequently at designated areas, such as the Louisburg college Chapel.

Currently, a half dozen Louisburg College faculty, staff, former faculty, and a number of alumni are involved with the Franklin County Literacy Council. Tutors and students are found with cooperation from local radio and TV stations, newspapers, and referral forms distributed at social agencies, businesses, and the library.

Many students have already been tutored. At the present time, sixteen individuals are being helped. The difficulty of teaching the illiterate is usually based on the individual's age, reading experience, and attitude.

According to Ms. Starrs, most of these students's reading skills

do not exceed the fifth grade level. In addition the students may make excuses about having difficulty.

One difficulty for the student is finding time to learn while having the responsibilities of a job and family. Unfortunately, the literacy council cannot provide child care services because of their limited budget.

There are sixty-six literacy councils in North Carolina. Compared to other councils, Franklin County's is smaller. However, it is quickly growing thanks to help from the community, schools, and county commissioners. For instance, calls for help are increasing and there is a waiting list for those who need to be tutored. Also, a video is in the works explaining the Franklin County Literacy Council and how people in the community can help. The council is making so much progress that it has received compliments from the state director.

Unfortunately, illiteracy exists throughout the United States.

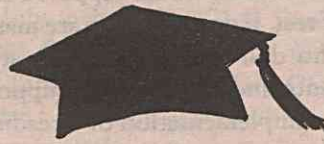
Easter Egg Hunt A Farce

by Melissa Leigh Aderhold

Students woke up Wednesday, April 11, to find that the majority of the Easter eggs put out for the hunt had been found.

According to a student who did not wish to be named, approximately five students went out around 4:00 a.m. and collected a large portion of the eggs. Students who came later found eggs with obscene notes, pieces of glass, cigarette butts, and spit in them.

Charles Johnson, Director of Student Activities, was told about what had been found. Johnson said that little could be done about it. Johnson went on to stress that the grand prize had yet to be found. Annette Partin,



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President Bush indicated recently that he believes that 100% literacy is possible in the near future. Marjorie Starrs feels that is unrealistic; however she says, "we certainly can get closer to it."

Mrs. Starrs has many long-range goals for the Franklin County Literacy Council. She says, "I would like to see them expand into the work place such as having classes at individual business sites. I would also like to see them find money to hire a full-time director, help more students, and continue to make progress."

At the present time, eight to ten volunteers would be greatly appreciated. Anyone interested in helping should contact Marjorie Starrs at the Franklin County Literacy Council office, Taft 312.

Assistant Dean of Students, who was told at the same time as Johnson, expressed disappointment but concurred with Johnson that nothing could be done.

Over four hundred dollars of student money was spent on this activity. With five people participating, this means that about .6% of the student body was involved. The suggestion was made by Dean Partin not to advertise the Easter egg hunt next year in order to avoid these kinds of problems.

Later in the day the grand prize was found by Josh McLamb. And at the time of this writing, several prizes had yet to be claimed.

SGA Election Results

by Ron Hasson, Associate Editor

Close to 200 students participated in the election of the 1990 SGA Executive Board on May 18th. Ballots were cast during lunch and dinner outside the cafeteria and results were posted later that evening. The only contested race, for Treasurer, was decided in favor of Tony Butler. The other winners, Robin Wiley (President), Ahmed Selim (Vice-President), and Angela Richardson (Secretary), ran unopposed.

Voter turn-out was twice as good as in the past few years. At one point, the ballots ran out during a lunchtime rush. Annette Partin, advisor to the SGA, said

the increased participation was "still not good, but it [was] a lot better than usual." The ballots were counted under the supervision of John Houser, Elections Committee Chairman.

According to the SGA Constitution, all students are members of the SGA. If you would like to make suggestions, ask questions, or find out how you can get involved with next year's student government, contact the 1990-91 executive board. Their box numbers are Robin Wiley - 2310, Ahmed Selim - 2549, Tony Butler - 2685, and Angela Richardson - 2847.

Steel Magnolias Production a Blooming Success

by Traci Latta, Features Editor

Comedy, drama, laughter, tears...All were to be found April 10, in the world famous Barter Theatre's production of Robert Harling's *Steel Magnolias*. The one-night performance was held in the Louisburg College Auditorium at 8 p.m., and the cost of admission was \$8. All proceeds of the evening's performance went to benefit The Educational Foundation Programs (E.F.P.) in conjunction with the Franklin County branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).

Set in Chinquapin, Louisiana, *Magnolias* is the story of six Southern women and how tragedy brings them together. All the action in the play takes place in Truvy's Beauty Salon over a period of two years. The main focus of the play centers around the character of Shelby (Dixie

and ultimately dies.

Before Shelby's unexpected and untimely death, the audience gets to see not only the life of Shelby, but the lives and relationships of the other women as well. The other four ladies are Truvy (Katherine Gay Wilson), owner of the beauty salon; Ouiser (Florence Anglin), the town eccentric; Annelle (Judy Chesnut), Truvy's new assistant; and Clairee (Patricia Guinan), the widow of the former mayor.

As in all adaptations from one medium to another, there are differences between this stage play and the recent film version; yet in *Magnolias* the changes are very subtle. Some of the lines were switched off between characters, but they were few and far between. All in all, the women gave spectacular performances. The audience was kept in stitches

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