

Cracks in Sidewall Shut Down Pool Indefinitely

By GREG BASSETT

A number of cracks in the finishing coat on the sidewalls of Helms Center's Campbell Pool have forced its indefinite closing.

School officials expect the olympic-size pool to remain closed for at least 30 days while it undergoes inspection and repairs.

Meanwhile, the college has refused to accept the pool in its condition, and has turned the matter over to the gymnasium's architect, W.D. Boone, Jr. As an agent of the college, the Boone architectural firm is held responsible and must see to the correction of the pool cracks.

Along with the cracks, severe discoloration of pool's white finish has college officials dissatisfied.

At press time it was still uncertain how drastic the pool repairs would have to be. The cracks, which have popped up in at least four places, have been examined by various pool companies including the company which installed the pool.

Chowan's superintendent of buildings and grounds, Jack Hassell, explained

the college's complicated arrangement with the builders protects the school from having to pay the costs of fixing the pool.

Hassell said that a percentage of payments will be withheld from the center's general contractor, King-Hunter, Inc. of Greensboro. King-Hunter, in turn, will deal with the specialized pool company which performed the actual pool construction, Merrideth Pool of Charlotte.

According to Hassell, independent pool experts which examined the faulty pool were surprised there were problems in a pool constructed by Merrideth. He said he has been told the company is regarded as "very reliable" and that there "shouldn't be any problems."

The pool is made of cement and a material called marblite. The marblite is the finish coat that gives the pool its white color and stone texture. Mistakes were evidently made when the marblite, which mixes in a plaster-like substance, was applied to the pool's foot-thick cement base, Hassell said.

So far there are no cracks in the cement base of the pool and none are expected. The problem lies in the marblite which is cracking and threatening to chip off.

Hassell recounted that the cracks were discovered while the pool was drained for repairs on its filter system. He said he noticed the cracks and light taps against the walls proved that at least four specific areas in the pool contained the loosening marblite.

Pool experts have guessed that improper preparation of the marblite's undercoat to be the cause of the cracks. Another theory is the plaster-like marblite was troweled too much before application. Neither cause, however has been confirmed.

Hassell asserted that no pressure had been put on either King-Hunter or Merrideth to finish the pool in a hurry.

"We wanted the best job possible," he said. "When the contract was let, there was no deadline on completion. No pressure has been put on them (the contractors), even to this day."

Hassell noted that no penalty clauses



Hassell checks pool wall

existed in the contract so there was no need to rush on the job or cut corners.

He stressed that Merrideth Pool has a very good reputation in pool construction and suggested that the faults could be in the construction materials.

More Swim Time Promised

Students will not be missing any pool time because of the closing of Campbell Pool, now drained because of cracks in its sides.

According to Jack Hassell, superintendent of buildings and grounds, the pool when reopened will remain open past November 1 to make up for the time it has been closed for repairs. That could mean the pool will stay open through the winter, depending on how long repairs take.

Meanwhile, the old pool under Columns has been reopened to handle swim classes and provide some swim time for the students.

The 208,000-gallon structure was first drained in September because of problems in its filtering system. The cracks were discovered soon after and the pool will be closed at least another 30 days while repairs are made.

Even after the repairs are finished, the recently corrected filter system must be tested, which could cause the pool to be closed even longer.

"I know it's been a big disappointment to the students," said Hassell. "It's a shame to make the students use the old pool."

Hassell declared he wanted the pool in healthy structural shape and full of "sparkling blue water" before it was reopened.

— Greg Bassett

SMOKE SIGNALS

Volume 12 Number 3

Chowan College, Murfreesboro, NC

October 15, 1980



Smiling Coach Jim Garrison gets taken for a ride by jubilant players following Homecoming defeat of Ferrum. (Photo by Todd Dudek)

Shigeko Crowned, Ferrum Downed As 4,000 Attend Homecoming Rites

By GREG BASSETT and NANCY KEEN

Despite the chilly, rainy weather which forced the cancellation of some Friday night outdoor festivities, most agree that Homecoming 1980 will rank as one of the best Homecomings ever.

"I think Homecoming was a total success, especially compared to last year," said Parker Hall's dorm council president Jeff Pishner. "It was by far the best and most exciting weekend this fall."

Parker Hall won the first place and \$25 in the dormitory decoration competition. Pishner said that he and about ten others worked day and night for two days putting together the decorations and banners that were featured throughout the dorm and at the game.

Ms. Linda Owens, director of campus programming, praised the work of the Parker residents as a "supreme group effort."

"Anything Goes" competition in the park between individual students began

Friday afternoon with a "cracker whistle", for which the students had to chew dry saltines and then try to whistle. Next was the tobacco spitting contest, to determine who could spit the farthest. The pie-eating contest was different from last year in that it was held as a race to see who could down his pie the fastest rather than who could consume the most.

Other contests completed before the Friday rain were: a two-mile relay around Squirrel Park, with teams consisting of three men and one woman, and a turtle race from the edge of the park to the "White House" with three participants: "Carter", "Reagan", and "Anderson". "Anderson" took this one; "Carter" never left the starting block.

Following "Anything Goes", there was a banquet at 6 p.m. in the President's dining room from Dr. Whitaker in honor of the homecoming court and for invited guests.

The rain prevented not only a few Squirrel Park activities, but also a funeral procession to bury the Panthers. Dr. Earl Parker did, however, present a eulogy in Columns auditorium—which was followed by an unusually lively pep-rally. After the pep-rally, West Hall was awarded a school-color spirit stick for exceptional cheering efforts.

The game Saturday saw upwards of 4,000 people jam the grandstands as Chowan rolled past Ferrum, much to the delight of the students and alumni, by a score of 20-7.

When the gun was sounded and the game was over, Coach Jim Garrison was carried around the field on the shoulders of his cheering players in a never to be forgotten victory celebration. Meanwhile, "Another One Bites The Dust," a popular rock song

that has come to symbolize this year's Braves, blared through the stadium speakers.

A Ferrum football jersey was run up the flag pole by the players. They huddled around Garrison after the game while he praised them for the victory.

"Coach Garrison wanted this game bad," said one of the players after the celebration. "The game was a personal one for him. He wanted to win it real bad. The score was 20-7, but he didn't play any of the second string."

The 1980 Homecoming Court was termed "one of the prettiest ever" by a college official on hand, and was just that. For the first time ever, a foreign student won the coveted Homecoming Queen title.

Shigeko Wakiyama, West Hall's pretty little 20-year-old representative,

(See Queen, Page 7)

Half of SGA Funds Spent In First Month of Term

By GREG BASSETT

One month into the new school year, the Student Government Association has spent approximately half of its first semester budget.

According to figures released at the SGA's regular Monday session on September 10, the student organization has \$6,746.41 left of the \$12,000 for the entire year and divided it between semesters.

SGA Treasurer Diane LeBreux noted that last year's SGA left a debt of \$624.63, thus making the 1980-81 SGA begin the semester with \$11,375.37.

A breakdown of SGA spending shows that the group has spent \$1,010.13 in weekly movies, \$1,075 on special events such as Martha, the Frisbee Dog and the magic show, and \$325 on the band "Kick."

The SGA also spent \$1,500 for "Threshold," the band that was obtained to perform for Homecoming. However, other Homecoming expenses including the cost of the film "Animal House" have not been deducted from the \$6,700 balance figure.

President Sharee Atkinson estimated at the meeting that nearly \$3,000 would be spent on Homecoming alone.

Rescue, Fire Plea

After citing the many ways they provide service to Chowan students, Chet Hill of the Murfreesboro Rescue Service and Charles Watson of the Murfreesboro Fire Department asked the SGA to "consider" giving \$250 to each of their respective organizations.

The two outlined their services to the college and the community, noting that they stand by at all football games, help coordinate and conduct campus fire drills, teach first aid and provide free ambulance service.

Watson said the fire department would need \$15,000 to operate in the upcoming year. He added that the \$500 gift to the two departments would have special meaning, having come from the Chowan students themselves.

"We could have gone to Ben Sutton," Watson said referring to the college's business manager, "But we're coming here to ask you."

Watson, who serves as Chowan's assistant director of development as well as being a volunteer fireman, asked the student body to "keep us rolling and keep us ready."

SGA vice-president Darlene Keene suggested that the student association organize a drive to raise money for the departments, but Parker Hall's Dorm Council president, Jeff Pishner, recommended the measure be tabled and discussed at a later date.

Miss Atkinson agreed the gift question should be tabled, saying it is something she would like to check into first.

"The money really should come from somewhere else," said the president. "I

think there is another fund it could be gotten from."

Festival Funding Asked

Joe Mayes, a student representing college band director Bob Brown, asked the SGA to sponsor Chowan's annual band festival. In past years the SGA has not funded the event, but this year it was recommended the SGA sponsor it.

Mayes said the total cost for the day-long event would be \$1,200, but a private source has provided \$800, leaving a \$400 gap to be filled.

Mayes noted that the event has filled the football stadium with both local townspeople and college students in past years. He also stressed that the

(See SGA, Page 6)

Spring Completion Seen For New Student Center

By GREG BASSETT

A spring completion is expected in the remodeling of the old gymnasium into Chowan's new student recreation center.

The old hangar-like gym which was built in 1954 and once served as the campus' gym and class room building, will replace facilities of Askew Student Center.

Plans call for the center to contain several activities unavailable in the Askew Center. It will feature two television lounges, a game room, a ping-pong room, conference rooms, offices for the SGA, and a complete student laundromat.

The college post office will be relocated in the student center in an expanded format, while the bookstore will be enlarged in its present location.

According to the college's superintendent of buildings and grounds, Jack Hassell, \$50,000 will be spent to refurbish the gymnasium in an effort to turn it into a "first class" student center.

"We hope to set up the student center so it can become a drawing card for all the students," said Hassell. "We want it

to be a place where the students can go and enjoy themselves."

The planning of the recreation center first began four years ago, said Hassell, when the college first planned constructing the new Jesse Helms Center. He said the plans have changed little and were conceived by a special school committee with help from student opinion.

Current layout plans call for the north part of the gym which once held locker rooms to become a game room complete with pinball machines, ping-pong tables and other game machines.

In the northeast portion of the building, a full scale laundromat will be constructed so that students may conveniently do their wash without leaving campus.

The basketball court will remain so students can still engage in some play, while there are also ideas of using the court for a roller rink, Hassell said.

The center will, the committee hopes become a popular meeting place on campus and will serve as the location for various activities, including the SGA dances which are now held in Thomas Cafeteria.

Belk Leads Race for Cup

By LYNETTE FARRELL

Competition for the President's Cup is keener this year than ever before, according to Dean R. Clayton Lewis.

Jenkins Hall has won the award for the past two years, but so far Belk Hall has the highest number of points.

On Honors Day in May, the residence hall with the highest number of points will have its name inscribed on the President's Cup.

There is annual competition between residence halls in six areas. These areas are academic averages, attendance at college sponsored events, intramural sports participation, programs sponsored by residence halls, proration, and citizenship.

A lot of work by staff members is involved in planning activities and deciding which residence halls, will win the cup this year. Attendance at college activities by hall residents and taking advantage of what Chowan has to offer is what adds up the points.

Introducing Scoop

This issue, Smoke Signals begins "Scoop" a new column which provides an insider's view of campus happenings. "Scoop" can be found on the Editorial page and will feature tidbits of news and opinion.

Interesting People on Campus

Sao Helps Refugee Family Over Familiar Hurdles

By LYNETTE FARRELL

Few of us know what it is like to go to a different country where everything is new to us. Sao Vang, a popular student, is helping a refugee family from Laos feel more at home here in the United States.

The family, which consists of a mother and four children, are living in Murfreesboro. Dr. R. Hargus Taylor, College Chaplain, asked Sao, who is also originally from Laos, to help the family. Sao was glad to help.

Sao says that "The reason I wanted to do this job is that I've been through the same situation that they're experiencing right now. When my family and I got to the United States, we felt out of place especially at the airport in New York."

A very important part of Sao's job was meeting the family at the airport. Without his help, they would have been very confused because they know no English.

Nobody in Sao's family knew English either, except for himself. He didn't

know much English, but he knew enough to get his family through.

"The only words I knew were 'Where is the toilet?' and 'Please bring me

something to eat,'" says Sao. "This may sound funny to you, but suppose you are in an airplane and you have to go to the bathroom or you are hungry

and you don't know what to say."

Sao visits the refugee family often to see if they are doing okay. It is very hard for the family to communicate with Americans.

Sao recalls his feelings when he was in the same situation. "I just wished that somehow one of my own people would show up out of nowhere and help me out." That's why Sao was eager to help out the refugee family.

"In my life I always want to help people, it doesn't matter who they are. I'm always willing to help if I can."

Sao is an accomplished artist. His drawings have decorated many of the blackboards on the campus. His "permanent display" on the board in Mrs. Marianne Jackson's office has drawn favorable comment from many observers.

One demonstration of his artistic talent is the cover he drew for the fall examination schedule last year. Another is the taunting banner displayed at the Homecoming victory over Ferrum.



Sao creates a work of art