

Wednesday
Film Festival
Enter The Dragon
February 5, 8:00 p.m.

SMOKE

January 30, 1986

STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF CHOWAN COLLEGE

SIGNALS

VOLUME 14

Number 7

Chowan Freshman Practices Patriotism In Daily Life

By Herman Gatewood

Patriotism is more than a subject discussed in class for Suzie Hughes, a Chowan College freshman who has hopes of teaching the deaf and working with handicapped people. It is a way of life and something she incorporates in her daily routine in high school and at Chowan.

The young teenager begins and ends her day by paying tribute and respect to the American flag, and passersby of Chowan's historic McDowell Columns building see her at dusk and dawn reverently raising and lowering "Old Glory".

During the summer months, when Suzie visited the campus for freshman orientation, she noticed that the college flag pole was empty. "This bothered me greatly," she said, "because I'm very proud of America and our flag should always be flown as a symbol of our freedom and all the things which make our country great."

Returning in late August to begin studies as a pre-education major, Suzie again quickly noticed that on some days the flag was not raised and on others, when it was displayed, it was raised and lowered at irregular times.

"I went to see Mr. Ben Sutton, the business manager, to find out why such an important responsibility was overlooked and neglected," the student related.

Suzie learned from the business manager that one of the student organizations had previously assumed the flag responsibility, but it was difficult for members to maintain a rigid schedule in raising and lowering the flag. She told Sutton of her respect and love for the national standard, and volunteered for the job because she

wanted to make sure that "Old Glory" was displayed according to established regulations.

"I was delighted when Mr. Sutton said that I could have the job," Suzie exclaimed, "and he even gave me permission to keep the flag in my room each night!"

Since gaining permission, and the appreciation of college officials, Suzie leaves her residence hall at daybreak each morning to raise the flag, and then on to her breakfast in the college cafeteria. When classes have been completed, and the day draws to a close, Suzie diligently returns to lower the flag, fold it properly, and reverently take it to her room for safekeeping through the night.

"A lot of people think I'm crazy to do this," she says. "Some of my friends jokingly call me 'the flag lady' or 'Miss Betsy Ross', but I don't mind. I'm proud of my country and I love America dearly."

Pride in her native country is deeply instilled in the amiable young lady even though she has faced many hardships in her nineteen years of life. Suzie was born in nearby Aulander, but grew up in five different foster homes and recalls some unhappy experiences as a foster child. Since such children are not allowed to live for extended periods in a particular home, she has never known the joys of "family home life."

Suzie says she has no place that she can really call home even though several relatives maintain a room for her in their homes. She appreciates this and the Baptist Kennedy Home where she resided during her high school years.

"When people ask me where my

home is, I tell them I feel at home at Chowan College," she relates. "Here, I have my own room, I have friends, a nice place to take my meals, and I have come to know what it must be like to have a family." Suzie has two brothers but she rarely gets to visit with them.

Suzie graduated from North Lenoir High School, near Kinston, where she was active in several clubs and maintained a good academic record. The American flag received correct attention at the high school, because Suzie received permission from the principal to raise and lower the school's flag each day and performed the duty throughout her four years as a student.

"Our high school flag was in poor shape," Suzie related, "and I asked several times if a new one could be purchased." When no new flag was received, Suzie saved money from her part time job as a waitress and purchased a flag to fly over the high school she appreciated so much.

"I didn't tell anyone I had bought the flag because I didn't want any recognition, but I sure was proud one day during school assembly when the entire student body learned what I had done!"

Discrepancies were found in Chowan's flag, too. Being knowledgeable of flags and protocol, Suzie points out that the American flag should always be the larger if it is flown on the same mast with a state flag, as is the case at Chowan. "I asked Mr. Sutton to get a larger flag for the college, and he said he would," she said.

Sutton, who said Suzie's admiration for the flag and her patriotism is "an inspiration for all of us," contacted Senator Jesse Helms and requested a

flag which has flown over the Capitol Building in Washington.

The attractive redhead, who possesses a bubbling personality, quick wit, and a keen mind, plans to major in deaf education and history during her college career. Already proficient in the deaf sign language, she says "I hope some day to work full time with the deaf and I also hope that one day I will be able to adopt a deaf child for my very own!"

Her use of hands in the sign language has not come easy. Suzie had an accident during high school, and two tendons in her right hand were cut as well as a nerve severely damaged. Surgery followed, but doctors gave little hope for regaining use of the fingers and hand.

"I sure wasn't going to let a cut hand keep me from doing what I wanted to do," Suzie emphatically stated, "and I told my doctors that I would so use my hand again!" She worked diligently exercising the fingers and hand to gain complete recovery. "I sure can't teach deaf people unless I can use my hands to talk," she states.

Suzie wishes there were some deaf people in the area for her to "talk" with and spread her patriotic philosophy. Active in Chowan's Baptist Student Union she has, however, gained a wide circle of friends and looks forward to each of the weekly meetings.

The future teacher loves life and people, but she says her greatest love is for her country and its flag. "We take so much for granted and we sometimes fail to appreciate what we have here. I guess my flag is a reminder that I have so much to be thankful for, and so much to live for."



The day just "doesn't seem right" for Suzie Hughes unless the American flag flies correctly on the mast in front of McDowell Columns. The freshman student says the national standard is a reminder of the many things for which we should be thankful.

Webster's Dictionary Being Updated for 1986

David B. Guralnik is one of those people who find themselves never at a loss for words.

Guralnik and his staff on the Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language are coming up with too many words as time draws near when the modern-day classic work is due for a major overhaul.

Big revisions take place every 12-15 years, compared with the biennial revisions that may deal with just hundreds of terms.

The standard reference work, first published in 1953, is being fully revised for the second time. Guralnik said he expected the word count to be thousands higher than the 160,000-plus in the current edition, which compares with 145,000 words in the 1953 original.

"No matter how hard you try to cut it, you find out that language, and even the useful language, keeps growing apace," the Cleveland native said in an interview at his downtown office. "There's an enormous amount of stuff that has to go in. No matter how hard we try to prune it and cull it, we still end up with more than we have room for."

Although a heavier, thicker book could accommodate the additions, the college dictionary by definition must be kept trim enough to be portable. But it must also be comprehensive enough to be useful to a graduate student.

So the extra few thousand words will probably have to be squeezed in with the help of more abbreviations and smaller type.

Present at the creation of the New

World Dictionary, which so far has sold more than 70 million copies, Guralnik has had to operate under a succession of owners. The Cleveland based World Publishing Co. was sold to the Times-Mirror Corp. in 1963, to a British concern in 1974, then to Simon and Schuster in 1980.

Despite that, staff turnover has been slight, caused mostly by death or retirement, since the company is oriented to long-term projects and lacks the floating pool of lexicographers available on the East Coast, Guralnik said.

"We haven't operated that way," said Guralnik, who refused to move to New York on grounds that he gets a wider linguistic perspective in the Midwest.

That perspective comes from poring over about 200 million words of running text a year, including comic strips, fiction, newspapers, scientific and technical journals.

Part-time "citators," as word-hunters are called, also send in examples from around the country. The dictionary staff relies in part on contributions from retired academics in diverse and more remote parts of the country.

The staff gets about 50,000 citations a year, and the current file stands at 1.3 million. From those will come about 40,000 or 50,000 discrete "lexemes," which means a word or stem that is a meaningful unit.

Those could be new terms or new meanings of current terms, or terms

that were encountered before but not frequently enough to put in the dictionary, or an old term that for one reason or another has become popular again.

Computers have found their way into dictionary making, but not as completely as could be expected.

Eventually, he said, there will be a

wide enough range of reading material accessible by computer so that more citational work will be done automatically.

Even then, computers will not be able to put dictionaries together.

"It will still take a human mind preferably, a poetic mind," he said.



Halley's Comet was just a pale smudge the other night. Gazing west southwest under the cold starlight, we shared our ragged bits of star savvy. It took a little while, but it was fun to find Halley's Comet a few hours after sunset—even if it was nothing more than a fuzzy dollop of light.

Most of us have only one chance to see Comet Halley, which certainly enhances the drama of its 76-year periodic visit. Some who'd seen it 76 years ago had perhaps seen the famous Daylight Comet instead—brighter, more sensational, flaring down from the January sky. But most who saw the comets in 1910 remember them as glorious. The 1986 visit will be less spectacular than what Mark Twain called the "magnificent old conflagration" of 1910.

Celebrating the New Year

Champagne flowed and spirits soared as Americans bid a joyous farewell to 1985, crowding streets, fancy ballrooms and private parties to ring in 1986 with fireworks, music, and even weddings in New York City's Times Square.

The Orange Bowl Parade rolled Tuesday night in Miami with Mickey Mouse as grand marshal, and hundreds of thousands of revelers gathered overnight for the Rose Parade set to kick off Wednesday in Pasadena, Calif., and the Mummers strut in Philadelphia.

Videotaped messages by President Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev were broadcast Wednesday in the United States and in the Soviet Union.

Rock impresario Dick Clark threw the rice after Victoria Sanderson and Wayne Chew married on network television shortly before midnight Tuesday, in a club with a panoramic view of up to 300,000 revelers packed into the rainy streets around Times Square. Another couple also married in Times Square.

New Year's Eve revelers in Nashville celebrated aboard a paddlewheeler, while amateur Chicago sleuths chartered an "El" train for a gourmet dinner and the chance to solve a murder mystery.

Elsewhere, fireworks exploded and there was enough spirit for parties in Las Vegas' downtown Glitter Gulch—one starting at 9 p.m. to accommodate a network TV broadcast at midnight EST.

About 100,000 people were expected in the nation's capital for the third New Year's Eve party at the Old Post Office Pavilion on Pennsylvania Avenue near the mall, for rock music, fireworks and ballroom dancing inside.

"Times Square has more of a history, tradition," said Mayor Marion Barry, Jr. "But we're gaining on them."

In Chicago, 79 people paid \$104 each to watch the actors of "Homicide, Ltd." people a whodunit aboard a chartered Chicago Transit Authority elevated train. The audience had to solve the mystery before the ride ended Wednesday.

About 450 people rode the General Jackson showboat for the paddlewheeler's New Year's Eve cruise on the Cumberland River near Nashville, Tenn.

An estimated 300,000 people jammed Times Square for the festivities, highlighted by the descent of a giant apple down a flagpole at midnight. The celebration which began in 1908, "speaks to something that's ancient and pagan in all of us," said Tama Starr, timekeeper for the apple drop.

Mickey Mouse was grand marshal for the Orange Bowl Parade. "A Dream is a Wish" was the theme of the parade featuring 32 floats and 21 bands.

Philadelphia's Mummers strut, billing itself as the world's longest parade at 13 hours, geared up for Wednesday. Other Southern California New Year's Eve celebrations include a Halley's comet party at Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles.