



# SMOKE SIGNALS

THE STUDENT NEWSPAPER  
OF CHOWAN COLLEGE

OCTOBER, 1992 VOLUME 20, NUMBER 1



The newest member of the Department of Art with some of her work.

## Elizabeth Vick joins art faculty

Elizabeth Michael Vick is the newest member of the Chowan College Department of Art. She will be teaching art history and studio courses in painting and drawing. Originally from Charlotte, Vick received her B.A. degree in studio art from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and her M.F.A. from the Uni-

versity of North Carolina at Greensboro.

A representational artist, Vick specializes in painting, using mostly oils. Her art has been shown all across the state and in New York City.

She currently lives in Jackson with her husband, Jerry, whom she met at Chapel Hill. Married just

over a year, he is an attorney in Jackson.

"I've always painted," says Vick, "even if it was with my mother's lipsticks on the walls."

Excited about her classes, she says, "I expect my students to do great work. I would like to get their work into local competitions. There is a strong art department here. We have great facilities."

She has been teaching part-time since 1987 in various places including Elon College, the Center for Creative Arts in Greensboro, Guilford Technical Community College, Halifax Community College and even a private school in Spain.

## No yearbook: school year may be forgotten

By Jessica Kiser

Rumors have been flying around the Chowan College campus about the fate of the student yearbook for the 1992-98 school term. Dr. Jerry Jackson, president of the college, gave the official word September 24.



Jessica Kiser  
Co-Editor

"The recent budget cuts at the school are the lesser of the reasons why there are no plans for a yearbook. The main reason is a lack of student interest," Jackson stated.

Jackson cited the lack of yearbook staff put in place prior to the beginning of the school year and past experiences in which student interest dwindled as the school year progressed.

"The yearbook is a student publication," Jackson stressed.

"I believe that if we are going to have one it needs to be put together by students."

Chowan has had a yearbook

printed every year since 1911 according to records found in the Whitaker Library Antiquities Room.

Although many faculty, staff, and students have expressed their displeasure with the break in tradition, Jackson still believes that it is the student's responsibility to do the work required to put a yearbook together.

"If we had the student interest, the money could have been found in the budget," Jackson said.

Even if interested students came forward now Jackson did not foresee a yearbook being done this year.

"By this time last year, one-fourth of the material had been turned in for the yearbook."

Although the 1992-93 academic year is supposed to be a historic one as Chowan makes the transition from junior college to four year college, it is a school year that will not leave a yearbook with its moments captured in time.

## Political change depends on the voter

By Al Biddlecomb

During the last presidential election, only 52% of all eligible Americans actually voted. During Congressional and local elections, the numbers are even lower. This drop in voter participation has been a steady trend in our society since the end of the Second World War. The lack of involvement on the part of the American people has opened the doors to corruption as well as the stalemate of our legislative system. With less Americans going to the polls, politicians are more willing to appeal to special interest groups rather than their constituents. The only way to reverse this trend is for Americans to increase



Al Biddlecomb

their awareness and become more involved with the political process.

Election day 1992 could be the beginning of a new era in the American democracy. Events surrounding the House banking scandal have caused many incumbent Congressmen to not seek reelection.

With all 435 seats in the House of Representatives up for grabs, some experts believe that as much as two-thirds of the congressional seats could change hands. This, along with the upcoming Presidential election, can make the biggest change in our government's history. With all this potential for change, there is no excuse for a low voter turnout.

Participation in politics, however, should first take place on the local level. At this level, the indi-

vidual voter can have more of a say in what goes on in the town or community issues such as the spending of local tax dollars, development and education are always open for public debate. Large groups of local citizens rarely take part in this process. This is the breeding ground for the making of bad public policy.

Local leaders cannot make effective decisions without first knowing the opinions of the public.

Through much of this nation's history, state governments were a strong force in our democracy. Today, most state governments are at the mercy of the federal bureaucracy. In California, legislators quarrel among themselves while the state goes deeper in debt. Louisiana voters recently had the ominous choice of choosing be-

## Hurricane Andrew

### Are we REALLY helping?

Windows were broken, houses torn down, trees smashed through roofs and windows, people were knocked back by the wind's velocity. For the people involved it seemed like forever before the storm finally subsided so that they could assess the value of the damage.

Why did anyone stay if they knew they were in the path of the hurricane? Because they have been through it before and were scared looters would take everything they had. Some did because they didn't have anywhere else to go.

Many people on this campus ask how come everyone's so concerned about something so far away? The reason we are concerned is that it directly affects some of our students. Lewis Oliveros, Nester Verona and Amador Padilla were all effected by the storm. They could not get hold of their families until the storm did subside. Their mental anguish was enough that they could think about nothing else until they finally reached their loved ones.

Even after they reached their parents, they were scared because of the property damage that they would be faced with when they went home. Some of these students' homes were destroyed or wrecked.

Angel said that all the trees in his yard are gone. That seems like just a small feat, but some of those trees have been up for several years, and in just a few hours were totally blown away.

After the storm, people in the US seemed to unite to help. They all sent donations, clothing, food,

and anything else that they thought could be used to rebuild the cities. Some lumber companies even donated lumber to rebuild houses. The military was also sent to help clean up the mess involved. It seemed like Americans were finally working together. We were united for a cause — or we were.

Some Americans chose to take advantage of the situation to make a profit. Bags of ice rose from



Lisa Lewellen  
Reporter

\$1.00 a bag to \$15.00 a bag. People from Orlando came down to sell can goods for \$3-\$4 a piece. Lumber doubled in price and some land lords raised their rent. How could they take advantage of these people in their time of need?

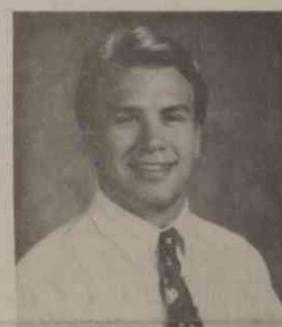
Americans are very profit minded. They just want to do something to make a buck. The morally right Americans need to show people what giving really is. We need to stop the thinking that all things should be done for profit. We need to show people that it's not okay to take advantage of those in need.

## Rich Gray has plans for SGA activities

There is a man on campus with big plans for Chowan College and his name is Rich Gray. For those of you who don't know him, here's a little background:

Rich is from Douglasville, Georgia. He spent four and a half years in the Marines working with the Presidential Honor Guard; all the while wrestling internationally in such events as the Pan-AM Games.

This year Rich is filling several roles at Chowan. he is the president of the Student Government Association as well as the head wrestling coach. To take a brief look at the Braves Wrestling team, Rich feels that this team has "lots of potential", including four Academic All-Americans. Coach Gray is looking to finish in the top fifteen nationally, but it won't be



Rich Gray  
92-93 SGA President

easy. This is Chowan's toughest schedule ever including six Division I schools.

In his role as SGA president, Rich is full of optimism. According to Mr. Gray, this year's SGA is "more structured" and "light years ahead of last year." SGA is for the students and "you only get out of it what you put into it."

SGA plans for this year include such events as the reggae band Moving Parts on homecoming as well as two performances by alumni David Glenn. In the spring, SGA plans to bring two big names to Chowan for a fund-raiser. Who, you ask? You have to wait and see...

## BSU offers more than just meetings

BSU is the primary religious organization at Chowan College. We are composed of students and our sponsor is Kelly Brame. The group has weekly meetings every Thursday at 7:00 pm. This is an informal devotion/worship hour where students come and talk and fellowship with one another.

BSU does more than just have weekly meetings. There are retreats that we attend along with conferences and other activities. Already this year we have attended a volleyball tournament where schools from the eastern half of Carolina were invited. We spent one weekend at a camp/retreat near Little Washington. On this overnight trip, we participated in swimming, sailing, canoeing, fire-side chat, and other activities.

We are also a service organization. Chowan BSU sends out mission teams which are groups of about 4 individuals who teach and lead youth for a weekend and perform the worship service on Sunday morning. This is one primary way we raise money while getting to know area churches and their members.

tween a racist and a political crook for their governorship. When voters show little interest in what goes on, events such as these are almost sure to arise.

Participating in the political process can be as simple as voting or as extensive as joining a political organization. Registering to vote is a simple and painless process. Many other democratic countries place penalties on those citizens that do not vote. Requiring Americans to vote would not be the solution. Exercising the right not to vote is just as basic as the right to vote. If we do not vote, however, do we have the right to complain about how our government is being run? Voting is a way of making a stand for something we believe in. If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything.

desirable areas of Hertford County. Becoming individual land owners, the Meherrin Indians had to conceal their identity in order to survive in the racial climate of the pre-Civil War and post Civil War days. Racial prejudice prevented the Meherrin Indians from re-organizing as a tribal group until 1977. There were vain attempts in the late 1800's and early 1900's, however, the events of the time (prejudices, factions in the community, governmental interferences, etc.) prevented the tribe from openly acknowledging its continued existence and Indian heritage.

In 1977, the Tribe chartered itself as a non-profit organization under the leadership of the late Chief Rueben R. Lewis. Since that time, the Meherrin Indian Tribe has directed most of its energies toward cultural awareness, state recognition and eventual Federal Acknowledgement as a tribe.

The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs granted state recognition to the Meherrins in 1986. After satisfactory compliance with state criteria for such action, the Meherrin Indians join the Lumbee, Waccamaw-Siouan, Coharie, and Haliwa-Saponi whom are all state recognized tribes. With this recognition behind us, we are now tackling the future which will include Federal Recognition, economic development, and social and cultural retention.

The present-day Meherrin Indians reside in rural northeastern North Carolina with a majority of tribal members living in Hertford County in and around the county seat of Winton, N.C. Most live near the former Meherrin Indian Reservation that was at Parker's Ferry at the mouth of the Meherrin See Meherrin, Page 4