

## Cougar's Conscience

### A WHAT?

"An editorial," repeated Mrs. Hayes (the very capable faculty advisor who does much more for the benefit of the paper than advise).

"Yes, ma'am, I know what you said, but I have never written anything good. It's hard enough for me to write a good check."

"Well, John, now that you are an editor you must write editorials. It goes with the job," my advisor smiled patiently.

Can you imagine an editor who can't spell, punctuate, or write? (Pete Mann will strengthen that). How about an editor that can't read? (Bob Goforth can prove it).

Fear not! THE COUGAR CRY is alive and well. Just because the editor has fallen victim to Peter Principle does not mean trouble. Quite the contrary. Now comes the good news. Aside from our very able and competent advisor, we have a co-editor who is smart, skill-

ful and well qualified and who uses the name Nancy Culbreth. The talent does not stop with Nancy. Look at this lineup of gifted ability that will be applying the tears to make THE COUGAR CRY.

Charles Osborne, Carlton Waddel, Glenda Stanley, Jimmy Kerley, Sylvia Haymore, Jerry Rhodes, Frank Perez, and Bob Gracely.

A special thanks to Janice Campbell whose artistic abilities put words into pictures so this editor can "read the paper."

With the combination of all this talent, I am sure you will be well pleased, even proud of the COUGAR CRY.

We solicit and welcome your comments and criticisms (and praise) — This is your paper too, ya know!!

From each of us — especially for you — we sincerely wish you a very merry Christmas and an editorially Happy New Year.

— John Cashion

## A Church Without Prayer

By John Cashion

For the first time in my life I attended a church service where not even one single prayer was uttered.

The place: North Wilkesboro Baptist Church.

The time: Sunday, December 9, 1973, 8 p.m.

The occasion: presentation of the Christmas Concert by the Wilkes Community - College Symphony and the Wilkes Community Chorus.

The choir loft was jammed with choir members from different churches in the community, the symphony — large. People came, and came, and came. The house of God, believe-it-or-not, was near full.

The music man (Fobert Mayer) approached the podium with baton in hand. A dead silence. A perfect time to pray, but no prayer. Someone really fumbled the ball. Everybody knows you don't start any kind

of church service without at least a small prayer, especially at the North Wilkesboro Baptist Church. I wondered if God would forgive them for such an oversight.

The baton was raised. The music started. For the next thirty minutes I was completely alone, in the midst of the most beautiful prayer I think I have ever heard. My heart swelled with pride as the Wilkes Community-College Symphony and the Wilkes Community Chorus blended to produce tears in many eyes.

The faces of all present seemed to echo the voice of God saying "Well done!"

Not long ago, the blowing of horns and the beating of drums in a prominent Southern Baptist Church would have been unheard of. Times are changing.

Thank you, God.

## Christmas Expressed

By Glenda Stanley

If the decorating bug has already bitten you or is about to pounce and inject your body with decorative enthusiasms, then you'll benefit from the numerous ideas that Mr. Townes, our horticulturist, has shared with us about the selecting of Christmas trees and making your own arrangements.

First of all there are three types of trees; the manufactured tree, the commercial tree, and the traditional tree. The manufactured tree's primary purpose is to cut down on fire hazards, and to save the decorative considerable time in an annual selection of just the right tree. This type tree is made from aluminum of synthetic blends that aren't combustible. It takes very little care and can be disassembled and stored in a small area. Because this tree is artificial, the buyer should select a tree as close as possible to the color and texture of the traditional tree.

The balled-burlapped commercial tree is beautiful as well as economical in that it can be successfully transplanted. These trees are usually fraser fir, sheared white pine, or the Norway Spruce. With a minimum of care, any of these

trees will last inside the house throughout the Christmas season as long as their roots are kept moist. Furthermore, to spray a mist of water over the branches will sustain their beauty. For transplanting, they should be thoroughly soaked in a large tub of water with the burlap attached to protect the roots from separating and getting damaged. Then place the balled-burlap tree into a hole twice the size of the ball. The hole should be lined with good garden soil and saturated according to needs. A word to heed is that the fraser fir and Norway spruce do not do well in Wilkes county; therefore, it would be wise to purchase the sheared white pine for successful transplants.

Last and certainly the most



## A Dying Ecology

By Glenda Stanley

First of all, it's necessary to establish what strip mining is, how it is harmful, and in conclusion, the imperativeness of controlling it. Strip mining uproots and destroys every plant and animal as well as leaving canyons where once stood mountains. Plains are reduced to formless chaos, and streams are polluted from silt.

Approximately 4,650 acres a week are stripped for their coal beds which sometimes lie 180 feet below the topsoil. The sinister part is that the United States has 48% of the world's coal reserves under 15% of the United States land surface. If Illinois and Iowa were stripped to their full potential, there would be very little pork for ourselves and no grain surpluses for sale to an underfed world.

Furthermore, the mere fact that you own or farm the land does not stop the strip miners. The Bureau of Land Management has leased hundreds of acres and has only to tell you that they are taking the "surface right of your farm, grazing, field, or wheat field to strip mine. Also, Florida has vast phosphate beds and to

date has had 178,000 acres ravaged. In Vermont ski country, they're drilling for copper with plans for extensive mining operations. And here in the Appalachians with its beautiful hard and soft woods, recreational potential untapped, the mountains are tumbled down so that the Tennessee Valley Authority can furnish light and power to the slums and suburbs.

In the past, state laws have attempted to control stripping by forcing mining companies to obtain permits, file claims for reclaiming the sites, and for restoring the land as close as possible to its original composition as well as contour. But still Congress is just weighing federal strip mining legislation.

In the meantime, must we sit back and see miles of cultivated farm lands devastated? Shall national forests and parks, wildlife preserves and recreational facilities be stripped and raped of future use by humans or animals? Visualize a resort beach with a drilling rig in the center. Where will we go from here to place restrictions on mining without cutting ourselves out of vital fuel, coal, oil, gas, and iron ore?

## Gasoline Alley

Gasoline Alley is the intersection of Collegiate Drive and 268. At this spot many gallons of expensive and much needed gasoline are wasted by cars waiting to enter the highway. The heavy traffic between 3 and 4 p.m. make entrance into 268 nearly impossible. Anyone who tries to enter the road between these times knows the situation. Unless some good samaritan lets one out, it takes at least five minutes for a break in traffic. Even with the lower speed limits, a car can go quite a distance in five minutes.

It is not only the students of WCC who are forced to waste their gas. Customers and employees of the businesses along

268 are in the same boat. I wonder if the State Highway Commission knows about this situation. Maybe we should write our congressmen and inform them since they don't seem to be in any hurry to stop this useless waste of time and gasoline. The answer for WCC students is easy. Don't leave until 4 p.m. or after. For the employees and customers of the other problem spots, the answer lies in the working of the State of North Carolina.

How much longer can this situation endure with the shortage of gasoline which according to experts, is going to get worse before it gets any better? —Jerry Rhodes

## What, Me Worry?

By Frank Perez

Many WCC students patronize the Wilco service station on Highway 421 on the way to Boone. Just how many or what percentage is hard to tell, but not unlike the rest of the station's clientele, they, too, ask how long before individual gas and other fuel rationing becomes a reality.

This reporter asked station manager Jimmy Blevins this and other questions, to which there was an abundance of redundant answers which led to the last and most authoritative one he had: He didn't know the answers.

He gets the price changes and gas limit instructions either by phone call or memo. In addition, he is almost never

forewarned of any changes. This month, unlike other stations in the vicinity, he has enough fuel to satisfy his customers' needs and a little more; but that itself is also limited to the station. When that is gone, the doors close and he goes home to see Captain Kangaroo. January will be another month.

Asked whether he would be able to stay open, he replied, "What, me worry? This is just a repetition of other gas wars. I know nothing of what the major oil industry is up to, but if I can weather it out for at least six months to a year, it will all come back to normal."

The students can then go back to Friday/Saturday evening fuel consumption up and down "the strip."

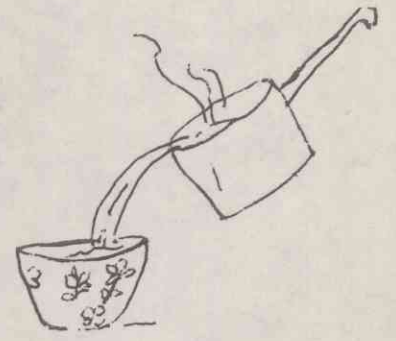
cherished of all three types is the traditional fireside cedar tree which as Mr. Townes says, "holds its own" for generations yet to come. Basically, all three types have merit but nothing could ever take the place of this tree. Actually the lower temperatures are ideal this year in our homes to help preserve the freshness of this tree. Furthermore, recutting the stalk every ten days and keeping an abundant water supply at all times will assure one of a green tree.

For those who have the truly creative touch or just the desire to do a Christmas arrange-

ment oneself, the poinsetta will make an excellent base as well as adding a touch of tradition to the arrangement. Unlike the old wives tale, they are not poisonous, and the new varieties being developed have a bloom which will last months. To keep the arrangement looking its best longer, good drainage is a must. If the container doesn't have holes for drainage, a drilling bit will do the trick in minutes. Then fill it with fertile soil.

Materials for cut arrangements include American holly, mistletoe, running cedar, Boston fern, hemlock, and some

## Cougar Cookin'



A new column in THE COUGAR CRY is Cougar Cookin'. Each publication will have a recipe that has been tested before being printed. Needless to say, this is one of the tastier columns of the CRY.

Since the holiday season is upon us and many of us will be doing some entertaining, a cake with fruit rather than a fruit cake has been chosen for the first issue. For those of you who want something different, but easy, this Fruit Cocktail Cake is recommended.

### Fruit Cocktail Cake

2 cups all purpose flour  
2 cups sugar  
1 teaspoon all spice  
1½ teaspoon soda  
1 teaspoon nutmeg  
1 teaspoon cinnamon

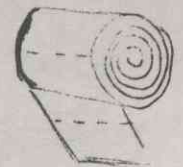
Mix together the above ingredients. Beat 2 eggs, pour into hole in the dry ingredients. Add 1 medium can of fruit cocktail with juice. Pour into ungreased tube pan and bake at 350° for 30 min.

### Glaze

Pour over cake while it still warm.

1 small can Pet Milk (not quite entire can)  
1 cup sugar  
¼ cup margarine  
Let ingredients boil for 3 minutes and then pour over warm cake.

Watch the Cougar Cooking column next issue for a tasty Pineapple Cream Pie recipe. Happy holiday cooking!



## Invent Substitute And Wipe Up

Did you hear the one about the guy who ordered a case of toilet paper from SEARS and they wrote him back asking for a catalog page number. Replied the man, "If I had the catalog, I wouldn't need the toilet paper."

Well, it seems that a return to the old days are here (save those catalogs). It was reported in Congress Monday, by Rep. Harrold Froelich, R-Wis. that the nation faces a new crisis "a toilet paper shortage."

Think about it. Things we take for granted seem to hurt us in the end. All the fabrics are drip dry now. Why not?

dried flowers such as sumac and golden rod. In general these arrangements do better when they're not placed in the front hall where a draft from a door can reach them. Also one should avoid setting them on fireplace mantels, radiators, and should keep the room from 65-70°.

Whatever you choose as the right tree or arrangement to express your Holiday spirit, it can be cared for and decorated in a manner that will serve as a beautiful memory forever.