



BEN PICKS POLITICS

by Ben Franklin



As I was stumbling around the campus, an anonymous source I will term "Big Mouth," told me to write about the faculty and staff...

Well, in starting the investigation, I kept running into more and more people that wanted to talk. It seems the faculty "leaks like sieve" and information is easy to come by.

One very important issue that came up at the faculty's get-together and social hour was the lengthy and heated debate over whether to term a committee a select, a standing, or to simply leave it a special committee. After much debate, the issue was tabled until the next meeting. Now, is that not an important issue?

The faculty meetings have people in all the classic roles of national politics. It has a clerk (I think) to keep track of attendance, a head counter who figures out the outcome of the vote before the vote is taken, and a presiding officer.

I have heard some of the problems that are facing the faculty meetings. One is

that the coalition party of the music, physical education, and the education professors are facing leadership problems and are starting to become disorganized. Another problem is that tardies and absences are running higher than those in classes by students.

I have heard that the Social Hour (faculty meeting) was cancelled this week. I have heard three reasons and do not know which is correct 1) lack of interest, 2) no place to meet--the phone booth in the library was full, or 3) no business to work on.

The president of the college may not have massive veto powers and he may not be of the minority party, but he does have his own chief of staff (Ms. Snelson) and his staff of German assistants (Hoffman, Knisley, and Gehring). Soon he will have a new Executive office building (Blackwell) in addition to the old one (the ad. building) he now has. Plans are in the works to make the Department of Safety and Security

into a President's Honor Guard for ceremonial occasions. I do not know if his staff has bugged the faculty lounge in Cornwell yet or not, but I have seen them lurking in questionable areas of the campus (near the cafeteria).

The pull that one of the members (Gehring) has may not be that great, but if he supports a measure it will have a lot of weight behind it.

"Tally Ho" Gehring is also the supervisor of the candlelight or flashlight operations headed by the capable "Crash" Faires, who is doing well after his high speed wreck in an over-powered soap-box racer. "Crash" Faires is also the head of C.R.E.E.P. (Committee to Regulate and Enforce Existing Parking), and does a fine job of walking the parking lots.

I will try to write more soon if I can find my phone and no one steals my pen, but some of my sources have been threatened to eat in the cafeteria and to sleep in the dorms if they talk any more.

Baskin Chronicles Rural America

John Baskin, a former Mars Hill Student, has spent the last 4 years working on a book about rural America. The book, entitled New Burlington and subtitled "The Life and Death of an American Village", is slated for a May 24 publication date by W. W. Norton and Co.

of New York City, one of the Nation's foremost book publishers. Harrison Salisbury says of the book, "New Burlington is a dream a dream of a by-gone country, a land we thought existed but could not be sure. (Baskin) calls it prose; I call it poetry and I think a better eulogy to real American people has

never been written. It reminds me of some of those melancholy strains of MacKinley Kantor, some bitter-sweetlines in Winesburg, Ohio, a mood of Robert Frost. But most of all it has the taste, the smell, the sounds of a people which has vanished:

For almost two hundred years, the farming village of New Burlington stood in south western Ohio, between Dayton and Cincinnati, where Caesar's Creek and Anderson's Fork came together to form a natural landscape for settlement. But in the early 1970's the United States Corps of Engineers began build-

ing a dam and, behind it, a Lake to cover New Burlington. Now the village is deserted. Only its sidewalks remain, mutely waiting for the waters of Caesar's Creek to rise for the last time.

In the final year of New Burlington's life, John Baskin moved into an abandoned farmhouse and began recording the voices of the residents: Farmer, teacher, blacksmith, carpenter, doctor, widow, Quaker, Methodist. The result is this beautiful, unique, eccentric history of two hundred years in rural America.

On its most observable level New Bur-

lington is a collection of stories, disappearing voices, and rural wisdom, a portrait of past ways and manners. But underneath this surface the voices are darkly ambivalent. If there were hymns to harvest labor, there were also men who died working in their fields. If the village contained two churches and every house a Bible, it also contained thieves and drunkards. As surely as the land gave, so did drought, flood, and spring cold destroy.

New Burlington is the village from which most Americans came. In our time the self-contained American village, like New Burlington itself, is



part of a vanishing geography. In its destruction it offers lessons we may learn from things lost. New Burlington and thousands of places like it are, finally, guidepost on our universal quest; for sense of place, for work, and for the durable values in each.

Volunteer Bureau

The official opening of a Volunteer Service Bureau in Madison County has been announced. It was established through a contract between United Way of Asheville, Buncombe County, and Land-of-Sky Regional Council.

The Marshall office is located in the Recreational Center on Skyline Drive. It is open Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. The telephone number is 649-2555.

The purpose of the bureau is to recruit, interview, and refer volunteers to non-profit community agencies that utilize volunteers.

Volunteers may also be interviewed at the library in Hot Springs every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon, and at the First Baptist Church in Mars Hill Tuesday and Wednesday from 2-4 p.m.

Mrs. Madelyn R. Betts is director of the Madison County Volunteer Service Bureau. Ms. Lou Farrar Mars Hill College social work major in field practicum with the United Way of Asheville, will interview volunteers in the Mars Hill area Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 2-4 p.m.

In cooperation with the Land-of-Sky Regional Council, the Volunteer Service Bureau of Asheville and Buncombe County is developing a project called PALS (Partners and Love Services). This project involves the coordination of both direct and indirect exchanges between the participants of the Nutrition Sites and Day Care of Region B.

A pilot program was begun in Buncombe Co. with the Livingston St. Day Care Center, and Nutrition Site and the Black Mountain Day Care Center and Nutrition Site.

In Black Mountain, the younger PALS provided entertainment for a birthday celebration at the Nutrition Site in March. A joint Easter Egg Hunt, lunch and Easter program was shared at the Nutrition Site with the Day Care children, Nutrition Site participants, and a Girl Scout troop from the Juvenile Evaluation Center. The elder PALS at Livingston St. provided old clothing for the younger PALS for the dramatic play area. An Easter Egg Hunt was also held.

In Madison Co., the PALS at the Mars Hill *continued on page 8*

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