

## Public Parade

### The Issue Is Equity

Tuition increases at both the university and community college level are recommended to the General Assembly in the budget just sent over by Gov. Jim Martin. And a study by the Research Triangle Institute, made at the direction of the legislature, did not rule out "modest across-the-board increases in tuition rates for the community college system."

Thus, it is likely that the legislature will make upward adjustments in tuition charges for the university and community college systems during its short session this June. The important thing is that these increases be fair and equitable.

At first glance, current tuition rates in the community college system appear to be low when compared with the university system. But the two systems are not exactly comparable.

For one thing, the local communities pick up a part of the tab for operating the 58 units making up the community college system. They contribute an average of 50 percent of all the money going into land acquisition and plant construction. Some have put in as much as 70 percent. All of them pay for maintenance and operation of the plant and beautification and upkeep of the grounds.

Communities where the 16 university campuses are located contribute nothing—the state picks up the whole tab. This difference is often overlooked when tuition rates are being discussed.

There are other differences. Based on the 1984-85 term, the state put a total of \$5,266 behind each of the 108,143 full time students in the university system—more than that if you include the School of the Arts and med school—but let's stick with the \$5,266. That compares with \$2,250 the state puts behind each of the 121,261 Full Time Equivalent students in the community college system.

During the 1984-85 term, tuition in the university system ranged from \$480 for three quarters study at the research institutions down to \$350 for students in the four-year baccalaureate programs. At the same time, students in the community college system paid \$153 for three quarters of study.

Stated another way, baccalaureate students at the four-year university level picked up 6.64 percent of the state's average cost, while community college students picked up 6.8 percent. If the university tuition is increased 3.2 percent, as proposed by the governor, raising the \$350 to \$361.20, the student's tuition tab will represent 6.8 percent of the state's cost. If the community college tuition rate is increased 11.76 percent, as proposed by the governor, then the student's share of the

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## Rain Relieves Drought

By JACK GROVE

A severe spring drought has been somewhat relieved by rains on Tuesday and Wednesday according to Mike Williams, Chowan County Chairman of the N.C. Agriculture Extension Service. He said that the area had received from one-half to three-quarters of an inch of rain.

Speaking of crop conditions he said, "a half inch will get us out of trouble for now." Williams said Wednesday that the rainfall will activate herbicides that have been applied on fields and will start the germination process of seeds already planted. He said that the only crop not yet planted by area farmers was soybeans, due to soil conditions.

In an interview last week, Williams said, "We're not in big trouble yet except with getting some of the seed germinated, such as cotton." Corn was planted while the ground was still moist about a month ago and he said that it's not big enough yet to be hurt. The critical time for the corn crop will be when it is two feet tall, if more rainfall is not received.

One crop planted recently in dry soil whose seeds are now expected to germinate is cotton. Williams said that peanut seeds could be

planted deep enough to reach available moisture and peanuts have a much higher tolerance to dry conditions.

Soil types are a big factor affecting different areas of Chowan County according to the extension chairman. Clay soils can crust over with a rain and prevent seedling emergence in crops such as cotton and soybeans.

Windy conditions such as the area has experienced in the past week can do real damage to emerging plants, particularly cotton and soybeans through what is known as "sand-blasting", Williams said. Parts of the county have a sandy soil.

Farmers with small grain crops and without irrigation systems may experience substantial loss in yield due to the recent dry conditions.

Williams said that most vegetable crops were planted, but that those not yet planted would be delayed until the soil's moisture content had increased.

He said Wednesday that additional rain would be needed within a week and that "a good inch and a half will be needed for us to have an optimistic outlook" for the year's crops.



**DRY CONDITIONS**—A tractor is almost hidden by a cloud of dust that it has raised as a field was cultivated Friday on N.C. 32 south. Rains this week have helped field conditions but the farm community is not overly optimistic that the recent drought is at an end.

## Division Offers Insurance Assistance

Huge increases in insurance premiums (and in some cases the inability to get any insurance) for cities and towns across the state has prompted action by the N.C. Department of Insurance and the N.C. League of Municipalities.

The Department of Insurance has set up a special division to assist local governments with insurance programs and risk management. The division was authorized by the 1985 session of the General Assembly at the re-

quest of local governments.

It will assist local governments with questions on property and casualty insurance and property and liability exposures to loss or damage. The short range goal is stated as providing assistance in finding needed coverages. The long range goal is to help in risk management.

The Town of Edenton experienced an insurance crisis last fall when its carrier, Iowa National Insurance Co. filed for bankruptcy. The town had just 30 days to find a new carrier according to Councilman A.B. Harless. The coverage with Iowa National cost \$33,000. The town was able to obtain coverage with the Traveler's Insurance Co. at \$98,000, a \$65,000 increase.

The N.C. League of Municipalities, of which Edenton is a member, is in the process of setting up an insurance fund for its members. This risk financing

fund is scheduled to go into operation July 1 and some 225 cities and towns, including Edenton, have submitted resolutions of intent to participate.

Harless said that the League has stated that towns should be able to expect a twenty-six per cent reduction in the cost of their premiums through this plan. He said that the town was waiting to hear from the League what the actual figure will be for budgeting purposes.

Harless said, "I think that the more realistic figure would be twenty-six per cent of \$98,000, this year's insurance cost," rather than expecting a twenty-six per cent reduction in cost from the \$33,000 premium of last year.

The councilman, who serves on the town's finance committee, and is in the insurance business, said that the budget deadline is May 27 when it will be presented at a public meeting at 8 p.m.



**RECEIVES CERTIFICATE**—Edenton Police Chief John Parrish presents the Intermediate Criminal Justice Certificate to Patrolman Fred Spruill Friday.

## Spruill Awarded Certificate

An Edenton police officer has been awarded the Intermediate Criminal Justice Certificate by the North Carolina Department of Justice. Fred Spruill was presented with the certificate by Police Chief John Parrish last week.

The certificate is part of a program of the N.C. Criminal Justice Training and Standards Council under the Department of Justice. The program was begun to recognize the level of competence of officers serving the governmental agencies within the state.

According to the council, the program exists "to foster increased interest in college education and professional criminal justice training programs and to attract highly qualified individuals into a criminal justice career. This pro-

gram is a method whereby dedicated officers receive statewide and nationwide recognition for education, professional training and on-the-job experience."

In earning the certificate an officer must:

- Demonstrate proficiency in the performance of official duties;
- Have successfully completed an accredited basic training course for criminal justice officers;
- Have accumulated at least thirty education training points and have at least eight years experience.

Spruill has been a police officer for over eleven years. He is a candidate for Sheriff and will face Deputy Sheriff Wayne Rice in the November general elections.

## Original Collection On Exhibit

A collection of 22 original Currier & Ives prints will be exhibited for the month of June at the Shepard-Pruden Memorial Library beginning June 2, 1986. The display is one of a series of fourteen collections of rare prints now being shown throughout the United States and Canada. Assembled by The Travelers Insurance Companies, the exhibit at the library was arranged by the John Dowd & Associates, Inc. Insurance Agency in cooperation with the Travelers.

The colorful prints, selected from one of the most comprehensive collections in existence, portray America during the mid-nineteenth century. They depict both rural and urban scenes as well as historical events of political or social importance.

The Travelers began to assemble this collection in 1935. Since then the company has reproduced more than 380 of these lithographs in its calendars.

Nathaniel Currier, who later was joined by James M. Ives, was 21 years old when, in 1835, he published the first print under his own name. It showed part of the ruins of a serious New York City

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## Financial Report Released

State Auditor Edward Renfrow has released the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the State of North Carolina for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1985. This report represents the financial position and results of operations of the funds and account groups of the State and, as required by General Statute 147-64.6(11), was prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

The Comprehensive Report is important for the State of North Carolina. It is an accounting to the State's policy makers, taxpayers and citizens on the stewardship of their government. It is widely distributed both in and outside of North Carolina and is an important factor in maintaining the

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**SELECTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOL**—Emily Bass (left) and Penelope Sisk have been selected to attend the N.C. School of Science and Mathematics during their junior and senior years. The residential school in Durham is a public residential high school for gifted and talented students.

## NCSSM Selects JAH Students

Two students at John A. Holmes High School have been invited to attend a prestigious school in Durham during their junior and senior years. Emily Bass and Penelope Sisk have been selected to attend the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics.

The NCSSM is a public residential high school for gifted and talented eleventh and twelfth graders with high interest and potential in science and mathematics. Students apply and are selected during their tenth grade year. There are no fees and no charge for tuition or room and board.

Admission to the school is based on grades and test scores, writing samples, special talents and accomplishments, an interview, and evidence of commitment to learning. Those selected undertake a demanding academic program of science, mathematics, art, english, social studies, foreign languages and music. Students are taught by a core

faculty which is augmented by visiting scientists, mathematicians and leaders and scholars in a variety of fields. A professional residential and counseling staff oversees students personal, social, and career needs to encourage the total development of each individual.

## Sleepy Driver Causes Head-On Collision

A driver who fell asleep at the wheel caused a head-on collision on the Chowan River Bridge early Monday morning. The driver, Steven Douglas Hale, 19, of New Bern, N.C. was driving his 1985 Mazda north on U.S. 17 when he apparently fell asleep and his car drifted into the path of a south-bound tractor-trailer truck around 4:30 a.m.

The 1983 Mack truck was driven by James Edward Seaborn, Jr., 46, of Zuni, VA. and is owned by E.M. Scott, Inc. Damage to the

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**FORGET-ME-NOT DAY**—Proctor Shannon (left) and Robert Ziemba, members of the Rocky Hock Disabled American accept donations for the DAV on Saturday morning at TG&Y. Proceeds will buy U.S. flags for veterans' graves, provide flowers for sick veterans and help support veterans in VA hospitals with magazines, books and other entertainment and refreshments. The sign reads, "Please don't forget them." Monday, May 26 is Memorial Day.