



The Public Parade

The Spectrum of Need

It's amazing -- and, in a way, saddening at Christmas time -- how many requests for contributions come to an individual through the mails these days not to mention those received verbally.

Seldom does a day pass that we do not receive two or three such requests, usually accompanied by a long letter stressing the merits of the cause represented. Sometimes they will include self-addressed stamped envelopes. Others will affix a shiny new penny as a gift to you just to make your conscience hurt.

In any event, these letters constitute a large portion of the mail we receive and they reflect the spectrum of need from one end to the other. We assume they are all honest, but experience tells us that there may be some crooks in the woodpile as well. At one time or another we have contributed to some of these groups and we assume that is how we get on the mailing list of the others.

A large portion of the requests come from political organizations making broadcast appeals for support for one party or the other. Appeals for political donations are off somewhat as we approach Christmas, but they will flower to full bloom with the new year. During one week recently our mail brought the following requests for contributions, together with letters pleading for assistance:

Habitat for Humanity.

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Trooper Demonstrates Breathalyzer

Students at Chowan Jr. High School got a first-hand look at a breathalyzer used by law enforcement to determine extent of impairment of drivers during a presentation by N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper Mike McArthur Monday.

Seventh and Eighth grade students, as part of their health classes, heard McArthur explain how the Highway Patrol handles drunk driving cases, from the highway to the court room.

The trooper said drunk drivers are usually stopped due to driving violations such as crossing the center line, speeding or stop sign violations. The smell of alcohol is normally detected by the officer as soon as the window is rolled down by the driver.

McArthur said that he knows most of the local motorists and their cars. He said that out-of-the-ordinary characteristics of the motorist stopped is often an indicator of too much alcohol or of drug use. He gave an example of an individual who usually talks slowly, talking fast or excitedly when stopped. Or another, who usually does a lot of talking, being uncharacteristically quiet when stopped.

Using students, the trooper demonstrated the use of the breathalyzer and field tests given to suspect drivers.

He asked two students to take a small amount of mouth wash into their mouths and then spit it into a cup. The mouth wash contains alcohol. The first student was given the breathalyzer test immediately after the mouth wash and registered .84 (.10 is legally drunk).

The trooper explained that,

while the breathalyzer is designed to measure alcohol circulated by the blood and through the lungs, this test was only a demonstration as

the alcohol in the mouth is quickly dissipated.

Another student waited a longer period of time after the mouth wash to be tested. He

registered a .13 on the machine.

Field tests using another student were demonstrated. In one, he was asked to walk

heel to toe for five steps, counting off each step aloud. Another tested his ability to touch the tip of his nose with his eyes closed.

The field tests gave a period of comic relief to an otherwise serious subject as the student experienced some difficulty with the tests.

McArthur gave other indicators that troopers see in motorists that might suggest intoxication. One earnest young man though, wanted to know how impairment of marijuana was determined. Along with alcohol indicators such as glassy eyes and the lack of bodily coordination, McArthur said that the smell of the drug was usually in the suspect's clothing.

He said that marijuana users often drank beer while they smoked the weed. After a breathalyzer test for those with alcohol on their breath, the suspect would be taken to the hospital for a blood test that would confirm marijuana. "And guess who pays for the blood test. He (suspect) does," the trooper told his audience.

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JUST BLOW IN HERE - Chowan Jr. High student Danielle Drew prepares to participate in a breathalyzer test given by N.C. Highway Patrol Trooper Mike McArthur Monday morning. McArthur's presentation outlined procedures in apprehending impaired drivers.

Intersection Again Accident Site

Serious injuries were avoided in a Sunday evening accident at the same intersection, N.C. 37 and Yeopim Rd., that was the scene of a fatal accident several weeks ago. In that accident, a Snug Harbor woman was killed when her car pulled in front of another vehicle while attempting to cross the highway.

The Sunday accident occurred as a Virginia family was traveling north on N.C.

37 in a 55 mph zone and approached the intersection. A car driven by Napoleon Lemont Phelps, 17, of Route 2, Edenton, pulled out into the intersection after having stopped at the stop sign, heading east on Yeopim Rd.

The driver of the Virginia car, Johnny Lawrence Gower,

Jr., 24, of Portsmouth, Va. applied his breaks to avoid a collision and skidded into a ditch on the east side of the highway. Gower's wife, Crystal, 23 and their three-year old son, Johnny were transported by the rescue squad to Chowan Hospital

where they were treated and

released.

The cars did not make contact and the Phelps vehicle stopped just beyond the intersection. Phelps was charged by investigating Trooper Mike McArthur with failure to yield the right of way.

The occupants of the Gower car were wearing restraints.

Thieves Foiled In Robbery

A local business was broken into early Tuesday morning but an alarm system and quick response by the Edenton Police were credited with the fact that nothing was taken.

An alarm system at the U-Rent store at Edenton Village Shopping Center alerted police to a breakin at 2:43 a.m. Officer Linard Bonner was first on the scene, followed by

Sgt. F.M. Parker. No one was found at the scene.

Store employees were called, and the business was unlocked to reveal a 2x3 foot hole in the plasterboard wall between the store and the vacant waterbed store. Police believe entry to the waterbed store was gained through its back door.

U-Rent store manager Robert Turlington praised

police response to the scene "within a matter of seconds." He said that an inventory showed that nothing was missing although another would be taken as a double check. "We're very fortunate we didn't lose anything. I attribute that to the police force being on the ball," Turlington added.

The manager demonstrated a sense of humor combined with an eye for business as a result of the breakin. The store is holding "The Great Breakin Sale" until Friday. Cops and robbers video tapes will be on sale, two for the price of one.

Turlington has been store manager here for only three weeks. He was transferred from the Clinton, N.C. store.



THANKS - "Thank you very much. You did a great job," Holmes Athletic Director Tom Bass told the co-chairman of the Jaycee concession sales committee as he and Football Head Coach Jay Swicegood accepted a check for \$2,200. From left are Swicegood, Bass, Gary Smith and Morris Small. "We had the biggest year ever," commented Small.

Jaycees Aid Student Athletes

The John A. Holmes Athletic Fund is \$2,200 richer thanks to the efforts of the Edenton Jaycees. They ran the concession sales during the football season and had "the biggest year ever," according to concession co-chairman Morris Small.

Last year, concession sales brought in \$1,732 to benefit the athletic fund. Athletic Director Tom Bass and Head Football Coach Jay Swicegood accepted the check from the co-chairmen, Small and Gary Smith. Small told them, "Every year it gets better." In accepting the check, Bass said, "Thank you very much. You did a great job."

All four men credited Edenton fans with large turnouts for home games. They agreed also, that a winning football team helped attendance.

Both Jaycees were surprised to learn that the only money that goes into the athletic fund is from gate receipts, concession receipts and help from the Aces Boosters Club. The only money budgeted by the school system provides funds for coaches supplements for the many extra hours they put in.

The athletic budget is some \$20,000 annually. This buys equipment, pays officials and provides transportation for the entire sports program at the high school.

"Just the travel costs are around \$5,000," Bass said. "We are now operating in the black. Three years ago we weren't," he added.

Swicegood pointed out that the sports program includes varsity and J.V. football squads, three basketball

teams, boys and girls tennis, cheerleading squads, boys basketball, girls softball, boys wrestling and varsity track.

Bass took the occasion to announce that eight athletes at Holmes have been selected for the Northeast Conference All-Academic Squad. To qualify, the student athlete must have attained an overall scholastic average of 90.

Among the cheerleaders selected were Beth Norvell, Stephanie Creighton, Mary Copeland and Melissa Bunch.

Mike Bunch was tapped from the football program.

Girls tennis selectees were Gabriel Webster, Cindy Ward and Rosie Liem.

Athletes in all departments of the sports program will receive awards at the fall banquet at the high school cafeteria on January 11.



MESS - Would-be thieves left a mess at the U-Rent store in Edenton after a breakin early Tuesday morning. Pondering the situation is Robert, store manager. An alarm system and swift police response thwarted theft. A police investigation is continuing.

Schedule Announced

The Chowan Herald will be closed on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Accordingly, next week's edition will be printed on Tuesday evening. Advertisers and those planning to submit news stories and photographs should have them turned in as soon as possible. Items received too late to be included in the Christmas edition will be held over until the following week.

The Chowan Herald staff extends its very best wishes to the community for a healthy and happy Christmas holiday.