

Martin

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level of expertise is high. Let me give you just one example of their commitment to students. Last year a chemistry professor spent the summer in the chemical labs and manufacturing plant of a private business just so he would know exactly what knowledge and skills his students would need to get the best jobs. He adapted his classes to the extent he could. But, unfortunately, there was much his students needed that he could not provide them. Why? Because the university's labs are crowded and out-of-date.

Jobs in high-level science fields are open — but only to those with adequate training.

At Pembroke, the futures of bright and energetic students are at risk, because the faculty cannot take their students as far as they need to go without modern science labs and teaching facilities.

This year I spent several months at North Carolina Central University, which is located right next to the Research Triangle Park. High paying jobs in the science fields are open to Central's graduates with the proper scientific training. But Central's labs are 30 years out-of-date, maybe more. Some labs can't even operate because the ancient ventilating systems do not meet modern codes. Without revamped and expanded facilities, it is almost impossible to open the doors of scientific opportunity to all who could take advantage of it.

During the last few years I have spent a lot of time at every one of our state universities and visited many of the community college campuses.

Updating the science teaching and lab resources is a great need almost everywhere — even on the historic flagship campuses at UNC-Chapel Hill and North Carolina State.

It is not that the State of North Carolina has not been generous to UNC-Pembroke, North Carolina Central, and the other university and community college campuses. As a poor state during the last century, North Carolina made a sacrificial commitment to higher education. The investment paid off handsomely for the entire state. Graduates for the state's colleges and universities have been ready for many of the job opportunities that have come here. The higher salaries that they now earn pour money into the state's tax coffers and help make it possible for the state to keep taxes on the rest of us relatively low.

The presence of strong universities and community colleges has made the state an attractive place for the kinds of business that contribute to the state's strength.

But the investments made in the past can't meet the present needs. Time has passed. Older buildings are out-of-date and in need of repair and overhaul.

And hundreds of thousands of students won't get the chance for the kind of higher education opportunity they could use so well — unless we give it to them on Nov. 7.

North Carolina Bookwatch, the UNC-TV program that I host will return to the air on Sunday, Oct. 15 at 5 p.m. Robin Minietta, the program's former host, will interview Reynolds Price in the first of a seven week series of classic programs featuring award-winning authors. More information about upcoming programs is on UNC-TV's web site (www.unctv.org) under the "Local Programs" category.



Featured pet of the week

Meet "Mick," a 49-lb. Terrier mix (a large Benji-type dog). He's about one to two years old, has a great personality, likes kids and even likes other dogs. He's heartworm-free and housebroken. "Mick" would love to have his own family. He can be seen at the Chowan Animal Hospital on Paradise Road in Edenton. For more information, call 482-4113. (Submitted photo)

Area Hospice volunteers needed

Companionship and practical help are among skills offered by group

AHOSKIE, NC — University Health Systems Hospice Care will host its annual Training Workshop at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14, at Roanoke-Chowan Hospital. The organization is appealing to residents to answer its call for volunteers.

"You will have the satisfaction

of seeing firsthand what a difference you can make in the life of a terminally ill patient and his or her family," said Tra Perry, volunteer coordinator. "There are several ways you can be of help. These include sitting with a patient and giving a caretaker some time to rest or run an errand, spending time talking, listening, or helping a patient take care of 'unfinished business' such as writing letters and making phone calls."

Perry added that office help is always needed and without volunteers the many special projects and fundraisers would not be possible.

She noted that studies indicate that volunteering can be an anti-

dote to stress. "By becoming involved in community service," Perry said, "people clear their minds and change their pace. Minor pains and headaches are forgotten as the process of helping others promotes a feeling of accomplishment and reduces emotional stress."

"It's never too late to start a new volunteer career," Perry said. "Your 'paycheck' will be a greater enjoyment of life. Become a Hospice volunteer and see what an impact your help can make."

To find out more about how you can be of invaluable service to a not-for-profit organization that cares for people facing the end of life, and their families, contact volunteer coordinator Tra Perry at (252) 332-3392.

Hot meals available at Chowan Sr. Ctr.

Meals scheduled to be served at The Chowan Senior Center in Edenton the week of Oct. 16-20 include:

Monday: Salisbury steak with gravy, baby green lima beans, white rice, dinner rolls, gravy, fruit cobbler, orange juice, milk.

Tuesday: Crab cakes, cocktail sauce, coleslaw, spiced apples, boiled potatoes, corn muffins, angel food cake, milk.

Wednesday: Roast turkey with gravy, turnip greens, cranberry juice, mashed potatoes, stuffing, manager's choice, milk.

Thursday: Lasagna, mixed green salad with dressing, rolls, granola bars, grapefruit juice, milk.

Friday: Chicken patties, black-eyed peas, mixed vegetables, macaroni and cheese, corn muffins, chocolate cake, milk.

Lawrence Academy test scores are high

MERRY HILL, NC - Lawrence Academy is proud of its students and their academic achievements. The 1999-2000 school year SAT and CAT scores indicate high academic accomplishments for all three levels of the school. The results of the testing programs are as follows:

• SAT 1999-2000: Total, 1012; Verbal, 517; Math, 495

• State: Total 988; Verbal, 492; Math, 496

• National: Total 1019; Verbal, 505; Math, 514

Lawrence Academy's overall test scores ranked above the scores of the schools in the surrounding six counties (Bertie - 810, Chowan - 971, Martin - 882, Perquimans - 903, Tyrrell - 910, Washington - 836)

and in the state.

• CAT (California Achievement Tests administered to grades 1-12)

• Total Battery: 82% (with 50% as the average mean for the national standardized test)

National Merit Scholars

Two Lawrence seniors from the Class of 2000 qualified as National Merit Scholarship finalists. These two seniors, Andrea Everett of Columbia, NC and Lindsey Smith of Plymouth, NC received two of the 50 scholarships awarded internationally by the Weyerhaeuser Corporation in May 2000. Everett is attending the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, VA and Smith is attending Meredith College in Raleigh, NC.

COA offers pool classes

The Continuing Education Division of College of the Albemarle (COA) is offering a two-day Pool/Spa Operators Class that will be held on Friday, Oct. 27, and Saturday, Oct. 28. The class will be instructed by Linda Green and held from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. each day in Bldg. C, Room 207 at the Elizabeth City campus.

Registration fee is \$55 (payable

to COA). An additional fee to cover books, test and certification will be \$60 (payable to Linda Green). If you already have a book, deduct \$25 from the additional fee. Books can be purchased from the instructor prior to the class date. Other materials required: scrap paper, calculator, highlighter, and pencils.

Questions? Call 335-0821.

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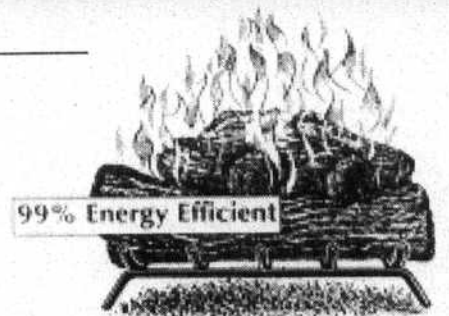
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