

# Rafters emulate 'Deliverance'

## Running the raging Chattooga

by Bunky Flagler  
Feature Writer

The raging Chattooga River is making quite a name for itself. Made notorious by James Dickey's *Deliverance*, the foaming waters are fast becoming one of the Southeast's top tourist attractions. And one of the most treacherous.

Inexperienced newcomers to the river, charged with a surging drive to test their machismo, their strength, against the infamous river, holler to porch-rocking South Carolina locals: "Is this the Chattooga River in *Deliverance*? Well, we're gonna run this motha'!"

Most of the thrill-seekers, an estimated 15,000 this year, run the river safely. But some naive adventurers haven't been so lucky.

### Deaths and litter mar river

At least 10 persons died there in the past 16 months, forest service officials said in August. More are expected before the cold weather comes.

And not only people are suffering. The Chattooga, once well-hidden and well-forested waters splashing through virgin forests of North and South Carolina and Georgia, is taking a beating too.

"Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints," instructs Jim Greiner, head of Wildwater, Ltd., an outfitting company in Long Creek, S.C.

But the beer cans bob on. Old shoes, socks, battered paddles and picnic trash mar the shores.

"There are two sad things," Greiner said. "People are dying and we could prevent it. And, to a large extent, the river is beginning to deteriorate because of a concentration of people at certain spots."

He says the deaths have taken a definite pattern: they've all been males aged 18 to 30, alone or in small parties, without life jackets or river experience. Usually with poor equipment. Many times intoxicated.

Even author Dickey is caught in the tragic paradox of beauty and death of the river.

Although both the book and the movie had commanded spectacular audience reaction, he has serious regrets.

"They just wouldn't have gone up there if I hadn't written the book," the poet lamented about the deaths. "The river doesn't care about you — it'll knock your brains out," he was quoted as saying.

Ask anyone near Long Creek, S.C., or Clayton, Ga., the sleepy mountain towns close to the U.S. 76 access point, and they'll grunt that too many fools come to go down that river.

Even though area residents enjoyed the hoopla and excitement of the movie and its colorful cast, the locals are smart — they don't mess with the river.

They remember that Warner Bros., the company that made the film, lost approximately \$30,000 in camera equipment and untold boat equipment to the beautiful, but bloodthirsty, river. And it was rumored, but not substantiated, that they almost lost star Burt Reynolds.

Ruined canoes chained to station wagons. Anxious rescue patrols waiting to haul the injured away. Broken bodies collapsed on stretchers. This is everyday stuff to the local folks.

"You take your natives. You don't see them a-floatin' it," one crusty river rescue squad member said as he waited for the usual Saturday morning cries for aid.

"They fish it and they walk it, but you don't see none of the local folks floatin' it just to be a-floatin' it."

"But rafters. You can't scare 'em off. No way. It's just another challenge. I think it's crazy, myself."

### Beautiful but dangerous

Crazy or no, the movie's portrayal of the river's danger, excitement and beauty was not exaggeration. It's been justly called a "mother of myriad moods."

The river is sometimes quiet, pools reflecting the towering hemlock and white pines. You glide peacefully, slowly, by scattered, projecting rock formations.

Then, crashing, smashing, the water suddenly changes. "Paddle!" "Paddle!" You must work to stay away from the treacherous undercut rock's grasp. "Paddle! Paddle right!"

Forget about gazing at the scenery. You must make it through the next rapid, "Painted Rock." It's a thrilling, but scary, rapid, nicknamed that because, unless you maneuver it well, you'll get painted on the rock right ahead, too, like many before you.

The danger — the *Deliverance* mystique — attracts hordes to the river. Don't underestimate it. Jim Greiner's trained river guides instruct their clients to portage, or carry around, some of the deadliest rapids — wicked, tricky pools of death.

"Bull Sluice Run" is one of those. It's a bitch, a bloodthirsty bitch, waiting for those she can suck unawares into her swirling waters. Carry around her. Stand by and watch how the experts do it.

Faces grimacing, paddles flying, kayak racing. The cautious guides know that "The Bull" is a killer because it has a hidden hydraulic, the upward and circular motion of the powerful waters that can suck a man and his raft and hold him there for minutes or for hours, depending on his luck.

The Chattooga is no plaything. It's something to conquer or the conquerer itself.

Just this spring one party of three made the trip in true *Deliverance* style. One man, tied to his raft because he didn't want to lose it, got caught in Bull Sluice and lost his life instead.

The other two broke almost every bone in their bodies, natives said. And only one of them survived the two-month hospital stay.

Even though both South Carolina and Georgia position state patrol men at several access points on the weekends, Greiner said that if stricter controls don't go into effect by next summer, the number of deaths could double.

### Tips on running the river

Presently, because of loopholes and law ambiguity, the office stands powerless to enforce river safety precautions.

Nevertheless, authorities such as Jim Greiner and his guides and the state forest and river patrolmen suggest the following:

- Wear life jackets firmly tied and strapped at all times.
- Travel the river with experienced boatmen, preferably in a four- or six-man U.S. Army-type raft. Never use inner tubes.
- Always travel in groups of at least two vessels, preferably three.
- Send an experienced scout ahead to check the next rapid. Portage the deadly ones, such as Bull Sluice.
- Never drink alcoholic beverages. You need all your faculties while you're going down, Greiner says. And that cold beer tastes terrific at the end of the six to eight-hour trip.

And one further tip that Greiner and fellow river lovers would suggest and emphasize:

"Take nothing but pictures. Leave nothing but footprints."

## Taster's Choice

### Cinema

"State of Siege." Carolina Theatre. 2:40, 4:45, 6:50 & 8:55. Through Oct. 4. Tonight's late night show: "The Last Picture Show." 11:15.

"Ten From Your Show of Shows." Varsity Theatre. 1, 3, 5, 7 & 9. Ends today. Starts Sunday: "Lady Koo." 1:20, 3:15, 5:10, 7:05 & 9. Through Oct. 2.

Tonight's late show: "Play It Again, Sam." 11:15 p.m.

"Days and Nights in the Forest." Alternative Cinema. Today at 2, 4:30, 7 & 9:30 p.m. Murphy Hall 111.

"October: 10 Days That Shook The World." Magic Eye Films. Sergei Eisenstein's silent film. Sunday at 4 & 7:30 p.m. in 1-A Swain Hall.

"Second Breath." Chapel Hill Film Friends. Tonight at 11:30 p.m. Murphy Hall 111.

"Jules and Jim" and "News Parade." Janus Films. Sunday at 8 & 10 p.m. at Town Hall.

"Cries and Whispers." Quadrangle Pictures. Today and Sunday at 7 & 9 p.m. Page Auditorium, Duke University.

"Milkyn on the Bounty." (1935 original) Stars Charles Laughton, Clark Gable and Franchot Tone. Sunday at 7:30 & 10 p.m. Cat's Cradle.

Free Flicks. Friday: "Charly." Saturday: "The Sea Gull." Sunday: "Rabbit Run." All flicks at 6:30 and 9 p.m. in the Great Hall, Carolina Union.

### Theatre

"Showboat." Village Dinner Theatre in Raleigh. Buffet at 6:45 p.m., 8:30 curtain. Tickets are \$9 Sunday through Thursday, \$10 Friday and \$11 Saturday. Nightly except Monday. For reservations call 767-7771.

"The Sea Gull." Tickets are now available at the box office at the NCSU student center for the theatre's Broadway, classical, jazz and dance series.

Tickets, \$1.50, are now on sale at the Carolina Union Information Desk for the Agnes de Mille Heritage Dance Theatre, the first performance in the Friends of the College series scheduled for Oct. 3, 4 & 5 at 8 p.m. in Reynolds Coliseum, N.C. State University.

General admission tickets, \$2.75, are now available at 102 Graham Memorial and Ledbetter-Pickard's downtown for the Playmakers' opening production, "The Threepenny Opera." "Threepenny" will be presented Oct. 3 — 6 at 8:30 p.m. in Forest Theatre.

"The Hostage." Duke Players first production of the 1973-74 season. Oct. 11-14, and Oct. 18-21 at 8:15 in Branson Theatre, Duke University East Campus.

### Concerts

The UNC Reader's Theatre opens its 12th season with two short stories by Truman Capote: "Jug of Silver" and "My Side of the Matter." Productions are scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 3-4 at 8 p.m. in Deep Jonah. Free admission.

John McLaughlin and the Mahavishnu Orchestra. Carmichael Auditorium. Wednesday, Oct. 10 at 8 p.m. Tickets, \$2.50, are now available at the Carolina Union Information Desk.

Season tickets, \$8, for the Chapel Hill Concert Series are now available at the Carolina Union Information Desk. The series includes Baroque Ensemble of USSR, Leonard Rose and Gary Graffman, Edward Villeda and George Shirley. All concerts at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall. \$2 single admission tickets on sale two weeks prior to concert date.

Michael Zenge, pianoforte. Sunday Evening Series. 8 p.m. in Hill Hall auditorium.

### Nightlife

Town Hall. Tonight: Low Rent District, rock. Also, Michael Williams, original folk. Music at 9 p.m.

Endangered Species. Tonight: Treva. Sunday: Mike Cross. Tonight at 9 p.m. Cat's Cradle. Ernest East, tonight. Music begins at 9 p.m.

### Art

"Six Painters of the Seventies — Abstract Imagists of New York." Ackland Art Museum. Through Sunday.

Pensacola Third Annual Fall Arts Festival in Seville Square. Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 13 and 14. Show is open to any artist, sculptor or craftsman who wishes to participate. Cash and ribbon awards will be given in the various categories of painting, sculpture, pottery, photography, ceramics and handicrafts. There will also be a \$250 award for best of show. Any artist wishing to participate may contact the Dahstroms at Waterfront Galleries, Adams and Main Street, Pensacola, Fla. Phone: 904-433-4837.

Taster's Choice, or the Entertainment Calendar, is included in every issue of the Daily Tar Heel. Its purpose is to provide a thorough guide to entertainment and culture in the Triangle Area. Those wishing to include items in the calendar should call Kevin McCarthy at 933-1011, between 3 and 5 p.m.

## Classifieds

### WANTED

Part-time girl with knowledge of backpacking and/or canoeing equipment. Call 967-6101 for appointment.

### FOR RENT

1968 Mustang, good condition, 3 speed, am-fm radio, \$400. Call 933-6666 after 5 or all day Saturday.

CANOE 12ft. FIBERGLASS 60lb. THREE MONTHS OLD. BEST OFFER OVER \$140. 942-3648.

STEREOS: GET THE MOST FOR YOUR MONEY—FINEST EQUIPMENT—LOWEST PRICES; FULL WARRANTIES; CALL ANN SHACHTMAN 942-7172—VISIT 1510 CUMBERLAND RD.; YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID!

FOR SALE Two 10 speed bikes, (his & hers) like new—1959 only bike. Complete with locks and rack. Both for \$150 939-3058 after 6 p.m.

FOR SALE Ten used spin planes. Must be sold at once. Write P.O. Box 114, Bowling Green, South Carolina 29703.

Stereo Components—Harrison Kardon power amplifier Citation Twelve-Rectilinear III speakers, Dynaco tuner, Dual 1219 turntable, 800 SP-14 cartridge. 942-9495 after 7 p.m. before 8 a.m.

SAVE GAS 1968 Austin Healey Sprite Mk. IV. New tires, luggage rack, SCCA app. roll-bar. Top and body in good condition. Runs very well. BEST OFFER.

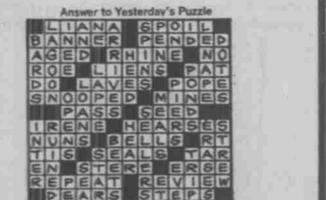
PIPE SMOKERS! Exceptional values in handcrafted black meerschaum pipes. Prices start at \$9.95. Personalized Service. Catalog, PMP Co. P.O. Box 464 Gaithersburg, Md. 20878

BMW Motorcycle — R88S — 600 cc. Bell Star Helmet included. Must Sell By Friday. Call 829-8297 or leave note on OTH Darkroom Door for Tom. 8850.

### Crossword Puzzle

Answer to Yesterday's Puzzle

- ACROSS
- 1 Baker's products
  - 8 Haste
  - 9 Indian tents
  - 11 Condition
  - 13 Indefinite article
  - 14 Shreds
  - 16 Printer's measure
  - 17 Paid notices
  - 19 Condescending looks
  - 20 Wager
  - 21 Permits
  - 23 Meadow
  - 24 Run easily
  - 25 Waltz
  - 27 Ransacks
  - 29 Game at cards
  - 30 Conjunction
  - 31 Narrow openings
  - 33 Name
  - 35 Barracuda
  - 36 Fuss
  - 38 Of the same nature
  - 40 Above (post.)
  - 41 Sailing vessel
  - 43 Yellow ocher
  - 44 Sun god
  - 45 Indisposition
  - 47 101 (Roman number)
  - 48 Barbers
  - 50 Juncture
  - 52 Plumlike fruit
  - 53 Let it stand
- DOWN
- 1 Crooked
  - 2 Above
  - 3 Openwork fabric
  - 4 Close security
  - 5 Possessive pronoun
  - 6 Possessive pronoun
  - 7 Latin conjunction
  - 8 Slumbers
  - 9 South African Dutch
  - 10 Gravestone
  - 11 Wild
  - 12 Heraldry
  - 13 grafted
  - 15 Soft mound
  - 18 One who procrastinates
  - 20 Containers
  - 22 The face (colloq.)
  - 24 Bumpkins
  - 26 Temporary bed
  - 27 Click beetle
  - 28 Japanese sash
  - 31 Lances
  - 32 Transactions
  - 33 Sounds a horn
  - 34 Draw out
  - 35 Classify
  - 37 Click beetle
  - 39 Flutter about
  - 41 Dirk
  - 42 Fruit seeds
  - 45 Artificial language
  - 46 Skill
  - 49 Man's nickname
  - 51 Diphthong



LATE SHOW FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NITE  
"It's still the same old story, a fight for love and glory."  
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Boxoffice opens 11:15  
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Varsity

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## Lab season set

The UNC Laboratory Theatre, under the overall direction of Ruby Lerner and Rick Epting, has announced its season for the fall semester.

Eight plays are on the schedule.

"Cop-Out," by John Guare. "The play that answers the musical question 'If you beat me with your gun, would I blame you?'" Oct. 4 at 4 p.m. and Oct. 5 at 4 and 8 p.m. 06 Graham Memorial.

"Fish Eyes and Butterflies," an original work by Rebecca Ranson. Directed by Warren Johnston, performed by inmates of the Orange County unit of the State Department of Corrections. Oct. 6, 7 and 14 at 8 p.m. 06 Graham Memorial.

"The Apollo of Bellac" by Jean Giraudoux. Directed by Joseph Coleman. Oct. 17 at 4 p.m., Oct. 18 at 4 and 8 p.m. 06 Graham Memorial.

"Aeneas," written and directed by Christopher Adler. Nov. 1 at 4 and 8 p.m., and Nov. 2 at 4 p.m. 06 Graham Memorial.

"Acts with Women," an original work by Trebor Lloyd. Directed by Duane Sidden. 103 Graham Memorial. Times to be announced.

Polish Drama Festival. Slawomir Mrozek's "Out at Sea" and Stanislaw Witkiewicz's "The Madman and the Nun," directed by Warren Johnston and Rick Epting, will be presented supplementary to the Carolina Playmakers' presentation of Mrozek's "Tango." Nov. 15 and 16; 06 Graham Memorial. Times to be announced. "Eleven Idiosyncratic Cows," an original work by Rebecca Ranson. Dates and times to be announced.

All tickets for Lab productions are free and can be obtained from the Lab Theatre office in Graham Memorial the week of the production.

abc THEATRES  
CAROLINA  
2:40-4:45  
6:50-8:55  
**Brilliant Dynamite**  
From the team that made "Z" a New kind of thriller.  
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Meet Sid Caesar, "The funniest man in America."  
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