



James Kenan Announces Morehead Nominees

James Kenan High School announced the names of five Morehead Scholarship nominees for 1984-85. The five seniors are pictured above and include two students, Wesley Casteen and Sonia Bell, 16 years of age. Pictured above, standing left to right, Wesley Casteen, Sonia Bell and Anthony Hall; seated, Warachal Faison and Becky Frederick. The Morehead Scholarship is awarded each year to approximately 70 high school seniors and consists of \$6,500 for each of their four years as an undergraduate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Two students are selected from Duplin high schools as county Morehead nominees to compete for the scholarship at the district level. Nominees chosen from district competition are interviewed at UNC-CH and from them Morehead Scholarships named. Nominees from North Duplin High School include Laura Alphin and Patrick Simpson; Wallace-Rose Hill, Robert Jessup and Mary Gill; East Duplin, Iris Wooten.

brought to my attention by Mrs. Ruth Grady Jones, a former owner of THE DUPLIN TIMES.

The Collard --

That vile vegetable with a vengeance
Let us hear no more of collards.

I mean there are so many wonderful and entertaining things in Dixie such as kudzu, walking catfish, Jerry Falwell, barbecue, fried chicken and grits that there is no need to go overboard on the collard.

A collard is a vegetable with a green leaf that tastes like spinach that has spent all afternoon working out in a sweaty gym without changing its socks.

If cooked properly — boiled all afternoon in fatback — its stacked leaves lie dark and brooding on the plate in an unappetizing mass.

Once consumed, it lodges itself in the stomach like a cannonball, dispersing enough acid to strip the veneer from a banquet table. It breeds indigestion with a vengeance.

I like to think of the collard as the Ayatollah Khomeini of vegetables.

Yet, Southerners — who should know better — get their kicks by praising collards, just to get under the skin of Yankees who have never tried them.

And in short order, the Southerner makes a mockery of hospitality by serving the beastly vegetable to his Northern friend. The fork is lifted. The fork is lifted. The vile green leaves are shoveled in the mouth.

"It tastes like green cardboard," the Northerner announces.

"Oh don't worry about that. Just put a little pepper vinegar on it. Picks the taste right up!" his host replies.

Pick it up with pepper vinegar! Ladies and gentlemen of the jury, the case rests.

Small wonder that relations remain strained between North and South.

Yet, even as this is written, a collards festival is in progress in Ayden, N.C., with collard-cooking and collard-eating contests. Even a collard king and queen.

Worse, this year a collard poetry contest was held by two English teachers at East Carolina University, Alex Albright and Luke Whisnant.

"I hate collards myself. It was just something to do for the summer," Albright said.

The winning poem — there were more than 500 entries, some from as far away as Paris — was written by a minister from Magnolia, N.C., and was entitled "Spring Collards in Washington."

It begins:
What this town does not devour
Neglected greens, yellow bud,
Runs skyward into flowers...

It gets worse. The English teachers published more than 100 of the entries as a book. ("Leaves of Green: The Collard Poems." Published by the Ayden Collard Festival, Ayden, N.C. 28513; \$1.50 for mail orders.)

Although many of my friends will deny it, there has always been a strong anti-collard element in the South. And, many of its adherents have been from the better families.

I recall that it was Col. Chambers Rutledge of South Carolina who once told the students at his academy to "eschew bad company as you would the lowly collard, for both are corrupt — one by ingestion, the other by association."

Even among the lower orders there has been an antagonism to collards by sizable numbers of Southerners.

I know that in my own family a great-great-uncle, a corporal who fought at Gettysburg with the North Carolina Irregulars, mentioned his aversion to the collard in letters written from the battlefield.

"Our supplies are so low that we had collards again. How I do detest them. Poor cousin Effie in the next detachment fell ill from them at supper. He puked all night. My mules refuse to eat them. As for me, I would sooner swallow my baonnet," he wrote.

That was old Alf Lawrence for you. He told it like it was and later became something of a poet himself. His poem on the collard was one of the last products of a pen stilled by diphtheria in the 1880s. Yet it is as vital as though written yesterday:

Is this a collard green I see before me?
So flat and dark and oozi' grease?
How come you've come this way to haunt me?

**82nd Airborne Band
In Duplin County Oct. 11**

The 82d Airborne Division Band's rock combo, "The All American Express," will perform Top 40 tunes at two Duplin County high schools on Thursday, Oct. 11.

The concerts, sponsored by the U.S. Army recruiters at the Clinton Recruiting Station, will take place at Wallace-Rose Hill High School at 9:30 a.m. and at James Kenan High School at 2:10 p.m.

Each member of the Fort Bragg band is also a member of the 82d

Airborne Division Concert and Marching Bands.

All of the musicians are carefully selected based on their musical background and their audition scores. All are also airborne qualified.

The band has served with the 82d Airborne Division throughout the world. It was designated the 82d Infantry Division Artillery Band when it was activated on April 29, 1942, one month after the activation of the 82d Infantry Division. When the division obtained airborne status, the band became the 82d

Airborne Division Band. As the only band on Fort Bragg, the 82d band is widely used for division and post functions as well as in community relations activities.

Band members will be glad to discuss Army band opportunities with interested high school musicians following their performances. Students interested in trying out for an Army band may audition while the "All American Express" is in the area. To schedule an audition, contact Staff Sgt. William Fitzgerald, Army recruiter in Clinton at 592-7991.

**Duplin
School
Menus**

Oct. 8-12

Breakfast

In addition to assorted cereals, juice and milk, the following is scheduled:

- Mon. - no school
- Tue. - no school
- Wed. - ham biscuit
- Thur. - muffin
- Fri. - cheese toast

Lunch

- Mon. - no school
 - Tue. - no school
 - Wed. - Mexican pizza, chicken salad and crackers, shoestring potatoes, squash casserole, fruits, peanut butter roll
 - Thur. - chick filet sandwich, beefaroni with cheese roll, corn, steamed cabbage, fruit cobbler, fruit cup
 - Fri. - seawich, beef stew with rice and roll, vegetables, carrot-cabbage slaw, fruited gelatin, applesauce
- Each lunch is served with lowfat chocolate or plain milk.

**Gospel
Song Crusade**

There will be a Gospel Song Crusade featuring the Easter Brothers of Mount Airy, the Singing Messengers of Wallace and Rev. and Mrs. Robert Kivette of Clinton at the Old Magnolia School Auditorium on Highway 117 in Magnolia on Friday, Oct. 5 at 7:30 p.m.

Along The Way
By Emily Killete

It is true that the collard has become a celebrated plant in the South. Festivals are named in its honor, just as books of poetry have been written about the collard plant. Just recently, a minister in Magnolia won top honors for his poem about collards, as judged by Ayden Collard Festival officials. But, not all southerners enjoy the taste of the collard plant and understand no reason for picking the food as a festival theme. The following article was written by Lawrence Maddy for a Richmond, Va. newspaper. Maddy expresses my views exactly on the subject of the collard. The article was

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