

Letter To The Editor



Dear Editor:
In response to the letter two weeks ago we feel that the previous writer was in many ways unfair and misinformed about the bus situation which occurred Friday, November 12.

We feel the bus driver of the previous accident was not at fault and handled the situation as well as an adult driver. Being bus drivers ourselves we have been trained to take care of the responsibilities that are required.

If people are so concerned about having adult drivers, then why wasn't it made an issue before the accident?

We feel we deserve more recognition for the job we do and less criticism. We would like the citizens of Yancey County to stop and think of how many serious accidents have occurred because of a student driver. Whose fault was it this time? A student or WHO?

Concerned student bus drivers
June B. Pittman
Ina Quinn
Diane Wampler



Complete GED Course

Johnnie and Phillip Edwards recently passed the High School Equivalency examination (GED). Phillip has continued classes in small engine repair in Mcaville. Johnnie plans to continue with English 101 and 102 at Mayland Tech.

Mayland Technical Institute offers free classes for adults in reading and basic education at the Burnsville Courthouse between 9:00 and 1:00 each Friday. Adults who do not have a high school diploma are encouraged to attend these classes and prepare to take the High School Equivalency Examination. Most students in this school for adults program have continued to attend classes on the Technical Institute or college levels. Come and give it a try. For more information call the Yancey County Adult Education Center at 682-7315 after 2:00 p.m.

Photo by Brian Westveer

Joe Johnson Is Named County Key Banker

To coordinate the agricultural activities of the N.C. Bankers Association in this area, Joe K. Johnson has been named County Key Banker for Yancey County.

NCBA President John F. McNair, III has announced that Mr. Johnson will serve as County Key Banker during the next twelve months. He is assistant vice president of The Northwestern Bank in Burnsville.

results of the American Bankers Association's annual farm credit study, he said that North Carolina banks provided \$173,956,000 in non-real estate loans, a 25 percent increase over 1975.

Bankers in North Carolina, it was pointed out, are well aware of the large capital investments required in agri-

culture today and are making every effort, through improved lending programs, to meet these changing credit demands of state farmers.

On January 1, 1976, 83 of the 93 banks in North Carolina held farm loans, McNair, who is executive vice president of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, N.A., Winston-Salem, reported.

Folk-Ways and Folk-Speech

Sydney Harris, the well-known syndicated columnist, occasionally heads a column with the caption, Things I Learned En Route To Looking Up Other Things.

Such a heading could oftentimes apply to Folk-Ways. Certainly it is appropriate with reference to research for a couple of recent columns on the fine art of hair-singeing, now apparently making a comeback.

For instance the following tidbits:

Combed-out hair (that which falls when the hair is brushed or combed)-universally believed by the folk to have drastic influence on the weather. It may cause thunder and lightning, rain, hail, and other violent weather manifestations. At one time it was believed that witches seized the fallen strands of hair and converted them into hairstones.

Dishevelled or tangled hair-not only viewed as untidy and distracting but recognized as a symbol of the underworld and of war.

Numbering of hairs on the head-apparently stems from the Scriptural statement and has been literally interpreted in some parts of the world. Records indicate that certain believers carefully store hair cut or combed from their heads lest they be called to account for it on Judgment Day.

Burial of hair-carefully observed by those who fear witches. Grew out of the belief that witches collect fallen strands and cuttings belonging to potential victims and insert them into wax images. When the hairs are plucked from the image, the original owner not only experiences great pain but he may face death.

Hair as symbol of creative energy-conceived as special seat of life because of its rapid growth. It has long been read as a sign of greatness and strength, and those with vigorous hair growth have been treated with honor and respect. Samson being a notable example. When his hair was shorn, his bond with God was broken and was restored only when his hair grew vigorously again.

Seat of the soul-a belief of primitive people who also felt that the hair was the abode of one's personal protective god. Pregnant women sometimes carried a lock of hair from a dead relative in order to ensure the rebirth of the deceased. Indians, on the other hand, are said to have taken scalp locks from their foes because they contained the vital strength of the dead. They also apparently believed that knotted hair constituted a medical charm.

Hair cut on the increase of the moon-a proper time for haircuts according to folklore. This idea corresponds with the law of planting which says that corn crops grow fast when planted on the increase of the moon; they do poorly when planted on the decrease and presumably, hair cut on the moon's decrease will bring about stringy, scanty locks and perhaps baldness.

Judging individuals by their hair-long a practice in folklore and fortune-telling. A person prematurely bald, for instance, may frequently be judged avaricious and hypocritical. One with black, dull hair may be thought quarrelsome though apt in holy studies. The owner of black and glossy hair is seen as a success in material things, but if the hair is coarse and straight it may indicate an evil



person, one who does not fear God.

Frizzy hair is seen as an indication of violent temper, silky hair as a mark of good companionship. Gray hair, of course, is a sign of wisdom, blonde of goodness, brunette of evil, and red of spittle temperament.

Readers are invited to send folk material to Folk-Ways and Folk-Speech, Box 376, Appalachian State University, Boone, N.C. 28608.

Brush Creek Meeting

The Brush Creek Community Club will meet at the community building on December 6 at 6:00 p.m. As this is a dinner meeting, hamburgers, hotdogs and coffee will be furnished by the club. Members are asked to bring either a vegetable or dessert to complete the meal.

McNair called attention to the projects that are sponsored by the association such as the annual Agricultural Credit Conference, the Short Course in Modern Farming at NCSU for young farmers who are provided scholarships given by their home community banks, and the co-sponsorship of the FFA Land Judging Meet in the interest of soil conservation. He also said that banks in North Carolina provided \$264,591,000 in farm loans to farmers in the state as of January 1, 1976. Citing



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