

# the western carolinian



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# The voice of the 'Whee since 1933

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## By Liam Bridgeman

For 90 years The Western Carolinian has served the Western Carolina community – and this is no small feat. For the last 15 years, local newspapers have been on the decline, leaving communities without a vital resource. Luckily for us, The Western Carolinian is alive and well.

For a moment, however, it seemed as though 90 years would not be reached. Like so many other newspapers in the nation, The Western Carolinian was heading toward its downfall, and it appeared as though COVID-19 was making the final knockout blow. We couldn't produce the content that the community so desperately needed, and worse, student journalists didn't want to write. With no one to write, we struggled to remain consistent, ultimately harming those we were meant to help.

But with hard work and dedication, we have established a positive culture built around passion, dedication and family – we've now set the foundation for the next 90 years. With such a long and storied history, our staff thought it was appropriate to celebrate The Western Carolinian and this 90-year achievement that so many are proud of. This edition is meant to detail the history and hard work that so many passionate WCU students printed on the pages of each edition. We came to the unfortunate reality that compressing all of that dedication into just a few pages was impossible.

We did our best, but nothing could measure the wealth of information that lies on each page. It's impossible to translate the significant role The Western Carolinian has played on this campus since 1933. From major world events to

big news at WCU – whatever it was, no matter how big or how small the story, The Western Carolinian was there.

From the beginning, the reader has always been the top priority. As you'll read in the next few pages, The Western Carolinian has changed with the times, covering exactly what was necessary for its readers. We hope this holds true today. We also hope the benefit of student media is apparent to readers today just as it has been for the past 90 years. As a student newspaper we have the duty and privilege to ensure the safety and security of students, faculty, staff and administration at WCU. Beyond that, we bridge the invisible gap that lies between each of these groups.

As a staff, we are extremely proud to hold this torch and to be able to carry it into the next decade. To say that we are here for WCU is one thing, but to show it is another. I am so proud of our staff for taking this responsibility and never wavering – we are here for you, and we always will be. As long as we have eager student journalists, like the members of our current staff, The Western Carolinian will never die and the greater WCU community will always remain informed and supported by our organization.

The last thing I want to say is thank you. Thank you to everyone that has been a part of this organization over the past 90 years. Each editor, writer, designer, photographer and cartoonist has contributed to the history we celebrate today. Lastly, thank you to everyone that has made this edition possible including our staff, the editors who wrote to us, our advisors and the Hunter Library Special Collections staff. Here's to the next 90 years!

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# 'Voice of the students' for 90 years

By Cora Haste



The end of 2023 marked the 90th year of The Western Carolinian. The first edition of the student-run newspaper was published in 1933. A lot has changed since then but one thing remains the same: The Western Carolinian seeks to report the truth and inform the public on WCU's ever-changing campus and the surrounding areas.

The same year The Western Carolinian published its first edition, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was sworn into his first term as president, Adolf Hitler was elected chancellor of Germany and the first ever drive-in movie theater opened in New Jersey.

Western Carolina University, as we now know it, was founded in 1889 and received a charter as Cullowhee High School in 1891. For years, the purpose of the school was to train teachers. In 1929 it became a four-year institution known as Western

Carolina Teachers College. It wasn't until 1967 that WCU adopted its current name.

In its first year, The Western Carolinian reported that there were 366 students enrolled in Western Carolina Teachers College. The campus then consisted of about 25 acres. The main buildings were Joyner which housed administration; Madison which housed the gymnasium; and the Moore dormitory where students and some faculty lived.

## The history of The Western Carolinian

The campus published its first newspaper in 1924 called The Cullowhee Yodel. The Yodel was a collaboration between students and faculty. In 1933 it rebranded as The Western Carolinian and became a student-led organization.

Jason Brady is a university library specialist in Special and Digital Collections at the Hunter Library. Brady recognizes The Western Carolinian as a reputable and trusted reference.

"We get reference questions all the time about the history of the University – when this happened, when this department began, you know all sorts of stuff – but chances are it's in The Western Carolinian, almost always," Brady said.

The Hunter Library's Special and Digital Collections has a huge database of campus publications including The Cullowhee Yodel, campus yearbooks and The Western Carolinian dating back almost a century. These publications can be accessed by

anyone on the second floor of Hunter Library. The Special Collections Reading Room is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., or by appointment Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The collection can also be accessed on the Southern Appalachian Digital Collections website.

Looking through the paper's old, yellowed pages is a walk back in time. While the 1920s may feel far removed, the issues then were not very different from the issues covered today. The front page



of The Cullowhee Yodel's first edition boasted the headline "Educators favor better highway."

The article covered the motion to surface the road between Cullowhee and Sylva. According to the paper, "the institution's future growth would be greatly hindered unless the school is made more accessible at all times of the year." At the time the road to Sylva from Cullowhee was a dirt road, often impassable in rainy weather.

This coverage is reminiscent of the Highway 107 expansion stories being published today. The road expansion promises to bring heightened safety and growth to the area. Looking back at the paper shows just how much things have changed and how the area has grown.

The Western Carolinian has published

**When You Buy At Home**

You are helping build your own section. You are helping build good roads, good schools, good churches at your own door. You know what you are buying and with whom you are dealing.

Jackson County's Wholesale Grocery has been building up a wide custom throughout Western North Carolina, with the home merchants, by giving them the best of groceries coupled with prompt efficient service.

BUY AT HOME

**Mercantile Supply Company**

L. C. HALL, Manager.  
Sylva, N. C.

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**DEALERS IN Everything**

THE GREATER VOLUME THE BETTER VALUES. WE HAVE IT. OUR 1923 SALE \$150,000.00

**Sylva Supply Co. Incorporated**

**Tar Heel Facts and Tar Heel Progress**

— NORTH CAROLINA IS RAPIDLY FORGING TOWARD THE FRONT IN EDUCATIONAL MATTERS. — IN 1900 EXPENDITURES FOR EDUCATION IN THE STATE AMOUNTED TO LESS THAN A MILLION DOLLARS. — IN 1910 EXPENDITURES WERE \$3,000,000. — AND IN 1923 EDUCATIONAL EXPENDITURES WERE \$25,000,000.00 — AN INCREASE OF 700 PER CENT IN TEN YEARS. — WITH INCREASED EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENTS COMES INCREASED EARNING POWERS, AND WITH INCREASED EARNING POWER COMES A GROWING NEED FOR STRONG BANKING FACILITIES; AND WE INVITE YOU TO AVAIL YOURSELF OF THE SERVICE OF THIS INSTITUTION.

**Tuckaseegee Bank**

a variety of content through the years, from cigarette ads to reports of students having appendicitis surgery. There have always been sports to cover. The football rivalry against Appalachian State, dubbed the Battle for the Old Mountain Jug, was covered by The Western Carolinian starting in 1932 and continuing annually until the final matchup in 2013.

In the early 1940s The Western Carolinian's coverage had a change of tune. Full pages were dedicated to World War II coverage. Many students were drafted to serve overseas. There was coverage of alumni and students dying in the war. Advertisers bought full pages encouraging readers to buy war bonds and support the war effort.

The Western Carolinian has always provided a more personal take on things happening in Cullowhee. According to Brady, University records, minutes and history books sterilize the school's rich history. He references old editions of The Western Carolinian to understand the culture of the area throughout past decades.

"It's a little bit more unvarnished version of the University's history that you just don't get from books or board minutes," Brady said.

The journalists back then did not realize that they were writing drafts of history. Reporter Marrah Ste. Marie knows how important it is to keep a finger on the pulse of what's happening.

"We need The Western Carolinian for the same reason we need any other news publication, we keep students informed, we hold different parts of the school responsible if they do something wrong and we help to create a community around campus," Ste. Marie said.

### What does it mean for a newspaper to be student-run?

According to the Pew Research Center 62% of Americans ages 18-29 say they have some or a lot of trust in local news outlets. Within this same age bracket, 56% trust national news organizations. These numbers have been on the decline in the last decade. Americans' trust in the media has been decreasing over the years. This may stem from distrust in government, powerful companies or people.

The beauty of a student-run paper is there are no powerful players dictating what information is published. The Western Carolinian operates on a budget managed by the Department of Campus Activities. This money is used to pay writers, designers and editors – a team comprised entirely of students.

This budget does not cover all of the publication's expenses, so advertisements must be sold to local business and national ad partners. Ad spaces are available in the print edition and on the website.

The Department of Campus Activities has no say in what The Western Carolinian publishes. There are no professors pushing specific content.

"The students – they're not beholden to the same people that the administrators are. They don't have to change the perspective to make things look better or look worse depending on what the politics of the situation want. It seems quite credible," Brady said of the paper's independence from university politics.

Student journalists with a passion for producing an informative paper are the driving force behind the newspaper. This is the legacy of The Western Carolinian and student-run papers across America.

**STUDENT Owned** **THE WESTERN CAROLINIAN** **STUDENT Controlled**

Vol. XV No. 2 CULLOWHEE, N. C.—OCTOBER 11, 1947 Published By Student Assn.

**Largest Number In History Of College Registered Here**

The '47-48 season opened at Western Carolina with the largest number enrolled for any quarter in the history of the school. Totals of 146 women and 405 men registered for school work have recently been released by the registrar.

This breaks the 1939 registration figures of 322 and last year's 406.

Of the 206 students, 169 are freshmen and 39 are transfers. Veterans total 296, almost half the entire enrollment; of these 180 are new students. Enrollment figures by class have the freshmen leading with 201, sophomore, 164; juniors, 110; and seniors, 76.

Mars Hill college leads with 6 in number of representative transfers, followed by Bryerard college with 5. N. C. State and Women's college have 3 representatives each. Other transfer students are from U. N. C., University of South Carolina, Pfeiffer, Erskine, Asheville 11 in 176, Oak Ridge Military Institute, Gardner-Webb, Spartanburg Junior, Elon, Young Harris Junior, Presbyterian Junior, U. S. Naval Academy, Duke, U. T. Berea and Campbell.

Jackson county leads with 113 students of the total enrollment. Haywood follows with 52; Buncombe, 46; Macon, 27; Henderson, 25; Cherokee, 21; Clay and McDowell, 16 each; Gaston, 15; Graham and Madison, 12; Burke and Swain, 10 each. Almost every county in the state is represented.

In representation by out-of-state students, South Carolina leads with 16, followed by Massachusetts with 5. Thirteen states are represented and one foreign country, Cuba, has 6 students attending.

**Cabe-Beck Co-Star In Play's "Death Takes A Holiday"**

Don Cabe, senior, has the lead as Prince Sirk in *Death Takes a Holiday*, forthcoming production of the Western Carolina Players, and Miss Louise Beck will costar as Gracia. The tentative date set for the 3-act comedy is November 6th.

The play centers around the three day holiday of Death and the suspension of all Death's activities. During his visit to earth as a mortal he falls desperately in love and through his love finds who man fears him.

*Death Takes a Holiday*, by Albert Gueder, was first staged in New York City in 1929 starring Ethel Barrymore. It was rewritten for the American stage by Walter Ferris.

In a review of the *New York Times* a critic wrote: "—an artistic tale—travels an unfamiliar land and touches the imagination royally."

And in the *New York Sun*: "—always fascinating; all ways a stirring leap into the dark. It will take you out of the ordinary; often it will take you to the stars."

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**1947 Catamount Football Squad**



**Cats Topple Pioneers 36-6 In First Victory Of Season**

Lindsey Presented In Radio Program

Bryson, Hunt And Heavner Score Touchdowns For Locals

Western Carolina's first in a series of radio programs, presented over WNCN, was broadcast on Friday, October 10, at 8:00 p. m. Lindsey, baritone, gave a 15-minute broadcast of light classical music. Mr. W. B. Harrell, director of the school's Personnel Relations office, is in charge of the schedule.

With a friendly "Good afternoon, Ladies and Gentlemen," Jack Harrett, announcer, opened the program by presenting Lindsey's selections. They were "With-out a Sound" by Vincent Youmans; "Dana," Josephine McGill; "Road to Mandalay," Richard King and Olla Speaks; and "Into the Night," Clara Edwards. Lindsey was accompanied at the piano by Mrs. Charles Gully.

Although the program is being broadcast from station WNCN, Asheville, the school will be granted time on that station beginning late this month or early in November. Days and time for the broadcasts have not been determined.

Programs having presented consisted of music, dramatic skits and sport news. Each department of the college will be asked to contribute to the broadcast.

**Kittymounts Take Blue Ridge Squad**

The Kittymounts opened their '47 season with a 7-0 victory over a fighting Blue Ridge School for Boys team at Hendersonville on October 4.

Bobby Nanny crossed from the one-yard line to end a touchdown drive in the second quarter. Elbertidge kicked the extra point to complete the scoring for the night.

The Kittymounts, using a "T" formation under Coach Jim Gudger, all have lined up with Nanny, Selzer and Doster as standouts in the line, and Nanny teaming with Doster in the line.

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**WCTC Band Makes Initial Appearance**

The Western Carolina band made its initial appearance at assembly Sept. 23 and received the enthusiastic applause of the student body. Under the direction of E. F. Lindberg, a member of the staff of the music department, the band will appear at all major athletic events and will present several concerts during the winter and spring quarters.

The present band personnel include Jack Barnette, Bill Bauer, Sammy Beck, Edgar Carpenter, Clinton Dodson, Virginia Edmund.

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**100 At Conference On Resource Use Ed.; Erwin Chief Speaker**

Approximately 100 educators and laymen attended the annual conference on Resource-use education held at Western Carolina Oct. 4. Principal speaker of the program was A. Erwin, superintendent of public instruction in North Carolina and chairman of the North Carolina Resource-use Education Commission.

"Generations of the past have been largely interested in only their own welfare," said Erwin. "But now that we realize that our resources are limited we know that we must plan for future generations."

Mr. Erwin reminded the group that all life on this planet is dependent upon a thin blanket of soil, and that it is estimated that we have already wasted half of it. At our present rate of use, he said, most of our important natural resources would be depleted in 100 years.

"In our own state three cities, Winston-Salem, Greensboro, and High Point are faced with a shortage of usable water in the near future, and will have to look to the mountains for a supply. The Yadkin river is becoming so loaded with valuable topsoil that it will soon be unfit for use."

"There is in man," he declared, "the only evidence of infidelity found on this earth. If he set his mind to it, what could he do to give people a fuller, happier, longer life; to improve land, our forests, our streams; to make our exhaustible resources, such as soil and water, last longer?"

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**Camp Named One Of Five Outstanding Women On Roster**

Miss Cordelia Camp, director of the training school, has been named one of the five outstanding women in North Carolina education in an *Educational Roster of Key Women*, issued by the Delta Kappa Gamma society. Miss Camp, one of the twelve state founders of the Delta Kappa Gamma in North Carolina, helped organize the Gamma chapter with headquarters in Asheville. She served three years as district president and two as state president.

In the Foreword of the bulletin, the purpose of the work was set forth as follows: "For the past several years there have been increasing and persistent requests from administrators, executives of educational organizations, and key laymen for information concerning the identity of women who might properly be considered for appointments to unusual responsibilities. Very often capable women are omitted from consideration when the need for filling new positions arises or when some significant piece of work needs to be done, simply because

—Turn To Page Three

"There's no better feeling in the world than someone telling you how your story impacted them and their knowledge of a subject," Bridgeman said.

Bridgeman has not only covered important topics on campus but has gained experience as journalist that is incredibly valuable as he pursues his career.

"It's important to give young journalists an outlet where they can explore their own writing and actually produce great products that have an immediate impact on their university," Bridgeman said.

Lilly Knoepp is the senior regional reporter for the Blue Ridge Public Radio. She graduated from UNC Chapel Hill and spent some time working with The Daily Tar Heel. The Daily Tar Heel is an independent student paper that has been reporting on news in Chapel Hill since 1893.

Knoepp discussed the importance of a student newsroom's freedom to make bold editorial choices.

"I think they make a pretty big impact as a news organization, period," Knoepp said. "Being able to have the power to make those kinds of editorial decisions as a group of students I think puts you in a really unique position. It's a lot of responsibility as a journalist—like what you put on the front page, what headlines you use."

### The future of The Western Carolinian

The Western Carolinian is still distributing physical copies, but news is moving in a digital direction. There is still a charm to a physical newspaper though. A tangible paper feels like living history held in

your hands.

The online format allows the coverage to be more fluid. Corrections can be made, photos and videos can be added and news can be accessed at any time. The Western Carolinian can be accessed online at westerncarolinian.com for up-to-date coverage of Western Carolina University's events and happenings.

Whether readers pick up physical copies, browse the website or tune into the paper's social media, The Western Carolinian's mission remains the same.

"It's important to continue that tradition so that people can stay connected and know what's happening on campus," said Ste. Marie.

Journalism has been dubbed the "first draft of history." The Western Carolinian has been the voice of Cullowhee since 1933. It has covered history in the making for 90 years and will continue to do so for years to come.



Journalists on college campuses have the responsibility of being a watchdogs and covering topics that are important to students.

### Why should students care?

For hundreds of years, student-run newspapers have been an important part of college campuses. Campus newspapers have a responsibility to inform students about campus events, expose wrongdoing and hold leadership accountable. Newspapers exercise the first amendment rights of free speech and free press.

Liam Bridgeman, current editor-in-chief of The Western Carolinian, is passionate about journalism and is pursuing a career in the field.

# Smart future: Implementing AI in higher education

By Stewart Butler

Development in artificial intelligence is quickly changing the way we live our lives. As the world advances at great speed, it is increasingly important we be aware of technologies developing around us.

Students, instructors and administrators are all grappling with the rapid development of artificial intelligence. But as we try to stay ahead of the curve, AI continues to advance.

“We have to stay cutting-edge. AI is new. And we don’t have a lot of data to show how it’s impacting student learning,” said Ken Sanney, chairperson for WCU’s artificial intelligence working group.

Sanney is also the director of the School of Finance, Accounting, Information Systems, and Business Law. He stresses the importance of preparing students to use artificial intelligence in education and industry.

“We have an obligation to train you all how to use it so that you have competitive advantages in the marketplace to get a job, get promoted, do well and not be left behind,” Sanney said. “Our curriculum needs to update itself, consistent with technological advancements and what our students are going to encounter.”

The world is in a “wild west” era of generative AI and machine learning—every industry is desperately trying to

incorporate AI, but with mixed results because of the lack of guidelines or precedent. Education on the subject is essential to the development of students, and it’s an aptly hot topic within circles of higher education.

Sanney says WCU’s AI working group is focused on developing methods of best practice, usage policies and educational programs for students, faculty and staff alike. The group hopes to promote understanding and fluency in AI programs that foster successes in the professional world.

“It’s being used in every industry. If you’re going into nursing, you’re using AI. If you’re going out into chemistry and doing pharmacological research, you’re using AI. If you go into teaching in elementary or junior high, you’re going to be using AI. It doesn’t matter where you’re going, you’re going to be using AI,” Sanney said.

Ryan O’Sullivan is a junior triple majoring in computer information systems, business administration and business management. O’Sullivan also sees the need for education on the responsible use



of artificial intelligence.

“It’s important for students to use AI correctly, however almost none of them have ever learned or seen how it can be used to assist them without compromising academic integrity,” O’Sullivan said.

“AI has tons of terrific usecases from visual design and business modeling or even just helping you flush out an idea or concept. It is also great for dealing with tedious actions such as checking syntax or component libraries when programming,” O’Sullivan said.

Dr. Nora Doyle is a professor in the history department. Both Doyle and Sanney recognize a key distinction in the way students apply artificial intelligence.

“Through reading and writing we learn to articulate questions, discover patterns in the evidence, and draw conclusions,” Doyle said. “Therefore, if a student relies on generative AI to do the reading and writing for them, they will miss out on the entire purpose of the discipline.”

“If students can understand the difference and connections between facts and analysis, then they can understand why they need to think and write for themselves, rather than relying on generative AI,” Doyle said.

“Think of it as a tool that extends our intelligence. But not in a blunt way, it extends it in a reciprocal way where there’s interaction,” Sanney said. “Students who see an upside to cheating are going to cheat. AI isn’t going to change that. What it comes down to is convincing students that AI is a tool that can make them better, not to make college easier.”

Anyone with an email address and an



Photo from [www.freepix.com](http://www.freepix.com).

internet connection has access to the most powerful tool of our generation. Sanney encourages students to task themselves with developing an understanding of AI and becoming literate in its programs.

“Spaces of teaching and learning have always been shaped by changing technologies, and the amazing accessibility of information via the internet has arguably created the most

significant changes for teachers and students in recent decades. Now that generative AI programs are so easy to access and easy to use, it makes sense that this new way of generating information will have a significant impact on the world of education,” Doyle said.

In the next edition, The Western Carolinian will detail the many ethical issues riddling the topic of artificial intelligence.

# Road construction will be painful but right safety project for Sylva

By Abigail Quinn and Lauren Ramsey

Originally published by The Sylva Herald



The LOVER graffiti marks the places where a business or home used to be before it was taken down to make space for the 107 road work. Photo by WCJ.

Businesses along Highway 107 lay stark and empty as the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) prepares to widen the route between Cullowhee and Sylva. Graffiti coats the sides of once well-loved buildings and community staples as many businesses have closed or relocated to accommodate the lengthy and expensive construction.

## What will the new road look like

The Highway 107 expansion project, internally known as R-5600, is a long-expected project that has been discussed for more than 20 years. The 2.6-mile

project will provide wider lanes, bike lanes, sidewalks, and a grass median in some segments of the new road. The primary purpose is to modernize the roadway with special attention to road and sidewalk safety.

Jeanette White, project development team lead at the Department of Transportation office in Sylva shared information about the project including documents and presentations with details.

The construction starts just before the Innovation Brewery in Sylva with a new sidewalk, all the way to Lovedale Road

past CVS and the cemetery.

It will include one bridge replacement and refurbishing of the second bridge on Scott's Creek going toward downtown Sylva, new traffic light on the intersection with Cherry Street and East Hall Heights; six new bulb-outs to allow for U-turn access points in addition to signalized intersection U-turn capabilities. It will also have 23 to 25 walls that will, as White explained, lessen the project impact and will range in height from a few feet to 35 feet tall.

From the intersection of Asheville Hwy, and NC 107, the primary roadway cross-section will have a small 5.5 feet concrete median since grass cannot be easily maintained in areas less than 5 feet wide. Near O'Reilly Auto Parts, the corridor will transition from a concrete median to a grass median.

It will have a new Stormwater Box Culvert, and the project is still going under revision there because as White explained the work will be bigger than expected when they discovered that there are two streams, Mill Creek and an unnamed tributary going under the road. Buildings and businesses from Pizza Hut to the first entrance of Lowe's will be impacted and might have to relocate.

Though many businesses have spoken





“We will be on Skyland Drive, hopefully by the end of the year. It’s really up in the air,” Jones said. “I’ll be retired but I’m so glad my employees will still have a job... we were so scared because we couldn’t find anything. There was nothing nearby,” she said.

Though she was grateful for the state provided relocation assistant, she couldn’t help but wish things would move faster.

Unlike the veterinary office, Tagged Out hunting supply is able to keep their location but anticipates losing several feet from the front of their business. Soon, their business may be face-to-face with the newly reconstructed road, sacrificing the entrance and awning to the building. “They aren’t taking our property,” Tagged Out owner Dustin Hayes said.

Hayes commented that Tagged Out’s business is good, however there is nothing that they can do to prepare for the disruption to business that the road will cause.

“We don’t really have any way to prepare. It’s just going to have to be one of those things where we deal with it when it comes,” Hayes said.

Tagged will not receive any monetary or physical assistance from the state or the Department of Transportation since the building itself is not being demolished in the expansion process.

“They’ll pay for the property but outside of that no. What I do think is going to happen is that those people who are left in business will end up having to pay the taxes of everyone else that got kicked out,” Hayes said. He warned that everyone needs to prepare if they have property in town. “It’s gonna cost them, I promise



Tagged Out hunting supply is able to keep their location but anticipates losing several feet off of the front of their business. Photo by WCJ.

you...someone’s gotta pay for it,” he said.

Some businesses affected by the road expansion were less open to talking than others, like Bryson’s Farm supply. From the moment the road expansion came up in conversation the entire demeanor changed. The employee adamantly refused to speak on the topic. “We’re angry,” the employee said, visibly shaking and upset. “It’s more than I can bear to talk about... we’ve been here for 51 years.”

The construction is anticipated to conclude in 2029 according to DOT plans.

However, the project from East Laporte to Tuckasegee that began in 2016 is three years past schedule.

This project will be a painful and costly endeavor for the community, the town and the county, but, as White says, it is an investment in safety for the growing town.

The story was reported with contributions from Bryson Jusko and Jake Harkey. The series was produced by students in News Practicum (COMM 385) and supported by a small grant from the Center for Community News.

# Economic impact of the Highway 107 construction still unknown

By Bryson Jusko and Jake Harkey

Originally published by the The Sylva Herald

America runs on Dunkin and Sylva lost the only one in town. Dunkin Donuts closed shop in November and more businesses will be closing permanently or moving to a new location soon. With all of this change, Sylva's economy is expected to take a hit.

In the summer of 2021, the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) began work on the road. It started with settling with the property owners who will be impacted by the expansion. According to lawyers Kevin Mahoney and Jay Coward, 152 parcels will be impacted. Of those, 20 businesses and seven residential properties will have to relocate. Mahoney and Coward represent 22 property owners.

Crash analysis data from NCDOT of the road found that "the corridor experiences a high percentage of rear-end collisions which can be caused by congested conditions — a crash rate higher than the state average."

According to the Traffic Engineering Accident Analysis System, the five-year crash study from August 2011-July 2016 found 254 total crashes on N.C. 107 from N.C. 116 to U.S. 23 Business. That translates to 234 crashes per 100 million vehicle miles (mvm) of travel — a rate higher than the 2013-15 statewide average for all N.C. routes (221 per 100 mvm) but lower than

the statewide average for four-lane N.C. routes with a continuous left turn lane.

A NCDOT crash analysis of Highway 107 from U.S. 23 to Evans Road (SR1774) between January 2017 and September 2023, found a total of 707 crashes. Of these crashes, 85% reported property damage, 15% reported injury, and three were fatal.

NCDOT data from 2022, ranked cities with populations of less than 10,000 based on all reported crashes from January 1,

2020, through December 31, 2022. From this data, Sylva ranked 10th of 432 cities included in the data.

Discussions and various plans for improving the flow of traffic through town have been discussed for over 20 years. Coming up with the plan and the execution of this plan has been a battle.

Many ideas were proposed by the community, like creating a Southern loop through Webster that would aim



Dunkin Donuts in Sylva closed in November 2023 as a result of the road work on N.C. 107. Photo by Lauren Ramsey.

to divert traffic through Cullowhee and Macon County.

The Department of Transportation explored the idea of a bypass through the Cane Creek area that would have pushed WCU traffic toward Balsam.

Sylva town manager Page Dowling explained, Sylva businesses didn't want the bypass because it would have resulted in a loss of business.

The 2012 Jackson County NC 107 feasibility study saw talks of constructing roundabouts, replacing center turn lanes with islands, and even adjusting traffic

signal timings.

These ideas were ultimately shut down because of environmental concerns surrounding the unique topography of the area.

Eventually, these ideas led to a campaign formed by Sylva residents – “Smart Roads not New Roads”.

The Highway 107 construction project, internally known as R-5600, was first presented in 2017 and has been in development since.

The biggest problem that the R-5600

project faces is the numerous businesses it is tearing down.

“I think the southern loop across Kings Mountain and the other loop that went from approximately where the SCC bypass is now, that would have gone through the mountains over to where Blanton's Branch is on the other side would have been a much better solution than to killing off half of the business district of Sylva with an improvement [to] 107,” Coward said.

Coward was unable to stop the destruction of these businesses, but that doesn't mean he gave up. Coward and Mahoney hope to get affected businesses and property owners compensation for their troubles.

Outside of the businesses worry, another big question arises – what will be the financial impact of these lost businesses on the town of Sylva?

“I have contacted other towns that have had similar projects, and also the DOT and there is really not a town with a project comparable to this because so much of this is happening in our one commercial corridor,” Dowling said.

During a candidate forum, then-mayoral candidate Johnny Phillips said that the road construction will cause a \$300,000 loss in tax revenue.

“That is an estimate and there really is no way to predict a firm number. However, it is a good prediction,” Dowling said.

However, we do know how much some of the first projects cost. According to Dowling, the brick building that was taken down across from Kelsafe led to a \$20,000 revenue loss.

“We won't start to realize the impact on



One of the tight spots on 107 is near Smokey Mountain High School. Photo by WCJ.

the taxes and revenue until June 2025,” Dowling added.

NCDOT expects the destruction of businesses and buildings will be done and all the utility relocation will be under way or finished by June of 2025. Actual construction of the project is estimated to take two years, though Cowen is not optimistic about the timeline.

“The project from East La Porte to Tuckasegee just up the road from Western Carolina University was started in 2016. It was supposed to be finished by 2020. It’s three years over scheduled, so based on the experience we have right here in this community, no, that timetable is probably not correct,” Cowen said.

As Dowling explained, there are steps already in place to limit the revenue loss the town and Jackson County may encounter.

“We are going to try to look for any type of revenue stream to offset the burden on the taxpayers,” said Dowling, “We are trying to offset this burden on the taxpayers with other growth within the town and other economic development incentives.”

Bernadette Peters, Sylva’s economic development director, said the town has initiatives underway to fill existing spaces and rehabilitate older buildings to increase their value.

Some of these initiatives that Peters mentioned include working with business owners to improve and expand their property use, along with talking with new entities that want to start their business in Sylva.

Businesses that are affected by the expansion are encouraged to stay in Sylva



Sylva business Bryson's Farm Supply after more than 50 years had to close its doors once the road work took over. Photo by WCJ.

with more than 10 already relocated within Sylva town limits.

“The redevelopment of the corridor and the buildings and businesses that will be in there will add value to the tax revenue that we need and really make Sylva a more updated and better place,” Peters said.

“As the corridor is safer more people are going to be willing to shop there and more businesses will open,” added Dowling.

Both Peters and Dowling are optimistic about the future and what the new road will bring. “I think long term as Western and Jackson County continue to grow, drivers will need this. I do believe that the long-term benefits outweigh what

is going to happen with construction,” Dowling said.

“I think that Sylva and Dillsboro, Webster and Cullowhee, is a vibrant, alive place and it’s going to survive, but it’s going to have a...decade of payoffs and then as people see investment opportunities, it’ll probably get built back. But it’ll be 20 years from now before it’s got that vibrancy that it’s got right now, or that it had two years ago,” Coward said.

The story was reported with contributions from Abigail Quinn and Lauren Ramsey. The series was produced by students in News Practicum (COMM 385) and supported by a small grant from the Center for Community News.

# SGA and UASWS work together to pass WISE Act

By Marrah Ste. Marie

On Monday, Nov. 27, SGA voted to pass the Wage Increase for Student Employees Act. This signals a big step toward the Undergraduate Alliance for Student Worker Success' (UASWS) goal to raise student wages across campus.

The WISE Act, created by SGA Senator Zach Powell, is a resolution that is designed to raise the minimum wage for workers across WCU to \$12.

"It has a personal importance to me...as a self-providing student, I would like to seek a job on campus and know that I'm going to be able to pay my rent and feed myself," Powell said.

For a lot of students working on campus, between pay and the hours they are scheduled, one job is not enough. This is what inspired Aías Vysagoth to create a student worker union in August of 2022.

"I had noticed my coworkers were getting second jobs to pay their rent. That did not seem right to me or respectable to me,"



Photo by Marrah Ste. Marie.

Vysagoth said. When creating the WISE Act, Powell reached out to Vysagoth and asked for his help in order to bring more attention to the UASWS agenda.

For many student workers, this act provides the ability to focus on academics rather than working two or more jobs just to support themselves.

Kait Lindman is a graduate student who works for the Department of Campus Activities as an office assistant lead. Lindman has worked for DCA for four years and currently makes \$11.05 in their position.

"As someone who pays for my own living and pays for all of my own expenses, I have to have this in addition to another job to be able to pay for everything," Lindman said.

After Assistant Director for Business Operations Catherine MacCallum left her position in DCA, many of her responsibilities fell on Lindman. Even so, Lindman was offered no additional raise or compensation for the additional duties.

The Undergraduate Alliance for Student Worker Success became a recognized student organization on Sept. 23, 2022, and has since been petitioning to raise minimum student wages.

The petition, titled "Raise the minimum wage for part-time student workers at Western Carolina University," is still open.



Student workers must put in extra time during popular events such as the homecoming carnival. Photo by Marrah Ste. Marie.

Students can sign by going to [change.org](https://change.org) and searching "UASWS WCU".

According to SGA President CJ Mitchell, the final decision of whether the act will be implemented or not falls upon the several administrations the act applies to. Mitchell does not know when the decision will be made or if it will be made before the end of the spring 2024 semester.

According to Mitchell, the biggest issue with the WISE Act is that it's unclear where the money to raise wages will come from.

"If that department is fee funded, the student workers are also fee funded... that means the only way they can be paid more is if that fee went up, and we don't necessarily want to do that," Mitchell said.

"We're supposed to get a response, like a reason why they rejected the WISE Act... if that happens, we are going to demonstrate or do something because we are not going to accept that answer," Vysagoth said.

# Wheehaw! WCU students enjoy a honky-tonk good time

By Cora Haste



Photo by Layla Eckhardt.

The UC Grand Room was decked out in flannel and denim on Jan. 18 as familiar boot-scooting melodies rang out from the DJ booth.

Last Minute Productions hosted Wheehaw – the much-anticipated countrified night of dance, bull-riding and karaoke. The event first took place in fall 2021, and it was a huge hit on campus.

“We didn’t do it in 2022 and we got a lot of questions and people were wondering why and wanting to bring it back. So whenever it was time to pitch events for this semester, I wanted to bring it back and see what we could do to make it even better,” Lyndsey Conway, an employee with Last Minute Productions said.

The event, back by popular demand, filled the UC Grand Room with students

for line-dancing and a live DJ. A total of 480 students were in attendance. The dance floor was a judgement-free zone as people stumbled through new dances and tripped over one another’s cowboy boots. Grapevines, jazz squares and the do-si-do played out to a soundtrack of country classics and pop hits.

“It’s so fun just to dance and not be judged for it,” attendee Faith Robinson said.

A line snaked through the crowd as people excitedly waited for their chance to saddle up on the mechanical bull. Crowds formed to spectate as riders competed to see who could hang on the longest.

“It was really challenging because you couldn’t really grab ahold of what you were going to do until like the point you were going to fall off,” attendee McKenna Reed said.



Brave performers took to the stage to sing karaoke classics, favorites and deep cuts. Photo by Layla Eckhardt.



Photo by Layla Eckhardt.

In the next room the fun continued. The UC Illusions was set up with a stage and karaoke machine. There were board games and tables full of karaoke spectators. Chaotic performances of “Life Is a Highway” and “Dixieland Delight” garnered laughter from the audience.

Conway compared the night’s atmosphere to a country honky-tonk.

“It seems like a lot of people are having fun,” Conway said.

LMP has a full schedule of exciting events happening in February. Grab your valentine or your “galentine” for a night of bracelet making and rom-coms on Feb. 14 in the UC. There will be an open mic night on Feb. 22.

# 90th Anniversary Word Search

D M A K I X B F B M U Z F B M J M V Q M	<b>News</b>
F C N O I T U B I R T S I D I X E D X W	<b>Yodel</b>
L E S Y T I N U M M O C J E N X K D T Y	<b>Publication</b>
Y L T T E Y M P R Z D S O O E P C D X T	<b>Mountains</b>
S E R K N V Y L O E J U I G L R O F S I	<b>Students</b>
Q B O I Y E V Z S I R T S R E T I R W L	<b>Cartoons</b>
I R P T T M M I T N A X N A V S O C Q I	<b>Catamount</b>
I A S A Z P G N K C R S T B P T F A E B	<b>Sports</b>
S T X M W N R L I L N I H T I L R R C A	<b>Distribution</b>
A I K J E Y E L K A V O N D E N U T O I	<b>Writers</b>
N O Z R W D B Y Y I T U E Z N R U O M L	<b>Entertainment</b>
N N S X O U X E T A O R O B M E B O M E	<b>Anniversary</b>
I Z F Y P A R Y V M V C E Y N T W N I R	<b>Designers</b>
V W W M O U N T A I N S I T Z T C S T Z	<b>Reliability</b>
E E B V P N I T I F J F A O N O N Q M N	<b>Celebration</b>
R Z G C S E A K W W Q B W G U E G P E N	<b>Advertisement</b>
S T X J V C L W Y F Q I V S U R X D N D	<b>Community</b>
A O W T I U N S T N E D U T S M Z U T X	<b>Editors</b>
R N R I A D V E R T I S E M E N T G A V	<b>Creativity</b>
Y I O P Z H Q N N T B B F A N V H O I Y	<b>Commitment</b>



# Cullowhee Community Garden stays hot during winter months

By Marrah Ste. Marie

Even through winter, as the ground chills over with frost and the plants slowly die, the Cullowhee Community Garden remains hard at work. To avoid the ever-growing cold season, the garden utilizes a greenhouse that cuts through the path of the garden.

Through the greenhouse, David Claxon, the garden manager, and five other gardeners can grow kale, lettuce, rosemary, cilantro, parsnips and other produce. The greenhouse does not have power but still retains enough heat for the tough plants to thrive.

For Claxon and the gardeners, 2023 was a successful year. All the plots combined to donate over 850 pounds of food fresh from the Cullowhee Community Garden.

“I was stunned. This is the first year that I’ve been garden manager and so I was not aware of how much we’ve given away...I was really happy when I saw that final



Cullowhee Community Garden's greenhouse. Photo by Marrah Ste. Marie.



Claxon watering lettuce. Photo by Marrah Ste. Marie.

number,” Claxon said.

Of the final number, over 200 pounds of the food donated came from two fruit trees in the garden.

“Last year was the first year that we started really paying attention to our fruit trees,” Claxon said.

Minda Daughtry has played a large part in optimizing the fruit trees production, especially through pruning.

“I learned this from Minda: a good fruit tree, you can tell if it’s been well

maintained... you should be able to look into it and see how a bird could fly right through the crown of that tree and not crash into a branch,” Claxon said.

According to Daughtry, you should not prune more than 30% of a tree in one year. The trees will not be fully pruned by the end of 2024, but the process has begun. Claxon says that if the trees are pruned correctly, they will grow to produce more and more fruit.

Claxon takes deep pride in providing the freshest produce some will ever eat. He recalled a student coming to the garden

and eating a pear, telling him it was the first fresh pear she had ever eaten.

“I don’t know if that’s [very] unusual. Across the United States, we have food deserts where some people have a hard time even getting to a grocery store in their neighborhood, much less a store that has fresh fruits and vegetables,” Claxon said.

“The more we can get fresh fruit and vegetables in front of the kids in Jackson County, the healthier they’re going to be,” Claxon said.

Claxon is excited to be able to produce more food through four additional plots that were cleared over the summer. The plots were cleared by WCU students who volunteered through Engage.

The garden saw over 360 students from WCU volunteer in 2023. As the weather gets warmer, students will be able to volunteer again. This summer, Claxon will have to be more selective with volunteers to avoid being overwhelmed. To be selected, students must fill out the google survey on the Engage page.

Volunteers are offered multiple responsibilities, including path maintenance, fence maintenance, helping gardeners weed or harvest their plots and helping fill water tanks.

Previously, the water tanks were operated by solar batteries given to the garden by the Engineering Department at WCU. Unfortunately, they were stolen from the shed over the summer, so the tanks now must be filled by hand.

Claxon is working with WCU engineering professor Hayrettin Bora Karayaka in hopes of getting new solar batteries to replace the old ones. Until then, multiple

volunteers will be needed to fill water tanks with water from the Cullowhee Creek behind the garden.

The garden is also in the process of installing a new shed. The money for the shed came from a recent grant the garden received. Claxon will utilize this shed as additional storage for tools and food.

Claxon’s biggest goal for the garden is to develop a waitlist for plot adoption in case a plot is abandoned. He is very close to achieving that goal, however he must ask previous gardeners if they plan to adopt again before confirming a waitlist. Claxon is currently working on applications. You can apply to adopt a garden plot by emailing Claxon at [gardenmanager@jacksonnc.org](mailto:gardenmanager@jacksonnc.org).



Anyone can bring food scraps to compost year-round. Photo by Marrah Ste. Marie.



Lettuce in the greenhouse. Photo by Marrah Ste. Marie.

# Rain won't stop this party, NC Smokies Ice Fest continues despite rainy weather

By Abigail Quinn

Originally published by The Mountaineer

Ice sculptures dotted the Maggie Valley Festival Grounds creating vast opportunities for photos and fun activities for kids. Though the second annual NC Smokies Ice Fest was threatened by bad weather, it remained a success in the eyes of the attendees.

Adults and children alike enjoyed interactive ice sculptures including cornhole, sledding, hockey and shuffleboard. Other activities included complementary s'mores making accompanied with hot chocolate and live ice sculpture carving by resident artists.



The rain only seemed to elevate some attendees' enjoyment as they were determined to make a good time out of an unfortunate circumstance. Taren Blue of Greenville, North Carolina was one of those people.

Though it was her first year at Ice Fest, it wasn't in her original plan to attend. "We were coming in the hopes of snow for snow tubing. We got to do that regardless of the rain and we heard a little bit about Ice Fest online and, well, it was a place to go," Blue said.

They found the event via Facebook and though they only did the Saturday Ice Fest event they intended to attend Friday events as well. "We were too late for the Waynesville lighting because it is like a five hour drive for us," Blue said. Though the weather was "terrible" according to Blue, they remained positive, "at least it is a story to tell".

The Norris family, another first time attendee-family, felt similar to Blue. The family braved the weather with their children to take part in the festivities. The Norris' from Canton, North Carolina were keeping it local with their visit. They enjoyed sampling the various food trucks the event hosted including locally made fudge.

Outside of the literal damper the rain caused, people who attended Ice Fest



seemed to enjoy it. With its many things to do and see there was truly something for everyone.

# “Fantasia on Mysterium”: An immersive theatrical experience

By Cora Haste

“Fantasia on Mysterium: The Epic Immersive Theatrical Recital” is not your typical production. Artist, playwright and pianist Michael Yannette, has dedicated 18 years to the crafting of this reimagined show. Simply calling it a recital would be a severe understatement.

The production, which premiered at WCU, was intended to bring Russian composer Alexander Scriabin’s unfinished work, “Mysterium,” to life.

Left incomplete after his death in 1915, Scriabin’s “Mysterium” was intended to be a musical work that would employ all the senses. According to Scriabin there would be no audience for the piece, only participants.

“Nobody knows him here. And here’s... one of the most intense personal histories and dramas in music history,” Yannette said.

Intended to bring Scriabin’s “Mysterium” to life, “Fantasia on Mysterium” evoked all the senses in a transformative story of coming into one’s own.

Through his time working on the project, Yannette began to incorporate parts of his own life into the production.

“I thought I was writing a show but what I was really doing was writing the footprints of my own healing,” Yannette said.

The recital chronicles the self-discovery that took place as Yannette researched and wrote the show. Cosmic coincidence, injury, mediums and heartbreak paved the path to production. The tone shifts as Yannette invites audiences to a vulnerable time in his life.

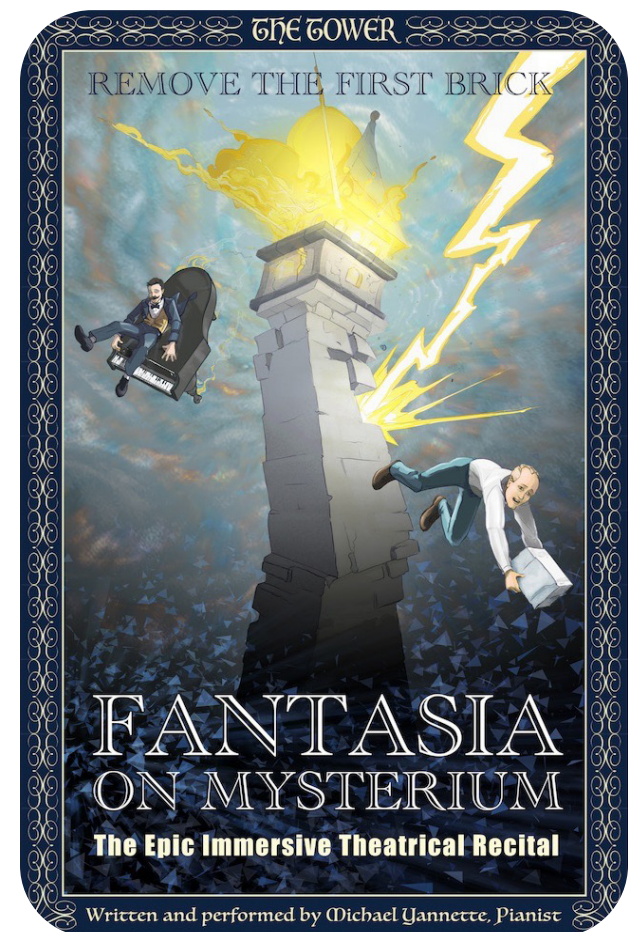
Yannette discusses his sexuality, identity, past relationships and his ever-changing understanding of self. He is an open book narrating over the sometimes dissonant and often haunting music of Scriabin.

“The show dives into so many emotions and experiences felt by this super creative person that I just didn’t know before,” said Alex Manley, a senior show attendee.

The show premiered Jan. 25 at the Bardo Arts Center. The Thursday evening performance was a sold-out show. The Jan. 26 and 27 shows also packed the theater. Guests bought tickets to view the show and be immersed into the world of Alexander Scriabin’s music. The music was brought to life through floor-to-ceiling projections, lights and aromas.

“The layout is very different from what I’m used to, I mean you’ll see it if you see the show. There’s really not a whole lot of set pieces, there’s not a whole lot of props. It’s mostly focused on lights and projections,” stage manager Annie Watsic said.

The show also featured fractal animations



created by renowned artist Julius Horsthuis. Horsthuis’ animation work has been featured in award winning films, festivals and art museums across the world. His work is considered ‘transportive’ and ‘mesmerizing’. The graphics move across the screen as Yannette plays Scriabin’s etudes and preludes, fully immersing the audience into the mind of the Russian pianist and composer.

The projections made the show unique, but



Photo by Cora Haste.

they also made it difficult to coordinate.

“I’ve never done any shows with this much projection surface. So, it’s really immersive,” said Leo Lei, assistant professor of light and sound at WCU.

Lei worked as the director of entertainment, design and technology for the show.

“When everything works well [it feels like] all the hard work, all the time we spent, is worth it,” Lei said.

Animator Joshua Norman has been a large part of the creative process for the past decade. He animated a large portion of the projections.

All the work that went into the projections by animators and the technical crew created an amazing experience for the audience.

“The visuals were spectacular, and, for lack of a better term, psychedelic,” Manley said.

The cast and crew knew how important this production was to Yannette. That theme of passion carried through every rehearsal, technical run through and meeting.

“This isn’t just a show that we were just

like, ‘Oh we just feel like putting on something’. This is Michael’s baby. This is what he’s been working towards for the past 18 years,” Watsic said.

“Being able to be immersed in the music at certain parts that correspond with what’s happening in the story and in Michael’s life has been really cool to see and kind of understand in a deeper sense than just hearing it from word,” said McKenzie Yazan, assistant stage manager.

To Yannette, it felt important to share. His intention was not to inspire or convince anyone but only to tell his story.

“I didn’t write that show as a message to anyone. I wrote it because the only way that I was going to fulfill my soul contract with it was to completely tell whatever that thing inside of me said I needed to do

to be free of it,” Yannette said.

There are no current plans to tour but Yannette is preparing the show for that opportunity. Going on tour or having a good reaction from the audience were not the most important aspects of this journey. For Yannette, it was about accomplishing something he has poured so much time and effort into.

“So, for that person that’s writing that novel, or that person who wants to write that show or write that thing,” Yannette said, “if you get to the finish line the satisfaction is crazy, so worth it.”

Later this month the Bardo Arts Center will be hosting Sing and Swing: A Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents Production on Feb. 28. Tickets can be purchased online at [wcuarts.universitytickets.com/](http://wcuarts.universitytickets.com/).



Photo by Cora Haste.

# Foreign language placement test spells fast track for students

By Mackenzie Atkinson

Many majors require foreign language credit to graduate and students, in an attempt to lighten their workload, change majors to avoid the foreign language requirements.

Unknown to many students there is a way to place into a higher language course in turn, receiving credit for the lower courses.

The Foreign Language department offers placement tests for students so that they can take one class for three credit hours or receive more hours depending on how many prerequisite courses were passed during testing.

Students are required to earn a C or higher to receive prerequisite credit. This is a contrast to other programs where students can surpass the prerequisite courses and have the credit requirements waived instead.

As an example, if a student were to place into a higher math class the student would only get credit for the one class they were placed in. Contrarily, a student placed in a higher-level Spanish course could receive credit for the higher and lower-level Spanish course, following a C or higher.

The placement tests gauge where a student ranks in relation to the expected knowledge of the courses offered for that language.

Will Lehmen, department head of World

Languages, believes the placement tests are beneficial to students looking to get ahead in their schooling.

“It is a way for students to get credit for classes they are capable of doing and actually being able to enjoy their college years,” Lehman said.

Some students feel as though they are not prepared for the classes they are placed in based on the placement test.

Sophomore Gracie Weaver took a placement test and was placed in SPAN 231 after taking four years of Spanish classes in high school.

“I was somewhat comfortable originally going into the class just due to how many Spanish classes I took in high school,” Weaver said. “After a couple weeks I felt like I found myself somewhat behind because there wasn’t really any introduction or review of previous material.”

Lehman, along with WCU Spanish instructor David Jons recommend students who feel they are not prepared for the classes, reach out to them.

“As a professor teaching Spanish, I can tell when a student isn’t comfortable with the material and can use some extra help or be moved to a different class,” Jons said.

The testing is not absolute. There may be

discrepancies in the effectiveness of the placement, therefore adjustments can be made manually. This change can go in two ways.

Students who may speak the language at the level of a native speaker or a heritage speaker might test lower on the placement test but can be moved to a higher course once they contact the department head and other leaders.

Advanced Placement (AP) and college transfer credits are treated differently.

AP and college transfer credits are processed at the administration level before the foreign language department begins considering placements.



# Graffiti in Apodaca leads to new surveillance cameras

By Mackenzie Atkinson

An incident of graffiti was documented in the Apodaca Science Building during the fall 2023 semester. The graffiti consisted of negative anti-feminine comments written on white boards and some of the flat surfaces like the tables and walls in the surrounding area.

WCU campus police chief Steve Lillard says the department answered a call about “threatening remarks” in Apodaca and discovered the graffiti.

“While most of the comments were directed towards the female gender, none of the comments were directed at a particular individual,” Lillard said.

The individual responsible for the graffiti was identified and has been criminally charged with destruction of property according to Lillard. The identity of the individual was not disclosed by campus PD.

In light of the recent graffiti, the College of Arts and Sciences has looked into installing new surveillance cameras inside the academic building.

Dean David Kinner pushed for the installation of additional cameras in Apodaca.

“We had initiated a conversation [about installing cameras],” Kinner said. “The reason why it was doable in Apodaca, and



it may not be in other buildings is because there was infrastructure that was set up that made it easier to do that.”

WCU prides itself on being an inclusive and safe campus for everyone. Kinner reiterates these sentiments.

“I just want people to feel comfortable coming into our learning spaces,” Kinner said. “One of the reasons we created Apodaca is that we want people to feel

at home. Anything that undermines people’s feeling of comfort and belonging is not something we like happening. If people see this stuff going on, be sure to let somebody know so we can be sure that it’s not continuing.”

To report a non-emergency incident to the WCU Police Department, call (828) 227-7301. Other contact information and services can be found at the WCU Police Department’s website.

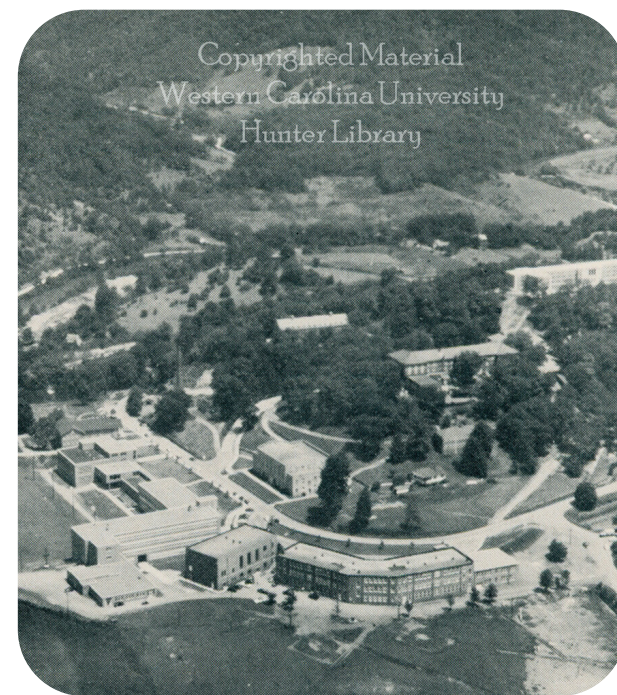
# The Western Carolinian

THE WESTERN CAROLINIAN

Western Carolinian

The Western Carolinian

Since our humble beginnings in 1889, The Western Carolinian has remained a beacon of uncensored truth and a mechanism of change at WCU. Today, these messages remain at the core of our mission. Follow us as we travel 90 years through time with past editors to see all the ways The Western Carolinian has documented the history of WCU, North Carolina, the United States and the world. Let's start in 2021...



## Western Carolina University Founded

Western Carolina is the fifth oldest institution in the UNC system. It all began with 18 students and 1 teacher in a single building.

1889

## The Western Carolinian

The Western Carolinian, introduced in 1933, is the student-run newspaper on campus. It has had various logos and layouts over time.

1933

## Name Change: Western Carolina College

Throughout the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s, the school was a teachers college. It became Western Carolina College in 1953.

1953

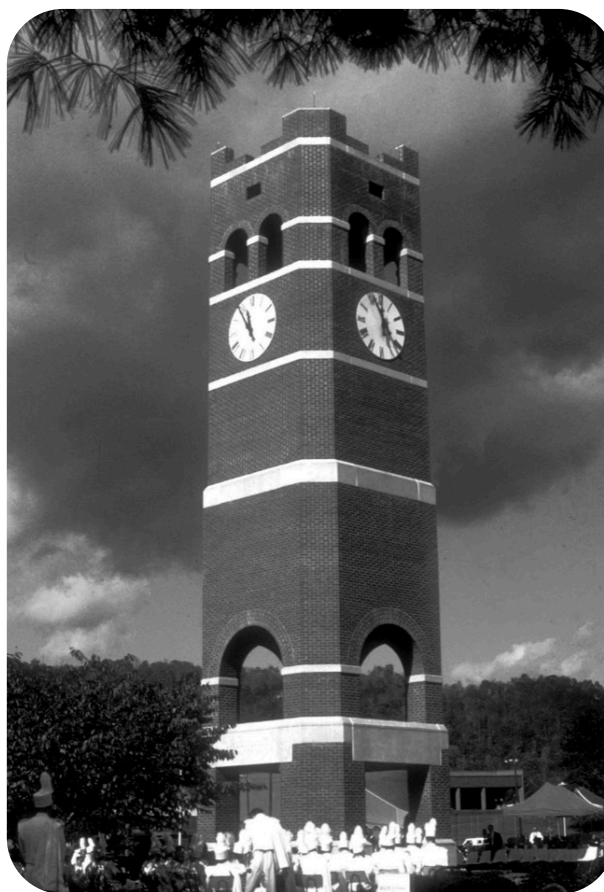


# through the ages

## WESTERN CAROLINIAN



## Western Carolinian



## The Western Carolinian



### Name Change: Western Carolina University

In 1967, Western Carolina College became a university as it expanded to offer both undergraduate and graduate programs.

1967

### Alumni Tower Built

The Alumni Tower is located on the lawn of the A.K. Hinds University Center. The tower's Victory Bell chimes every hour on the hour.

1997

### 90th Anniversary

The Western Carolinian celebrates 90 years of high-quality journalism from 1933 to the present day.

2023

# Letter from the editor

By Sara Stanley, Editor-in-Chief

2022



By the students, for the students. That's the magic of university news publications.

The student journalist is a rare breed. Often rambunctiously opinionated, yet profoundly empathetic and so curious it almost hurts; you can count on them to be the one person in a crowd questioning everything. They hold systems accountable and demand explanations. Don't ever question the tenacity of a student journalist. They will prove you wrong every time. No amount of research or writing scares them away. They get a thrill from great quotes and diving headfirst into public records. But don't be quick to discount their ability to be the most charismatic character in a room – it pays to be a people person and they know that. For brevity, I'll leave it at

that. You won't find a more determined or capable group of people on campus than in a student newsroom. The Western Carolinian is a stunning example of that.

My time as a student journalist and editor-in-chief is something that I cherish deeply. When I took over in 2021 as editor-in-chief after working my way up from reporter in 2020; we had a skeleton crew of staff, no printing process, no photographer or designer, an outdated website, and a dust-covered office. It took a while to find our groove, but we did it. Remember that tenacity I mentioned?

Our first few printed editions tackled one hot-button issue after another, namely parking issues and lax COVID-19 procedures. And yes, I hand-delivered those stacks of papers to every building on campus for the first few months. Again, tenacity.

The momentum built from there. Our team gained more reporters, copy editors, photographers, graphic designers, distributors, and many other roles. Our publication made its way back into Cullowhee, Sylva, and Dillsboro reconnecting us with our loyal local readers.

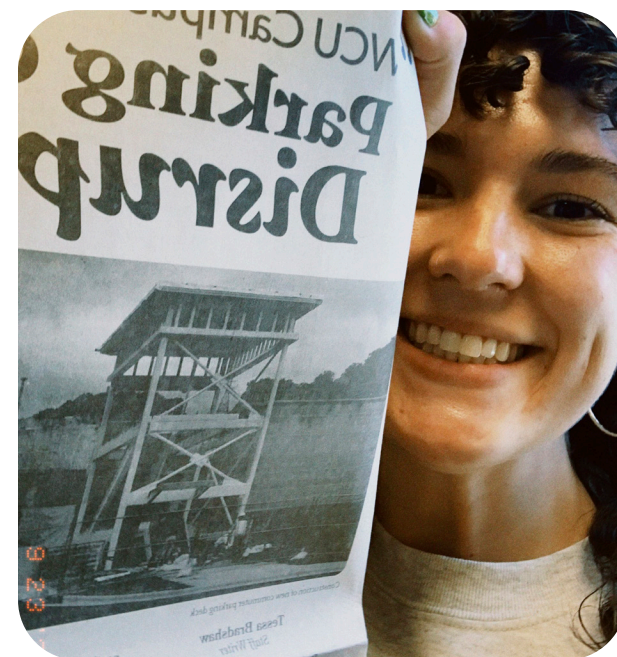
By the time of my graduation in May of 2022, the Western Carolinian had become a beautiful, refreshed version of its glory days. But now, almost 2 years later, I have truly never been prouder. The Carolinian team has done a remarkable job of creating a truly in-touch, relatable, modern adaptation of the legacy that we

all love. This isn't just a college newspaper, it's a reflection of the times. I think all WCU students crave connection and to-the-point information about the establishment they have entrusted with their future. The Carolinian is working hard to provide that.

90 years of legacy is no small feat. The Western Carolinian is a publication built on decades of tenacious, passionate student reporters. It took a piece of every one of us former and current staff members to get it where it is today.

Here's to 90 more years of ink-stained hands and late-night deadlines. Here's to 90 more years of student journalism. Here's to The Western Carolinian. Thank you for helping to shape our futures.

Go Cats!



# Refusal to wear a mask comes with consequences

By Tessa Bradshaw

October 7, 2021



Photo by Marlon Morgan, WCU.

It is no surprise that face masks have become mandatory at Western Carolina University, but did you know that students can get fined for not wearing their face masks? In the WCU Code of Student Conduct, it has been added to the list of items students must follow and if not followed, students can be fined and even expelled for not wearing a face mask properly. There are five report stages of this process. Each report is given when a student has not either worn their face mask or is wearing it incorrectly. Here are the five reports as followed:

First report: results in direct communication with the student regarding the WCU COVID-19 face mask procedure.

Second report: a warning letter will be sent to the student.

Third report: the student must meet with the Department of Student Community Ethics Hearing Officer. Penalties may include a \$50 fine and education probation.

Fourth report: the student must meet again

with the Department of Student Community Ethics Hearing Officer. Penalties may include probation, a \$100 fine and educational probation.

Fifth report: the student must meet for the last time with the Department of Student Community Ethics Hearing Officer. Penalties may include a \$100 fine, on-campus housing removal, restrictions on campus and being suspended or expelled from WCU.

“We are a brick and mortar institution that relies on face-to-face instruction,” BaShaun Smith, Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students said. “Students shared with us that they want to be here face to face. The Community Standards were created to help us maintain the face-to-face experience for our students.”

The mandate was created based on the guidance of CDC guidelines then later implemented by Chancellor Kelli Brown and university leadership, Smith explained. “The Community Standards are not new to our community and the feedback that I have received is that students are excited to be face-to-face again,” Smith said.

As of Sept. 27, 28 students have been reported for allegedly violating these community standards, according to Smith. With any institutional policy change and heated topic such as the COVID-19 pandemic, there will always be complaints. However, according to the Student Government Association President Rebecca Hart, many complaints

are coming from students who have seen other students not wearing their masks properly and even wanting a stricter face mask policy than the one WCU already has in place. Student complaints are not the only ones being noticed, many faculty and staff have complained as well but not for the same reason.

“The complaints I have heard from faculty and staff are concerning the tough spot they are in with having to enforce the mask mandate,” Hart said. “They don’t want to have to stop class and fuss at people, and they shouldn’t have to. But sadly, there are a few students who are refusing to comply.”

Hart agrees with the mask mandate because not only does the university consider it a necessity to have safe in-person classes, but also events such as football games and homecoming events that students were not able to attend last year.

“For right now, wearing a mask indoors is a university rule and like every other university rule, there are consequences for not following them,” Hart said. “There would be no way to enforce the mask guidelines without having a reporting process and consequences in place. The goal of the mask guidelines is not to punish students. It’s to protect everyone in our community, and I think that’s what we need to remember.”

Hart understands that some students may not like wearing face masks, “but the majority are simply happy to be back in-person,” she said.

# Catamount officially declared extinct

By Haylie Long

February 23, 2018



The spirit of the catamount lives on at Western Carolina University. Photo by Nathaniel Evans.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officially declared the catamount, more commonly known as the Eastern Cougar, extinct this January. Catamount, Cougar, And Puma all refer to the same large cat- Puma Concolor.

Western Carolina University's mascot was selected from a contest in 1933. The options for mascot were the Boomers or the Catamounts. Boomers are a type of ground squirrel that are incredibly hard to catch, which could have shown our team's agility. It was an incredibly close match, but head football coach, C.C. Poindexter selected catamounts because he wanted our teams to portray Fierce spirit, Savage attacks and lightning quick moves. The mascot was being chosen mainly for the sporting teams, but it also shows that our academic progress is one that is hard to catch up to. The

Eastern Cougar was so important because it occupied every state east of the Mississippi River, which is a vast area for a species.

Conservationists believe that the extinction will have a huge impact on the food chain. The last documented sighting of an eastern cougar occurred in Maine in 1938. It was killed and stuffed by a taxidermist. After that, it was put on the endangered species list and wasn't officially seen again.

There have been many rumored sightings since 1938, but none have been confirmed by officials.

Hunting, trapping, deforestation and taxidermy all contributed to the Eastern Cougars extinction. These big cats were important to western North Carolina because they kept the food chain in balance between predator and prey in rural, unpopulated areas.

Eastern Cougars were considered endangered because their population decreased, but not so much as to consider them extinct. It took 80 years for them to be officially declared extinct. Extinction was first considered in 2015. genetic testing showed that the wildcats that were still being seen in the eastern united states were either released or escaped from captivity. Other sightings of eastern Cougars were Cougars from the West that had started to move into the area no longer occupied by the eastern variation of the territorial cats.

Conservationists' main focus is to rebuild

habitats. This will allow cougar populations to recover an internal balance out the food chain. The goal is to bring in cougars from out of the area and use them to repopulate the east.

Many students were upset that the animal that represented Western Carolina University was now extinct. "I was upset that I've never had the chance to see one before. I didn't even really know they were considered an actual animal before I went here. Since they are officially gone, the legacy of the animal will live on through our school's mascot," said J'Dah Harris, a freshman at Western Carolina.

Freshman Anna Jalovec said, "Might feel that the Catamount Nation will still live through what the Catamount stands for; it's very upsetting that they are extinct now. I think our population will live up to the catamount's standards."

Henry Salvo, a Western Carolina sophomore, said, "I feel like even though the catamounts are gone, the spirit of the school will live on."

"It's heartbreaking to know that my mascot is extinct," said freshman Charlee Liebers.

Zach Kessinger, Western Carolina sophomore, said, "I feel like more people should know about the catamount's extinction. More people would be aware of it so that it spreads and will have a bigger impact on our college community as a whole so that we could learn to help other species stay alive."

# No UNC universities to close for now

By Logan Porter

April 26, 2013

Early in the second week of April, senate leadership for the state of North Carolina informed the UNC Board of Directors that, despite talks on the contrary, the general assembly will be backing away from the possibility of the closure of one or more UNC system campuses.

Putting to rest fears that the Republican dominated Senate and House of Representatives would move to close at least two campuses, Senator Phillip Berger, the Republican member representing the 26th Senate district, stated, "There will not be such a recommendation [for university closures] for the Senate budget at this time".

Concurring with Berger's vocal statement, newly elected Republican Governor, Pat McCrory, echoed the Senator's prediction, telling the UNC Board of Directors at a meeting at Pembroke University's campus on April 11 that he would "not be making the suggestion of campus closure" and that he was "quite confident that it was not going to happen."

Certain North Carolina Republicans, especially Pete Brunstetter of the 31st Senate District, which includes Winston Salem and the surrounding area, have raised fiscal budget concerns over the amount of state spending on higher education.

Their solution, while for now seemingly abandoned, was the potential shutting down of two or more campuses currently included in the University of North Carolina system.



For now, Western Carolina University and other UNC system campuses are safe from closure. Photo by Lex Menz.

Senator Brunstetter declined to comment on his position for the purpose of this article, with his side telling *The Western Carolinian* that the senator has "made his position quite clear in interviews with other media outlets."

In an interview with *The News & Observer* in Raleigh, Senator Brunstetter likened North Carolina's higher education system to a "sacred cow" that he feels should be "subjected to the same scrutiny as everything else."

Co-Chairman of the Appropriations/Base Budget Committee and a member of the Finance, Commerce and Redistricting

Committee, Brunstetter has substantial power and influence in directing state funds away from higher education. Despite a budget cut of \$400 million to the UNC system's budget just two years ago, state Republicans are looking to do more, with Governor McCrory's proposed budget looking to reduce spending on the UNC system by a further \$139 million over the next year.

These cuts have been met with ire by Senate Democrats, many of whom take issue with plans in the budget to cut 900 jobs out of the state government positions, most of which would lay off second and third

grade teaching assistants in North Carolina elementary schools, according to the governor's budget website. Cuts would also target state community colleges; however, those cuts amount to much less than those threatening the state's universities.

While no specific institutions were expressly mentioned by members of the General Assembly as being considered foreclosure, it is reasonable to assume legislators would look at criteria such as failure and dropout rates, the size of an institution, including enrollment. The area of the state served by

the university, and whether the institution can be said to serve an important economic and cultural interest for the local community. It is difficult to see how multi-million-dollar university academic buildings, cafeterias and dormitories would be used if the campus were simply closed. The state is paying off many such investments over time, through tuition, rent and certain fees levied onto students who use the facilities daily.

If these buildings were closed and go unused, the state would still be required to pay them off, just without the revenue

provided by their use. This is all in addition to the facility and staff layoffs that would have an additional negative impact on the economies of communities local to and often dependent upon the universities as centers of opportunity.

The drastic solution of campus closures was immediately criticized by education administrators who quickly pointed out the state's vested interest and investments in public institutions of higher learning.

## Our take without WCU

April 26, 2013



Rumors were swirling around recently that two University of North Carolina school system universities would be closed. If you read the story in our news section, you know there is nothing to worry about at the moment.

However, what if it were true? What if Chancellor David O. Belcher stood before the faculty, staff and student body of Western Carolina University and said, "At the end of May 2013, Western Carolina will close its doors permanently due to budget cuts." The thought makes us shiver. What would North Carolina look like if there were no WCU and

no Catamounts?

Here is what future students would miss out on if there was no WCU:

1. There is no other North Carolina university that can pull off the acronym We Carry Umbrellas (WCU).
2. The classic debate of "What on earth is a Catamount?"
3. Western Carolina provides a university setting overflowing with Appalachian and Cherokee heritage by being snuggled down in the middle of where it all began.
4. Many hunting mysteries remain unsolved and still cause hair to rise on the back of your neck. Ever heard of the ghost in the Moore Building or at the top floor of Scott Residential Hall?
5. We possess the largest library in the entire Western North Carolina region.
6. Western Carolina offers decent-sized classrooms, and professors not only know who you are in the classroom, but

because Cullowhee and Sylva are small, they know you outside of campus as well.

7. Where else can you rock climb, swim, tube, river raft, fish, kayak, snowboard, ski, hike, bungee jump, skydive, water ski, ride a historic train, paint pottery or pay \$7 for a movie in one place?

The list could go on. WCU can go underappreciated sometimes, but remember, even if you do not "bleed purple and gold" or enjoy all of the mountain/cat play-on-words, Western is a fine university.



# Tuition and fees at WCU to rise again next year

By Jared Gant

November 11, 2011

For the 2012-13 school year, WCU's tuition and costs will again increase. The increases will be felt by all students attending the university and will be spread throughout the various charges and fees that make up the total cost of attendance.

From Oct. 24-26, three open forums were held in the University Center Theatre to inform students and faculty of the impending changes and to elicit feedback on the proposed changes. Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dr. Sam Miller presented the plan to the attendees.

Proposed among the increases is a 6.5 percent increase in tuition, an increase of \$194 for North Carolina undergraduates per year, as well as a 6.5 percent increase for North Carolina graduate students, for an increase of \$217.00 per year. Instead of applying the same percentage increase to out of state students who pay much higher tuition, WCU will continue its longstanding policy of increasing out of state tuition the same dollar amount as in-state increases

Miller stressed in the forum that in light of the recent state funding cuts across the UNC system, tuition will likely increase more than 6.5 percent. For many years, a 6.5 percent increase has been the maximum increase allowed by the Board of Governors, but Miller believes that the Board of Governors will recommend a more substantial increase to make up for the disparity in state funding.

Mandatory fees will increase in some areas as well, with the Education and Technology fee

having a proposed increase of 31.8 percent, from \$387 to \$510 per year. Miller says that "extraordinary cuts in state funding" totaling some 13-16 percent necessitate the increase in the Education and Technology fee. He stated that these increases will help protect the academic core of the institution.

The only other increase in the mandatory fees category is the transportation fee, with a proposed increase from \$64 to \$80 per year to help fund extended CatTran service from the main campus to the new Health and Human Sciences building across Highway 107. The remaining twelve categories under mandatory fees are proposed to remain the same during the 2012 academic year as they were during the 2011 year.

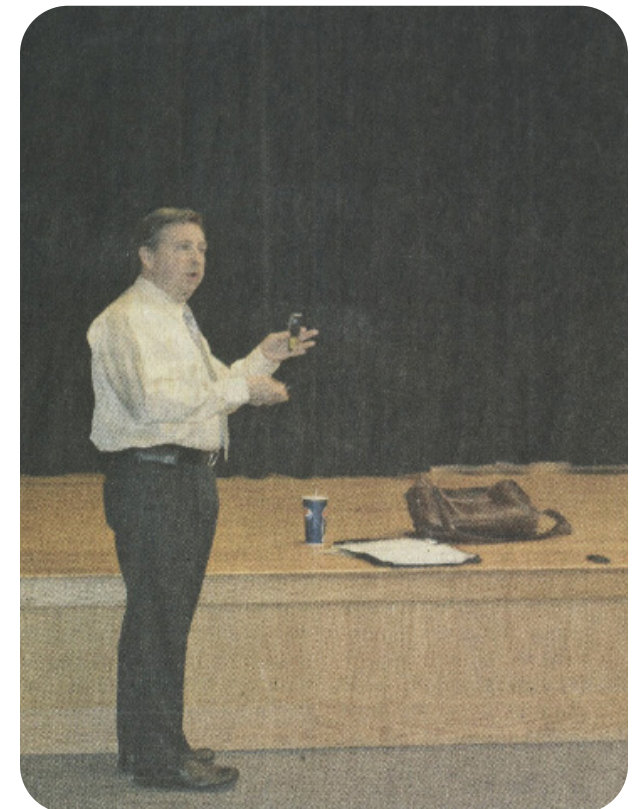
Residential living costs will increase as well, with a 4.5 percent increase in costs for each building, with the exception of The Village, which will see no increase, and a 0.3 percent increase for Robertson double rooms. Remodeled and improved Harrill Hall is proposed to carry a cost of \$4,400 for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Concerns voiced by students all carried a similar tone, wondering where the additional money to cover increased expenses would come from, and asking the Tuition and Fee Committee to take the concerns of students and the condition of the economy into account when writing the proposal.

All feedback from students was recorded and will be presented to the members of the Tuition and Fee Committee at a future

date. Miller said that the approval process for the proposed fees is complex, with the proposal passing through the Chancellor, the WCU Board of Trustees, the UNC Board of Governors, and eventually the N.C. General Assembly.

Miller expects that the final budget will be approved around June 2012. He also suggests that any student with input on the proposed tuition and fees who could not attend the open forums direct their concerns to Student Body President T.J. Eaves, who is both a member of the Tuition and Fees Committee, as well as a member of the WCU Board of Trustees.



Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Dr. Sam Miller goes over proposed Western Carolina University tuition and fee hikes at a recent forum at the UC Theatre.

# Leggo My Liquor: Sylva has “mixed feelings” as they vote on referendum August 2

July 14, 1994

Next month, students at Western Carolina University may actually be able to use the words “bar” and “Sylva” in the same sentence without being laughed off campus. Tuesday, August 2, there will be a special election held in the town of Sylva that will determine whether mixed drinks can be sold within town limits.

The special election is the result of a meeting of the town board on April 7. During the meeting, the board passed a resolution asking for the referendum and the special election. The mixed drink referendum will be the first of its kind since Sylva passed a beer and wine act that allowed a lower alcohol content than mixed drink vote would allow, according to Lisa Lovedale, supervisor of the Board of Elections.

The actual referendum would “permit the sale of mixed beverages in hotels, restaurants, private clubs, and convention centers.” However, only businesses with at least 40 percent of income coming from the sale of food would be eligible for a license.

“I have mixed feelings,” said Richard Fulton, manager of Meriweathers restaurant, “I think it can help the town of Sylva and surrounding areas. But, if it brings additional business for the area, it may hurt those already here.”

Rob Miller, manager of Bailey’s, said that his company would definitely participate

if the referendum is passed. “I don’t think that it will hurt any of the other small businesses,” Miller said, “it would be beneficial.”

There is no doubt that an increase in business would be probable if the referendum is passed. However, Fulton feels that no matter what the outcome of the vote is, the result will be close. He also noted that a lot of the restaurants in the area would probably not be able to afford a full bar. Instead, a limited selection of drinks would be sold.

To Western students who enjoy relaxing in bars, the possibilities could be vast.

Cullowhee is undoubtedly one of the few college towns that carries out an active social scene without the use of bars. The August 2 vote could change the way a lot of students spend their time. Sports Restaurants/Bars and a wider selection of eating establishments can save many students a trip to Asheville.

One major stipulation of the election is that only residents of Sylva are permitted to vote. This means that anyone that has a residence outside of Sylva is not eligible to vote. As of now, approximately 10 thousand voters are registered in the town of Sylva.

Things can further change for Sylva on August 2, when neighboring Macon County holds an election that could allow

the town of Franklin to be wet. If this law passes, some revenue could be lost for Sylva that could further increase by adding the mixed drink referendum.

At the present time, there is no organized opposition to the referendum. On the other hand, no group has publicly proclaimed to support the mixed drink vote. “I just don’t think that they’ve come out yet,” said Lovedale.

The vote will take place from 6:30 am until 7:30 pm on Tuesday, August 2. All residents of Sylva who are registered to vote with the Jackson County Board of Elections are eligible to vote in the election. This includes the Dillsboro precinct.

Voters who are already registered do not have to re-register. Residents who are not registered must do so by Tuesday, July 12. Absentee ballots will be accepted by the Board of Elections from now until July 26. Any questions about voting in the special election may be answered by the Board of Elections office, (704) 586-4055.

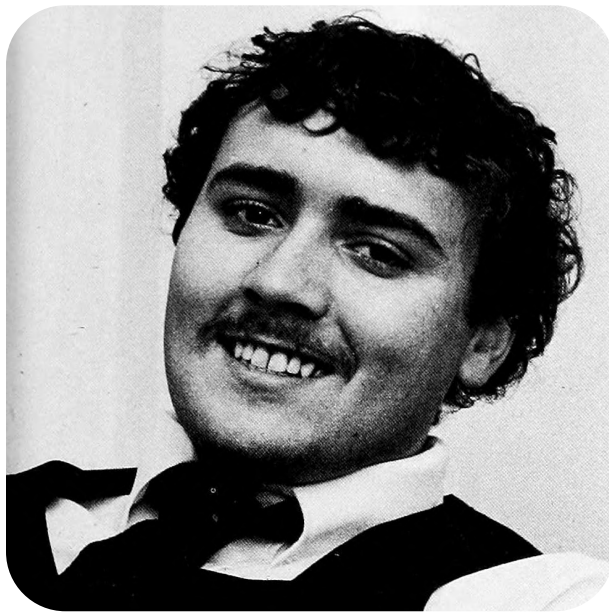




# Letter from the editor

By Jim Buchanan, Editor-in-Chief

1982



The Western Carolinian is 90 years old, but it always has been and always will remain an entity that's young at heart – after all, it's a student publication, and students tend to be young.

That said, it has a lot of history under the bridge to be proud of. The Western Carolinian has produced scores of broadcasts and print journalists, publishers, designers and editors-in-chief.

As an alum of the Western Carolinian, here are a few thoughts about the profession.

The technology will change. Keep up with it.

You'll hear a lot of cliches about journalism if you choose the field for your livelihood. "When in doubt, leave it out" is one. If you're not sure of a fact or a quote you're using, don't use it. Cliches are...well, they're cliches, but they're also lessons someone before you has learned,

probably painfully. Pay attention to cliches.

A legendary New York Times columnist, Russell Baker, was once asked what he did for a living. His response was that he got 'paid to think about America'.

In a nutshell that's journalism. You'll get paid to think about grand, sweeping trends on good days, scope building ordinances on bad days. They both matter, and you'll have no choice but to dig in and study up so you know what you're writing about. Journalism is about learning how the world works.

It's also about learning how democracy works. It's the only profession mentioned in the Bill of Rights, and it's right there in the First Amendment. Democracy doesn't work without an educated populace, and the job of a journalist is to help educate them.

That may mean covering a controversial bill sponsored by a U.S. Senator. More often it means sitting through a mind-numbingly dull county planning board meeting – but there's important stuff there as well. A journalist serves as the eyes and ears of the public, most of who can't peel away from work on a Tuesday afternoon at 4 p.m. Without coverage from the press, the aforementioned zoning board might feel a little frisky, and you might wake up with an asphalt plant bordering your property.

Try to make a difference, move the pile an inch forward or two for the community you serve. Again, if you're lucky, you can

educate the public on an issue that's critical to their quality of life – clean air, clean water, a sound public education structure, etc.

But in the end every issue is critical to quality of life. Consider guardrails. You might cover a wreck leading to a loss of life in a dangerous curve. Then another, and another. Public awareness of the hazard could lead to a call for guardrails at the site, saving lives. You won't get an award for your part, and it's likely you'll get no public recognition for your stories, columns or editorials, but you will have left things a little better. And you'll know.

That's my two bits. Journalism is hard work, and you won't get rich. But you have a chance to do good things, and as Russell Baker noted, you'll learn a lot along the way.

Then again, Baker also said, "The best advice I can give anybody about going out into the world is this: Don't do it. I have been out there. It is a mess."

So there's that.



The Western Carolinian editor-in-chief Jim Buchanan poses with sports editor Doug Irwin.

# Editor asks for First Amendment rights, SGA says “NO!”

April 3, 1985

In an unprecedented move at Western, the S.G.A. Senate impeached the Western Carolinian Editor, Heather Frey last Monday night. The grounds for dismissal included such accusations as use of editorial license, uncooperativeness and haughtiness, and the senate’s disapproval of the layout of the paper and grammar used in it.

Approximately 20 people came to the hearing to speak on behalf of Ms. Frey, but the rules were suspended for only 6 to speak. These speakers were Wanda Nelson, editor of the Cashiers Chronicle, Jim Buchanan, former editor of the Western Carolinian, Mr. Ben Anderson, a WCU journalism instructor of WCU, Joseph Fournier, Business Manager of the Western Carolinian, Danell Arnold, a key staff member at the newspaper, and Ms. Frey.

Despite the tremendous evidence that these speakers presented at the hearing, and the failure of the Senate to prove that Ms. Frey had committed a crime or wrongdoing, the Senate upheld the impeachment.

Four out of six of the points made by the resolution of the Senate to impeach Heather Frey had to do with the business affairs of the newspaper. This point was brought out by Ms. Frey and Mr. Fournier. Even after there had been statements made by Wanda Nelson and Jim Buchanan as to the division of responsibilities between the editor and the business manager of a newspaper, the senate chose to consider

these also in their decision. At several points in the discussion, Senator Cliff Clark questioned the propriety of holding Heather responsible for the books. Mr. Clark also made a statement that Ms. Frey had not proven to have committed any crime or wrongdoing.

Regarding the friendly amendment concerning Ms. Frey being haughty and uncooperative, Ms. Frey stated “I can’t believe you’re trying to impeach me because I’m ‘uncooperative and haughty.’ That’s a crime?” She continued with a remark about her editorial license. “In my editorials I have the right to say anything I want. I have not slandered anyone; I haven’t been libelous. I’ve disagreed with you people, and that’s it. I haven’t hurt you, I don’t think, and I haven’t made you [out to look] like the bad guys.”

Miss Frey then announced that she had petitions for her case with signatures which outnumbered the number of people who were surveyed by the senators. “I got 576 votes for my seat and you’re going to take it away because of 60 people’s opinions?”

One of the charges against Ms. Frey concerned layout. Heather explained to the senators that she had one layout person who would come by if he wasn’t busy and a second who had gotten a better job working with computers and quit. This left Heather doing most of the layout work herself. She then told the senators present (7 didn’t show up for the hearing)

that her staff supported her wholly and would not work for the last 5 issues scheduled if she was impeached. “If you fire me with 5 issues left, there won’t be a newspaper and they (the students) won’t have any information.” Mr. Fournier then presented the petitions in support of Ms. Frey and these were passed around by the senators.

After hearing statements from Ms. Nelson and Mr. Buchanan (Jim Buchanan is Managing Editor of the Cashiers Crossroads), SGA president, Rob Edwards indicated that he thought “It is ridiculous to try to compare a college newspaper with an elected editor...to another organization which has a publication board.” This was said in a manner that was to indicate that the editor of a school paper should be responsible for all aspects of that paper while a professional editor should be responsible for only copy, etc....

Professor Anderson then spoke on behalf of Heather. He said “I really question the precedence and propriety or the reason behind doing this...It is a student newspaper. I don’t think we can necessarily absolute professionalism...I question the propriety of taking this effort particularly at this time since you don’t have hard evidence against Ms. Frey.”

# Mick Jagger's education was taught by Jim

By Sarah Johnson

March 22, 1973

The latest rumor (actually not the latest) going around has it that Dr. Jim Hamilton, head of the WCU Health and Physical Education Department, taught Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones everything he knows. After exposing this murky-affair to the light of day, however, it appears the rumor, although slightly modified, was founded in fact.

In 1959, Hamilton, working with the State Department as an education specialist, was assigned to work in London for 10 days and then to travel throughout England and Ireland. While in London one of his co-workers was Joseph Jagger, a technical advisor for the Central Council of Physical Recreation.



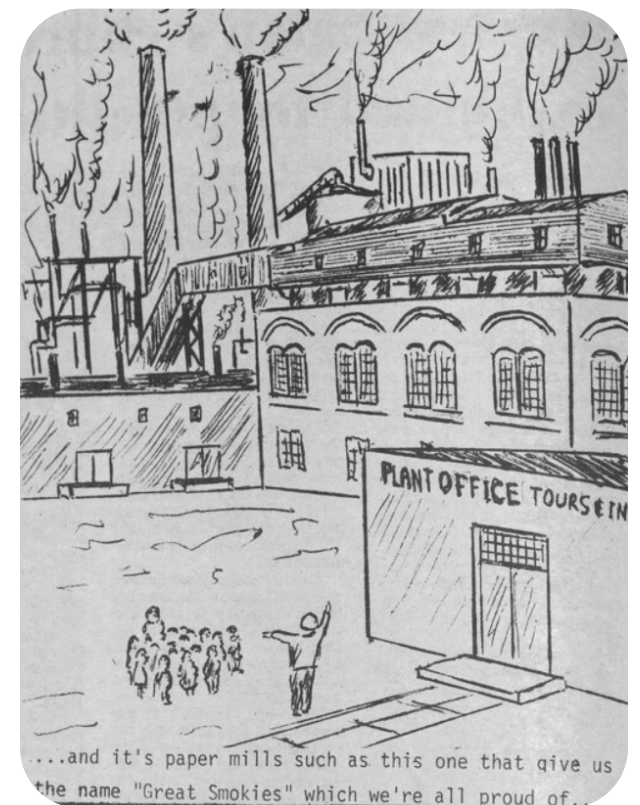
Several times during their professional association Hamilton was invited to the Jagger's home for supper. Dr. Hamilton became a good friend of Jagger and his wife Eva. The Jagers had two sons; Michael (Mick) who was then about 15 and Christopher, his younger brother.

According to Hamilton, Michael "was an excellent soccer player and fine in his school work." On the subject of Mick's musical ability, Hamilton noted that "at that time he showed no inclination or interest in anything like that - soccer and his school work were what he talked about."

The Jagers lived in "comfortable but modest circumstances," said Hamilton. For about 3 years after Hamilton returned

to the United States Jagger corresponded with him sending news of his family. In an early letter Mr. Jagger wrote that "Michael was gaining some recognition with a local musical group."

In one of his last letters to Hamilton dated June 4, 1963, Mr. Jagger wrote from his home in Kent: "The boys continue to fare well. Michael has formed a Rhythm Blues Group which performs frequently and to his financial gain. They have even cut a record which without getting into the top 20 has been well received and has been broadcast on several occasions. He has now completed his second year at college and will take his finals next year."



# Overcrowded dorms cause displeasure

By Brooks Sanders

September 23, 1971

WCU students arrived on campus this week to find their residence halls more crowded than they had been ever before. The reason? The new halls are not yet complete. In the meantime, the extra students are finding living space in former laundry rooms, lounges and basements. And they are not happy about it. "It's a real mess," says Dan Killian, a freshman from Charlotte who lives with nine other men in the basement of Reynolds Hall. "These rooms are pretty cruddy," he continued, "and the new paint smells awful."

Reid Turner, a freshman from Charlotte who rooms with Killian and the others, had complaints about study space. "They said we could use the lounge to study in, but last night they showed a movie there."

There are only two desks for the ten men living in the basement of Reynolds, and only one electrical outlet with two plugs. "One stool for ten guys," laughed Harry Hyatt, a junior from Cary, "I can't study here," he said.

One student, who asked not to be identified, said that he plans to transfer "as soon as possible. The staff here keeps telling us different things, keeps telling us ten different stories."

Harry Williams, a junior transfer from Rocky Mount, lives in Albright Residence Hall, in what used to be the basement lounge. Williams and five other men live to a 12 by 16 foot room and find it "mighty crowded." "I knew before I came that it would be crowded,

but not this crowded," he said.

"In a way, I'm glad they let us to this quarter," said Harold Wilson, a freshman from Jamestown, "but I didn't realize how bad it would be. With so many roommates, all on different schedules, people can't study. They can't sleep, either." Wilson lives with six other freshmen to the basement of Albright Hall. His roommate, Mark Robinson, a freshman from Weaverville, is "still living out of my suitcase."

Roy White, an Asheville native, complained about carpenters and workmen coming to at 8:00 a.m., to fix up the temporary quarters. "They should not be here. Why don't they put them to the new dorm, to get it ready sooner?"

It's not just the men who live in temporary and overcrowded housing. Almost 200 extra women are crammed into Scott Hall. Chronically plagued with elevator trouble anyway, Scott now holds 1000 women on its nine floors.

"We want out," said Georgia Oravec, a freshman from Asheville. I guess we can make do for the rest of the quarter, but it is really bad. The housing staff won't let anyone move for two weeks. I know of one room with just one girl to it and they won't let anyone else move in with her."

"It's so crowded," said Robin Heriford, a freshman from Chapel Hill, "I have two drawers and 1 1/2 feet of a clothes rack on

which to store all my clothes. But I like WCU. The mountains are beautiful and there are lots of places to go hide and not be crowded."

Melanie Bunn, a freshman from Norwood who lives with Heriford and Oravec, is concerned about lack of study space. "We realize we have a responsibility to study, and we try to keep quiet so other girls can study. But not all are as considerate."

"And we have to keep our blinds drawn, or the construction workers try to see to," she continues. "They are really raunchy." Dr. Herb Reinhard, Vice President for Student Development, is aware of the problem. "The housing situation is bad at best," he said in an interview, "But we hope to have the men's new hall ready by November 15 at the very latest." Estimates on the completion date for the new women's hall vary, with some as early as December 1 and others the first of winter quarter. "We agree that the situation is not good, but we have advised the students truthfully. We have tried to be honest with the students," said Reinhard. "We are not in favor of overcrowding."

While Reinhard and the Housing Office work to make a bad situation better, the problem will not be solved until the new halls are ready. In Scott Hall the overcrowding has begun to have its effect. According to one Housing official, "Several freshmen women have found the pressures of group living too intense, and have left school."

# SBI investigating recent fires, bomb threats

By Collier Smith

April 28, 1970



An unknown spectator watches as a fire completely destroys a make-shift warehouse owned by Western Carolina University behind the Camp Lab School. The fire occurred on Thursday, April 23, State Bureau of Investigation officials and the State Fire Marshal are investigating this and other incidents that have plagued the WCU campus recently.

University officials have requested an investigation by the State Bureau of Investigation and the State Fire Marshall into a series of incidents which have occurred on the campus of Western Carolina University in the last two months.

In March, fire destroyed a trailer. On April 5, a stack of straw containing 200 bales was discovered afire, and on April 8th a large warehouse burned with a loss of \$25,000 listed for the building contents.

On Thursday, April 23, three incidents occurred, including a fourth fire, a bomb scare and the discovery of a firebomb. At 3:05 a.m., Thursday, a firebomb was discovered

in Joyner Building by the campus security patrol, according to Pritchard Smith, director of safety and security at WCU, Smith said that the firebomb had not been detonated. The Western Carolinian staff had left their offices at 1:00 that same morning.

At 4:45 a.m., Thursday, a fire, that totally destroyed a makeshift warehouse on the WCU campus, was discovered by a campus policeman. The officer had checked the building 45 minutes earlier in accordance with the tighter security measures instituted after the three earlier fires. The structure, an old barn, which had been converted into a storage facility, contained fertilizer, lime, and a quantity of veneer wood, materials used by the industrial arts department. A university spokesman estimated the loss at several thousand dollars.

Between 10:15 and 10:45 p.m., Thursday, two telephone calls were made by two different persons to the High Rise Residence Hall office. The first caller, a female, indicated that a bomb had been placed on a middle floor of that residence hall. Following an evacuation of the building, members of the campus security patrol conducted a search of the two floors, indicated by the callers, and of trash cans and other accessible receptacles. No bomb was found.

On April 25, A second bomb scare occurred. A resident of the High Rise who had answered the telephone at approximately 11:30 p.m. was told by a male caller that a bomb had been placed on that floor. Two floors of the residence hall were evacuated,

and another search was conducted by the campus security patrol. Again no bomb was found.

Mrs. Peggy Zeigler, Dean of Women at WCU, stated that the girls of the High Rise "... Reacted. Responsibly without panic." Dean Zeigler also said that there was some speculation among the girls living in the High Rise that the evacuations were a tactic to more easily searched for drugs. However, she stated that she is aware of the stipulations in the Student Bill of Rights concerning the searching of personal property, and that any search for drugs must be identified as such.

On Sunday, April 26, at approximately 9:45 p.m., a large water moccasin was discovered in the stairwell between the first and second floors of the University Center, according to Baxter Wood, Director of the University Center. The snake was killed and the graduate student in charge immediately notified Wood. Wood stated that approximately 5 minutes later, he received a second telephone call from the graduate student. The student, Joe Felts, stated that he had received a telephone call informing him that there were 25 more snakes in the building. Wood Advised Felts to evacuate the University Center. A preliminary search was made that night, and a more thorough one was conducted Monday morning. However, no additional snakes were found.

When questioned about the fires, Smith stated, "We are satisfied it is arson." He also stated that a careful investigation of all the incidents is being made by the SBI.

# Man gets closer to the moon as Florida work progresses

January 8, 1965

Man will be three miles closer to the moon when this crawler-way on Merritt Island, Fla., is finished next year. The three mile long super, super highway is part of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's \$400 million launch Complex 39 near Cape Kennedy. It will carry a giant Crawler transporter with a Saturn V moon rocket and the three-man Apollo spacecraft from the huge Vertical Assembly building to the launch pad. The crawler and its moon-bound cargo will weigh 17 ½

million pounds. Supporting this load and maintaining it absolutely level are critical features in the crawlerway construction. Sub-contractor B. B. McCormick and Sons, Inc., of Jacksonville Beach are using a fleet of Allis-Chalmers equipment to help move 1.8 million cubic yards of muck and sand. That's enough to fill a hole the size of a football field more than 1,000 feet deep. The Canaveral District of the Army Corps of Engineers is overseeing construction for NASA.



# Man on the moon

July 20, 1969

Man has landed on the moon. This historical event came as the result of machines being perfected, men being trained, and a vast sums of money being spent. The event marked a voyage dreamed of for thousands of years. As early as 160 A.D. Lucian of Greece wrote about a trip to the moon. Hundreds of years later Dumas, Verne, Voltaire, and Poe wrote of lunar travel. The turning point of reality did not come until Oct. 4, 1957, when Russia launched the first artificial satellite, Sputnik I. The United States realized that the event was "a technological Pearl Harbor" and we entered the so-called "Space Race". NASA was established on July 29, 1958 "to peacefully explore space." The Russians, the first to send up a Satellite, were also the first

to send a human into outer space. On April 12, 1961 Yuri Gagarin was the first man to leave the planet, orbit, and return. President John F. Kennedy, convinced that the United States must challenge Soviet superiority in space, went before Congress on May 25, 1961. He asked that America put men on the moon and return them safely before the end of the decade. "No single space project in this period will be more impressive to mankind, or more important for the long-range exploration of space," Kennedy said. Now, nearly eight years and over \$24 billion dollars later, we have accomplished that goal. We hear some back on earth debate the wisdom of the trip. They argue that we could have used that \$24 billion dollars to

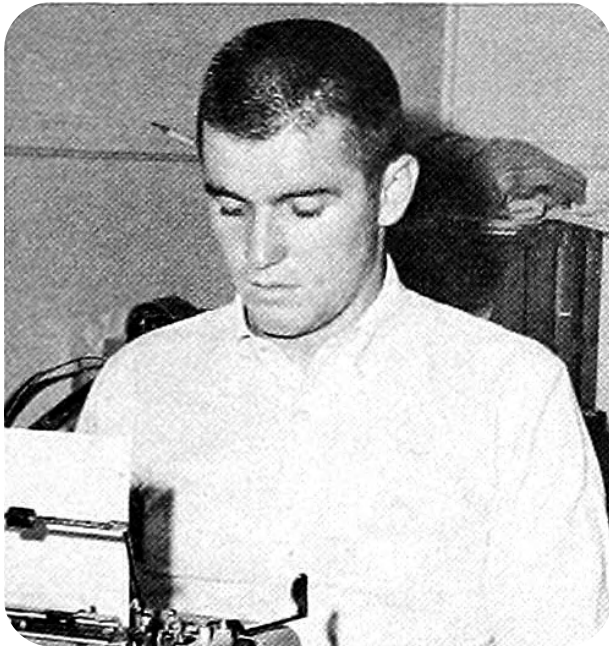
feed the poor, clothe the naked, house the unsheltered or even find the cure to cancer. But, whatever the case, there is certainly no doubt that mankind will never be the same.



# Letter from the editor

By Steve White, Sports Editor

1963



I came to Western Carolina College in the fall of 1961 and became part of a student body population of 1,282 of which approximately 600 lived in five residence halls and 700 were “day/commuter students.”

Communication with the world outside of Cullowhee consisted of one television in each residence hall lobby, one land-line telephone on each floor of the dorms, personal radios and newspaper vending racks around Cullowhee.

I grew up as a “sports nut” and dreamed of a professional baseball career. My baseball playing career ended at WCC when our coach/athletics administrator advised me that my baseball talents were stronger in the statistical and reporting areas than on the diamond. He offered me a paid position as the athletics department’s student sports

publicist which launched my career.

John Streetman, the editor-in-chief of The Western Carolinian, and faculty advisor Ruth Nelson of the WCC english department, offered me the sports editor position in the fall of 1963.

We had a staff of 30 which included five sports writers. Three of my assistants - Ernie Trubiano, Ken Hux and David Howell - went on to have distinguished media careers as did several other writers on our staff.

I traveled with WCC’s football, basketball and baseball teams as a statistician, game reporter and publicist which gave me insight and knowledge for my Western Carolinian features.

We printed up to 5,000 copies of the Carolinian each week which were distributed in the residence halls, cafeteria, classroom buildings, library, post office, student union, Cullowhee businesses, and dozens of businesses in Sylva and Dillsboro. We also had over 300 mail subscriptions. On Wednesday, you would see students reading our publication throughout every campus building as well as the Town House, barber shops and laundromat.

The Western Carolinian was THE major news and information source for the college whether it be social, sports, political or academic. Campus controversy was well reported. Many Jackson and Haywood County businesses advertised on a regular

basis as our paper was a significant source of reaching a younger set of consumers.

I owe a significant part of my career success to my experiences during those evenings in Joyner Hall as we composed reports and features on manual typewriters, critiqued fellow writer’s copy, had fellowship and sent the typed copy sheets to the print shops for the linotype operators to produce the printed editions of The Western Carolinian for hundreds of eager eyes.

I graduated as part of the last WCC class in May 1967 (WCC became WCU in July 1967) and returned to Cullowhee in 1970 for a long career as WCU’s director of sports information.

I learned a lot from my fellow writers and, to this day, am proud of The Western Carolinian and the WCU students involved in helping to keep print journalism alive.



# Boodleville news

November 31, 1953

The peace and quiet of early morning in Boodleville was broken about two weeks ago by a neighbor's banging on our door and yelling "Get up! D unit is on fire!" A threat that had existed for a long time was now a reality and something had to be done. Three of the six fire extinguishers in Boodleville were tried and none would work. With each failure the flames spread faster and further. The three links of fire hose were assembled and attached to the fire hydrant but again the fire equipment failed. The force of water burst the rotten links of hose. Now what was to be done—the fire had spread into adjoining apartments and was rapidly eating away at walls and personal belongings. When the firemen arrived from Sylva they found that the fire hydrant was not of standard size and could not be used. The last remaining hope for water was the fish pond behind the Methodist church. The fish pond had been constantly criticized as a menace to the community after it was built in 1950, but now—the fish pond has proved that it was a worthy project. The firemen brought the flames under control but not until after they had destroyed four apartments and the homes of three families. Johnny and Petra Lopes lost almost all their belongings. In their efforts to extinguish the fire before it became serious they did not attempt to remove their furnishings from the burning apartment until it was too late. Spurgeon and Katherine Ayers vacated their apartment

in a hurry and did not lose very much. Russell and Jean Mitchell were able to move everything out before the roof caved in. No one was living in one of the apartments that was destroyed.

Now that the fire was out the cause was learned, flames from r. hot water heater. To the residents of Boodleville this did not come as a surprise. Nearly everyone in Boodleville has had the same experience. The hot water heaters, installed in the apartments when the government built them in 1940 are old and badly worn. In the past many small fires have been brought under control that were caused by the flames leaping around out the door and sides of the heater set next to the wall, many of them leak, saturating with oil.

"What is better food for a fire?"

These conditions have been brought to the attention of the college officials and they are cooperating with us wonderfully well in making Boodleville a safe place to live. The Boodleville council met with Mr. Mitchell last Thursday to discuss getting new fire fighting equipment, fixing the village street and other pertinent problems. New links of hose are going to be bought and the fire extinguishers are going to be cleaned and refilled. Each family has been issued work slips that are to be filled out when repairs are needed. A list of fire prevention measures has

been given to each family by the mayor. The residents of Boodleville, especially those in D unit wish to express their appreciation to the many people who helped bring the fire under control, those who helped move belongings out ahead of the fire, and those who came to the aid of the ones most affected by the fire. First, our great appreciation goes to the Sylva Fire Department who brought the fire under control before it destroyed the whole unit and the Rev. Tom Houts, a former pastor of the Methodist Church, who built the fish pond and who now lives in Atlanta. We want to express our appreciation to the men from Robertson Hall and Reynolds Dorm who came down so willingly and in such great numbers to help the occupants. The fire victims were very grateful for the financial contributions that were-- made. There are many who helped that I have not mentioned but their help was appreciated, too. The Boodleville council met also to elect officers for the coming year. Jim Fisher was re-elected to the office of mayor. F. A. Stone elected vice-mayor. Another problem discussed was the condition of the street in the village. The street is now in the process of being fixed. There is always good news to accompany the bad. The Stork has visited Boodleville again. Mr. and Mrs. Charles "Babe" Howell produly announce the birth of their daughter, Claudia Diane, October 17, in the C. J. Harris Community Hospital. Both mother and daughter are doing fine.

**Want an Ad?**

Contact our editors at  
[westerncarolinian@wcu.edu](mailto:westerncarolinian@wcu.edu)



# WWOO, campus radio is wooing many listeners

By Charlie Bagwell

November 6, 1950

On each Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights between 8:00 and 9:00, your campus station, WWOO, brings you local talent found upon the campus of the college. The programs feature news, campus events, sports, popular recordings, and many other various types of entertainment. The station is operated by the students under the watchful eye of Dr. Bitter. It is a non-profit intercampus radio station maintained and operated for the student body as a whole. WWOO got underway with full steam October 2nd after completely overhauling the equipment and stocking up on supplies. Program directors, engineers, clerks, announcers, and other officers and participants needed in producing good programs have been elected. By good programs, we mean, like the first one of the season, which was produced by Landrum Wilson and Jimmy Whitman, program directors. The program was lively, educational, and entertaining. The first portion of the program was an informal discussion of future programs to be presented, in which Mr. Wilson and Mr. Whitman asked many questions and were answered by Jimmy Moss, Frances Stoltz, and Leach Shelton. Later, on the same program, came two young gentlemen, namely Dennis Sloan and David Raynor with a couple of guitars, and did these boys wake things up with their hill-billy songs, both solo and duet. These boys certainly know their stuff when it comes to hill-billy music. The highlight of the program

came when Hob Bowers and Bettie Gene Hines, accompanied by Bob Robinson, sang several songs. Everyone was much pleased with the program and everyone did a swell job, including "Tip" Edmunsin, who was engineer for the night. "Tip" is certainly on the ball when it comes to engineering. The next program was presented to you by Leach Shelton and "Pee" Jones. Leach brought to you the up-to-date Campus news and a brief interview with several freshmen. If your radio was out of order the day of the World Series game you should have tuned into station WWOO, 550 on your dial, and heard the play by play account of the game between the New York Yankees and the Philadelphia Phillies brought to you by the "Little Dutchman", who also will keep you posted on local sports and other activities. "Our Best To You" was also brought to you by the "Little Dutchman", playing popular recordings by request. On October 9, Frances Stoltz and Jimmy Moss, presented you with a wonderful program. Miss Helen Hill was one of the stars on the program, singing many songs such as "You'll Never Know", "Orchids In The Moonlight", and many others. (Kay Kyser was also brought to you by transcription for a fifteen minute portion of the program, and in the meantime, we were wondering where our other local talent could be because their time was drawing near and they had not shown up.) And then, just as Mr. Kyser was ending his portion of the program, Gwen Denton, Bob Robinson,



and Carolyn Stroud walked in and presented you with fifteen minutes of entertainment, mainly, Bob and Gwen burning those 88 keys with their piano duets, Carolyn and her beautiful voice singing several solos, and Bob, Gwen, and Carolyn singing a beautiful song, "Jealous Heart". "Tex" Shelton then presented fifteen minutes of his "Hill-Billy Hit-Parade", playing popular recordings by request. These are only a few of the many programs you will hear throughout the oncoming year. We hope to put on the type of programs you enjoy most, so if you have any suggestions please contact anyone in the Radio Club. We have a wonderful crew in the Club this year and they seem to enjoy working on the programs. There are now 28 members on the roster and we hope to have many more opportunities to be gained in the Club, such as announcing, engineering, acting, etc.

## Roy “Mark” Watson is killed while in service in Germany

March 21, 1945

S. Sgt. Roy G. “Mark” Watson, son of Mr. And Mrs. L. T. Watson, of Sylva, was killed in Germany March 7th. Entering the service in December, 1943, and receiving training at Fort Bragg, Camp Philips, Kans., and Camp McCain, Miss., he went overseas in August, 1944, and served in Belgium, France and Germany. He was serving with the 94th infantry division at the time of his death.

A graduate of Western Carolina Teachers College, Sgt. Watson was an outstanding student. He was president of the senior class of 1933, president of the Monogram club, vice-president of Men’s House Government Association, a member of the football, basketball and baseball teams, captain of varsity basketball, member of the Erosophian Literary Society, president of the

Jackson County club, president of B.Y.P.U and a member of the Social Board. After his graduation at Western Carolina Teachers College, Watson taught mathematics and science at Barnardsville high school and served as coach at Edenton and Sylva high school.

## Western Carolina sons now serving Uncle Sam

January 19, 1942

In keeping step with Western North Carolina’s high record of enlistment, Western Carolina Teachers College has several men either in the regular army forces or doing defense work.

The list from the college Registrar’s office disclosed the following boys as having left or planning to leave: At Newport News, Virginia — Bert Miller, Hendersonville, E d Bennett, Hendersonville; Bob Andrews, Cullowhee; James Howell, Waynesville; and Sam Queen, Waynesville. Wade Messer, Cullowhee, has gone to take clerical work in a Naval Training school. Ray Cowan, Webster, is in the Navy Medical Corps; Leo Cowan, Webster, and Lloyd Cowan, Webster, have gone to Baltimore, Md., on defense jobs; Bill

Gant, King’s Mountain and Tom Allison of Morehead City are taking special courses at North Carolina State College; Bill Smith, Raleigh and Bob Wright, Bryson City, went to Charlotte to take entrance exams into the Naval Reserve. Of fifteen men taking the exam Wright and Smith were the only ones passing it; Revis Frye, Gastonia, is an instructor in Physical Education in the Naval Reserve. Charles Prazier, Canton, is in Arkansas doing accounting work for a defense construction company. John Siler, Robbinsville, has joined the Navy; Claude Jamison has gone to Nashville, Tenn., to complete training for his commission as 2nd lieutenant in the U. S. Army Reserve Corps; Hugh Lee, Marion, has joined the Merchant Marines and his assigned ship

is not disclosed; Troy Haney, Marshall, is doing defense work in Norfolk, Va.; Warren Deyermond, Andover, Massachusetts, has joined the Marine Corp.; T. A. Jackson, East La Porte, is leaving Tuesday for Scott Field, Illinois, where he will be in the signal corps; Johnny Wilson is leaving to take reserve officers training at Camp Croft, S. C; Jakie Phillips, Andrews, is to be drafted but will take the Air Corp Exam. Hugh DeLozier. Candler; La Verne Maxwell, Robbinsville; S. D. Howard, Davidson; have left school but are not sure of their plans. Several other students are expected to enlist or to be drafted after the completion of winter quarter.

# America to the colors!

December 13, 1941

On December 7 the greatest crisis that has faced the United States of America in our lifetime was suddenly thrust upon us. It is altogether fitting and proper that some form of comment be attempted by the college paper. The duty naturally falls on the editorial staff, a duty for which they are incapable.

Naturally excitement is high; the campus was tense as we listened to Japan's declaration of war on the United States. It is hard to tell what the news will be at the time this paper comes off the press. Already we know this much: Japan declared war on the United States and Great Britain December 7; the president of the United States of America delivered his message to Congress on December 8; and the British Parliament conferred on the same day for similar declaration; that Wake Island has been occupied by Japan; the causality list is mounting; the Pacific end of the Panama Canal zone is closed; and Canada and several of the minor nations

such as Dutch East Indies and Jamacia have also declared war on Japan.

There is one thing that we do know for sure and that is we must keep calm, determined and united, all following the leadership of this great nation. Now of all times is the time for us to remain cool, and collected as we battle for all that we hold dear. The burden will be hard for all as we face this tremendous crisis, but please remember that we who live in America have something worth fighting for, yea, even dying for.

For many of us the burden seems heavier because it means the sacrificing brothers, sweethearts, friends, and for many possibly fathers, but remember the words of the song of the last World War and let no tears fall. "Even though your heart is breaking, make it sing a cheery song." Remember that the 131 million people in the United States are all striving for the same things; freedom, peace, and the American way of life. Be proud that you have someone able to help defend the greatest nation in the world.

This is no time for sadness, America needs your wholehearted support. Your country needs you, regardless of race or creed. You owe a debt to your country which is now due. The one time peace loving president is now your war Commander-In-Chief. Give him your undivided loyal support.

At long last our Isolationist friends have decided that we can no longer maintain a state of isolationism, and Senator Wheeler has issued the following statement: "The only thing now is to do our best to lick hell



out of them." The editorial in the extra in the extra edition of the Chicago "Tribune" is calling on all forces "to strike with all might." Secretary of the Navy Knox is asking for volunteers for the United States Navy between the ages of seventeen and fifty, and the entire navy was ordered into uniform by the morning of December 8. As soon as the news of the bombing of Manila bay and Pearl Harbor reached Washington several of the senators started advocating an immediate declaration of war on Japan. Of course such procedure had to be carried over until Congress could convene and declare war formally.

This war is upon us. There is nothing left to do but enter it, determined that right shall conquer might and that our way of life will rule victoriously. Let it be every American's fervent prayer that the ordeal will soon be over and peace will again visit our shores. Orson Wells says, "America is not a map, it is a poem...possessed by people with and ideal - Americans."



# Letter from the president

1939

**20 Pages**

## THE WESTERN CAROLINIAN

CULLOWHEE — A JEWEL IN THE HEART OF THE GREAT SMOKIES

Western Carolina Teachers College CULLOWHEE, NORTH CAROLINA *Sat. May 13, 1939* Fiftieth Anniversary Edition

### W. C. T. C. CELEBRATING 50th ANNIVERSARY

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#### \$650,000 Building Program Now Well Underway

\*\*\*\*\*

**New Buildings Are Modern In Every Way, Soon Ready**

Six New And Modern Buildings Now Going Up, Or Completed On W. C. T. C. Campus

Climaxing 50 years of steady growth and development, Western Carolina Teachers College will soon have six modern buildings completed, bringing the total to twelve.

Through the untiring efforts of Dr. H. T. Hunter, president, appropriations from the state PWA were received and now a \$650,000 expansion and building program is underway.

In 1937 construction of a \$75,000 physical education building got underway. The structure, of native North Carolina granite, is 144 feet by 28 feet. The stone was quarried near the college and each stone was accurately cut by hand before being placed in the impressive building. The main gymnasium floor is of hard maple with glass backboards for basketball. Offices, classrooms, rooms for visiting teams, supply rooms and a large swimming pool are part of the building and make it most complete.

The 1937 General Assembly appropriated \$110,000 for the construction of a training school. Realizing that nearly twice that amount would be needed to construct a suitable building, college authorities, headed by Dr. Hunter, were successful in getting a PWA grant which made possible the construction of the beautiful \$200,000 building. An unusual feature of this structure is that it is being built on a unit plan. Each unit made up of two class rooms with a practice teaching room between and conference rooms at each end. The floors are of modern wood block construction.

The latest development in the building program of the college is the boy's dormitory which will cost \$130,000 fully equipped and will comfortably take care of 150 men.

One of the colleges' greatest needs is being realized with the completion of the striking auditorium with a seating capacity of 800. This building is costing approximately \$25,000.

The student union building, now nearing completion, will have student organizations and alumni offices. Built at a cost of \$30,000 it is near the entrance of the Jeynor building.

Approximately \$20,000 is being spent remodeling the old training school which will be used as a college classroom building in the fall.

The entire building program was carefully mapped out in order that the present needs of the college would be taken care of and future enlargement could be made most economical.

The building program at Western Carolina Teachers College can be termed as an outgrowth of a research made by Dr. H. T. Hunter. In his outline of a ten year program of the institution before the faculty and board of trustees, he proposed an ultimate student body of 750 students.

He also proposed for fundamental changes in the institutions educational offering.

First, he proposed that the first two years be made a rich offering of liberal arts, with emphasis upon the sciences appropriate for the region, and upon the arts. Second, that junior and senior years be professional, leading to degree and teachers certificates in chosen fields. Third, that the whole program be modern and up-to-date, and that the College be made a real interpreter of Western North Carolina, and a participant as far as practicable, in the life of this area. Fourth, that a senior consid-

**Founder Of W. C. T. C.**



Professor R. L. Madison, founder of Western Carolina Teachers College in 1889. Articles about the founder of this college appear elsewhere in this newspaper.

**President Of W. C. T. C.**



Dr. H. T. Hunter, for sixteen years, president of Western Carolina Teachers College. It was through his efforts that the \$650,000 building program is now well underway.

**Growth Of College Has Been Steady; Is Now Expanding More**

College Has Meant Much In The Progress And Development Of Western Carolina

Fifty year ago—a new institution came into being at Cullowhee, N. C. Today, Western Carolina Teachers College is no longer a small struggling school, housed in a high school building, but a flourishing and growing college.

Of course the promoters of this institution had fond hopes regarding the growth and the future importance of their founding. Yet it is hardly to be supposed that they envisioned a day when this school would become such a vital force in the life of Western Carolina and in the lives of Western Carolinians.

Hundreds of men and women, living within a radius of 100 miles of Cullowhee call the college "Alma Mater," and look fondly back and reverently to the time when they trod its hallowed corridors.

And where hundreds already have trod thousands are yet to tread—and soon.

Because, coincidentally with this golden anniversary of the college, there are at this time, 6 new buildings nearing completion, costing \$650,000, and plans being made for their occupancy next fall.

While the building program is well underway, the term just ending, also marked the peak in registrations and 151 seniors receiving diplomas.

In fact, the two go hand in hand, to make this an ideal beginning for the formal celebration and observance of the Golden Jubilee of the College.

All plans for the formal event in the fall are not complete, but an elaborate and carefully arranged program will be arranged.

When founded, the institution was known as Cullowhee High School, and from that has arisen the Cullowhee Normal and Industrial School, Cullowhee State Normal, and the present Western Carolina Teachers College, a standard four year college with a large, well-trained faculty.

From one building, the college has grown to six buildings now in use, while six other buildings are now under construction.

The student body has through the years changed from a small number to approximately seven hundred now in the regular session and the special session, representative of the entire state and several other states.

With the passing of years the progress now at Western Carolina Teachers College has added much to the upbuilding of Western North Carolina.

This issue of The Carolinian has throughout to cover the high spots in the 50 years of the college, and throughout the paper will be found articles, carefully prepared, to give an up-to-date presentation of the affairs of Western Carolina Teachers College.

Amid the clamor of hammer, saw and chisel, with sash and the clangor of concrete mixers stirring, the staff of The Western Carolinian, with the assistance of faculty, have assembled together some of the major events in the life of the college for these pages, and will be sent into 5,500 homes.

Past and present administrations are proud of the achievements of Western Carolina Teachers College during this half-century of progress, and they, together with the state served, are firm believers in its fu-

**151 To Receive Diplomas Tuesday Morning**

Tuesday morning, June 6th, 151 graduates will receive their diplomas from Western Carolina Teachers College.

Sunday morning, June 4, the annual baccalaureate sermon will be preached by Dr. Frazier, president of Queens College, Charlotte. This service will be held in the Baptist church, at eleven o'clock.

Monday morning, also at the Baptist church, the commencement concert, given by the college musical organizations, will give an orchestral concert, vocal and instrumental numbers.

The awarding of diplomas will take place Tuesday morning at 10 o'clock in the auditorium of the Baptist church, with Dr. Stirewalt, of the Lutheran Theological College, Cullowhee, S. C., making the address.

**Plans Underway For Celebrating Golden Jubilee In October**

**Elaborate Program Being Formulated By Joint Committee Of Institution**

A joint committee of the faculty and trustees of Western Carolina Teachers College, consisting of Harry Buchanan, Hendersonville; R. C. Jones, Bryson City; Miss Camp, Mr. Sullwell, and Mr. Elliott, of Cullowhee, is working out the details of the program for the Golden Anniversary of the college.

The plans include chapel speakers, conferences, entertainment and the like, culminating in a final celebration in October.

The final celebration will likely be in two parts; one, the theme of which will be "Fifty Years of Teacher-Training in North Carolina," will feature outstanding speakers from other colleges and universities, speakers whose addresses will conform to the general theme. In addition to the speakers, representatives from a large number of colleges and associations from this and other states will be invited. The other part of the celebration, coming a few weeks later, will feature the dedication of the new \$650,000 plant, a barbeque luncheon, football game, and a ball at night. To this celebration every high school graduating class in Western North Carolina will be invited.

The college began its career on October 28, 1889. It is likely that the final celebration will be on October 28, 1939.

**Guidance Course Offered Under Dr. C. D. Killian Here**

The White House, Washington

My dear Miss Wilson:

It gives me great pleasure through the special edition of your newspaper to extend hearty greetings to all friends of Western Carolina Teachers College on the happy occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of its founding.

I trust that through long years to come it will ever serve the best interest of the State by thorough preparation of young men and young women for the profession of teaching.

Very sincerely yours,  
Franklin D. Roosevelt

Miss Edith Wilson,  
Editor, The Western Carolinian,  
Cullowhee, North Carolina.

THE WHITE HOUSE -  
WASHINGTON

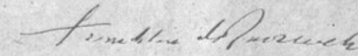
May 9, 1939.

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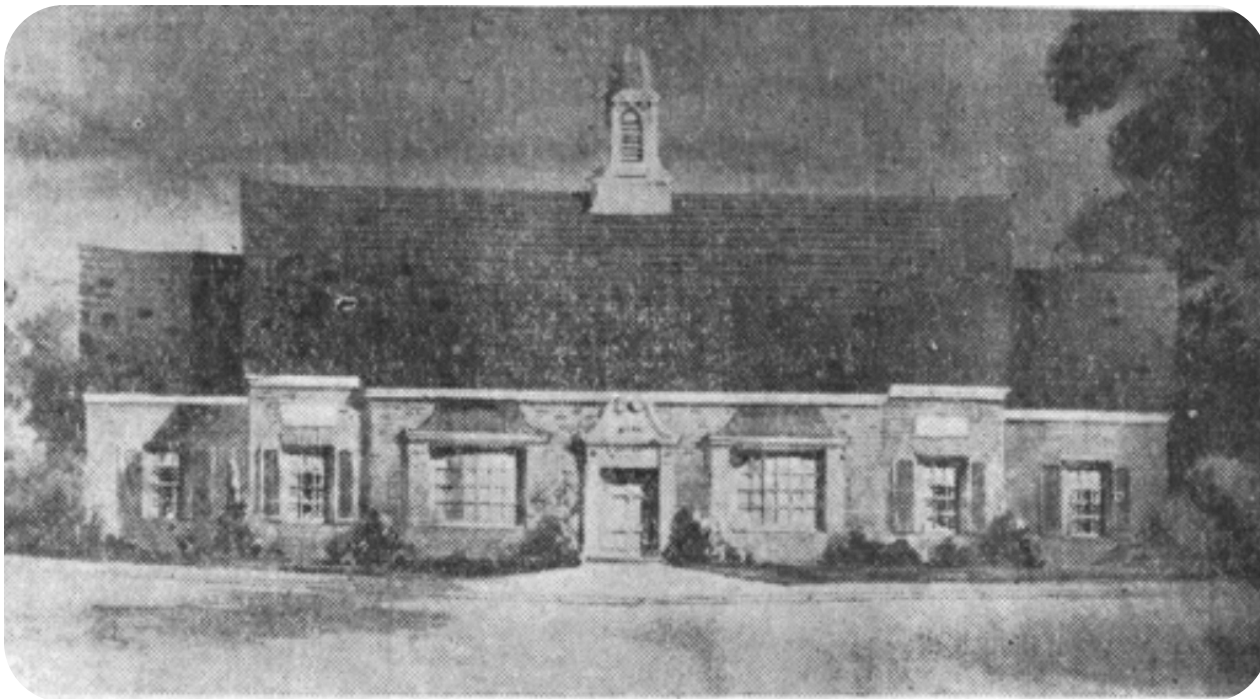
Very sincerely yours,



Miss Edith Wilson,  
Editor, The Western Carolinian,  
Cullowhee, North Carolina.

# Building and expansion program here underway

October 7, 1938



Proposed student union building.

## Dormitory and auditorium are included in proposed program

Climaxing 49 years of steady growth and development, Western Carolina Teachers' College has received official notification of a PWA grant which will, with the aid of state funds appropriated at the recent special session of the general assembly, inaugurate a new building and expansion program of \$381,000.

This grant, President H.T. Hunter said, may be called the third step in the college's current building program which began in 1937. Last year the WPA and state agencies began construction of the physical education

building, which will, when completed, cost approximately \$75,000. The structure, of native North Carolina granite, is 144 feet by 88 feet. The stones quarried near the college, each stone being cut by hand before being laid. The main gymnasium floor is to be of maple, and glass backboards for basketball are to be installed. Offices, classrooms, rooms for visiting teams, supply rooms, and a large swimming pool will occupy the remainder of the building.

## Applied for PWA grant

The second step began when the 1937 general assembly appropriated \$110,000 for the construction of a training school.

Realizing that nearly twice that amount would be needed to construct a suitable building, college authorities applied for and received a PWA grant making possible construction of a \$200,000 building. Advertisement for bids began Tuesday.

An unusual feature of the structure is that it will be built on a unit plan. Each unit is made up of two classrooms with a practice room between them and conference rooms at each end. The floor is of wood block construction.

The third step makes possible the construction of:

A dormitory to accommodate 160 men at an approximate cost of \$130,000 fully equipped.

Auditorium, with capacity of 900, \$25,000.

Student union building, to house student organizations and alumni officers, \$30,000.

Re-modeling of old training school, for use as a college classroom building, approximately \$30,000.

Enlargement of water and lighting systems to take care of the additional buildings.

The total program, included in the three steps mentioned by President Hunter will cost more than \$630,000. Negotiations are under way with the Nantahala Power and Light Company for power to supplement that generated by the college plant.

# Current staff: what does The Western Carolinian mean to you?



happy  
90th!!

**Mackenzie Atkinson**, Senior Reporter

“The Western Carolinian is a family. We struggle together, we work together, and we create together. When we are struggling with anything, the other members will work together to help and pick up slack when things get to be too much. We encourage each other and collaborate to create something amazing. There is no feat too great for The Western Carolinian and we will always rise to the challenge.”

**Abigail Quinn**, Senior Reporter

“It’s difficult to articulate what The Western Carolinian means to me in only a few words. I’ve been with this paper since I was a freshman in 2020. I’ve stuck with it through a pandemic, through a time where both students and the staff of the paper were learning to live again. To say this paper has shaped my college career would be an understatement. I would have never become the person I am without The Western Carolinian and the absolutely wonderful staff I work with. I will be forever grateful for my time writing for The Western Carolinian.”

**Marrah Ste. Marie**, Senior Reporter

“To me The Western Carolinian is an invisible thread that holds this campus together. We help raise awareness for groups and spread their mission, share information about events to help students be connected, and shed light on issues that could lead to students being mistreated or taken advantage of. The Western Carolinian is made by students for students to help elevate their experience on campus. We are a close-knit team dedicated to doing our part to help students and staff alike stay informed and connected.”

**Stewart Butler**, Copy Editor

“The Western Carolinian is much more than a newspaper. It serves as a link between the student body and the university administration. We hope that our publication educates students of the variety of life in western North Carolina and inspires them to make the most of their education. Ninety years is a very long time. As WCU continues to change, I hope to see The Western Carolinian continue the work that students, faculty, and alumni have counted on for such a long time. When no one else will listen, who will you turn to?”

**Landon Farmer**, Cartoonist

“I never imagined I would be a cartoonist for a newspaper. The Western Carolinian gave me an opportunity to express my artwork to the community at Western Carolina University. I am thankful to be a part of such a great team.”

**Aubrey Sanderson**, Lead Designer

“The Western Carolinian is more than a publication. It is a voice for the student body at Western Carolina University. I am so grateful to be a part of such an amazing staff while getting to do what I love most as a designer. Ninety years is a remarkable milestone. It is so exciting to reflect on all that has been accomplished. I look forward to many more years of shared stories and experiences.”

**Leah Marshall**, Assistant Designer

“The Western Carolinian has given me the opportunity to put my appreciation for design to good use towards staying in touch with Western. Together, we are able to keep Western connected and educated. It’s exciting to be a part of a team that feels so strongly about coming together and creating something for the benefit of our community.”

**Cora Haste**, Digital Media Coordinator

“The Western Carolinian is an important part of the fabric and culture of Western Carolina. It is an account of history and a look at the university over the last 90 years. It is such a sweet feeling to me to read the words from the 1930s and feel the reporter’s emotions and see their perspective. It is funny to think that years from now people may look at our paper to understand the culture of Western in 2023. I’m proud to be a part of something like that and I’m honored to continue the tradition.”

# The Western Carolinian staff 2023-2024



Top row (from left to right): Lead Designer Aubrey Sanderson, Assistant Designer Leah Marshall, Copy Editor & Junior Reporter Stewart Butler, Editor-in-Chief Liam Bridgeman. Bottom row (from left to right): Cartoonist Landon Farmer, Digital Media Coordinator & Junior Reporter Cora Haste, Senior Reporter Kenzie Atkinson, Senior Reporter Marrah Ste. Marie, Senior Reporter Abigail Quinn.

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