

OTC NEWS

Vol. 4 No. 2

Quachita Technical College's Student Newspaper

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DR. MARTIN!

We here at OTC News wanted to take a moment out of our day to wish Dr. Ken Martin, a very happy 50th birthday. Well-wishing ham operators should call AB5TP.

SGA News

School has gotten off to a great start, with all of the activities already in progress. The campus clubs are abuzz with ideas, activities, and new friends. We've seen a lot of new faces on campus; we hope everyone that is new to OTC will enjoy getting their education here. We can't leave out our returning students, welcome back; it's great to see you again.

SGA has great and magnificent plans for the whole semester. We are hoping everyone will get involved; it's a great place to find friends and to have a great time here on campus.

The month of October has two great events planned: one, the OTC Talent Show at the Malvern High School Auditorium on October 14, from 6:30 p.m. until it ends, and two, Thursday, October 31, here on campus, we will have a Halloween costume contest. There will be great prizes for our first, second, and third place winners: Dinners for two, gift baskets, and the like. The contest will be held in the Student Center at 12:00 p.m. SGA Executive Board will judge our costume wearers through out the day, so look great! Don't forget to attend our meetings -- they are full of exciting opportunities and adventures.

See You There

Von Michael

Phi Theta Kappa

In the spring, elections to determine the 1996-97 executive officers were held. The new executive officers are:

President
Lynda Willingham
Vice President
April Goyen
Treasurer
Shari Roys
Secretary
Kelly Beverage
Public Relations
Tara Anderson

These executive officers will attend the Oklahoma / Arkansas Regional Leadership Conference in El Dorado, Arkansas, September 20 and 21.

VICA staff

It's time for lunch at OTC. Tressie's Kitchen is open from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This semester, cold cut sandwiches are the hot menu item. September 19, Tressie's kitchen will be closed. Tressie is attending a Dietary Managers' Meeting that day. On September 25, she will attend the NAASLYN Conference in New Orleans.

Join the winning team: Arkansas Phi Beta Lambda staff

Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) is a national business association for students interested in careers in business and business-related fields. With more than 14,000 members, Phi Beta Lambda is one of the largest post-secondary associations devoted to developing tomorrow's business leaders. Phi Beta Lambda can help you develop the competitive edge to succeed in the business world. By actively participating in PBL, you can:

- *Develop effective leadership skills
- *Develop effective public speaking skills
- *Plan effective career strategies
- *Participate in state and national leadership conferences
- *Meet new friends and learn to network.

The association prepares students for employment by promoting competent, aggressive business leadership, increasing understanding of American free enterprise, establishing career goals, encouraging scholarship, promoting efficient money management, and developing character and self-confidence. Co-curricular activities encourage career development, civic service, economic education, community involvement and business advocacy. Partnerships are formed with Chambers of Commerce, local businesses, industries, and government. An extensive skill competitions program is offered to

challenge members in their academic pursuits.

The Chi Sigma chapter of PBL will have nominations to office on September 23. Elections will be held on September 26 and 27, in room 2. All business and business-related students, including CISS students, are encouraged to attend.

From the Outfield

Dianne Tull

We're Bold!

We're Beautiful!

We're Nurses in Training!

We come from unique backgrounds with a single bond that ties us together. We are nurses in training. The nurse is a different breed of person. Different from so many other fields of work because to be a nurse you must give of yourself in order to reach another person and better their life.

I don't believe that being a nurse is something one merely studies and schools to achieve. I believe it must be in your heart and soul first. All the training from all the books in the world will not make you a nurse in your heart. Yes, we're here to learn the book knowledge, but you need to know that the LPN class in the nursing building is a group of people who love people from their hearts and that is what ties us together.

The Nursing Association officers for the 1996-97 school year are:

President
Karen Draper
Vice President
Gladys Thrasher-Cross
Secretary
Christi Guilliams
Treasurer
Melissa Flick
Historians
Beth marsh
Anna Masoner
Chaplain
Rosemary Nipper
Parliamentarian
Inga weaver
SGA Representative
Sheila Griffin

Meet the instructors:

Leah Costello, "I'm looking forward to the year and I'm excited to be a part in your nursing career." Mrs. Costello attended OTC in 1986, and received her degree as a Licensed Practical Nurse. Lynette Smith, "I wish all students success in their chosen fields. I'm looking forward to working with the LPNs this year." Cheri Tidwell, she's the 'new nurse on the block.' "I love teaching; this is my big chance to help someone

else accomplish their nursing goals."

Meet the students:

Kimberly Adams	Joyce Brown
Tamara Chism	Karen Draper
Gladys Cross-Thrasher	Kristi Eiferd
Melissa Flick	Julia Galloway
Sheila Griffin	Christi Guilliams
Sharon Harns	Tracy Holder
Amy Holmes	Melanie Lewis
Jessica Lambri	Anna Masoner
Beth Marsh	Jennifer Pickle
Rosemary Nipper	Judy Pittman
Gail Swayze	Kristi Thompson
Lisa Thomason	Kristi Townsend
Dianne Tull	Inga Weaver
Jessica Wilson	

I did get a few of our

nurses in training to comment --

Melissa, "Just chill."

Jessica L., "Thanks for all the support from my family."

Amy, "I hope to work in a hospital wit the newborn babies."

Karen, "I hope to make a difference in at least one person's life. I want to tell my family thanks for the support."

Kristi Townsend, "I've wanted to be a nurse since I was five years old. So for me, it's like a dream come true." She wants to tell everyone, "If you have a dream don't give up. As long as you have faith in God, god will have faith in you."

Tamara Chism, "Nursing is in my blood."

Rosemary, "I can now use the nurturing/compassion from inside me to have a career."

Sheila, "I was a teacher at First Step in Hot Springs, but I wanted more. I feel that nursing will allow me to do more."

Well, we are the LPN Class of 1996-97. Be nice to us.... Because this time next year, it may be one of us that gives you your next shot!

Library News

Library staff

This column will be devoted to introducing you to the tutor programs and to those very capable people that are tutoring this year. There are two separate programs -- the academic tutors who are available to help you with your class work one-on-one, and the computer tutors that work in the Plato lab. They can show you how PLATO can help you with your classroom work using the computer. Our tutors are doing an excellent job and they want you to be able to do the best that you can as a student. Find them and get some help -- don't let them get bored just sitting around doing nothing! Also, remember all tutoring is free.

see Library page two

Library continued from page 1.

Tutors

Some of you have found your way to the tutors for math and English -- are there more that need some help and are bashful? Maybe your first test grade wasn't as high as you wanted. Start now to get some help so that grade goes up where you would like it. Don't wait until you have several low grades, or are floundering and can't keep your head above water to get seem help! We have tutors who are able and very willing to help you understand what it is you are having problems with. At the present time, Joan O'Neil and Julie Wilson are the two math tutors, and Brenda Hardwick is our English tutor. They all work different schedules -- be sure to find a tutor schedule the library or Room 8 and check out the times they are available.



Computer Tutors

Have you visited the PLATO lab in Room 8 yet? If you haven't, go on in and meet the people working in the lab. Angelia Butterworth is the computer tutor in charge of the lab. Angelia is there every morning (except some Friday mornings), and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons until 7 p.m. There are two Work/Study students, Debbie St. Clair, and Darlene Petre who fill in on Friday.

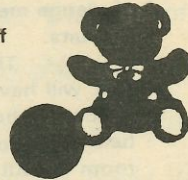
A special thanks to SGA

I would like to express my appreciation to Von Michael and the SGA Scholarship committee. Thanks for choosing me as the recipient of your SGA Scholarship! OTC may be small but we have the BEST Student Government Association! I encourage all students to get involved! Thanks Again, Tara Anderson

On Campus

Child Care

The lack of affordable child care is one of the main reasons many parents cannot attend college.



Today, the state provides low income families with child care for children three to five years of age through the Head-start program. After age five most children attend public schools, but what about those children who are between birth and three years?

Parents who wish to attend college pay \$75.00 to \$85.00 a week for Child Care if their child is between the ages of six weeks and three years. A parent working part time for \$4.50 an hour makes \$90.00 a week before taxes. This means they are only working to pay for child care, and more work means less study time and lower grades. Most parents who are faced with this problem forget about college and end up in a self-perpetuating cycle of indigence, welfare dependency, and more indigence. The need for on-site child care is great. There are many parents who would stay in college or even enroll if obtaining Child Care was not a problem. Research shows that if a vote was taken among all the students on campus, the majority would agree that on campus Child Care would prompt more people to attend or stay in college. Benefits are numerous. Parents wouldn't have to worry about the quality of care their children are receiving while the parent is away for several hours attending classes or performing tasks for Work study. They would be able to see their children between classes, eat lunch together, and monitor medication. Children would go to the same campus, eliminating the added burden of getting the children to a sitter or day care facility, and then having to rush across town to reach class on time. This is particularly difficult for those who car pool. Also, parents wouldn't sit in class wondering how they are going to pay for child care. They would be in class concentrating on the lesson.

One solution to funding would be adopting a sliding scale fee for everyone. If parents were unable to pay, they would be required to work a set number of hours in the center for each child enrolled. On campus child care would help keep parents involved and give them peace of mind. Parent involvement would cut labor costs and enable more parents to continue their educations,

thereby keeping them out of the welfare circle.

In Saline County, the Saline County Adult Education Center has a program for young mothers and others with children that allows them to take advantage of on-site child care. It works because everyone who has a child in the program is asked to volunteer some time each week while the others study. This keeps the center from having to hire someone. Two ladies attending OTC used the Saline County program and they are here, not at home. Their attendance here proves the value of a program like this. If parents would band together, write their school board, Board of Trustees, state Senators and Congressmen, we might see more successes like this one.

Terrie Hawkins

CONGRATULATIONS!



Julie Wilson, the SGA Treasurer, had a baby girl named Michaela Dawn Wilson. Every one here in SGA would like to congratulate Julie and her beautiful new family member.

SGA

Childcare

I am writing this concerning the need for an on-campus day-care to be used only by the students and faculty registered here. I know for myself, it is extremely hard for me to get my children to a baby sitter and get to school on time. Not to mention the worry and concern of who is watching them, are they being treated right, are they eating, etc (sic). There are just a lot of worry's(sic) involved with leaving them; this is every parents nightmare.

I have an idea of an on-campus day care where we could bring our children with us and not have to worry about them. I understand there is a money problem, Okay, I have two suggestions.

(1) Hire a baby sitter from outside and everyone pay a \$25-\$30 dollar maximum and that is how we pay the baby sitter. (2) Any parent who has children in the day care has to work in it when they are not in class. I believe this would help less people late to class(sic), less people dropping out, and more students being able to attend college and improve their education, so we don't have welfare lists as long as a book.

This will also give students more money to spend for school, because if you have to pay a day care for an infant it ranges from \$70-85 dollars per week no matter whether the student is full or part time. For a Toddler it ranges from \$55.-\$70. not mattering part-time or full time, so as you can see this will be a savings of about \$40-\$50. dollars per week. to be used for other school needs. But, not only can this effect students it can effect teachers and workers as well because they will be able to bring their young children to school with them.

OTC NEWS O U A C H I T A T E C H N I C A L C O L L E G E ' S S T U D E N T N E W S P A P E R

SGA Faculty Advisors:

Tressie McJunkin & Pat Simms

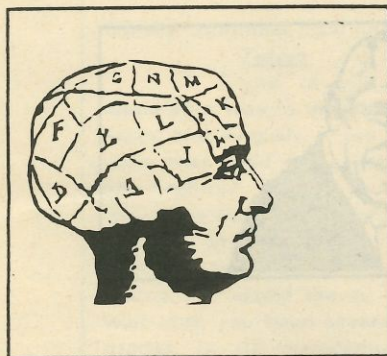
News Advisor: Frank Opitz

SGA President: Von Michaels

Editor: Cindy Priddy

Staff: OTC Student Body

This is the Unofficial monthly newspaper published at OTC by the Students of the Student Government Association. Its intent is to inform and entertain the student body and staff of OTC. Its contents do not reflect the opinion, beliefs, or ideologies of the faculty, staff, administration, or student body. Publication of an article or an advertisement in the OTC News does not constitute an endorsement of the advertiser, products, services, or ideologies presented. The OTC News reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. Only the publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance. The OTC News is not responsible for any claims made in an advertisement or column. Reproduction in whole or part of material in The OTC News is prohibited without the express written consent of the OTC News. Letters to the Editor should include the writer's full name, address, and phone number. Letters may be edited for clarity and space. The OTC News is published once a month during the fall and spring semesters, by the Student Government Association (SGA), Room 9, OTC, One College Drive, Malvern, AR 72104



Brain Teaser

Pat Simms

Place answers to the Brain Teaser in the SGA box in the Student Center. Winner will be announced in the October issue.

Paul has recently acquired a 12-liter bucket of milk and wishes to share it with John. However, all John has is an empty 8-liter bottle and an empty 5-liter bottle. How can the milk be divided evenly?

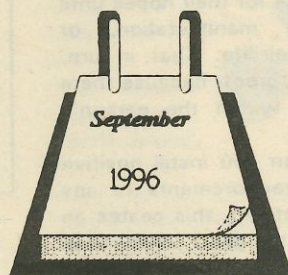
Last Month's answer:

The problem is meaningful only if all the ages are integers. that must be assumed. the next step is to go ahead and use the first condition, that the product of the ages is 36. This gives just eight options:

Age 1	Age 2	Age 3	Sum
1	1	36	38
1	2	18	21
1	3	12	16
1	4	9	14
1	6	6	13
2	2	9	13
2	3	6	11
3	3	4	10

among these options is the correct solution. We must choose. Calculations of the sum (the fourth column) show the only possible numbers of windows in the house. If the sum were 38, 21, 16, 14, 11, or 10, John would have been able to solve the problem immediately. He was unable to solve it immediately only because the number of windows, and the sum of the children's ages was 13. Because of this, he was unable to arrive at a unique solution until Paul said his "older son" had red hair. If the ages are 1, 6, and 6, then there are older sons, but not an older son, and the answer is no longer ambiguous. Paul's sons are 2, 2, and 9.

Calendar of Events



September 19	BSA Luncheon
September 23	PBL membership drive ends
September 24	SGA meeting 3:30p.m.
September 26-27	PBL elections
September 27-28	Board Retreat
October 1	Executive council meeting. 3:30 p.m.
October 2	PBL officer installation
October 7	Deadline to register for the OTC Talent Show
October 8	Deadline for submission to the October issue.
October 8	Executive council meeting, 3:30 p.m.
October 14	OTC Talent Show 6 p.m. Malvern High School Auditorium
October 15	SGA meeting 3:30 p.m.
October 18	Arkansas Student Practical Nurses Association Conference
October 22	Executive Council meeting 3:30 p.m.
October 25	BSA meeting 12:30
October 29	SGA meeting 3:30 p.m.
October 29	Board meeting 5:00 p.m.
October 31	SGA Costume Contest

ITEMS FOR SALE

IBM Pro-printer 24 pin wide carriage, 2 new ribbons, works great, \$100 OBO. 337-5725

JC Penney microwave for sale. 0.8 cubic foot (dorm or camper size), white, works great. \$40 OBO. 337-5725

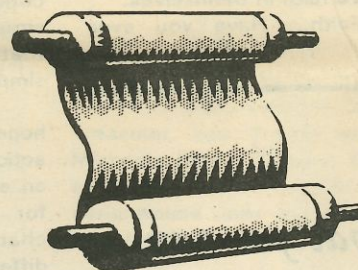
SERVICES

For all of your avon needs, please call Tara at 337-4289. In the month of September get a 5% discount on your order!

Ironing done in my home great rates and references, Call 337-5725

Poet's Corner

All poetry is published with form intact inasmuch as possible. Please submit poems in room 9.



ETERNITY'S FLAME

The Wars Rage on Inside my Head,
Deep Dark Secrets of the Life I've Led,
Hate, Deceit, and Weakness of Flesh,
The Hearts of the True and Wicked don't Mesh
Praying for Guidance, but following not
Walking Red Coals, feet blazing hot,
This Life that I've Lived is no longer a Game
Been Playing with Fire
Eternity's Flame.
D. B. Hollowell

LIFE

Living one day at a time
reaching for that impossible goal
Searching...
Finding.
Just plain living
Breathing
Being

Walking down life's path-

taking whatever may come it's way.

Learning

and Teaching what has

been learned.

Feeling the beauty of it all

/ and the ugliness, too...!

Life, just being you.

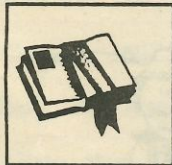
Amy D. Simmons

Alone

Divorced -- Alone
Two mouths to feed
By the time I cash my check
The money is gone
A picture is worth a thousand words
I look in my babies eyes
And I know my pain and hardships
Must be put back on the shelf
In the jar where they are kept
Beside the jar -- is a wooden box
Inside the box -- is a smile
--Very Carefully--
I put that smile on my face
And hope each day that it will fit
Behind that smile -- is a saddened heart
Full of loneliness and tears
Yet, too stubborn to give up
Refusing to quit !!
Sometimes I think I'd rather sell my soul
to the devil
Just for the exchange -- of a simple hug
WAIT!!
What time is it?
Time for a reality check
Ahh, yes
There my smile is in place
Now, where was I?
Now I remember--

Alone

confidential

Dear
Diary

Dear Diary,

I don't really know how this "Dear Diary" is supposed to work, but I do have a really big problem and I was hoping you could help me with it.

I am a mother of two and a wife to a great husband, it's just, I am having a hard time trying to balance school with my home life. At home my family requires most, if not all, of my attention; it is so hard to try and find time to study. What should I do? How can I relieve some of my stress? I do not intend to quit school; I don't have very much left. I was hoping there was an easier route to take.

Signed,
Pressed for Time

Dear Pressed for Time,

You said, in your letter, that your family takes up all or most of your attention and it is so hard to try to find time to study. You should be aware that you are definitely not alone. Most students who are also moms and dads and husbands and wives find that they have this problem.

What can you do? You can set aside part of the evening -- for example 6:00 to 8:00 -- to be with your family and during this time spend "quality" time with your family. Then, set aside another part of the evening -- for example 8:00 to 10:00 -- to study and let your family know that during this time you will be in another part of the house studying. They should be aware that they need to respect this time as your time to study and work on your school work. You said your husband is a great one, so I assume he is supportive of your student status. Please take some time and explain to him that you are stressed and need to divide your time. If he is truly supportive, he will help out with the children during the time you need to devote to study time.

How can you relieve some of the stress? One word -- exercise. Exercise is your best course of action for relieving stress. Of course, exercise takes some time out of your day, too. But, it is well worth the benefits. Twenty minutes of exercise each day -- walking, running, exercising to a video tape and such -- will give you the added energy for the day ahead. And, you will find your stress factor lower!

Honest -- it works!

Also, by becoming more organized you can relieve a great deal of stress. Make lists. Use each minute of time during the day wisely. If you have twenty minutes between classes, study, read a chapter, or do a study guide. The more schoolwork you do during the day, the less you have to do at night.

Dear Diary,

Where is a good place for new students to get to know about other students? We don't have, like, a student union around here! I've seen some people I would like to get to know, but I can't seem to get within their circle because there is no center point for all students to meet!

Sincerely,
Dateless

Dear Dateless,

Unfortunately, there is not a physical centerpoint on campus where students gather to socialize. The very nature of this campus excludes dorm living, athletic groups, and religious organizations. However, by joining one of our on-campus clubs or organizations, you will then be within the focal point on our campus. Joining these clubs will be more of a benefit to you, individually, too. You would be more aware of your surroundings on campus. If you have anymore questions, please write, or come by room 9 to talk with us. We will be looking forward to hearing from you

again.

Story Section



Ghost Frog Express

by W. O. Oz

The title of this story is really our nickname

for our old flat bottom river boat. It allowed us to make ghosts out of frogs and when we got started we'd move through the sloughs like a quite mid-night express train, hence, Ghost Frog Express. Now being that I'm an old country boy and that part of being raised up in the country includes getting in the old flat bottom boat, going fishing and frog gigging and such, it's only natural that an interesting and unusual event might occur every so often. This story records one such event.

Pop and I decided that we needed some good old fashion stress management one day. For us that involved some such outdoors event where it's just the two of us and the last thing we tell Mom is, "Look for us when you see us coming!" That way she knew that we might be home that day or maybe even the next, depending upon our mood, our success, and the mood of the local mosquito

population. You see the mosquitos in our area have a taste for a variety of critters. If the critters are all hiding and the mosquitos are particularly hungry, then two human critters in a boat with spot lights look like neon signs at a roadside eatery. Well anyway, we got the boat in the water and since it was early afternoon, far too light to gig frogs, we decided to break out our fly rods and fish some of the banks for sun perch, which we were going to put on trot line hooks and see if we could catch some cat fish. Having boated 30 are so one-half hand sized perch, put each of them on a hook, and having stretched the trot line across the main portion of a good sized pool, we were still waiting on dark to arrive so we could begin gigging frogs.

gigging frogs.

Now, frog

gigging

requires a

special talent

Now frog gigging requires a special talent. That talent includes the following skills, knowledge and intelligence level. Skill number one is to be able to shine a spot light into a frogs eyes, hold it steady and at the same time ease the boat up on the frog before it gets frightened enough to jump and swim to deeper water. The first bit of knowledge that you need to know is that frogs tend to freeze in place when you shine a bright light into their eyes. The

intelligence part comes when all you can see is a pair of eyes reflecting back the light you're shining in its face. This part is real important, because there are other critters in the water besides bull frogs. Some of them reflect the light back to you in a very similar way as a bull frogs eyes. This includes turtles; snapping and soft-shell, small alligators, salamanders, snakes; non-poisonous, poisonous, and ill tempered and poisonous ones, such as the Water Moccasin. The last of these

Pop turned and looked at me, beaming as a father does to a son when the son should obviously be impressed.

has such a bad temper that not only will he go out of his way to bite you if you catch him, but if he's just having a bad day he will come after just because he feels like biting something.

It was while we were waiting for it to get full dark that we spotted Mr. Water Moccasin swimming from the far bank of the river and headed toward the slough. My father, not having anything better to do picked up his fly rod and said to me, "Watch this." He began to unlimber the line and feed it out until he had about thirty yards in the air all at the same time. With a final flick of his wrist he laid the end of the line, and the little one-hook popping bug lure within about a foot of Mr. Water Moccasin.

Now Pop, feeling good about having come so close to the target on the first try went through the same wet line motions again. It was truly a thing of beauty watching the skill



my Pop had with that old fly rod, because few folks had the skill to keep all the trees leaning out across the water from snatching the line and the popping bug out of the air. As the line flies through the air it makes a unique whistling sound, which changes slightly as the line changes direction. All the time the line is in the air it is shedding the moisture that clung to it the last time it touched the surface of the water, so this fine glistening mist is slowly falling all around and you get little prism effect and a rainbow when the sun is just at the right angle. This time, as Pop gave that final flick of his wrist to lay the popping bug on the target he yelled, "Got 'em." He

ENTERTAINMENT

had not only hit the snake on the head with the popping bug, he had sunk the hook into the back of Mr. Water Moccasin's head. Pop turned and looked at me and said, "How about that," beaming as a Father does to a son when the son should obviously be impressed with the ability the father is trying to pass on to him. I simply sit and stared at his handy-work and ask, "OK, now that you've hooked Mr. Moccasin, what are you going to do with him?" Pop looked at me in that funny way when someone isn't quite sure and replied, "Hell, if I know, I guess I need to try to let him off the hook." But, Mr. Water Moccasin, being normally ill-tempered, was mad as hell and had decided to deal with this problem in a way that suited his nature. He immediately started to swim straight for the boat.

Pop countered this action by taking up the slack line and flipping the line out over the snakes back. If

the hook was not set in past the barb this would possibly free the hook, unfortunately the barb was in past the snakes hide and we watched an already angry moccasin rear-up out of the water like a its cousin the cobra, set its mind and determination even more on us and our boat.

Pop tried, in vain, to free the hook a couple of more times and by now Mr. Moccasin was almost to the boat. I don't know why I didn't think to start our boat motor and use the speed of the boat to leave the Moccasin in our wake, but instead I picked up one of the long handled paddles and tried to knock the snake away from the boat and off of the hook. The result was a broken paddle which acted as a boarding ladder for the snake. Mr. Moccasin just sort of curled his way around the handle despite Pop's efforts to pull him back into the water with the tightened line and a



stretched pole. The snake's weight out of the water was too much for the fly line and it broke off

right at the popping bugs tying eye. The snake landed with a plop and a hiss in the floor of the boat.

**He
raised
one
eyebrow
to savor
the
taste of
plastic..**

Mr. Moccasin, though slightly stunned, was by this time worked-up

ENTERTAINMENT

into an absolute fit of rage. He began striking at the air, and when he spotted movement, which was his own reflection in the clear top of a plastic dry fly container, he struck it so hard that he shattered the top. This stopped his motion for a moment as he raised one eyebrow to savor the taste of plastic. That is when he spotted me at the back of the boat, started back toward me, having no problem slithering over the metal boat seat. I did my best imitation of a man trying to walk on water and failing water-walking, swim toward shore. It was only seconds before Pop was performing the very same water walking imitation, swimming like Johnny Wisemiller (one of the old Tarzans) trying to outswim an alligator.

As we reached the old mud and clay bank and scrambled up onto dry land, we stopped to look back at the boat. Mr. Moccasin stuck his head

up over the side of the boat, back by the motor. Pop wondered aloud, "You don't reckon that Moccasin knows how to crank that motor do you?", and I replied, "Maybe, but he won't get far, unless he's better than me at getting the throttle opened up and the darn thing to shift into gear at the same time." Fortunately the snake didn't know how to start the motor, and the boat, being caught up in the lazy current headed downstream.

We followed through the brush and the brambles as best we could, and adding to our embarrassment we were greeted by the hordes of hungry mosquitos that could hear dinner bells in the rustling of the dried leaves that crackled underfoot. We also had to cross through several creeks and while we saw several of Mr. Moccasin's cousins, none gave chase. I think the cousins had witnessed the entire

episode and were laughing so hard they couldn't come after us. Mr. Moccasin decided that he had enjoyed the boat ride and just before the boat entered a series of rapids, decided that we could have our boat back. He slid over the side, swimming away from us in the last light, the popping bug, a yellow one with black spots and its two inch yellow tail feather, stuck out like an Indian with a war-bonnet on his head.

We the vanquished, wet, muddy, cold, and extremely mosquito bitten, reclaimed the Ghost Frog Express just as the rapids ended, fired-up the motor and decided that we needed to gather up our trot line and go home. We would spend other nights maintaining the reputation of our boat's name, as for now, we'd learned a valuable lesson. I guess the moral of the story might be - Don't mess with folks or critters that are by nature, ill-tempered, you'll

all be happier and a good sight better off.

