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Letter from Harmon to Roach and The Halyard Staff, January 10, 1974

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January 10, 1974

TO:  
Mr. Bill Roach, Editor and General Manager of The Halyard

That Great Cast--but not of thousands--The Halyard Staff:
Jonel Aller, Judi Benson, Mary Brumbaugh, Carolyn Kenyon,
Sharon McConnell, Mary Merritt, Buzz Mills, Sylvia O'Dell,
Don Renshaw, Ruth Skapyak, Shirley Corbin, Ricky Crews,
Doris Manukian, Kathy Merrey, and Terry Mothershed

After a thorough tour of the first Halyard, my enthusiasm for your labors has been enriched!

Bill Roach, especially, and all of you individually, deserve a banquet of congratulations for your accomplishment—the quality, the volume, and the timing. I know personally how difficult these accomplishments were to achieve. You've joined a talented and hard-working group of people who came here to the University of North Florida to encounter difficulty and overcome it bit by bit to make a significant contribution to learning.

Such talk was not rhetoric to me two and a half years ago when the idea of a communications segment of this department and a laboratory newspaper seemed like good ideas. (I learned then that FJC waited seven years before beginning its newspaper; now, more of us here perhaps know why they waited.)

You've undergone a great many trials just in the production of the newspaper. You should be heartened as everyone is by your product.

At the same time, I congratulate you, however, I hope you are able and willing to continue your willingness to work with adversity in the form of scarce space and resources.

In some ways, we're not different from a great portion of the country now, though we lack some fundamentals yet. And we could have had to wait several years to get as far as we have now. The education you're getting from the present situation may be the best sort of education to have. Pioneers are not a dime a dozen!

I hope you will keep the faith and keep up the good work! The eyes of the university community are on you now, watching to see how you do in the tests of courage, strength, and talent ahead. I think that you, and others who will join you, will show the true ability you have.

My hope is that you rejoice now! And buckle in for the next issue!

Sincerely,

Gary L. Harmon, Chairman
Department of Language and Literature