

Atlanta run planned for the love of people

By BETTIE MARLOWE
Banner Staff Writer

Turning physical exercise into a spiritual resource is an idea which recently came to Keith Hitchcock, president of the Student Government Association at Lee College.

While running one day, it occurred to him that several fellow students were also runners. The fitness program from which they benefited could also be of benefit to others, he decided.

The seed was planted for a marathon run to support the "Love Atlanta" project.

After hearing about the project, Hitchcock, the son of a Tennessee pastor, felt "Love Atlanta" was a ministry that needed support. As a member of Upsilon Xi, a service club at Lee, he shared his feelings with his brothers and plans began to come together.

"Love Atlanta" is a five-year project which aims to establish 250 new churches, provide food for hungry families, furnish temporary shelter to the cold and hungry of inner city Atlanta, teach non-literate adults to read and minister to the other spiritual and physical needs of thousands of Atlantans.

Club members agreed they would enlist family members and close friends in support of their effort. This would be a select group whose lifestyles and commitments to church and charitable concerns would make

"When the people of Cleveland see that we want to make a positive contribution in our community, whether cleaning a cemetery or painting a house, they are very supportive." Keith Hitchcock

them interested in the "Love Atlanta" project.

Upsilon Xi's part would be the running part — 125 miles to Atlanta, with each runner setting a goal of \$500 to raise for the endeavor.

Leaving Cleveland on March 6 at 12:45 p.m., the marathon run will terminate at the Church of God Conference Center in Doraville, Ga. At the conclusion a celebration concert and awards ceremony will be held. The men of Upsilon Xi will present a check for the amount raised for "Love Atlanta."

Upsilon Xi, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, is a men's club at Lee College with academic, social and service goals.

Club members feel that the Love Atlanta Run is an opportunity to continue the tradition of service begun in 1962. On campus and in the community, they are active in leadership and service.

Each Upsilon Xi member pledges himself to participation in service projects each semester. Members

can be found in the Big Brother program. They can also be found cleaning up public cemeteries, taking care of various tasks for city fathers, visiting children's homes or conducting services at nursing homes.

Also known as "the men of black and gray," Upsilon Xi members are serious about their academic pursuits, but their record shows their energies are also directed toward helping others.

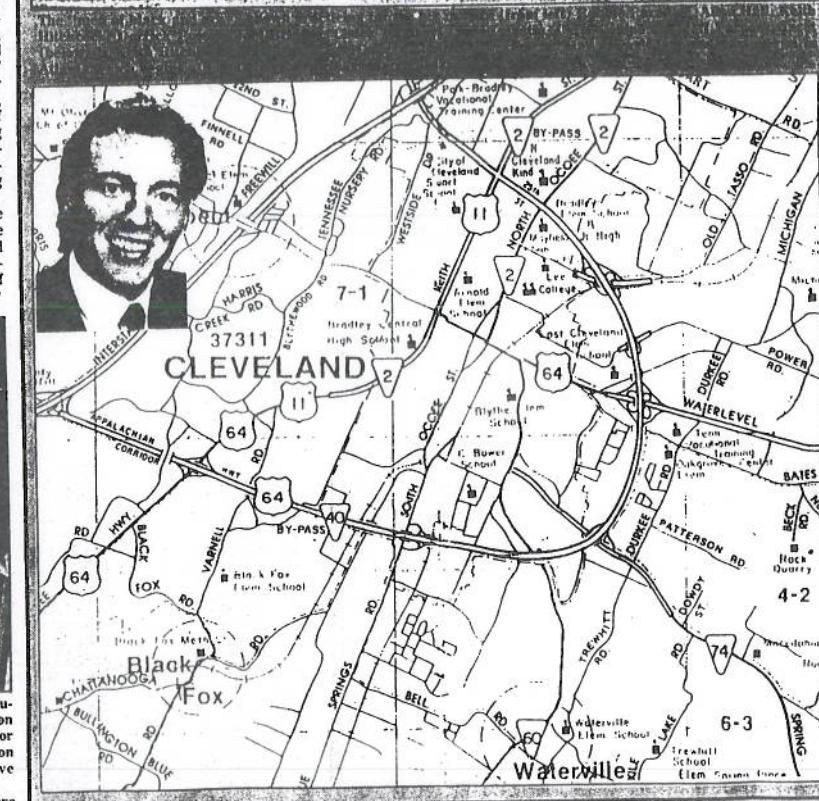
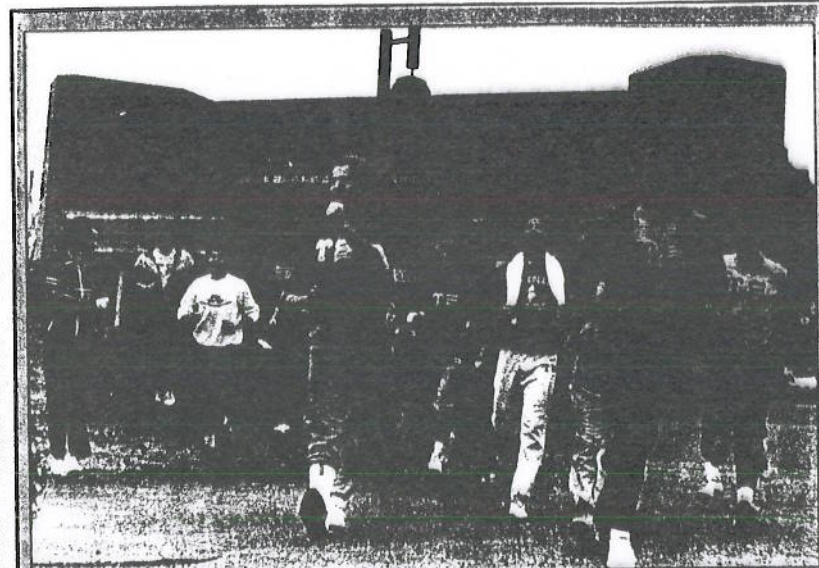
Among club members participating in the relay marathon are students from 13 states and one territory. They represent the broad diversity in the club and in the college.

Chris Callahan of St. Thomas competed last year in World Cup wrestling, representing the United States against a Bulgarian opponent. "Usually we engage in sports events to bring glory to ourselves or recognition to our schools," he remarked, "but this run reaches beyond that and connects with a spiritual motivation."

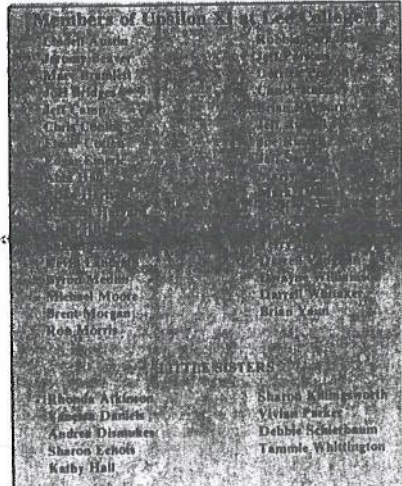
A junior biblical education major from Dublin, Va., Chuck Ramsey, says, "I place myself in the position of the young couples who are beginning new churches in Atlanta, and I imagine the encouragement they will receive when they know we are raising money to help them."

To Marty Smith of Chattanooga, the fact that some of the money will be used to help feed hungry people and undergird a literacy project is important. Smith, who serves as minister of

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"College kids make it from one month to the next financially. What can be accomplished when they get together is far beyond any dream."
Bill George



Members of Upsilon Xi at Lee College



"This is a good opportunity to work together on one focus. It's exciting for our age group to work on something that can have such a big impact."
Michael Moore

Hal Bernard Dixon, Jr.
Pentecostal Research Center
Cleveland, TN

NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM THIS ROOM



Love Atlanta Run concluded on Saturday at the Church of God Conference Center in Doraville, Ga. Sponsored by the Lee College Upsilon Xi, the Love Atlanta Run began Friday afternoon in Cleveland. Proceeds from the 125 mile run will be used to help start new churches, provide food for hungry, set up a temporary inner-city shelter, teach non-literate and minister to the spiritual needs.

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Lee students to participate in marathon

Forty Lee College students will run in a 125-mile marathon relay from Cleveland to Atlanta March 6 and 7 in a fund-raising venture for the Love Atlanta project.

The students, members of Upsilon Xi, a men's social-service club, have enlisted hometown friends and relatives as financial sponsors in an effort to garner \$10,000 for the North Georgia church planting endeavor.

Love Atlanta, an ambitious program to start 250 new churches in the 12-county metro Atlanta area in the 1986-1991 period, is directed by Lee alumnus Darrell Rice, who received a bachelor of arts degree in 1977. Besides establishing new congregations, the project provides benevolent services to the needy, drawing on the resources of various agencies. A literacy project is part of the ministry strategy.

The Upsilon Xi members will depart from campus at 1 p.m., Friday, March 6, and expect to arrive at the Doraville state offices about 25 hours later. The club will run together for one mile and the remaining distance will be covered by successive runners covering distances varying from one to five miles each.

While runners will continue non-stop, other club members will conduct youth rallies at two Georgia churches along the route, one in Dalton at 7 p.m. and another in Calhoun at 9 p.m.

The students have requested that donations be sent prior to the run. They will present a check for the amount raised at a Mylon LeFevre concert in Atlanta on Saturday evening following the completion of the event.

Michael Moore, of Owings Mills, Md., is president of Upsilon Xi. Keith Hitchcock of Carthage is student director of the run and Chuck Ramsey of Dublin, Va., is fund-raising chairman.

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