

# Rev. Carl encourages individuality

by Tina Adams  
Clarion Reporter

The Reverend David E. Carl Jr. captured his audience with an unusual story to illustrate his main point at the 1990 Purgason Family Lectures on Wednesday, Oct. 31, in Dunham Auditorium.

*Imagine, if you will, a fishbowl, filled with a variety of colorful fish.*

*The goldfish create shimmering waves of gold. The angel fish make flowing fans with their beautiful fins.*

*The mediocre-looking guppies, following their tradition, just produce more guppies.*

*Last, but not least, there are the scavengers, whose job, said Carl, is to "eat the crap" of the other, more glamorous and important fish.*

*There was one such "crap-eater" by the name of Herman. Every day, Herman scoured the bottom of the bowl, eating the crap of the other fish. Herman didn't particularly like eating the crap of other fish, yet he continued to do so because that is what he had always done. Day after day, Herman ate the crap of the others.*

*Finally, one day, Herman had enough. He decided he didn't like crap*

*and was tired of eating it. He rebelled; he stopped eating crap.*

*Soon, all the fish started asking Herman why he stopped eating their crap. They found it hard to maintain their glamour (or reproductive activities) in the murky water. Herman said he just didn't feel like it anymore -- he never liked the taste anyway. They pestered him to start eating their crap again, but Herman stood his ground and refused.*

*Herman had taken enough crap.*

*He moved away and someone else took his place.*

Telling this story to an audience of Brevard College students and local citizens, Carl stressed the importance of taking a stand and refusing to be the victim of another's negativity or manipulation, as illustrated by Herman the scavenger.

In his lecture, "Healthy and Unhealthy Ideas in Families," Carl stated, "Families are a big part of stress." Yet, he continued to say, "You cannot carry others' stress." He pointed out that family members are so ready to tell other family members what to do that individuality is lost.

Carl is the director of pastoral care and education at the Carolinas Medical Center and Charlotte Memorial Hospital. He earned his bachelor's degree

from Randolph-Macon College, and his master's from Drew Theological School.

"Families are systems," Carl explained. "When something happens in a family, it affects all members of the family." He also stressed that everyone is an individual. He said that sometimes a family can keep an individual from being the free, unique person he or she is.

Carl related an instance in which the mother of a middle-aged man tried to keep him at her beck and call. Regardless of the fact that he had just gotten married and had his own family responsibilities, she expected him to do whatever she wanted whenever she wanted it. Her method of getting her wishes met was to dramatize an impending heart attack for him over the phone each time he didn't jump to her bell.

This man, like Herman the scavenger, had to learn to say "no" to his mother's inappropriate demands and break out of the trap in which she had always been able to place him.

Carl pointed out the need for a positive and healing form of rebellion in such situations -- he said humor and playfulness are the ways to keep relationships healthy.

Carl advised the man to assure his mother that he cared about her so much

he had put the fire department on alert in case she had a heart attack. He was then advised to paint an exaggerated scene for her of what would happen in the event, but to keep it all in the name of love. The embarrassing thought of a driveway full of fire engines and emergency vehicles showing up for her fake heart attack dissuaded the woman from ever again attempting to manipulate her son in this way.

Carl stated that seriousness in a relationship is dull and healthy relationships contain a lot of laughter.

Carl also cited secrets as a destructive force in relationships. "Secrets can kill, cripple and hurt you," he said. Carl stated four main functions of secrets.

"They divide a family's loyalty, create unnecessary estrangements, distort perceptions, and keep anxiety at higher levels of energy," Carl said vehemently. According to Carl, secrets only serve to "spare an individual's own feelings."

His main message was, "God created us to be unique -- not to be clones or mirror images."

By giving examples from past personal experiences and answering questions from his audience, Carl showed students that the family unit is important -- but so is the individual.

## Don't give in to stress during exams

by Sharon Young  
Clarion Reporter

It's that time again. The hustle and bustle of Christmas. Searching for just the right gifts. Making out a Christmas list. Staying up late at night, and final exams. Are you prepared?

Final exams can be hard on everyone. Exams cause a great deal of worry, and that terrible monster stress.

"The most important thing is not to let stress get you down, says Ms.

Miller, use self-discipline, face the problem, and study.

Suddenly you realize that the semester is almost over, and you need to make a good grade in your courses. The problem is stress is taking control. It has you wrapped up. It is difficult to study under a great deal of stress.

Exams can be extremely difficult and tiring, but they don't need to be. The most important thing to remember says Ms. Miller is "students don't give in to stress."



By the light of the pep rally bonfire Monday night, Nov. 19, BC cheerleaders perform a difficult stunt. (Clarion photo by Jock Lauterer)



Stars of the Parents' Weekend talent show: guitarist Jeremy Wilms accompanies double-timing saxman Patrick Young.

## Beam next in phone line

by Gary Weeks  
Clarion Reporter

Brevard College is continuing the process of introducing the option of private phone installation in dorm rooms.

The service was first installed in Jones earlier this year. Now, BC planners report that Beam is scheduled to get phones next, perhaps as soon as January. Next in line are Taylor and Green dorms.

According to President Billy Greer, planners decided phones should go to

females first.

President Greer said this type of operation is too expensive to do all at once. "You have to have priorities," said Greer. Jones was picked because it is the largest women's dorm on campus.

When asked if he thought the addition of the phones will be worth the money and effort put forth to get them, President Greer responded "We hope so, however it is very expensive."

Work is already being done in Beam, but the target dates for private phone installation in Taylor and Green are indefinite.