

Teacher Feature

Bob White emphasizes importance of education

by Tatyana Perry
Clarion Staff Writer

With Robert White's credentials, it is no surprise that he landed his job here at Brevard College two years ago as an instructor of theater arts. White has an undergraduate degree in English and theater from Wagner College, a master of arts and humanities degree from Dartmouth College, a master of arts in playwriting and directing from Antioch University and is a graduate of the Paideia program hosted by UNC-Chapel Hill. The Paideia program is a study of the methods of socratic teaching.

He is still busy now, as a poet, playwright, instructor, and owner of a stained-glass studio and plans to get a terminal degree, MFA or Ph.D in the future. When asked when he wants to retire, he replied with a grin, "I don't ever want to retire. I'd like to work until I can't anymore and then go away."

White says that he decided on his current occupation because he, "wanted to share with people who were interested, perhaps, in theater as a career." He says he enjoys teaching at Brevard mainly because it is slow-paced, the classes are small and he feels that he has very talented students. The thing he likes best, however, is the close relationships between faculty and students.

Robert White, or "Bob" as we know him, is best known for his sense of humor. Anyone who has ever had a class with him, or even just known him from around school, knows that Bob is a great teacher. With his philosophy, "Be yourself, because you're the only person who can," he encourages students to take pride in themselves and he enjoys friendly relationships with most of the students. After speaking to many students, one comment epitomizes everyone's remarks. This student said, "He makes me feel important, not like some kid he has to teach."

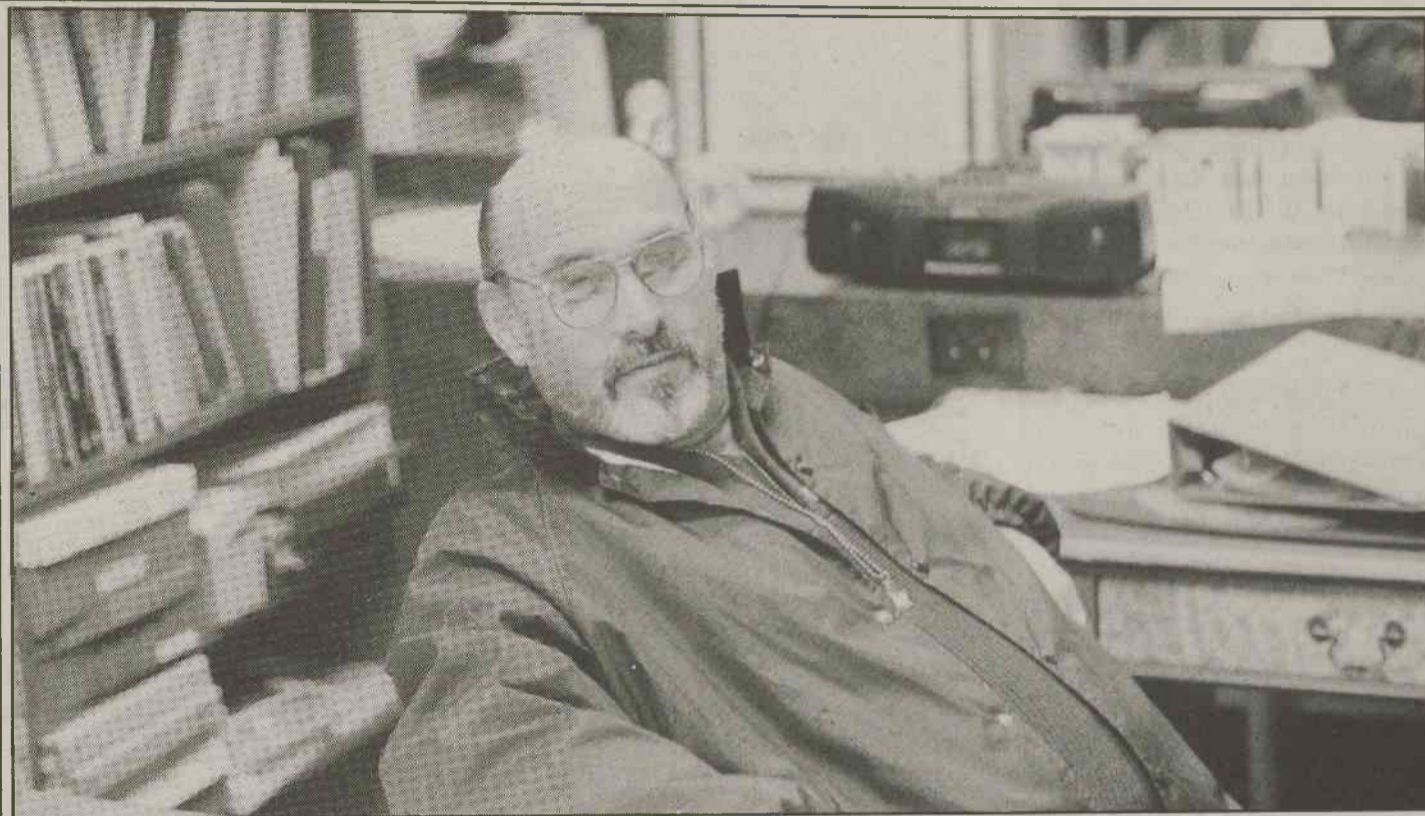
The reason "Bob" gets along so well with students probably has something to do with what he believes, he says. "Of all the people in the world that I can know, I prefer to know young people. They are so open-minded in many ways...and they have to run the world I have to grow old in, so I might as well understand them."

Many experiences in White's life have helped to shape the man we know today. One incident he recalls fondly as the "singlemost important thing I've ever done" is the serious camping trip he took in 26 states and Northern Mexico from July 1, 1980, to October 31, 1980. Of those nights, only ten were actually spent in a building. He was accompanied on this perilous journey by his "adopted" son, and White claims that he did things he never thought he could possibly do.

Some experiences, however, are not so fondly remembered. When he was in high school, he was involved in a serious track accident that "totally

changed my outlook; every minute is important because the next one might not be." White says that one major development in his life that helped him

to become who he is now, was "my realization that education and intelligence are extremely important to survival."



Brevard College is lucky to have Robert Allwynn White as an instructor in theater arts; his talent, combined with his credentials and humanistic approach towards teaching have enriched the drama program. (Clarion photo by Rahaum Skinner)

Brevard College tuition is average compared to other N.C. colleges

by John Roberts
Clarion Asst. Editor

Running a college is not cheap. The costs of running and maintaining a college, even a small one like Brevard College, are incredible. For example, the average heat and water bill for each dorm is \$30,000 per year. That's just heat and water for one building! That does not include maintenance or any additional expenses that occur during the year.

To come to Brevard College students pay \$11,275 in tuition. There's 625 students here, so that comes to over \$7 million just from tuition alone. Whatever is not covered by tuition is covered through alumni and through fundraising. But still, the question is; where does our money go?

Our tuition is divided up many ways. Our tuition pays for, or helps pay for: the cafeteria staff, room maintenance, housekeeping, yearbooks, off campus activities (PIO trips), our

on-campus post office boxes, student insurance, social activities (bands, dances, etc.), graduation fees, building upkeep, the newspaper, other tuitions, campus security, sports, repairing student vandalism, and faculty and staff salaries. Every penny is spent.

Of all the things tuitions help pay for the most expensive is the payroll. Brevard College has 150 employees on the payroll, but as Steve Martin, Brevard College Vice-President and Dean for Student Affairs explains, the faculty is not here to get rich. "The faculty is not here for the money, they're here because they love teaching," said Martin.

Of all the money coming in, 14% is used for scholarships. So really, students are helping pay for other students to come to Brevard College. The money the school gets is reinvested in the students in one form or another, so the administration has a problem. If they raise the tuition more money will be spent on the students, but fewer students may come because of the price. On the other hand, if they lower

the tuition more students may come but there will be less money to spend on the students.

Another part of our tuition goes to pay for something the students are responsible for: vandalism. The College pays an average of \$45,000 per year repairing vandalism. This money could be used to fix buildings, or start new programs, but instead it is used to replace water fountains, bathroom doors, and furniture. If this destruction did not take place, there would be a lot more money to improve things on campus.

It may seem expensive to come to Brevard College, but really BC is average among other schools in North Carolina. Brevard College is second among two-year private schools in tuition (there are only 5 two-year private schools in North Carolina), average for all private schools in N.C., and in the middle for tuitions for all North Carolina schools. Dean Martin explains, "The tuition at a private school will be higher because it offers students a better chance to receive personal attention and grow academically."