

## Sharing Education With A Christian Ethnic

By Olga DaCosta

On June 30, 1989 Dr. Whitaker will be retiring from his seat as the 18th president of Chowan College. On June 27, 1989 he will celebrate his 68th birthday. He has been with the College for 32 years and feels it is time for him to give his presidency of the college over to someone younger who will provide leadership and direction as the college prepares to enter the 21st century.

Dr. Whitaker is the eldest of eight children. He comes from a Christian family in Cleveland County North Carolina. During high school he was encouraged by his peers to serve in top leadership positions. He was also encouraged by his uncle to serve in Baptist leadership. He was president and valedictorian of his class at Mooresboro High School. He graduated with a B.A., from Wake Forest University and a B.D. from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He later received a D.D. from Campbell University.

Through inspiration from a charted course in Christian Education he was lead to Chowan in 1957 at the age of 35. The first two goals Dr. Whitaker set after taking the helm of the school 37 years ago, was to make Chowan an academic household word and to put the school on a solid financial foundation. With that in mind he was able to give Chowan the standard it has today.

His first recommended staff addition was for a public relation officer. A year later, the school was operating under the Baptist State Convention, donations, charity and people who could sense students need for education. In 1976, he told the *Virginian Pilot* "We operate in the black. We operate from a point of strength, not simply of need."

His love for education and a Christian ethic has brought Chowan and its staff an understanding of leadership along with warmth and desire to move on to higher learning. He once said, "I'm more interested in providing the facilities and support personnel to give to them (students) an education. I think students respect me in varying degrees but they don't look on me as their best friend. The people they work with would be considered more like personal friends." He recently commented, "I love Chowan College. I believe in her noble purpose. I shall continue to believe in her and pray for her success."

Over the past 30 years, under Dr. Whitaker's service, Chowan College has witnessed a change economically as well as financially. In 1957 Whitaker found that the facilities were inadequate. Three cottages named Faith, Hope and Love were stuck about like offices, classrooms or dormitories. Thirteen major buildings have been added since then, including a \$2.75 million gymnasium-physical education facility, Helms Center, and a new graphic communications building.

The Whitaker Library has been named in Dr. Whitaker's honor with over 90,046 volumes, and the enrollment of students has tripled from 300 in 1957 to 966 in 1988. Total assets have reached over \$25 million from \$800 thousand and today the college employs 175 staff members including 59 faculty members from that of 21 members in 1957.

In addition to his work with Chowan College, Dr. Whitaker is very active in mental health efforts in the state. Dr. Whitaker is a past chairman and current member of North Carolina Commission for Mental Health, Mental Retardation, and Substance Abuse Services. He is chairman of the Commission's Mental Health Committee.

The Whitaker School at Butner for emotionally disturbed youth was named in Dr. Whitaker's honor on June 30, 1982. He was lauded by Gov. Jim Hunt for his dedication to better mental health, as well as total well-being of North Carolina young people.

Dr. Whitaker is married to the former Esther Adams of Conover, who is a professor in the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Chowan College. They married while Dr. Whitaker was in graduate school. Their first son Barry was born in 1953, followed by a second son, Garry, in 1959.

Dr. Whitaker has been recognized as one of the nation's 18 most effective college presidents in a study funded by the Exxon Education Foundation. Among his many other honors are being named "Boss of the Year" by Murfreesboro and North Carolina Jaycees and selected to *Who's Who in America*. He received the Doctor of Law honorary degree from Wake Forest University during commencement exercises May 18, 1987.

According to Mr. Bob Spivey, Chairman of Chowan's Board of Trustees, "Dr. Whitaker's selfless (continued on page 3)

## A Good Night at the Crossroads

A Review by Ken Wolfkill

A significant old gentleman who cared about such things said, "Art imitates life." That being the case, Mrs. Boyce and the Chowan Players showed that life is sometimes knee-slapping funny. Their fall show, *Dirty Work at the Crossroads*, was one of the best done and most entertaining productions I've seen at Chowan.

I don't think the success is necessarily the play's fault. As a parody of genuine 19th century melodrama, it does have everything — a beautiful damsel in distress, a merciless, dastardly villain; hearts bold and true; and a multitude of improbable accidents to help the plot end happily for all concerned, except the bad guy, who foiled again and again, gets what his black heart deserves. But the three acts are three versions — extensions really — of the same plot, as though Bill Johnson, the author, couldn't get the thing to work. By the third act, though, he really got it right, especially as he played up the sentimentality. The play is a good parody, but I think this production was successful for other reasons.

Not a minor thing is the set, lighting and costuming, which were effective and attractive. Other things, appropriate to melodrama, like the clever program notes and the piano player were diversions themselves (the world has lost something in no longer needing "the piano player"—not *pianist*, but "piano player"). More thought and care went into these things than we would ever recognize.

But the chief factor was the outstanding, clear and distinct, unselfconscious cast with a remarkable sense of timing. Melodrama, because its characters are flat stereotypes and its emotions are obvious, is a fine means of getting a cast to open up, be expansive, and lose reserve; but these folks seemed already set for comedy. Chris Robbins, as Munro Murgatroyd, had renewed energy for each new villainy. Jennifer Grooters got fresher as the scenes progressed, and seemed freshest in the last act. Anthony Neely, as Mookie, was clever throughout, but his surprise return and pouncing upon the bad guy was

one of the production's best bits. But as I write that, I think of Lindsay Sutton ("Little Nell, who never had a father"), another surprise of Act Three, both as tear-jerker and shinkicker. Chris Rimmer, as all Amur'cun Adam Oakhart, Lenzy Vibbert, as Upson Asterbilt, and Elaine Casmus, as the French maid, all seemed most natural in their parts.

Jodi Batt, as the ruined woman whose heart turns out to be gold, and Lisa Kirby, as the old Widow Lovelace as well as the young, rebellious daughter of Upson Asterbilt, are two who have played supportive roles in earlier Chowan productions. But here they took the limelight, and they showed they deserve it. Not only did they know and enjoy their characters: the pace of every scene they were in picked up, and they very naturally, almost casually, and certainly attractively dominated their scenes.

Sandra Boyce has once again stretched, trying yet another genre. Clearly she worked very hard to bring us a very easy evening.



The Chowan College players presented "Dirty Work at the Crossroads" Nov. 10-12 in Turner Auditorium with a matinee for area school children Nov. 9. In this scene from the gay nineties melodrama, villain Munro Murgatroyd (Chris Robbins) attacks the sweet, innocent Nellie Lovelace (Jennifer Grooters) trying to force her to marry him against her will. Looking on in amazement are Ida Rhinegold (Jodi Batt) and Adam Oakhart (Chris Rimmer).



## Where The Money Goes From Fines

Have you ever wondered what the school does with money they receive from disciplinary fines? Well, there is a special account to which some of this money goes. The special account is the Residence Hall Programming Account. Money from this account has been used to fix certain things in the dorms and contributions have been made to organizations outside of the college campus. An example of what kinds of organizations, off campus, receive money is the Rescue Squad in town. Recently, the squad was given a small amount, because the college depends on them for dire emergencies such as the one last year. The Rescue Squad was at the scene of the Mixon fire, and contributed a lot to helping the college.

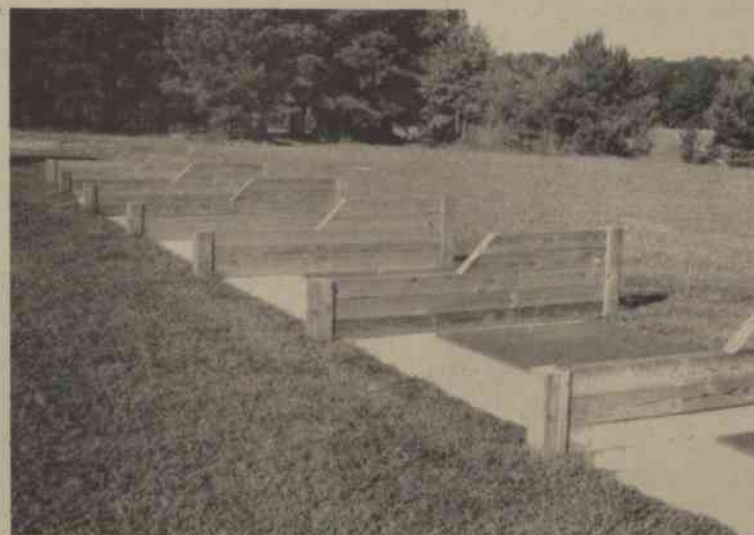
## Driving Range Opens

Robert Prince

For all the Chowanians that are bored and maybe want to relieve a little frustration, there's a new golf driving range on the Chowan campus. The driving range is located across the street from the football practice field and adjacent to the softball and intramural fields.

The idea of constructing a driving range came about seven or eight years ago. Until last spring, only small amounts of work had been done to the driving range, due to other major improvements in the Chowan campus. In the spring of '88, Chowan began major construction of the driving range and finished the project after the end of the spring semester. The driving range consists of twenty-two stalls, from which balls are hit, a choice of woods and irons and barrels that mark distances, ranging from one hundred yards to two hundred yards.

The driving range is open from two o'clock until dark, leaving enough time for a tractor to round up the hit golf balls. The prices are one dollar for a small bucket of balls



Photograph by Joe Angelillo

(about thirty-five golf balls) and two dollars for a large bucket (from seventy to seventy-five golf balls). In the spring the college will be offering golf classes which will be taught on the driving range and will be worth one credit hour.

The driving range is now being cared for by Truitt Duncan and a work study student. There are plans

to add lights to the driving range, so there will be longer hours to play. This project is to be completed by the summer of '89. The driving range is open to any one who would like to play. The range will not be open during the cold months of the year, so if you would like to get in a few strokes before winter, hurry out to the driving range.



## Christmas Vacation

By Robert Prince

For many students it will soon be the end of their first semester at Chowan College, and for every student it will be one step closer to graduation. The fall semester has been full of hard work, many school activities, and good times on and off campus.

Many students have spent long hard hours studying, doing homework and preparing themselves for the final exams soon to come. Other students have used up most of their time fooling around and going to parties. Some students attend school activities, like going to football games, volleyball matches and other sporting events. Many attended homecoming events and a play, which was performed by the Chowan players. Soon all the events and hard work will be over and the Christmas vacation will be upon us.

After speaking with many students about what they are going to do over their vacation, I came to the conclusion that many of them are running short of cash. The majority of the students expressed that they would be spending most of their vacation working or trying to earn money. Aside from work, they said they would be doing other activities; such as hunting, fishing and skulking with a good friend. Other activities mentioned were visiting with relatives, immediate family and friends, eating large enjoyable meals and the partaking of assemblies on well known special occasions. Some students in this higher institution indicated that they would spend their vacation relaxing and enjoying their time away from the tensions of college.

While you're going about your holiday activities, put a time aside to remember not so much of the activities I have mentioned, but on the true meaning of Christmas. The yuletide season is not only a time for giving, receiving, sharing and visiting, but it's a time for celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and the gift of eternal life.

Happy Holidays and God bless you!