The Fiction Corner

Wrathman (continued) By Marty Grebing

TJ travels the same dark path, head facing down, not taking in any of the scenery, like he has done every day for weeks now. Within minutes, the depressing, macabre surroundings change from slums and litter to the bright, shining orchestra of downtown lights. TJ still doesn't look. He doesn't want to. His pride couldn't stand to see the lights, the money, and especially the success of an entirely different lifestyle; the kind he has dreamed of for so long.

He boards the subway and arrives at the underground arena entrance within minutes. A man wearing sunglasses, a black Italian suit, slicked-back hair, and a bulge in his jacket, meets TJ at the gate. He esconts him down a dimly lit hall and into a dressing room.

"You got five minutes," the guard says in a cold, unfeeling voice as he turns to leave, "Hey, good luck."

TJ walks to his locker and quickly changes into a pair of old gray sweat pants and a white sleeveless undershirt. With a deep breath he leaves the dressing room and begins the long walk down the dimly lit hallway that, within minutes, will lead him to the underground stadium where he will fight for his life.

The loud, droning sound of an anxious crowd grows more intense with each step. he makes it to the ramp and pauses. Just a few more strides and he'll be on his way to freedom - a fresh start. He wants to remember these steps.

Applause welcomes TJ as he walks into the crowd's sight. He hates this crowd. All their money. All their fake interest in his life and what he's doing. He's just concerned with winning the fight and getting out of this hell-hole.

TJ walks to one corner of the square, polished maple floor and kneels, closing his eyes. The people, the noise, the stadium, they all have to be blocked out. His focus must be on winning the fight. Nothing else.

Meditation is soon interrupted by the crowd as they begin to cheer and stomp wildly on the thin, metal bleachers. The sound waves vibrate and intensify, echoing off concrete walls. He's here.

TJ looks up to see his opponent slowly approaching from the opposite end of the arena. Easily six feet and a half, at least two-hundred fifty pounds, no more than two percent body fat. Every incredibly defined muscle flexes with each movement. His face is littered with purple and red acne, his head barely covered by an inconsistent cluster of thin, fraying hair. The thick, blue veins in his neck bulge

He hates that name. It's Roth- naline. mann. TJ Rothmann.

"And to my left, the two time Come on!" defending champion - you know him, you hate him, you've bet pandemonium. money on him, 'The Unstoppable Jack Manger'!"

Mangler absorbs the crowd's outstretched in an attempt to catch adrenaline, flexing his boulder-like him in a bear hug. chest.

final battle begin!"

floor, followed by a flurry of ap- pointed knuckle on his left temple. plause and whistles.

begins, his eyes wild and blood- the floor face first with a sharp shot, "I'm gonna break yer neck!" smack. A large stream of blood

ringside airhorn signals the two beast's head, forming a bright, fighters to begin.

unpredictably. He's fast. Much unmoving form, studying him. faster than a man his size should be. He swings his right arm, narrowly missing TJ's ducking head. His knee, however, does not. It strikes TJ square on the forehead, lar back. He leans forward, placviolently throwing his body back- ing both hands under his slippery, wards, hitting the unforgiving bloody chin. wooden floor. The crowd erupts.

"Come on, don't die on me yet Wrath Man!"

for TJ's neck with two over-sized, shaking hands.

Wrath Man suddenly comes alive, striking the monster's left knee with a perfectly placed kick. Mangler screams in anguish, clumsily falling to the side, clawing at arm and raises it in the air in his knee in pain. TJ jumps up.

"Wrath Man I'm gonna rip off your legs and kick you with 'em," the fallen behemoth screams from over. It's finally over. the floor.

TJ stands back, allowing him to struggle to his feet.

With another maddening scream, he charges again, this time aiming low. TJ feints a kick to his other knee and Mangler shifts to black, leaving his upper body wide open. In a complete blur, TJ spins around, flailing both legs at the brute's face. The first one misses. The second one strikes, raking a solid heel across brittle teeth. Mangler reels back, bright red blood gushing out, splattering onto the wooden floor. His teeth fol-

He wipes his mouth with one forearm then the other, painting his discolored skin with bloody red stripes. he spits a fine red mist into the air then pauses. His faces turns from raging fury to a calm, musing expression. His tongue plastered on the near wall. darts around the inside of his mouth, running over bare gums.

"Hey, Wrath Man," he says, smiling as big as possible, showing a single, solitary, bloody tooth dangling from his upper gum, "you missed one."

TJ steps back, making space for a runway. Mangler signals with both arms, daring him to charge. "Come on, Wrath Man you wimp! Come on!!" Every person in the stadium stands, stomping in unison on the bleachers below. Slow at first, then gaining in temp until the loud, ominous pounding turns into a constant stream of noise and adre-

"What are you waiting for?

The noise level approaches

TJ charges.

Mangler lunges forward, arms

TJ leaps into the air, spinning to "Without further delay, let the the left. he strikes Mangler in the right knee with the side of his boot, The announcer scurries off the simultaneously landing a swollen,

Mangler's eyes roll back, his "Hey, 'Wrath Man'," the beast right knee crumples, and he falls to A loud and brief blast from the runs out from under the fallen reflective puddle a few feet from Mangler charges savagely and his body. TJ circles Mangler's

They start the chant.

"Kill! Kill! Kill!"

TJ positions his right boot in the center of Mangler's thick, muscu-

"Kill! Kill! Kill!"

With a quick movement, TJ jerks Mangler's head backward, extend-Mangler leans over, reaching ing his right leg at the same time. A quick series of hollow snaps and pops emit from his shattered spin. He lets go, allowing the lifeless. twisted corpse to collapse onto the blood painted floor. The short bald man runs up to TJ, grabs his right triumph.

> For the first time since he can remember, TJ cracks a smile. It's

This time the journey home is a short one.

TJ bounds up the stairs and bursts the apartment door open.

"Hey mom! Mom! I won! Look!! We can leave now- start over! Look- " he shouts, holding up a black leather briefcase, "we're rich! Get out of that rocking chair and lets go!! We can leave town tonight! I got enough money to take us anywhere!" She doesn't move.

"Mom...?"

TJ drops the briefcase and runs to his mother's slumped over form. "Mom!"

He leans over and reaches for the gun sitting in a puddle of blood under the rocking chair. It's still warm. Moonlight illuminates a large, bloody hole in the side of her head and pieces of splattered flesh,

He stands motionless over his mother, weeping quietly. All his hopes and dreams have just been shattered. He went through hell for her. He even killed for her, to give her a better life. To let her start over.

TJ drops the gun, picks up the briefcase and walks outside to the

Campus/Club Announcements

Baptist Student Union Mr. Kelly Brame Meeting Thursdays at 8:00 PM Daniel Hall Lobby

A weekly charge of spiritual renewal aimed at the youth. Con-

Third Wednesday (program meeting)

Mrs. A. Eason - Advisor

Meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 10:00 am in

Jenkins Hall Fund Raiser R.D. Loueen Leonard, Ext. 1052

* Class to make cultured pearl earrings/S.S. posts at 7:00 pm December 2. \$25

Craft Sale December 12 at Jenkins Hall

fresh water pear necklace and bracelets jeweled paper clips hair barrettes semi-precious stone necklaces and earrings and much more! (fund-raiser for Jenkins hall. For more info, call Loueen at ext. 1052)

English Department chair. Dr. Ken Wolfskill

We have revived the Chowan Players. Anyone interested in drama as a performance art- acting, set design, costuming, etc., please come to our second meeting on Nov. 23 at 3:30 pm in Robert Marks Hall Room 304.

Our goal this year is to produce one play in the spring. JOIN US!

Literary Club

Meeting November 30 at 3:30 pm in Robert Marks Hall Room 304. Reading: "Miss Lonely Hearts" (a short novel by Nathaniel West. On reserve in library)

What is Free Enterprise Capitalism?

In a free enterprise economic system the decisions as to what and how much is to be produced with the free actions of individuals and firms in the economy. Likewise, the manner in which goods and services are to be allocated is under the control of individuals and firms rather than the government.

In the United States capital goods are owned and used primarily by individuals rather than by government bodies. Capital goods refer to such items as machinery, equipment, buildings, or even money that can be used to purchase these items.

Young Scholars program slated

Twenty rising sophomores from northeastern North Carolina and southeastern Virginia attended a three week program this past summer sponsored by Chowan College and the National Science Foundation. Career opportunities were explored in a variety of scientific fields. Field trips to Virginia Air and Space Museum in Hampton; Virginia Nuclear Power Station at Surry; Merchant's Mill Pond in Gates; North Carolina Aquarium in Manteo; Wright Brothers Memorial Museum and Jockey's Ridge in Nag's Head were sights visited by the Scholars. In addition to traveling throughout the period, half of their stay was hands on experience in biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computers. After acquiring experience in the lab, the remaining half of their time was spent doing basic research. Reports were compiled and presented to the staff and students. Ideas were formulated for continued science projects in their local schools.

On Tuesday, October 20, 70% of these Young Scholars returned to Chowan College with their teachers for a follow-up visit. Ideas were shared for continued scientific work with both student and teacher.

The Young Scholars Program will be funded again during the summer of 1993. The dates for this will be July11-30. There will be a one-time announcement of this program in the latter part of April. This program, like that of Tech High, is for outstanding math and science students who will be rising sophomores.

Dean Gilbert optimistic on graphics

By Peggy Fuller Mr. Gilbert is very enthusiastic about this years Graphic Arts Depte with and hopes to encourage more interest in the up-coming sessions. The four year program is especially exciting with all new color and graphic design projects that allows. the students to acquire hands-on job experience complete with deadlines. Students are also required to design and layout a personal resume' for future job interviews. The resume' projects shown to me were very impressive.

Also impressive were the student handbook covers designed by students and student activity calendars.

Mr. Gilbert escorted me through the computer classroom and introduced me to some of the project they are working on prior to printing. Then we walked through the photography and printing labs and reviewed the process of printing a newspaper.

temporary songs. Student testimonies. Shared faith and friendship. ALL WELCOME!

> Phi Beta Lambda Ms. Dorothy Wallace

Meetings at 6:00 pm in Robert Marks Hall Auditorium First Wednesday (business meeting)

Business Honor Society

McSweeny Hall, Room 105

as he shouts threats at TJ, none of which are discernible over the crowd

A sickly, balding man dressed in a black and white striped shirt hops onto the floor from the ringside table, dragging along a new, brightly polished chrome microphone.

"Welcome all! You are about to witness the championship duel between the greatest street fighters in all of Chicago!'

The crowd, a sea of finely tailored suits, applauds, eager for battle.

"To my right, the new kid from East side. You know him, you love him, 'The Wrath Man.'!'

Science Olympiad

slated on campus

On February 11, 1993, Chowan College Department of Science will sponsor a Science Olympiad Tournament for high school students in northeastern North Carolina.

Science Olympiad is an organization which is devoted to improving the quality of science education, increasing the student interest in science, and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers. The list of competitve events at Chowan will be as follows: "A" is Anatomy; Biology Process Lab; Balancing Equations; Bridge Building Contest; Cell Biology; Circuit Lab; Designer Genes; Get Your Bearing; Metric Estimation; Pentathlon; Physics Lab; and Scrambler.

alley, silent teardrops following in his footsteps.

He starts to leave but catches a glimpse of that same burn, still passed out between the dumpsters. TJ approaches and stands over him for several minutes, studying him. With a final tear, he lifts up the wino's arm, places the briefcase undemeath, and walks away.

Private ownership of property is a characteristic of a free enter-

prise capitalistic system. This means that individuals have the right to own, use, and sell machinery, equipment, and buildings and that they also have the right to the results of their productive efforts (profits). For examples, a farmer who grows corn on his land with the use of his labor and capital owns the corn that is produced. He can dispose of his com as he wishes. In a similar fashion, a firm that manufacture computers is entitled to the ownership of the computers and can sell them if it wishes. After compensating those who contributed to the production of the computers, the firm is entitled to the profit, or what remains of the total revenue. This profit provides the incentive to acquire and use capital goods to produce goods and services.

In a free enterprise system individuals may offer their services to another in exchange for a wage payment, allow someone to use thier land in exchange for rent, or lend money to someone else in exchange for an interest payment. However, instead of selling their productive services to another, they can go into business for themselves as entrepreneurs and produce goods and sell them. Of course, they hope to earn a profit. Sometimes they suffer losses, bur that is the risk they assume as they pursue the prospect of a profit.

In the American economic system, consumer demand influences the ultimate use of manpower and resources and the allocation of goods and services. Consumer demand is expressed in the prices individuals are eilling to pay. Competition among businesses help to maintain order in the economies system and helps to keep prices down

We like to say that the United States has a free enterprise capitalistic economic system. These system grew out of the philosophy of economic liberalism that was popular in the 19th century and the early part of the 20th century. The major characteristics of this philosophy of economic liberalism were free trade, self-interest, private property, laissez-faire, and competition. However, our economy is really a mexed economy as a result of a large amount of imperfect competition and the growing role of government own and operate business. Some business are regulated by government. Government policies sometimes are implemented to protect individual and property rights, prevent abuse, promote competition, or stabilize economic conditions. In spite of the role of government, the American economic system still incorporates many aspects of a free enterprise economic system.

He remarked, "I can't tell you how proud I am of them."

Interested students are encouraged to visit and ask questions about new classes.

New Printing Labs!

Tuesday and Thursday from 5:00-9:00 pm.

Don't miss boat on financial aid

Did you know that congress has changed the regulations that determine eligibility for financial aid? How does this affect you? For those of you who did not qualify last year, there is a greater chance that you will be eligible this year, and for those who did qualify, you may be eligible for even more aid!

What's the catch? You must apply EARLY! Early means January and February 1993. You can pick up applications from the financial aid office in January.

While more people will be eligible next year, grant money (gift aid) is still very limited. So, don't miss the boat, apply EARLY! You have heard the saying, "The early bird gets the worm." In this case, the early bird gets the buck!

