

Alumni, Etc.

By JOHN C. GILL, Jr.

You may remember from your college days that the Latin word *alio* means "to nourish, to feed, to sustain." One English derivative from *alio* is *alumni*, meaning "those who have been nourished and fed" by an educational institution.

I dare say that the word *alumni* and the several variations of the word are among the most commonly misunderstood and mispronounced words in our language. Let us, then, see if we can clear up some of the confusion.

The pronunciation of the word *alumni* and variations of it is determined by the last syllable, which changes to suit the gender and number referred to. Actually, this is where the confusion arises; the changing of the ending of a word to suit the gender is not a prevalent practice in American speech.

The first two syllables of all forms of the word *alumni* are spelled and pronounced exactly alike. The "a" is pronounced as the "a" in *sofa*; the "lum" as in *lumber*.

Upon close examination, the various endings used on *alumni* are not much more difficult to understand:

When reference is made to just one man, the ending "nus" is added, making the word *alumnus*. The ending is pronounced exactly as the word "us" prefaced by an "n".

The ending "ni", pronounced as the "ni" in *nice* is used to refer to more than one man (men) or to the combination of both men and women. *Alumni*, then, is a plural word which denotes men or men and women.

Turning to the distaff side of the species and pointing to just one of the fairer sex, we would designate her an *alumna*. The "na" ending is also pronounced as the ending in the word *sofa*.

If we decided to label more than one of these delicate creatures, we would call them *alumnae*. This feminine, plural form merely requires the addition of an "e" to the feminine, singular form. The ending is pronounced as the word *knee*.

Now wouldn't you agree that *alumni*-etc. is actually quite simple? Remember one basic rule and you have it: to *alumn*, add the ending which suits the male or female in gender and number.

ROOFREADER WANTED

Drop a single letter from a sentence and the entire context may be changed. Here are five gems that would have been mildly hilarious if they hadn't gotten into print:

"The conflict was dreadful and the enemy was repulsed with great laughter."

"When the president's wife entered the humble sitting-room of the house she was politely offered a hair."

"A man was arrested yesterday on the charge of having eaten a cabman for demanding more than his fare."

"An employee in the service of the Government was accused of having stolen a small ox from the mail. The stolen property was found in his vest pocket."

"The Russian soldier, Knack-inoffoskewky, was found dead with a long word sticking in his mouth."—Dan Solo



NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OFFICERS — Elected at the spring meeting, were, left to right, Mrs. Harold Brown, Murfreesboro, vice president; Mrs. R. H. Underwood, Murfreesboro, president; Mrs. Henry Miller, Murfreesboro, treasurer; and Mrs. George W. Pratt, Merry Hill (not shown) secretary.

Alumni News in Brief

David A. Evans ('60) of Rich Square received a scholarship to the University of North Carolina and is now studying there.

Bill Griffin Snivey ('60) of Jackson worked this summer in the Registrar's office at the college. He is currently enrolled at East Carolina College.

Dewey W. Wells, the Elizabeth City attorney who serves as a member of the college Board of Trustees, has been named chairman for the 1960 Pasquotank County United Fund Campaign which has a goal of \$70,000.

The old Lewis Meredith home in Murfreesboro, which dates back to 1775 and is the property of Chowan alumna Addie Mae Cook, was sold at auction this summer. Miss Cook resided in the home prior to her accepting a missionary assignment in Hawaii.

The parents of Miss Patricia Delaney, former assistant to the Bursar at the college, have announced her engagement to William F. Bray ('59) of Hertford. A December wedding is planned.

Alumna Neva Campbell, the college librarian, attended the twelfth annual junior college workshop at the University of North Carolina this summer. Junior college faculty members and administrators from throughout the nation were in attendance.

One of North Carolina's most controversial figures, the Rev. W. W. Finlator, pastor of Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, was the speaker at the spring meeting of the Raleigh-Wake County Chapter of the Chowan College Alumni Association.

Julian Mills ('59) of Roanoke Rapids, a ministerial student, is now serving in the United States Air Force. He is a chaplain's assistant.

Mrs. D. M. Watson (Mary Hoggard '28) is teaching French and English in the Wagram High School. She has two children, a daughter 13 and a son 14.

Mr and Mrs. A. D. Liverman, Jr. (Elizabeth Slate) are now living in Pinetops, to which community her husband was transferred from Spruce Pine by the State Highway Department.

Sgt. Eddie Wilson Warrell is on a three-year tour of duty with the U. S. Air Force in Okinawa.



Appointed to U. S. Military Academy

Harry D. Sell, who completed his freshman year at Chowan in June, has been appointed to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis by Congressman Alton A. Lennon.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sell of Southport, Sell was valedictorian of the 1959 graduating class at Southport High School. He was president of the senior class and a basketball standout for four years.

At Chowan, Sell compiled an outstanding record in the classroom, winning honors as a Dean's List student. He also earned his athletic letter as a scrappy guard on the Braves basketball squad.

He reported to Annapolis early in July for the indoctrination sessions which preceded the opening of the fall term.

Delores Hill ('60) of Woodland, is now employed as Educational Secretary for the first Baptist Church of Virginia Beach. Prior to assuming her responsibilities there, She represented Ahoskie in the Miss North Carolina contest.

The Rev. Lamar Sentell, pastor of Ballards Bridge Baptist Church in the Chowan Association for the past four years, has begun a new pastorate at Fox Hall Baptist Church in Virginia.

Mr. and Mrs. Vallie Dale Jernigan of Lewiston, have announced the engagement of their daughter Rose ('58) to Russell Harrington ('59) of Rich Square. A December wedding is planned.

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Profile of An Alumnus

State Senator John R. Jordan, Jr. of Raleigh represents the fourth generation of his family to have a vital connection with Chowan College.

His great grandfather, W. W. Mitchell, was one of the founders of Chowan and one of its most ardent early supporters. Hattie Owen Mitchell, his grandmother, attended Chowan during the latter years of the 19th century. In 1915, Ina Mitchell Jordan, mother of the outstanding young politician, was graduated from Chowan with the A.B. degree in music. John himself attended Chowan for one year and is currently serving as a member of the college board of trustees.

He grew up in Winton, the county seat of Hertford, only eleven miles from the beautiful old Chowan campus. Upon graduation from the public schools of Winton (an eleven grade system at the time), he decided to spend his freshman year in the more intimate setting of Chowan College rather than to plunge headlong into the less personal academic atmosphere of the University of North Carolina.

Reflecting on that decision, John said recently: "It was a wise choice; and, with the excellent training I received at Chowan in the basic freshmen courses, I was able to go on to Carolina, complete my B. A. program in the regulation time, while making a most satisfactory record in the classroom."

In 1942, he was awarded his baccalaureate degree in political science by the University. He received his Law degree from the same institution in 1948. As a Law School senior, he was the recipient of the Phi Delta Phi award for outstanding scholarship and leadership in his chosen field.

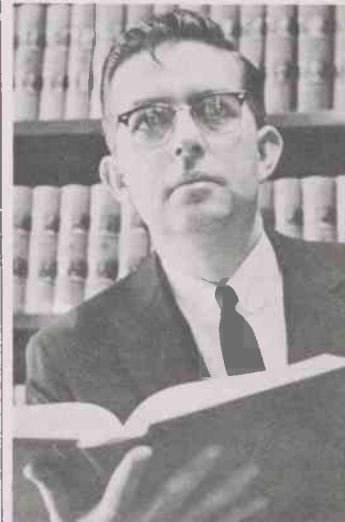
With the North Carolina Bar examinations staring the fledgling lawyer in the face, he decided to spend the summer after graduation in a refresher class which was being taught in Asheville.

It was a happy decision! He met, that summer, Miss Patricia Exum Weaver, a native of Asheville who was working at the courthouse. A year later, they were married. Today their family circle also contains two fine children—Ellen, age six, and John, III, age four.

Until 1951, John was employed as a member of the staff of the Attorney General of North Carolina. Since that date, he has been engaged in general law practice in Raleigh.

Following a long period of interest and participation in political affairs on both state, local, and national levels, the Chowan alumnus threw his own hat into the ring in 1958 and emerged as a State Senator from Wake County. He was re-elected this fall for a second two-year term. The political bug bit John Jordan early. It all began when, at the ripe old age of 16, he got a clerk's job in the Clyde Hoey Gubernatorial Headquarters in Raleigh. The excitement and enthusiasm around the headquarters aroused his appetite for politics and that initial interest is still very much alive and kicking.

His active participation in the affairs of the Democratic party on all levels has brought all kinds of recognition. In 1954-55, he was president of the Young Democratic Clubs of North Carolina. He was elected to serve as chairman of the 1956 Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner and also was a delegate to the Dem-



ocratic National Convention that year. Governor Hodges named him to the N. C. Legislative Reapportionment Commission in 1955, and he served as vice chairman.

John Jordan's interests, however, reach out far beyond the political and legal areas. He is chairman of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Division of the American Cancer Society. He is president of the Wake County Historical Society. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the State College YMCA and a member of the Advisory Committee of the State Board of Public Welfare. Also, he is a participating member of the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club, and the Farm Bureau.

An active churchman, John has been a deacon in the Pullen Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh, as well as a past president of the church's Men's Fellowship Club. At present, he teaches a Sunday School class and serves on the Business Board of the church.

No doubt, these activities explain why he received the Junior Chamber of Commerce Distinguished Service Award as Raleigh's "Young Man of the Year" in 1955. And also why *The News and Observer* named him a "Tar Heel of the Week" in 1957.

In a brief conversation with the writer, while on the Chowan campus for a recent meeting of the trustees, the youthful Senator was asked what one thing he recalled most vividly from his student days at the college.

Without a moment's hesitation, he said: "Gladys Sledd's class in the History of European Civilization."

"As you know," he continued, "she was the daughter of old Dr. Benjamin Sledd, professor of history and literature at Wake Forest College and sometime poet laureate of North Carolina."

"Gladys Sledd had her father's insatiable thirst for knowledge, and she tried to impart it to us; without reservation, I consider her one of the top three or four professors under whom I have ever been privileged to study."

The conversation about history also brought forth the confession from John Jordan that he is an avid collector of North Caroliniana. He stated that the most valuable part of his personal library (about 2500 volumes at present) is his collection of materials on the Old North State, which include every history of the State ever written except one. Fortunately for Chowan College, he did not stop there. He went on to (See PROFILE, page 7)