

Chowan Students Give Generously

Chowan College students expressed their concern for others when they took steps to reduce a shortage of a critically needed commodity — not beef, wheat or gas — but blood.

Like the other shortages inflicting the nation, the average citizen can do something to help relieve the pinch. But unlike the others, he's not being asked to use less.

Explained Bill McCraw, Chowan professor, "When you need blood, you need it." The answer, he says, is for Americans to give more blood and that's where the Chowan students come in.

The Tidewater Red Cross Bloodmobile visited Chowan Monday, Oct. 8, in the gymnasium, according to McCraw, who headed the campus effort to recruit students as donors.

Critical Need

"There is a critical need for blood," McCraw explained. "The need far exceeds the supply," he added. He said one reason is the increase in open heart surgery. Another is the increase in the number of three-day holiday weekends. "Because of these holidays, more cars are on the highways and this results in more accidents," McCraw stated.

McCraw presented this picture to Chowan's students during chapel programs and was assisted in recruiting students by members of the Women's Recreation Association. Other Chowan students who participated in the Bloodmobile include Circle K members who unloaded and loaded the equipment and pre-nursing students who performed such duties as taking temperatures and clerical work.

McCraw believes this united effort resulted in another successful Bloodmobile at Chowan. Last November, 281 units were received. "This was an all-time high for Chowan," noted McCraw. He said Chowan's students give more blood percentagewise than any other source in the Tidewater region. This fact enabled Chowan to again capture the silver bowl last year in competition with other student bodies in the region. With the win, Chowan's third in four years, the college retired the bowl.

No Pressure

Chowan's record has been achieved without "armtwisting," McCraw assured. "We tell the students of the need but then it's left strictly up to them. The students at Chowan give blood because they are interested in helping others," McCraw related. "They are anxious to help people who need something that can only be given by someone else. You can't make blood in the laboratory."

McCraw said the students received a feeling of self satisfaction from donating. "They like the feeling of giving something of themselves to help others," he said.

He made a special plea for donors of rare blood, AB or B. McCraw said it's not only important to have a supply of these types of blood but to have donors listed who can be called in emergency.

McCraw thanked Mrs. Ted Deanes, chairman of the Murfreesboro Blood Program, for her participation. He said she is responsible for securing administrative help for the Bloodmobile.

Scenes from Bloodmobile's Visit

