

Why Not? Textbook Written By Davis, Williams

By Harriet Robinson Asst. Editor

During the fall months of 1967, a salesman representing a renown publishing company walked into the office shared by two English professors at Gaston College. One instructor, after being shown many volumes and not being very impressed with any, casually remarked that he and his office mate could "write a better book than any he had to offer." "Then why don't you write a better textbook?" questioned the salesman.

This is the way it all began for Mr. Claude Davis and Mr. Robert Williams, English professors at Gaston College. The idea of writing a better, more improved textbook did not come to either all at once. Both had discussed, contemplated, and temporarily dismissed the idea until challenged, by the salesman, into taking positive action.

The first step was to agree on a table of contents and the index for the handbook. And agree they did. As stated by one member of this dubious duo, . . . "we rarely ever disagreed on anything concerning the writing of this book." Which is indeed a noble statement. Mr. Williams and Mr. Davis worked diligently together, and alone, on the contents of this book to produce a most unique text.

ENGLISH CLARIFIED, the suggested title, was written for the primary purpose of simplifying and clarifying English grammar and composition. To further explain their main objective, Mr. Davis stated, "we have carefully excluded any incorrect examples of any form in this book." The idea that neither has ever found a book quite like this one had a great

bearing on their final decision of the context to be used.

The reason this text is so unique is that it is so versatile. ENGLISH CLARIFIED is geared especially for the community college to be used as a freshman textbook. However, it is not limited in its use to this one particular level. This handbook, which is to be published in hardback edition, can be used as a bridge from the Junior College level to a four year college and may be used on through graduate school.

The emphasis is placed on how to use correct grammar and does not stress "how to use" incorrect passages. "We have attempted," explained Mr. Williams, "to slash away all of the garbage which clutters typical texts and have sought to clarify the study of English grammar and composition." Mr. Williams added, "Gaston College students have provided most of the paragraph examples and the research paper material used in our book."

Another interesting aspect of this book is the fact that the first publishing company to which they sent the original draft, rejected the book. Since neither Mr. Davis nor Mr. Williams is easily discouraged, they sought another company, The Allyn-Bacon Co., who then bought the book before reviewing it. Later, it was discovered that the Allyn-Bacon Co. is a subsidiary of the first company which rejected the book.

Claude Davis is no unknown to the world of literary works, having poetry published in-

cluding one poem entitled "Apathy" which was published in the AMERICAN POET. He received his AB degree from Elon College and went on to receive his master's from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Before coming to Gaston College, Mr. Davis had taught in the public schools in Hillsborough and Burlington. His previous teaching experiences also included a position which he held at College of the Albemarle as an English professor.

In the classroom, Mr. Davis injects ideas of Japanese writing, customs, and cultures, this being a result of two and a half years which he spent in Japan during his service career.

Since coming to Gaston College he has served as advisor of the Gamma Beta Phi fraternity for one year. He is presently teaching English at Gaston accompanied by a class in Psychology.

Robert Williams received his BA degree from Lenoir Rhyne College and his MA degree from Appalachian State College. Mr. Williams held several varied and interesting positions before coming to Gaston College. He has taught in public schools in Statesville. He has served as city editor of the Statesville Record Landmark. While employed by the Statesville Record Landmark he was also book review editor and drama editor. Mr. Williams now reviews plays and books for the Gastonia Gazette in addition to his duties as English professor at Gaston.

At the termination of this interview, Mr. Davis and Mr. Williams stated that this was the first interview, concerning their new textbook, that has been granted to anyone.

Record Reviews

Versatility is the key that makes this third album by the Doors their best so far. The typical, hard-driving Doors numbers like "Hello, I love You", and "The Unknown Soldier" are there, among others like them. But, what really makes the album is the different things like "Spanish Caravan", "Wintertime Love", and "Yes, the Rivers Knows." "Spanish Caravan" features the best of lead guitarist Robby Krieger. The latter two are notable for being simple ballads, especially "Yes, the River Knows", which lacks electronic effects and hard rock style. Drummer John Densmore is still using some of the rhythms he used on their first album, but he comes through after all. The keyboard work of Ray Manzarek is the best he's done yet. Of course, vocalist Jim Morrison shows why he is such a strong influence on today's rock scene. Simplicity and versatility are the two things going for the Doors, and they emphasized both of these qualities to make one of the best albums of the year.

NO CHANCE

The surest way to have no future is to live in the belief that the future is tomorrow.

ACID-TEST

It's a fact that character is built on what a man thinks—not what he thinks he is.



Department Head

Mr. Berge Beam:

Quiet Man Of Action

By Sherry Sigmon Staff Reporter

He spouts Shakespeare with authority, Chaucer with fluency. Or perhaps you'd like a few war stories of Korea or World War II. Better yet, how about some interesting tales from down on the farm. The man to see, and definitely hear, is Berge Beam, head of the English Department, Gaston College.

In truth, he is a quiet, unassuming man of unusual depth and experience. Mr. Beam was born in Lincoln County and spent most of his formative years in Crouse, N. C. Through elementary schools and graduations from Lincolnton High School, he then found himself in Hickory, N. C. where he enrolled as a freshman at Lenoir Rhyne College.

Beam confronted his first group of eager learners at Belmont High School in the fall of 1940. Historical events were to interrupt this brief beginning for in the year of 1941 he traded his white shirt and tie for Marine Corps green. He served in this capacity till 1946. His military career was revived once again in 1950 when he was recalled for the Korean conflict

and served there until 1952.

Returning to civilian life, Beam then attended Appalachian State University for graduate work. Following this, he found a home in Cherryville, N. C. Here he served as both instructor and as coach of the High School basketball team.

His efforts in teaching were then rewarded as he was accorded the honor of becoming principal of Cherryville High School. From there he came to join us at Gaston College, serving in the capacity of head of the English Department.

Mr. Beam's home life is surrounded by four young ladies; his lovely wife Jean and his three blonde daughters, Susan 14, Martha 10, and Leslie 7 . . . The only other male

resident is a French poodle named Lollypop.

Mr. Beam lists his interests as reading, golf, and music, in that order. He feels a "deep sense of happiness" here at Gaston and is satisfied with his position in the English Department, and that sentiment is reciprocated by the students of Gaston College.

