

● Coming This Month



"Adam and Eve"



"Aria Da Capo"

One ticket, entitling students to see both plays, may be purchased for \$1.50. These may be purchased in advance from Chaplain Taylor's office, or at the door prior to the performances. Attendance at either play may serve as optional chapel-assembly attendance, for those

who wish to make use of the performances. There will be no regular assembly program on Wednesday, February 28. Seats will be reserved. The purchase of tickets in advance will assure one's having a seat (the plays will be open to the general public).

Two Famous Plays Slated This Month

"Today I named the flyers, crawlers, swimmers, growlers, and hoppers. Further note: There are creatures here of every conceivable kind, but I, Adam, am the sole and single man."

But then there was Eve, and that's when the trouble started.

Mark Twain's special genius was his infectious humor . . . a humor that came from his penetrating insights into the foibles and follies of human nature. He turns on this unique talent full force in "The Diary of Adam and Eve," as he examines man's first encounter with woman.

Chowan College residents will have the opportunity of watching the nation's most active repertory theatre group in performance when the Alpha-Omega Players presents "The Diary of Adam and Eve," adapted from the short story by Mark Twain, on Tuesday, February 27 at 8:00 p.m. in McDowell Columns.

The Alpha-Omega Players is a young company, established in

the summer of 1967. In the past five seasons, they have staged some 2,700 performances for large and small groups in churches, schools, colleges, and military bases, covering more than 725,000 miles in their travels to 45 states and Canada.

This fully staged production, with music by the composers of "Fiddler on the Roof," was first presented on Broadway in 1966, with Barbara Harris, Alan Alda, and Larry Blyden in the leading roles. The talented young actors of the Alpha-Omega Players intersperse laughter with moments of reflection, joy with sadness, respect with satire in this evening designed for the entire family.

Chowan College students will have an opportunity to watch the nation's most active repertory theater in performance when the Alpha-Omega Players present "Aria Da Capo" by Edna St. Vincent Millay at 10:00 a.m. on

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SMOKE

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SIGNALS

Wednesday, February 13, 1973

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Columns Building Being Restored

The most extensive repairs and restoration in the 122-year history of McDowell Columns building is now underway at Chowan College.

Two interior walls, running the full four floors of the building, are being renovated and replaced, according to Jack Hassell, superintendent of buildings and grounds at Chowan.

"Never before has a project of this magnitude been undertaken on the Columns," stated Hassell. He said that while the building had undergone minor repairs and renovation on several occasions, this was the first time for major repairs to the interior of the structure. The cost is expected to exceed \$56,000 according to Chowan's business manager, Ben Sutton.

The work was begun following the discovery that the two interior brick walls were crumbling and upon recommendation of a consulting engineer.

One wall has been completely removed exposing the original beams. The longer ones are over 50 feet in length and cut by pit-saw, remarked Hassell. The smaller ones were axe-hewn.

Hassell said the weight of the beams on the bricks had caused the walls to crumble. "The bricks were made of sand and probably air-dried and thus not as hard as present-day bricks," commented Hassell, who is supervising the work. "The weight of beams running east to west above the main lobby (second floor) was forcing the walls beneath to give away," he noted.

One wall has been removed and Hassell estimated that some 50,000 bricks will be required to replace it. Repairs to the second interior wall will not be as extensive, he said.

Hassell said that debris, dirt, old and new bricks, and other materials have cluttered the hallways on each floor. He requested those visiting the Columns on business or attending a function in the auditorium to proceed with caution. "The cooperation of the faculty, staff, students and visitors has been outstanding," Hassell commented. "One look at all of the

mess explains better than words why we are saying this is a major repair job," Hassell added.

Attracting the attention of students returning from the holidays has been the original arch over one of the twin stairways in the lobby. "Its removal is only temporary," Hassell stated. "The arch, attached to a long beam, will be replaced when the new wall is constructed," he added. He said the other arch will not have to be removed.

The Columns has been in continuous use for every year of the operation of the college since its opening in 1852. For many years it was the only building on campus, providing facilities for offices, classrooms, library, cafeteria, assembly hall, lounge and dormitory for the young women attending the then Chowan Baptist Female Institute. The four-year institution

acquired its present name in 1910 and became coeducational and two-year in the 1930's. The Columns was later renamed McDowell Columns in honor of Chowan's first president, Archibald McDowell, who served two terms as president comprising 20 years.

McDowell is presently used by the college for administrative offices, lounge, receptionist office and auditorium. The top floor serves as a dormitory.

The building is also the hub of Chowan's cultural program, which serves the community and area as well as the college family. Fine arts programs in music, dance, and drama and other special programs are presented throughout the year. The auditorium also serves for chapel and assembly programs for the students.

In 1971, McDowell Columns was listed in The National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior. The building is an example of Greek architecture, which was enjoying a revival during the period of its construction.

Chowan's president, Dr. Bruce E. Whitaker, said repairs and restoration "are an indication of the college's dedication and determination to preserve McDowell Columns for its historical and cultural significance."

Dr. Whitaker called McDowell Columns a "landmark known throughout the state and beyond." He said "thousands of students have used its facilities. We intend to assure that students for years to come will be able to continue to make use of it."

Continued Dr. Whitaker, "To many, this building is Chowan College. That is not to minimize the dramatic expansion on campus of modern facilities. It is to say that many alumni, and other friends of the college, hold a special affection for McDowell Columns. It is held in esteem not only for its outstanding architecture and functional purposes, but because it is a symbol for the college itself. Chowan is pleased and proud to take the lead in preserving this historic building for others to enjoy and use."

Ecology Day Set

The Department of Science at Chowan College will sponsor an Ecology Day Thursday, February 22.

At 9:30 a. m., a reception will be held for the teachers and students. Dr. J. Frank McCormick, professor of ecology and botany, at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill will speak at 10:10 a. m., on "Concepts of Ecology and Their Applications to Problems in Environmental Planning and Environmental Health" in McDowell Columns Auditorium.

At 12:00 noon the group will dine in Thomas Cafeteria. After lunch, Dr. McCormick will speak on "Inquiries into the Structure, Metabolism, and Evolution of a Natural Ecosystem." The Ecology Day will end at 2:20 p. m. All interested professors and students are invited to attend.

Dr. McCormick is sponsored by the American Institute of Biological Sciences. He will be visiting with the science department for two days, February 22 and 23.