

# Literary Musings



By PROF. ROBERT G. MULDER

## JUST SUPPOSE—A WORTHY THOUGHT, IF ONLY FOR A MOMENT

The occasion was a staged television effort to raise money for a worthy cause — the Democratic Party. Exciting and popular personalities had been engaged, talent was as free as advice in a minister's conference, and telephones were humming across the country as interested people dialed in their contributions.

I was reading in my study that Sunday afternoon; my wife was in the living room being what you would say "really involved" in the pleas being made on the screen. She came back to my study and startled me with "I really think we ought to send a contribution."

"Send a what?" I asked. Not that I hadn't heard her the first time, only that I always feel compelled to inquire whenever money is involved.

At that moment Bobby Darin began to croon some pleading lyrics about our need for a two-party system to the tune of "My Way." (Sinatra couldn't have been more convincing.)

I protested, "We can't send enough to make any difference, Dear. This thing is for the big enterprises. Didn't you hear the man say they need a million dollars or more?"

By this time Darin had launched into his second stanza, my wife had procured our check book, and even though it didn't help McGovern very much, we sent our check to the Democratic Party. I felt pretty good, though, to know that I had saved the two-party system.

In the course of our conversation, my wife had made a statement that I pondered later when she had gone to the post office to mail our check.

To counteract my protesting, she had said, "Just suppose everybody took that attitude." Now there's a thought for you — just suppose. It's the kind of thought one could chase in many directions — almost at the same time.

Just suppose more of our students would take a writing interest in SMOKE SIGNALS. This would provide a total, more realistic picture of our campus, and the trite,

rehashed complaints about cafeteria food and student apathy may be replaced by refreshing and original editorial copy.

Just suppose the saints of old had wasted their time and energy simply talking about the sins of the world instead of ministering to the needs of mankind.

Just suppose everyone who said "Let me know if I can help you." really meant it.

Suppose what a strange silence would prevail if men stopped blowing their own horns.

Just suppose that quality education became the goal of every teacher taking the place of personal dogmatism, self-glorification, and ego inflation.

Just suppose the Golden Rule became a practice for all mankind instead of an inscription on a complimentary yard stick passed out by tractor dealers from their tents at the State Fair.

And suppose every student who came to Chowan College did so with ambition and the desire to receive an education rather than expecting the mantle of enlightenment to fall fresh upon them like a soft September shower.

Just suppose some great president had been born or buried in this maritime village. Now wouldn't that really lend new significance to Historical Murfreesboro.

Just suppose the 1200 million spent on pornography and "under-the-counter" magazine sales had been used for worthwhile scientific research.

Just suppose that all men could be treated with the respect they deserve and their Master-Would-Be's could realize that slavery died with a president named Lincoln.

Just suppose that individuals could be so busy tending to their own business that they would have no time to take on the affairs of other people.

And finally, suppose that the gospel were written according to man rather than according to Jesus Christ who said: "Ye shall know the truth, and the TRUTH shall make you FREE"

## Placemat Basis for Test

A restaurant placemat is serving as the basis for a take-home test of a Chowan College history professor, Clayton Lewis, who is also dean of students.

Lewis, discovered the unique placemat while attending a weekly meeting of the Murfreesboro Rotary Club at the Red Apple Restaurant. The owner, Peter Christopher is Greek origin and the placemat features important dates, deities, philosophers and pictures of the major Greek buildings.

Lewis was struck with the thought that the placemat would perhaps be especially appreciated by his students, who are currently studying classical Greece, and others with a liberal education.

"It brought to mind the old controversy of education versus training," Lewis explained. "Some argue only for education. Others contend that all man needs is a skill. As for me, I am for neither education or training, offending my Roman friends—

Caesar, Cicero, Lucretius, Vergil, Gaius, etc.—I decided that our test on this unit would be limited to the Greeks."

Christopher supplied Lewis with enough placemats for each student in his class. The assignment: "Choose any 15 topics presented on the placemats and write a well-developed paragraph explaining the significance of each." Students were urged to use any supplementary materials they desired.

This is not the first imaginative test prepared by Lewis. Last year he asked his students to write paragraphs on the 10 men who, in their opinion, have made the greatest impact on civilization from pre-historic through the Protestant Reformation. Topping the list were Jesus and Moses. "not just one or the other," he wrote as an introduction for his test. "Education alone is not necessarily responsible for one's economic success. However, education should add a new dimension to one's life style,"

reminded Lewis.

Continued Lewis, "The educated man should be able to enjoy a more comprehensive life than the man who has only been trained. The individual who is highly specialized may live with a void because he has not been imposed to the intangible benefits of a liberal arts education."

Lewis noted that "at the risk of



"...This is your friendly, understanding computer speaking...at the sound of the beep unburden yourself."

## Student Records Held In Strict Confidence

By D. H. NICHOLSON  
Registrar

A problem of continuing concern for the college student today is the confidentiality of his permanent records in the files of his college or university. This is a problem because so few students really understand the confidential nature of their records and-or the role of the college or university in keeping the records confidential. With a definite increase in the number of governmental and private agencies which are making demands for more information about students for various reasons, most institutions of higher education have developed very definitive and, therefore, firm policies concerning the release of information about their present or former students. With the preceding in mind, the rest of this column will be devoted to a summary of the policy of Chowan College which pertains to student records and the obligations of the College to the maintenance and availability of these records.

### Registrar responsible

The Registrar here at Chowan as he is elsewhere, is responsible for the maintenance of all permanent records of students, present or former, of the College. He is also generally responsible for the release of any information to agencies outside his office, including other departments of the College; the student; other educational institutions; local, state and federal agencies; prospective employers; or commercial enterprises.

Since student records in the Registrar's office are considered personal and confidential, most information therefrom will be released to sources outside of this College only upon the written request or consent from the student, his parents, his guardians, or his next of kin. However the following information may be released to prospective employers, credit investigators, insurance companies, governmental agencies, either in writing or orally on the phone, without consent of the student: name of a particular student; recorded home and local address; dates of attendance; his degree, if any, and date granted; and his curriculum.

In addition to the preceding general policy concerning disclosure of information about the student's record, other educational institutions may be furnished class standing, grades, reports on disciplinary actions, if these reports should exist.

Generally, transcripts (copies of the student's official educational record) may be obtained only by the student upon request to the Registrar, within the guidelines established by the Registrar and published in the Chowan College Catalog and the Student Handbook. The transcript with the seal of the college and the signature of the Registrar is never sent to the student but directly to the address of the agency or institution to which the student is making application for one reason or another. If the student wants a transcript for himself, his will be without the official seal and the Registrar's signature.  
Student is protected

Another area of growing concern and importance is that

related to investigative agencies and their increasing demands for information about present or former students. We at Chowan College, feel that we must do everything to protect the student and to insure his right to privacy. Therefore, when processing confidential forms, or other matter, for possible employment with governmental agencies or private institutions, if it becomes event that disclosure of information not otherwise releasable will be in the best interest of the student, the student will be notified at the last known address and requested to make his desire known as to whether or not the information will be disclosed. Impetus for the release of possibly derogatory information must originate with the student, his parents, or his guardians. In cases where the present or former student is involved in a court proceeding, and information is requested by some party for the proceeding, this request will be honored only with the student's consent or a subpoena from the court.

To local, state, and federal agencies such as the FBI, the SBI, to local and state police officers, to the Civil Service and Military Intelligence, et cetera, all academic and personal information, other than that information identified above, may not be released except under approval and supervision of the Registrar. It is assumed that the Registrar will have authorization from the student concerned if the former feels that the release would result in the student's being placed in an unfavorable situation or if that release would jeopardize the integrity of the College.

### Upholds privacy

In general, the policy of Chowan College concerning the maintenance and availability of student records is one planned and executed to uphold the privacy of the student's records and to insure the integrity of the school.

## Brannon Is Judge

Steve Brannon, professor of English and director of the Division of Drama at Chowan College, served as a judge and critic at the Southeastern Theatre Conference, held February 28-March 4 in Pensacola, Florida.

Considered the largest theatrical organization in the world, it was composed of university, college, junior college, high school, community and regional theatre groups from 10 southeastern states.

Brannon helped judge the 10 state winners in the secondary school division. Following each drama, he presented a criticism of the play.

## Want Ads

**WANTED:** Ride to New Jersey on Friday, March 23. Please call Peter at 398-9292, room 127. Will help pay for gas.

**WANTED TO BUY:** Used bicycle. Any type. See Mr. Gatewood or Mr. Nelson, Mc-Sweeney Hall, School of Graphic Arts.