



# Literary Musings

By PROF. ROBERT G. MULDER

## So You Want A Literary Magazine

In recent weeks I have heard much about the publication of a literary magazine on our campus. The desire to have such a magazine at Chowan College is not new. When I was a student here, there was interest expressed; since I have returned, almost every year has produced its new crop of apostles wanting to see our college have its own literary publication. Professors have become interested along with students only to see this dream simply die from lack of sufficient support. This may be sadly negative but it is true.

This year is no exception, at least so far as the desire is concerned. A small group of interested people have met and talked about such a magazine. All have agreed that such a mission would be worthy, that we have enough writers on campus to make the project a reality, and that the magazine itself would sell well above publication costs. The latter would be totally necessary since no organization is to underwrite the project and since no allocation has been granted from any budget to pay for such a magazine.

Well, then, are we off and running? I doubt it seriously. In the first place, a literary magazine is not produced by groups of people who simply talk about it. Interest in a magazine itself will not produce the poems, stories, articles, etc., needed for the bulk which ought to be available for competent editors and directors to use in the selection of material for a magazine.

Five or six interested people, even if some of them are teachers, cannot produce enough quality material to launch a magazine which is published with any degree of regularity.

One does not simply say to students, "Write a poem or a story. We want to put out a literary magazine." Even if this were the case, the quality of material thus produced under suggestion or assignment could not be guaranteed to merit publication.

Do we have enough student writers on

campus to produce the available selection needed? Of course, we do. But will they take the time and care to come forth with the poems, stories, and articles? Count me among the pessimistic, for I have my doubts which are founded upon past experiences dealing with our student writers.

The fine editor of this bi-monthly newspaper struggles against almost insurmountable odds with every issue to get enough material, simply news articles about happenings on our campus, to publish "Smoke Signals". She has some good help, but her effort should enlist the writing aid of many more. This she would gladly do, if she could.

Soliciting manuscripts on this campus, for whatever the purpose, is very difficult. Several weeks ago when my students were studying Shakespeare's sonnets, I conducted as a special project the writing of an original English sonnet. Once the fire was fanned, almost every sophomore in my sections was interested in writing his own for special (extra) credit. I announced a sonnet contest, offered \$15.00 in cash prizes (from my own pocket), and selected a board of judges. The deadline came and I had two sonnets in hand; I extended the deadline until Thanksgiving, an extension which produced one additional poem. What happened to the other forty-seven enthusiastic promises?

I somehow feel that the same fate would befall a literary magazine on our campus. There is no question in my mind, however, at the available talent. We have many good writers at Chowan this year. The only problem will be in motivating them to write, revise, and finalize copy for the editorial board.

Hopefully those energetic students on campus this year who want to see such a magazine will be able to do just this. If they can, there is no reason why our own literary magazine, be it published once, twice or three times a year, will not be a publication the entire college will appreciate and treasure.

# Dear Friends

Dear Friends:

Gee Chowan did you hear the story about Gerald Ford and Golda Mier? Well that romance didn't last long but the one with Billy Jean King did. Poor Betty, all she does is plan the presidential menus, all the while unknown to her, Gerald is rumored to be courting with political celebrities. Wow, he must have a great life sneaking around like that. Betty must be blind.

It's really a shame that other people know more about your life than you do. Rumors, around here, fly more often than airplanes.

Get this one: On Chowan Campus you have had sex whether you've had it or not. Isn't that great! Talk about women's lib, we all have equal wrongs!

People believe rumors and put you down without giving you a chance to prove what you are really like.

Let's face it, no matter who you are, what you say, or who your friends are, you are going to have something bad said about you.

Guess what? I've found out I'm a sex maniac. I wish someone had told me sooner. Next time that happens, please let me be the first to know because I would like to help you spread it. It's a shame that the person who is the spreadee is the last to know. Give us a break! We want some consideration too! Do you know what it is like being a sex maniac and not knowing it? There's only one thing, if I'm such a snob how can I be a sex maniac too?

Just Takin Care of Business,  
Jacki Porch

May I applause Miss Porch. The only fault I see in such a letter is that enough are not written. We need to speak out! It is human nature to talk and gossip. The next time you hear "talk", that you do not know is true, let it "go in one ear and out the other". Think about how "hurt" feels to you. Instead of something bad say something good about the person. When one loves he lets the good outweigh the bad. "Let us love one another" and cease to hate.

Editor

## Pot Doesn't Cost Much Or Does It?

While the debate over marijuana rages, people play a dangerous game of attempting to beat the law by using it. What if they are caught? Probably on their first offense, they'd get a suspended sentence and never serve a day in jail. So what difference does the first offense make? The Carbon Copy, a college newspaper at Frank Phillips College at Borger, Texas, came up with food for thought for those who think they're getting away free with the first conviction:

A youth was stopped for a traffic violation. The officer recognized the odor in the violator's car. The defendant had a few joints of marijuana with him. He was convicted of possession, a felony, and received a suspended sentence. Did he lose anything?

All he lost was the right to vote, the right to own a gun and the right to run for public office. He lost the opportunity of ever being a licensed doctor, dentist, CPA, engineer, lawyer, architect, realtor, osteopath, physical therapist, private detective, pharmacist, school teacher, barber, funeral director, masseur of stock broker. He can never get a job where he has to be bonded or licensed. He cannot work for the city, the county, or federal government. He can enlist in the Military Service, but will not have the choice of service and will possibly be assigned to a labor battalion.

If this happened to you, would you think you had lost anything?

Editor and Kiwanis Club

**SMOKE**  
STUDENT NEWSPAPER OF CHOWAN COLLEGE  
**SIGNALS**

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Associate Editors. . . . . **Teresa Pike**  
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I WAS A GREAT physician! AND well here I AM The doctors killed told me another I'm tore up or tore down!! Anyway I'll SEE YOU NEXT WEDNESDAY!