

# Campus Echo

North Carolina College at Durham

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## Presidential Hopefuls

The Democratic nomination for the Presidency has been thrown open even more since the recent decision of New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller not to run for the office.

Nixon, who has an undeserved reputation of having been a conservative, is thought not to be able to gain the liberal margin votes that Rockefeller was so sure of. The liberal Democrats have looked upon this as a great relief, as indeed it is. No doubt the Vice President may prove to be further to the left than Mr. Eisenhower, if he is given the chance.

The big wheel in the Democratic Congress is among those running while not running. Mr. Lyndon Johnson, Democratic Majority Leader in the Senate, has not ruled himself either in or out; however, consensus is that he is in, but he is only being modest about it. Mr. Johnson can count on about eight states if he were to run.

Senator John Kennedy, the unfortunate bearer of Catholicism, is considered the forerunner and the most liberal of the Democrats. He is the epitome of the young and ambitious. And he may well be what America needs in its present state. The trouble with this aspirant is that most Protestants do not like Catholics (except as personal friends), and certainly do not want one for President of this Protestant nation. Among certain minority groups, where Catholics are generally held in higher esteem than some Protestants, Mr. Kennedy packs a big punch. This, however, is not enough. New England and minority groups cannot elect a President.

Senator Stuart Symington, another Harry S. Truman, who is now playing the delaying game, bears out the support of along with the ideas of the former President. Because Senator Symington is from the Midwest (Missouri), he may be a Democratic compromise, since Southerners will not have a Northerner and cannot elect one of their own. Symington, the grandson of a Union officer and married to the granddaughter of a Confederate captain, may be the medicine for the loosely-bound Democratic Party. This ideal, it should be realized, looks inviting. This is about what happen to HST. At any rate, we see Senator Symington as his party's choice.

Senator Humphrey has already declared himself and he is not making a halfhearted effort of it. He is visiting, speaking, smiling, kissing babies, and doing all other things expected of office-seekers. He is really in the race. If he had the popular appeal, his party would certainly nominate him; but he has done nothing to catch the public eye, and therefore could not possibly match one such as Vice President Nixon, who is so closely allied with President Eisenhower, and who constantly manages to keep his name and picture in the newspapers. This Humphrey's party knows, and it does not see him as its best prospect.

Representative Sam Rayburn is too complacent in his high chair in the House of Representatives to venture by running for something he knows he cannot win. After his long reign in the House, he has grown somewhat used to the job, even though he does have to fight down occasional efforts by liberals to have him ousted. We see him losing both while a liberal President forces a break in the Republican-Southern Democrat Coalition now in power.

The new radical—and there is always one—is Senator Proxmire, who is a somewhat obscure person. He would love to be President, but, he, like Rayburn, knows he cannot win. It is for this reason that he has set himself up as a favorite son in order to hinder some Presidential hopefuls.

Even though Mr. Rockefeller says he will not run, his supporters have entered his name in several primaries. This is evidence of the many people who just will not lose a good man. After the big wheel Republican bosses, who gave him a cold shower, see what Joe Public wants, they will without doubt let him carry the election for them. In any case, after all the politicking, Rocky's still our boy.



"Study? . . . Why, If you don't have it now, you won't get it."

## Costain Pens Historical Novel

"Novel Is Suspenseful History"  
By Cynthia McDonald

Thomas B. Costain, the author of *The Silver Chalice* and *The Black Rose*, has again written an outstanding novel. *The Darkness and the Dawn* is an historical novel about the feats of two great military leaders, Aetius, the dictator of Rome, and the cruel Attila, leader of the barbarian Hun forces. The author portrays the phase of history in which all of civilization was nearly destroyed by the power-mad Attila. He portrays the military schemes of these two enemies, their personal lives, life in their countries, their weaknesses, and finally their destruction.

Though the novel is historical, the major character, Nicolan of the Ildeburghs, is fictitious. Nicolan, a high-placed officer in Attila's Army, is both humane and noble. Though he hates the Romans, who had once made a slave of him, he decides no longer to serve Attila because of the inhumanity of war. It is through the exploits of the fictitious Nicolan that the author is able to give a clear picture of the struggle between the Huns and the Romans.



Beautifully interwoven into the history is the love story of Nicolan and Ildico, who is loved by many men, including Attila himself. Also interwoven is the color added by Ildico's fast race horse, Harthager, that becomes so popular that the favored Roman sport of chariot stands in danger of being replaced by horse racing.

When we first see Attila he is planning to conquer Rome and become the ruler of the world. His hate and jealousy of the Roman dictator Aetius, who has defeated him once, makes Attila even more anxious to make Rome fall.

The first battle of these two enemies proves to be a dreadful scene of bloodshed. The author vividly describes this scene in which thousands upon thousands of men were killed while neither army was victorious.

Meanwhile Nicolan has problems in addition to the war. Attila had made known his desire to marry Ildico, whom Nicolan had loved since childhood. Fearing the worse, Nicolan arranges for her to leave the

country with the rich Widow of Tergeste.

After deciding to leave the army because of the horror of war, Nicolan is sent instead on several missions to Rome by Attila. On his first mission Nicolan is to bring back Princess Honoria, a lady of questionable morals, who has asked Attila to take her away from the confinement which she suffered because of her indiscretion.

On his second mission Nicolan takes a message to Aetius himself, and narrowly escapes losing his life. In this message Attila threatens to kill every man, woman, and child in the surrounding cities of Rome if Aetius does not engage in open warfare.

Aetius, to the opposition of the Roman senate, refuses to save these people by engaging in open warfare with Attila, whom he suspects would be victorious. He instead burns the fields and removes the livestock from the plains. Consequently, Attila's army is forced to retreat because of starvation, and Rome is saved until some years later when it is sacked by the Vandals.

The rest of the novel is devoted to the downfall of Attila and the untangling of the problems of Nicolan. Shortly after Ildico and Nicolan profess their love for each other, Nicolan is accused of treason and stands trial. The author's portrayal of this ancient and peculiar trial is as suspenseful as that of the best modern-day courtroom drama.

The outcome of the trial is favorable, but Ildico is discovered to have been taken by Attila. Finally, Ildico and Nicolan are reunited when Attila dies of a long-lingering disease.

The author uses good transitional devices which make for the uncomplicated reading seldom attained in an historical novel of such scope. A thoroughly entertaining novel, *The Darkness and The Dawn*, is another outstanding work of an outstanding author.

## Good Editorial

Dear Editor:

I am a senior here and have been a *Campus Echo* reader for three and one-half years. I would like to commend you on the integrity of your articles, for the high quality of your editorials and the illumination of your feature stories.

After having read the Dec. 18,

## Letters:

### Justice

Dear Editor,

Recently one of our school-mates broke one of the college rules; he was eliminated from extra-curricular activities by the Student Welfare Committee. Most of the students do not think that he received justice. What is justice? Justice is the administration of law; also, merited reward or punishment.

The reason for this "herd thinking" is quite clear. This student was a member of the basketball team, and, at the present, this sport is very popular. But being a member of the basketball team is not too important. It is certainly not a good reason for such stern outcry made by the students. In addition, he was the highest scorer in the game preceding his dismissal. In other words, his accurate scoring helped present our team with another victory. He could have achieved that honor once more.

But, if rules and regulations were allowed to be broken and disobeyed, the students, College facilities, etc. would not be safe. Crime would have no limitations. "Students serving their own ends can do no wrong." From his point of view, he is right. If he is "large enough," by some forceful method, he will prove it. Therefore, the "weaker student," unable to challenge him, will always be defeated.

This college can survive without victories, but to the contrary, it cannot survive without law and order.

Yours truly,  
Benjamin Ollison

### Conformity

Dear Editor,

Here at North Carolina College as in all societies, there is a certain amount of pressure put on the individual by the group. I would imagine that this is a necessary evil, and maybe the use of the word "evil" is strong because it is obvious that some pressure is necessary to keep people within the moral standards of society. It is known that the feeling of belonging is a basic urge to all people.

Nevertheless, I feel that the matter of complete conformity has gone beyond all reasonable bounds. Why should one be willing to sacrifice his individuality in order to be "in the group?" Actually there should be no such question. The group must be composed of people with different ideas rather than with ideas all conforming to those of the leader.

If you feel that the group does not respect you for your different ideas and maybe term them "queer," have you considered the possibility that these people may not be those with whom you would want to associate? If they are not capable of grasping and realizing your ideas, it may be because it has been so long since they have done any thinking for themselves. And certainly these people are not for you...so don't lower and sacrifice yourself to conform. It isn't worth it.

Very truly yours,  
Carolyn Blue

1959 issue of the *Echo*, I found the article entitled "Season's Spirits" interesting, informative, and presented in a thoughtful way. I think it's about time we learned to make use of first-class facilities.

Allow me to commend you on such a fine article. Please continue informing the students on the work of the NAACP.

Augusta Carver