Bonds best way to cover needs

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Archie Bunker, that comic symbol of ignorance and prejudice, went to college... Wake Forest College as it turns out.

Archie, of course, was never enrolled. But Carroll O'Connor, the Emmy-winning actor who plays Archie each week in the hit television series, "All in the Family," attended the school for over a year.

He graduated elsewhere. But Wake Forest, then at the town of Wake Forest, was the first of several colleges and universities he attended.

According to university records, O'Connor, 17 and fresh out of Brooklyn Academy, registered at Wake Forest on Sept. 9, 1941, completed his freshman year, returned next fall and withdrew "voluntarily and without credit" for the courses he was taking before the end of his sophomore year.

Just how O'Connor, a Catholic born and raised in New York City, found his way to Wake Forest, remains something of a mystery.

The only clue is something he wrote on his application for admission. Then planning a career in journalism, O'Connor wrote:

"I saw the extent of the English department will make possible the best foundation for my chosen profession."

Nobody seems to know just why he left Wake Forest either, though World War II may have been a factor. Men were being drafted right and left when he left, and several months after leaving, he wrote the school asking that a copy of his college record be sent to the U. S. Coast Guard.

About all that is known about his stay at the school is that his grades were only middling and that he did not get involved in extracurricular activities.

Today, evidence of O'Connor's presence at Wake Forest is pretty much confined to a couple of pieces of paper in the...
O'Connor Attended WF in '40sContinued From Page 1

Though interested in journalism, he did not work on the school paper. And his name is not mentioned in any articles on the foundation of the college theater, which came into being his freshman year.

Those who attended Wake Forest when he was there mostly seem to have only foggy memories of him now. Mrs. Russell H. Brantley of Winston-Salem said yesterday: "As far as I know, I can't remember that he did very much. As I remember, he was a very bright boy but wasn't too happy there."

 Apparently, one former schoolmate does remember O'Connor well, though. O'Connor's publicist, Joe Siegman of Los Angeles, said in a telephone interview yesterday that when O'Connor opened his current nightclub act at the Rivera Hotel in Las Vegas, an old school chum came backstage to chat with him.

"As they were talking, I heard Carroll say 'Yes, I went to Wake Forest.' He was very proud of it, or at least he seemed to be," Siegman said.

O'Connor could not be reached yesterday to recall his memories of the school or to fill in the gaps in his publicity biographies.

His connections with Wake Forest ended sometime in the mid-'50s, shortly after he left graduate school, when he wrote to ask that his name be removed from the school's mailing list.

Possibly he was never in one place long enough to get the mail, since his career quickly took him from stage and television work in New York to stage, television and film jobs in Dublin, Edinburgh, London, Paris and Rome.

Though he hasn't been in touch with the school for nearly 20 years, Wake Forest officials and students are thinking about asking him back for a visit.

Alumni officials have considered asking him to speak at a class reunion, and students would like him to talk at a Challenge symposium next year.