

# The Sou'wester

Southwestern At Memphis

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Photo by Richard Bird

## Attendance Problems For SGA

by Michael Matthews

Attendance has in the past been a sore spot on the S.G.A. Even though the constitution states that three unexcused absences justifies the removal from the S.G.A., absenteeism has still persisted. This year is no exception, though the S.G.A. claims this year will be different. It may be worse, for action in three different areas pertaining directly and indirectly to attendance has become unconstitutional. These three areas are permanent proxies, ordinary proxies, and excused and unexcused absences.

A permanent proxy is a person chosen by an elected S.G.A. member to represent him with full voting power at the meetings either because the elected member has been made an officer of a commissioner, neither of which have votes, or because he no longer wants to serve on the S.G.A. Members with permanent proxies are President Michael Watts, represented by Tim O'Keefe, Secretary Julie Hicks, represented by Paul Mischke; WUB commissioner Laura Lee, represented by Becky Butler; Billy Hardwick, represented by Peri Stark; and Grace McKnight, represented by Cindy Adams. Those representing Michael Watts, Julie Hicks, and Laura Lee pose one problem, and those representing Billy Hardwick and Grace McKnight, who have resigned, pose another.

Concerning the problem of Hardwick and McKnight first: the constitution says, "A member may resign at any time." It does not make provisions for a permanent proxy. The fact that it simply states he may resign implies there should be no permanent proxy because if that were the proper procedure, it would be so stated. Therefore, Peri Stark and Cindy Adams should not be on the SGA.

The problem of President Watts, Secretary Hicks, and WUB commissioner Laura Lee is this: while it is not directly implied that they have no right to a proxy, it would seem so, first because the constitution does not make provision for a proxy, and secondly because it does not say they cannot vote if they already hold a voting position (except for the president who is not to vote unless there is a tie). It does say they may not hold more than one representative position, but representative positions include only the dorm, class, town, and at-large representatives. Secretary Hicks, who holds one office and one representative position, can vote, and therefore does not need a proxy. Laura Lee should either resign from the SGA, leaving her SGA position vacant, to fill her commissioner's role, or fill both roles, that is, as a non-voting commissioner and a voting representative. Glassell Hall, it can only be presumed, gains a president and loses a

representative, for he cannot vote except in a tie; a proxy would, in effect, give him a vote since he chooses his own proxy; and the constitution does not give him the right to choose a proxy.

A further problem is posed by the fact that the treasurer, Mary Kay Loss, has been voting. She "thinks" she is supposed to, but in fact is not. Only the eighteen representatives have the right to vote. The constitution makes this clear, and she is not one of these.

This leaves us with the iron situation that an officer who is not an SGA representative has been voting and an officer who is an SGA representative has a proxy.

Proxies, that is non-permanent proxies, are an entirely different problem. The constitution says this about them: "Members may not have proxy votes except in special circumstances determined prior to a meeting." This mention is not about permanent proxies; it deals only with one-meeting replacements. This past meeting, five members were represented by proxies (not counting permanent proxies). The reasons the constitution is against proxies are obvious: they are not elected, they do not know what is going on, and they tend to vote however the rest of the SGA does because of this. If this is true, why were there five proxies? (An instance in which a proxy would be allowed by the constitution is if a member were in the hospital and a vote on an issue that had been previously discussed was coming up, then he could send someone to vote as instructed.)

Yet another problem is posed by excused and unexcused absences. There are no criteria for excused absences; it is a judgement by the secretary. This is clearly being used as a protective device. The following happened Tuesday. As the roll was called, Mark Hurley was not present. Someone asked where he was, since he normally attended, and had not notified anyone that he would be absent. No one said anything, and he was marked unexcused. After the meeting, when listing the absentees for the newspaper, the secretary said she just remembered that Mark had told her he would not be there, and she said, "so he's excused." Even if he told her he would not be there, that should not in itself constitute an excused absence. (Mark Hurley later said he had told her he would not be there, but that it should still be an unexcused absence.)

In all, nine SGA members were absent from Tuesday's meeting, though three or four were represented by proxy. This means they did not have a quorum. In fact, they discussed

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## WLYX Faces Funds Drouth

by Elizabeth Daugherty

Eight years ago, WLYX was established at Southwestern by a grant from the Memphis Presbytery under the assumption that Southwestern would control and operate the station on its own. Southwestern agreed to operate the radio station as long as it supported itself. The college would allow it to function as a facility of Southwestern.

The Memphis Presbytery has decided not to fund WLYX at the current rate next year. The Presbytery finds it increasingly difficult to justify its support at the present level when the college's attitude toward the radio station is not one of total support. This decrease in funding means that the radio station has to look elsewhere for funds to keep it going. When WLYX looks to the college for support, however, it can anticipate only \$3500 per year. This \$3500 is the annual interest from last year's sale of WSWM for \$35,000 to Memphis State University. Associate Dean Robert Llewellyn said that when the sale of WSWM was completed last year, he suggested to President Daughdrill "a reasonable level of support" to be carried out over seven to ten to twelve years. Dean Llewellyn suggested that the college gradually use the principle of \$35,000 for the operation of the radio station. His plan was not adopted. The general college policy on the use of capital funds was adhered to: the radio station was to be self-supporting. However, the college did budget \$3500 annually for WLYX, 10% interest from the capital of \$35,000.

Operating costs for the radio station are \$8500 per year. In addition, salaries and 20% of work/study are paid out of the WLYX budget of \$20,000. The budgeted amount does not cover the total support of the radio station. WLYX's listening audience has contributed money in response to the station's financial needs in an effort to keep WLYX on the air. "Those who like Progressive Rock are paying the bill," said Allen Cook, General Manager of WLYX. A few weeks ago, Cook announced on the air that WLYX was out of money. Letters with contributions of an average of \$5 in checks and money orders arrived soon thereafter. It is evident that "we are reaching a large population off-campus. However, it is still difficult to prove the impact," said Cook.

In an effort to determine its listening audience, WLYX conducted a survey in April and May of 1979. A summary of that survey revealed that "62% of FM-89 listeners are pre-college or college age people, 38.5% of FM-89 audience has an income above \$10,000, 54.7% of FM-89 listeners have an educational level above the high school level, and that the FM-89 listener is more active than passive; he pays attention to what is being played rather than merely using it as background."

Having collected this information, Allen Cook asks, "What is the role of the radio station supposed to be?" How can WLYX serve the college? As a means of public relations? For the faculty? Recruitment? As a laboratory for the communication arts department? Or as a community service?

In order for WLYX to serve the college, it must have funding. Allen Cook said that applying for grants was a possibility, but we're "limited in grants because you have to produce to get a grant." Out of the grant money the station can pay to produce a new show, but grant funds cannot go to pay for the operational costs of the station. Thus, the financial need and the requirements for financial aid are complicated by the existing college attitude toward the radio station, and the Memphis Presbytery's attitude toward the college.

The Memphis Presbytery is concerned about Southwestern's attitude toward WLYX. It wants the college to take a more active role. Southwestern argues that "we are interested in the radio station. We do provide space, utilities, and security, but WLYX is to be self-supporting," said Dean Llewellyn.

I am very much concerned about the future of the radio station," said Dean Llewellyn. When Llewellyn became

Associate Dean of the college, he took on the responsibility of the radio station with the hope of reestablishing communication between the radio station and the college faculty and staff. Llewellyn would like to "reestablish the links with communication arts, with admissions, and with athletics. Dean Llewellyn said that Allen Cook, as general manager of WLYX, has taken "very significant steps toward improving the communication between the college and the radio station. Cook has employed work/study students, taught broadcasting courses, and directed internships. Cook has increased student participation by 600%, added classical music programs, and added local productions to WLYX's format. "I am very pleased with what he has done for us," said Llewellyn.

"I would regret the loss of the radio station. We are just now beginning to use it as we should. We're not where we want to be, but we've come a long way. We have a tremendous asset there, and I am very hopeful that we will find a way to secure the financial state of the radio station for 1981."

## ARA Cooking For Another Year

by Vicky Wallace

The Refectory shall be better next year, promises Scott Wing, ARA food service manager. "Now that we have been here a year, we have learned the problem areas, and next year we will be better organized."

The trouble before was that with the food services changing every year, no one knew what was happening except the employees. The ARA's contract has now been renewed, so it is hoped with one year to learn in, the employers, not only the employees, will know what is going on.

In a food service question and answer session Thursday, May 13th, Scott Wing dismissed several rumors as untrue. First, there are no rats in the Refectory. What could be mistaken for rats are the ground squirrels that burrow around the basement.

Also contrary to rumor, all food served in the dining hall is of first rate quality. If it does not taste Grade A, it is because the food has not been cooked properly or it has been mishandled. One cause of food not being cooked properly is the disregard of ARA recipes; "we have good recipes," Scott Wing says.

In the past, there have been thefts in the Refectory. For example, around Christmas, several down jackets were stolen. An employee was suspected of the stealing. He was fired, and the Refectory has had no more problems with thievery.

On the whole, Scott Wing feels he has a good crew, especially the two assistant managers. Those who did not like the ARA food service or were unwilling to work are gone. The only employee dissatisfaction Mr. Wing knows of concerns the different ways ARA and Epicure deduct money from employee paychecks for food eaten at work. Epicure took it out at the end of the week; ARA takes it out by the hour. The employees sometimes feel they are being cheated but Scott Wing is only following directions from his boss.

At the meeting Tuesday, a central issue was whether it was foolish for the Refectory to stay open during the summer. There are only about fifty boarding students to serve. The Refectory accepts a huge loss because it costs more to prepare and serve the food than they are getting paid. One time last summer, the dining hall was open for dinner and no one came. The food was thrown away. A suggestion was made that the Lair be utilized instead of using the huge Refectory.

Tom Kepple, Director of Administrative

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THE SOU'WESTER

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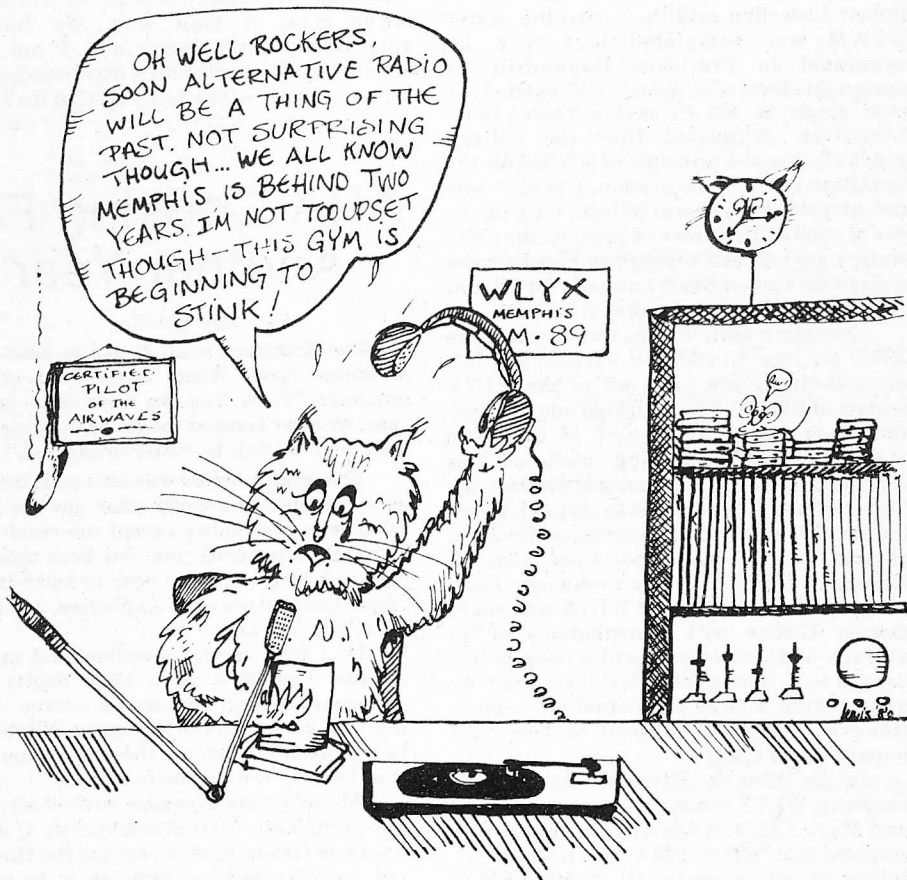
# Finding the Funds

WLYZ? Off the air? As a native Memphian, I find it hard to imagine growing up without FM-89. Classical music...jazz...blues...informative programming...Southern sports...progressive rock...progressive country...concerts...humor...community involvement...a positive image of Southwestern as a leading force in the city of Memphis...these are a few of the things I remember about growing up with WLYZ.

As a Southwestern student, I find it hard to imagine this school letting such a valuable operation go off the air. The students don't want to see FM-89's demise, and it seems the rest of the city is of the same sentiment (as are, I hope, our faculty and staff).

In less than two years, Southwestern has gone from three radio stations (WLYX, WSWM, and the radio readers for the blind program), to only one, and that one is now facing a lack of funds in 1981. The college has a responsibility to its students and the Memphis community to stand behind WLYX and actively support. The station is not likely to survive by operating on a shoestring.

If Southwestern allows WLYX to close down due to a lack of funding, especially in the light of the \$350 rise in tuition for next year, few of us will have qualms about saying "Our ivy is in a league by itself...A minor league."



## Record Review

# B-52's Nouveau Wave

by Lewis Kalmbach

B-52's on Warner Brothers/Boo-font Tunes  
 Rarely does an album emerge with as much forceful creativity and exciting entertainment as the debut effort from a classy New Wave act: the B-52's. The album with the same title as the group has been on the market for almost a year, but is only now receiving F.M. radio air-play and public attention.

When I first heard the album, I was not too impressed. It seemed too far fetched. But after giving it a second listening, it grew on me like a cancer. This is one album that you can either sit and escape (as in the cut "Planet Clair") or get up and personally give the axe to disco. New Wave dancing steers clear of set dance steps, Travolta finger pointing, and the same old "shake-your-bootie-body" beat.

The lyrics to each of the eight songs are purpose enough to buy the album. For example, the best dancing song "Dance This Mess Around" offers this catchy line:

*Why don't you dance with me  
 I'm not no Limburger*

"Rock Lobster," currently riding in the top 50 on the Billboard charts comes across clearly as a satire of the 50's and 60's beach party movies.

*We were at the beach  
 Everybody had matching towels.*

*Somebody went under a dock  
 And there they found a rock.  
 But it wasn't a rock  
 It was a ROCK LOBSTER!*

Probably the most suggestive tune from the Athens, Georgia quintet is "Lava." This song captures the same effect as Meatloaf did in "Paradise by the Dashboard Light" as far as audible seduction is concerned.

The other cuts on the album are worthwhile with the possible exception of "Hero Worship" which is a bit choppy.

In the background of each cut there is an alien instrument hauntingly present. These range from a walkie talkie to an electric smoke alarm. The B-52's work probably because they came out at the correct time. Americans are tired of disco and not yet ready or willing for punk, so this album and others from artists such as Pat Benatar, the Flying Lizards, Mi-Sex and the Clash offer an alternative rocking sound.

Their next album, due out this summer, will have a tough time in following the debut. The name, the B-52's, refers to the Bouffant hair styles so popular in the period and has nothing to do with nuclear weaponry. Now, just when you thought it was safe to go back under the hair dryer...the B-52's.

# Box 724.....

To the Editors:

The recent "rash" of disciplinary measures imposed on students by both the SRC and the Honor Council has caused me to reconsider my place at SAM. I feel threatened by these organizations which were designed to instill pride in the SAM community, not fear.

Why were there so many trials this year? Was this year's Southwestern community more decadent than any previous year's? I doubt it. From what I have been told, these ivy halls have seen some pretty hard-core living.

I boldly submit two answers to my question. First, more students are reporting "crimes." This can be beneficial, when done in a mature manner. The student who reported Ron Majoras' "bottle-breaking," related in last week's *Sou'wester*, was not careful to identify the true guilty party. One of the earlier *Sou'wester*'s contained an article written by a frustrated upperclassman who was accosted by a freshman for munching melba toast while walking from the Refectory. (Shame, shame.)

Second, I feel that the Honor Council and the SRC have been overly-zealous in their quest to "right the wrongs of Society." Perhaps they have sentenced students who, in the past, would have been giving a warning or a second chance. It is hard for me to believe that the SAM campus is overrun with plagiarizers and vandals.

OK, so I'm attacking something about which I shouldn't know. The cases brought before the SRC and the Honor Council are not my business. Then perhaps I'm seeing something else.

I do not know, but I am told that in past years a student who got into trouble with hard drugs, or even with the law in some cases, found in Halliburton, a means of help. Today they find their "just rewards"-probation, suspension, expulsion. This absence of students who need serious help leaves the administration with more important things to do, like review the Greek rush system (most thoroughly), and decide which dorm to fine for the damage done to the Townsend Common tunnel. It also leaves them free to process the several transfer students-those who are transferring out.

Oh, well, perhaps I should have been born to attend college in those exciting 60's. Today's student body is much too "tweed-suit and apathetic" for me. I like those wide-eyed radicals who do crazy things like change and reform...

Cindy Sue Brown

Dear Southwestern Community,

To each and everyone who knows him, he is a good friend. He has been found without a smile on his face fewer times than Tom Kepple turning on an air-conditioner. He's always obliging to help out someone in need. He, of course, is Mr. Athletic Department - Robert Johnson.

This is Robert's fifth year at Southwestern, four of which he's spent as equipment manager. It may be his last. Back in January, Athletic Director Ed White scheduled a football team meeting to discuss the future of a trainer here at Southwestern. Similar meetings were held with all variety athletic teams. Robert doesn't qualify as a trainer; he lacks many fundamentals necessary to be considered a "trainer," including university courses and supervised internships.

It was felt that the college needed a full-time trainer. In accordance with the Board policy on new additions to departmental staffs, therefore, Robert would be the odd man out. The football team was stunned at the time, but realized they indeed did need a full-time legitimate trainer; they also, however, wanted to retain Robert Johnson as equipment manager.

Forming a petition in hopes of impressing the Board of Trustees, three hundred signatures were gathered in a day and a half, attempting to retain Robert in his usual equipment managerial job, while instituting the job of a full-time trainer.

When presented with the petition, the Board of Trustees, a group of older, frugal men and women, elected not to make an exception in Robert's case in regards to the present policy on additions to staff departments. They left the matter to the discretion of the administration.

Five people have applied for the new job, and Robert's position appears imminently to be taken over. That leaves Robert holding a sweaty jockstrap, hardly enough to support his wife and kids. It's not that Johnson didn't do his job, he's probably one of the hardest workers at 2000 North Parkway. It's just that he's the odd man out.

"We're working hard to find a new position, whether on or off campus, for Robert, should he not keep his position," says new Dean of Students Bo Scarborough.

"I grew up in Memphis, when Southwestern held few positions open for black people. I was a little leery when I first came to the school, but my whole opinion of the Southwestern community has changed. I've been treated well, and loved every minute that I've spent here," said Johnson.

"No matter what, I'll still be here at every game, I love all the athletes. I just wish it hadn't come down to this, if it's going to end, I wish it could've been better. I really hope it doesn't end this way."

So do the many friends you have here, Robert.

Bobby Ray Mackett

## A WORD FROM THE S.R.C.

No swimming is allowed after regular pool hours without permission of the pool director. Violations of this rule will result in a \$100 fine for the offender. Although this may seem harsh, it is in the best interest of all students. Because of the danger involved in swimming after hours, the S.R.C. asks everyone to co-operate.

Another area of S.R.C. policy which might need clarification is the prerogative of any student charged with an S.R.C. violation to ask the Dean of Students to adjudicate, whether it be a pre-trial or trial situation. The Dean, in turn, may accept or reject this request. A student who is approached about a charge is informed of this right, which is separate and distinct from an appeal.

Also, when a student is approached about a charge, he is invited to discuss the matter with a member of the S.R.C. Any student is urged to discuss with the Council any questions they have concerning policy or procedure.

## Cooking Continued

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Services, said the Refectory will not be open on weekends this summer, and weekday hours will be limited. In addition to the reduced hours, several outside groups will be staying on campus this summer, utilizing Refectory services and paying cash for their meals. Mr. Kepple said he hoped these measures would minimize any losses the Refectory might face this summer.

Welcome Home young travelers of afar, New York City Class is here!

## SGA Cont...

Continued from page 1

creating criteria for excused absences but did not vote since there were so many proxies and absentees. They did vote to create a Security Committee, however, to act as liaison between security and students. This vote should be retaken if the S.G.A. decides in retrospect that there was no quorum.

Those who are consistently absent "will be taken care of" said Michael Watts. Hopefully they will be removed, as the constitution provides, rather than replaced as Watts has been doing. Watts also said, "Is this going to be a truthful story?... Then you better say attendance has improved 9000%. And you can quote me on that."

The SGA is preparing a new constitution for the students to vote on next year. It may make some points more clear. Even if the SGA feels the current constitution is not doing its job, it is obliged to act according to it until it is replaced. It is not doing so now.

SGA Members absent from the meeting were Mark Culler, David Eades, Mike Eads, Bobby Burks, Mark Hurley, Tim O'Keefe, Gregg Phillips, Paul Poole, and Paul Ward.





The Vandales rock Southwestern in the Amphitheatre. Photo by John Peeples

## Randy "tries to make sense" of College Life

by Mark Hurley

Most students record their college experiences with photographs, scrapbooks, and diaries or journals. However, Southwestern students Rusty Johnson and Tom Merrill have found a less conventional way to recount their life in college—they have written a musical.

Their original show, entitled "Randy," will be performed in Southwestern's Hardie Auditorium on May 29, 30, and 31 at 8:00 p.m.

The musical traces the life of a confused undergraduate, Randy, as he faces the problems of college. Plagued by poor grades, his friends try to help him with alcohol, advice, and even try to get him a girl, leading to a series of comical encounters.

"I took a lot of the things that have happened here at Southwestern over the past four years, and tried to make some sense out of them," explained Johnson.

Merrill and Johnson began work on "Randy" last spring after returning from a tour of Russia with the Southwestern Singers, a choir and performing group at the college.

"After the tour we took a course in the history of the American musical and theater," explained Johnson. "When we walked out of class the last day, I turned to Tom and said, 'Let's write a musical.' Not knowing what he was getting into, he said yes."

The two kept in close touch over the summer, sending ideas for the script to each other through the mail. Merrill, who assumed the job of musical director, would often call Johnson to let him hear a new song he had written for the show.

Merrill quickly learned that writing songs for a musical involves some special difficulties.

"It's more than just writing a note," he said. "You have to make the mood of the song fit the mood of the scene. In addition, the song must fit the character."

Merrill said that Tony Garner, Director of the Southwestern Singers, advised them to separate the musical from reality.

"In a musical, if the reality is too great, the show becomes a very personal experience for the audience," he explained. "However, if a removal from reality is achieved, the audience can participate with their minds. They will build on the plot and imagine things."

This effect is achieved in "Randy" with an anthropomorphic frog. The frog serves as a guide to Randy as he muddles through the trials of college. As such, the frog is one of the characters who reflects a side of Randy.

"Randy is a sap," said Johnson. "He is the shell that is left behind after you take out the personality. The people that make up Randy are the people around him, his roommate Paul, his drug addicted friend Sid, and the frog."

Johnson claimed he had no deep message in mind when he and Merrill wrote the musical, but added that there is a serious side to the show.

"Calling it a musical might be a misnomer," he said. "There are a lot of tragic things in the show. I think it says some unpleasant things in funny ways."

Tickets to the show cost \$1.00 and are available in the lobby of Halliburton Tower, or at the door.

## Watchout for the Nude Bomb

by Vicky Wallace

Don Adams, as Maxwell Smart, is back again to trawl the underworld as agent 86 in the revealing movie, *The Nude Bomb*. Assisted by three comely ladies - agents 36-22-34 and by oldtimers Karobee and the everpresent Agent 13, Maxwell Smart battles wits against the evil mastermind, St. Sauvage.

The P.I.T.S. team (Provisional Intelligence Tactical Service) must keep St. Sauvage from setting off a bomb that would wreak havoc upon the world - a bomb that will destroy all clothing. St. Sauvage's invention, a fabric called permathin, will be the only clothing left; the demented fashion designer's plans are to bribe the world population with it. CHAOS will rule the world.

*The Nude Bomb* is an obvious spoof of James Bond's latest movie, *The Moonraker*. Remember how James Bond so suavely handled his fall from the plane? Maxwell Smart is just as suave-till he pulls the string of his parachute. Instead of going up, the parachute falls off.

*Get Smart* fans will be thrilled to know Maxwell still has his shoe-phone that rings at the most inopportune times. There are also many new sophisticated gags; for example, the desk that turns into a car when Smart lifts the top. The desk mobile gets 12 miles per ink bottle; 60 mph on the highway.

One complaint against the new Maxwell Smart is that he is such a wimp. Unlike James Bond, he does not practice sex on the job. "He is just not that kind of guy."

Even if he does not indulge in sex, Max talks about it constantly. The dialogue would have been better without the constant sexual allusions.

The Plaza on Poplar is showing *The Nude Bomb* for \$4.00. Popcorn is 75¢.

## Armed Forces Mail Call Needs Letters

Armed Forces Mail Call is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to uplifting the morale of young military volunteers by encouraging individuals to write friendly letters of support which would be suitable to be received by any member of the Armed Forces.

The letters are collected by Mail Call and

sent to participating agencies for distribution where the need is the greatest.

For information on how you as an individual, or your organization, may have a part in this vital, morale-boosting program, write to Armed Forces Mail Call, 2170 West Broadway, #514, Anaheim, California 92804.

## Tinkle Resounds In Zeta House

A *Resounding Tinkle*, an absurdist play by N.F. Simpson, will be presented tonight at seven and this Saturday and Sunday at eight in the Zeta House.

The play concerns the domestic rumblings in the household of Bro and Middie Paradox, played by Bill Watkins and Ann Kingsolver. They argue, among other things, about what they are going to name the elephant in their garden, while Bro searches for his gum boots and Middie knits. They are plagued by comedians and government formers at the front door, and by a nosy neighbor, Mrs. Stencil, over the telephone.

Bro and Middie receive a visit from Uncle Ted (Susan Wood), who has had a sex change operation and who arrives through the living room window. Together they muse over tornout book pages, much as others might ponder over afternoon drinks. Uncle Ted has come to listen to his favorite evangelical radio program, which includes a gospel rendition of "I've Been Working on the Railroad."

If this all sounds a bit bizarre, well, it is. Yet the production is well-acted and directed (by Bobby Burks). Free tickets are available at Halliburton switchboard.

## John Gardner At Southwestern This Fall

by Ann E. Kingsolver

John Gardner, scholar of medieval literature and author of *Grendel* and many other works (of fiction and non-fiction), will be visiting Southwestern as an artist-in-residence for 3 days in October, 1980. One of his books will be selected as the freshman novel for discussion during next year's Orientation, and it is hoped that Southwestern students will take an interest in Mr. Gardner's coming and prepare to benefit from the workshops by

reading one or more of his books during the summer.

The Literary Arts Festival Committee will be meeting at 4:00 p.m. in the East Lounge on Wednesday, May 28, to solidify plans for Mr. Gardner's visit. If you are interested and have suggestions for novel ways for an author to share his sapience, please attend the meeting. Next week: a description of Mr. Gardner's works, and the proposed itinerary for his stay next October.

### In This Corner

## Richard C. Wood



by Richard C. Wood

Curriculum revision is on the agenda, and many of us hope for reform, yet dread the debates, the hours of meetings, the fatefulness (for our biorhythms at least) of a majority vote. Thirteen years ago, when I was new to this faculty and had to sit in silence at general meetings, the dissatisfactions of the 60's hawked the exit like guerillas and infiltrated the ranks in beads, jeans and head-shop accessories. The Force was with them, and we swooned into a three-term structure, coughed affirmatively for colloquia, raised hands defensively for DI's and the like. We would be liberal and creative; we would, in the emergency, forgo or mute our dedication to the vibrations of hummingbirds' wings, the bat-mucous poultices of Carib shamans, the variorum edition of Shenstone's poems the world breathlessly awaits. Still, some of us bred to the shape of the 16-week semester distrusted the Force, figuring it would sustain Innovation for a while, then drop away like business in a saloon on the Old Chisholm Trail. And indeed it shrank to a clutch of foul-smelling feathers about 1976.

Some of my colleagues demand to know what became of my Shenstone project and why I haven't published my novel about Fidel Castro's secret deal with the CIA. They say I have been corrupted with mere teaching, and I hang my head, which is heavy with two minds on every issue. Orwell invented "double-think," but the 60's brought us to the practice of it. It is sure to flourish through 1984.

The DI died without official fiat, but we are giving plenty of tutorials, which is what DI's were in vogue letters. (A really devoted, true DI student may come along once in ten years. I had one about eight years ago, and he sends word he is getting a doctorate in the area of his folklore DI, come June). But there were hundreds in the grip of the Force. Some of us would handle five or six every term. What if I, for one, had used those myriad hours to improve my verse-technique, master the psyche of Castro, raise Shenstone from his (well-deserved) grave? O, those unopened doors!

However, it was through a couple of DI projects that I was invited for the first (and last) time to sit with a President in his office in the tower. It seems that two of our hippies, pledged to write full reports and collect tapes on Ozark lore, stashed some pills and hash in a farmer's barn near Calico Rock. The farmer found the cache. The Stone County sheriff called the college to say the boys claimed a professor had sent them off to write books under the influence of Something. I was called to stand before the President (Bowden) and deny it. I was believed. I got to sit down a minute.

The colloquia have served their purpose. There are always some freshpersons who would rather photograph zebras than (in "Man") peak the course with Zwingli. But commit yourself to a colloquium, and folks lose interest in you immediately. You will "do" it as an extra course, usually you can't get a partner, and you will be made responsible for a dozen new advisees. While they wait outside your office, you lecture to "Man" students on Shenstone, another good Prot. The faculty convenes to review, debate the re-write three hundred by-laws for five meetings in a month. Nothing is said about teaching being an art (which it damn well is), and you start to wobble and smear your canvases or write in free-verse or whatever.

The third term may get rubbed. That may be doubted while so many students dun me to take them for a three-week tour of the Shenstone country. I plan the tour but somehow end up with a couple of home-bound classes and a few of what formerly would have been called DI's.

I am of two minds about third-term courses, or with two halves of one leaning on each other in paralysis. As a student I attended some summer-session, a few with brilliant teachers and strong matter. But one had to swallow without much chewing. Those courses were like California consciousness-raising affairs. A lifetime of those prepares you to die in Marin County without the honors colleges never fail to bestow on their dedicated scholars. (Ask and Emeritus Prof!) Things slip and blur. By the middle of Term III I can't recall seeing my own face while shaving it and brushing my teeth. How sagged and ugly it must be!

Let us imagine that our revision planners reckon solemnly with our need to establish



