

Don't Try to Refuse This Unusual Gift

By David Friedman

Today was the day that had to be handled with the upmost secrecy. It was my birthday. I carefully checked from left to right and cautiously walked to the Student Union for my mail. I made sure that there was no one looking over my shoulder, and I slowly unlocked my combination. Hastily, I shoved my mail into my notebook and forced the happy smile on my face to vanish. Just to play it safe, I took the long way back to the dorm, but stop-

ped every few feet to scan the area.

Surprisingly, I made it back to the dorm and safely into my room. I carefully checked both closets and under the bed. When I was absolutely certain the coast was clear, I pulled out my mail and opened it. The first one I opened was a birthday card from my girlfriend; I sure do miss her! I then opened cards from my friends, Mom and Dad. The one from my grandmother was my favorite, (mainly because I en-

joyed seeing President Jackson's pretty face surrounded by all that green!)

Suddenly, I heard a loud noise knock at my door and I began to panic.

"Uh...hold on, I'm getting dressed." I hastily hid my birthday cards, took a deep breath and apprehensively opened the door.

"Damn it Dave, what took you so long?" It was Phil and he was alone! My pulse went back to normal as I took a giant sigh of relief. "What's wrong, buddy? You look like you've seen a ghost."

"Oh, nothing, I guess I'm just tired - that's all."

"Alright," he said as he reached over and took some books from my desk. "I can't stay. I just stopped by to get the Spanish books I left here last night." Phil took his books and left after giving me the advice of taking a two week shower to calm my nerves.

I didn't think that it would be a smart idea to eat in the cafeteria so I drove to McDonald's. The rest of the day I spent in the library. I knew I would be safe there! It was about 9 o'clock and I decided to call it a night. I packed up my books and went back to the dorm. Taylor was much more

mellow than usual. Walking down the hall, I could only hear one trace of loud music and that came from upstairs. Maybe everyone turned in early today. Whatever the reason, at least it was quiet, and I would be able to get some rest.

I went to my room and got my toothbrush. After brushing, I took my vitamins and returned to my room, where a comfortable pillow awaited. I put on my shorts and climbed into bed. Thank God this day was finally over! All my worries disappeared as I slowly dozed off. All of a sudden, the door opens up a crack. I look up and see Billy, my friend from next door.

"Hey Dave, what's up?" he yelled from across the room.

"Nothing man, I'm trying to get some sleep."

"Oh, okay. I just stopped by to tell you that your uncle called awhile ago and told me to give you a message."

"Alright." I yelled back. "I'm tired, what was the message?"

"He called to tell you..."

"YES!!!"
"HAPPY BIRTHDAY!" My heart began to beat faster and faster, filling my body with throbs of fear. A ball of sweat

dripped down my chin as my bedroom door flew open. I tightly shut my eyes, hoping that it was all a dream. Unfortunately it wasn't. In my room stood the entire second floor of Taylor. I tried to run, but it was useless, I was outnumbered. I was lifted in the air and carried downstairs. I didn't let the pleasant tune of Happy Birthday stop me from thinking about the awful fate that awaited me. They seemed to carry me for miles. When will this all end?! I screamed and fought my hardest, but it was useless, I was trapped. Soon, the horde of bodies came to a stop. I looked down in terror and I

prayed it would end soon. I heard the counting as I began to sway back and forth. One...two...three. I flew high in the air and came soaring down in the torturous, ice cold water.

I shivered as my body sat in the freezing creek. I listened to the laughter coming from the crowd, and a smile came to my face. For

in the crowd stood Billy, just as happy as he could be. He didn't know that I knew it, but next week will be the 16th...Billy's birthday.

"Big Country's" Album Mixes Rock, New Wave

By Mike Shell

Big Country's first album, "The Crossing" is adoring entry into today's music: a mixture of both new wave and rock. Instead of drowning a song with a wall of synthesizers, they inject it with a dose of welcome guitar sounds. Guitars have been absent in most new wave music, but here Big Country gives us wailing, dreamlike guitars, more than enough to satisfy people who have, like me, missed guitars in new wave. Many people have called Big Country's song anthems to modern love and life,

and that is probably the best way to describe them. In songs like "In a Big Country" and "Fields of Fire", the guitars soar siren-like while a solid chorus sings with unrestrained emotion. That's another difference between this band and other new wave bands. Most vocalists for other new wave bands restrain their emotions to the point of not even singing. In "Big Country", the vocalist do a great job of singing and guitar playing. Add to this some excellent drumming and bass playing and you have a great band.

★ Harriers

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highly competitive, four-year colleges. "We obliterated everybody!" said Witek. "We never choke at the nationals because we run against tougher teams during the season."

The Brevard runners also had a good reputation at the championships. They are thought of as tough, well-trained, and good sports. The college community, and since cross country is not a traditional

Most of the runners run simply for the pleasure of competition. They receive little publicity from "spectator sport," they do not have a strong following among students. "We do what we have to do," said Witek.

There are five sophomores on the team, but Coach Witek is confident that the returning freshmen will form a good nucleus. In addition, there are several prospective recruits being considered for next year's team.

"Brainstorm's" Success Due to Special Effects

By Mike Shell

This often confusing, yet visually and mentally satisfying movie succeeds because of its actors and its special effects. It was directed by Douglas Trumbull, who did the special effects for "2001" and "Close Encounter Of The Third Kind". It stars Natalie Wood (in her last performance), Cliff Robertson, Louise Fletcher

and Christopher Walken. Although the film appears confusing at first glance, it is like this because of what the story is about: a group of researchers who have invented a device that enables one person's thoughts and memories to be recorded and experienced by another person. After one of the researchers has a stroke and dies while the device is recording the experience, the

government takes over the project, which infuriates Christopher Walken's character. The rest of the movie is about Walken as he tries to get the tapes back and experience them for himself. The movie comes to a unexpected climax and fulfills the rest of the movie. In all, its a very good movie that explores an unknown world (the brain) and succeeds in entertaining also.

Good Luck To All Students On Their Final Exams

Staff Box

This edition of the Clarion was prepared by the Journalism class and other Clarion staff members.

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Season's Greetings

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