

"... Shove Your Education ..."

Only a handful of students ventured out one Thursday night to hear David Toma, who was sponsored by the Student Center Board, speak. And only that handful of students heard the two-hour lecture which turned into a powerful story of one man's struggle to reach out to the people he saw hurting. The television program, *Toma*, was based on this man's career as a detective, and later *Baretta* was created along similar lines.

Toma credits his success as a detective to his creativity. He has 25-30 disguises that each take less than a minute to apply. "I psych myself up for a role," he explains, "and I become that person. The only thing is that I don't make a very good-looking woman." Producers for the television drama wanted to call the show *Toma: Supercop*, but he was adamant about deleting the "supercop" element. "It's the story of a human being who happened to be a cop. I'm not Supercop. I'm Toma."

"Just once I want to meet a college somewhere that teaches common sense." Toma's statement was prompted by the millions of Americans with a college education who still smoke marijuana regardless of the fact that the tars in one joint equal the tars in 112-120 cigarettes. If the Surgeon General warns against the dangers of cigarette smoking, just think of what one joint does to the body. Toma adds that there are over 100 different chemicals in marijuana, but only one, THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) gives the "high" feeling. The other 99 chemicals act as poisons. The amount of THC in a joint is dependent upon how and where it is grown, and consequently the effect cannot be predicted by the number of reeferers smoked. "There ain't no way I'm gonna put that poison in my body," Toma remarked. And, as the audience could see, the 45-year-old man "looks out for No. 1" by maintaining a healthy body.

Toma's lecture was not solely a tirade against drugs. His message was aimed at the source of drug use and abuse. The loneliness and boredom of the users are the source of the drug problems, according to him. "You can sit on your books, and shove your education if you don't use common sense. Common sense tells you that you can't buy peace of mind, and buying a joint and getting high doesn't replace the love you are searching for. I don't believe in peer pressure. It's no excuse to smoke pot. It's a cop-out. Believe in yourself. Don't compromise. Most people are followers, not leaders. Be your own leader. To hell with the rest of them. You're not a piece of crap." It seems superfluous to add that Toma opposes the decriminalization of marijuana.

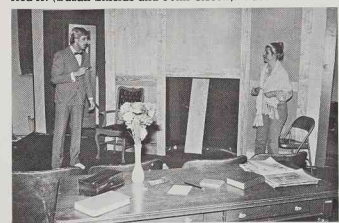
One Gardner-Webb student commented to Toma after the lecture. "You sound like you've been up North in the big cities too long." Whether he was intimating that drugs are not as prevalent in the South, or that since "lots" of people use marijuana it should be legalized, is questionable and is left for the reader to decide. However, when deliberating the pro and con sides of marijuana, maybe one should remove the rose-colored glasses.

Lynne Becker

Debbie Drayer Reviews:

"The Mousetrap" Will Catch You Unaware

A chilling British winter moved into Bolling Springs last week as Agatha Christie's mystery masterpiece, *"The Mousetrap"* came to the stage of Hamrick Auditorium. The play unfolded in an old English country home, converted into a guest house by the young couple who had inherited it. (Susan Shields and John Sisson). Guests included a



wealthy old dowager (Beth Summers), a strange young man (Wayne "Taco" Lee), a very proper British major (Sam Broadway) and a madly jealous woman (Terri Smith). Rick Tucker was the uninvited guest with a sardonic sense of humor, and Ben Crowther masqueraded in the role of a diligent police officer whose investigation brought the plot to a climax. A blinding snowstorm isolated them from the outside world, then, a phone call revealed the probable presence of a murderer in their midst who intended to kill again. The suspense intensified as everyone began to fear each other. The bizarre ending was, as always, a typical Christie triumph.

The cast worked extremely well together on stage, playing to each other and not to the audience, although stage movement was at times slightly awkward. Shields and Lee interacted successfully. Summers was effective as an aggravating Mrs. Boyle. Her talent was, as usual, obvious. Every character showed an excellent ability to act guiltily—a technique vital to an Agatha Christie work.

Overall, diction was excellent, despite the chronic problem of accents. Reaching for authenticity is fine, but the British accent should have been left to the experienced and capable. Nothing is worse than a poor imitation.

Congratulations to the tech crew! The set was a sign of many long hours of hard work. The entire "Mousetrap" cast is to be commended for bringing Christie Classicist to G-W. Under the able guidance of director David Smith, the production was a boost to campus cultural life.



Front row: Melissa Brown, Greta Setzer, Cindy Patnam and Susan Sisson. Second row: Dr. Joyce Brown, Dr. Les Brown, Terri Gore, Nancy Lowder, John Turner; Third row: Ron Thomas, Bill Livingston, Doug Plack, Danny Seaman, and Charles Dyke. In tree is Michelle Brown. Photo by Sylvia Thomas

Sigma Gamma on the Move

It's 9:00 p.m. Friday, March 9th, and Sigma Gamma, better known as the Science Club, is packed up and heading out for the Florida Keys. They drove all night, reaching Orlando the next morning. Homebase was provided by John Ter is the most pressing need.

While Sunday was devoted to touring Disney world and Silver Springs, Monday was a travel day for the group as they went to Flamingo, Florida, a part of Everglades National Forest. A pleasant surprise for the group occurred when they ran into Kevin Rutledge in a gift shop there. He's working with campground ministries while on leave from G-W.

Tuesday morning found the group with Dr. Barbara Burkett traveling into the Mangrove Swamps to see different terrain. Here they saw a lot of wildlife—alligators, turtles, bird life, and tree snails.

On Wednesday, they traveled down into the Keys, making Key Largo homebase. The main business of the day was practicing snorkeling. They also visited John Penneck of Coral Reef State Park.

Thursday was another travel day taking them on into the Keys with guide Barbara Burkett. First stop was Missouri Key, where they did some snorkeling. They were warned of barracuda, sharks, and fire coral, which is very painful. In spite of everything, there were no injuries. Shell collecting is illegal there, so no prize trophies were brought back to G-W.

A very special part of the trip was Key Lime Pie, a specialty of the Keys. This local delicacy had to be bribed from a restaurant owner who had some which was not quite jelled. The group made it clear that, if no Key Lime Pie was served, all sixteen of them would find another place to eat.

The sunset in the Keys is extra special. People line the docks and wait for the sunset. Then they all applaud it. Says Sylvia Thomas, "It's wonderful. You wouldn't believe it."

On the way back from Key West on a seven mile bridge that is extremely narrow, a Triumph ran out of gas, two miles from the end. Ron and Sylvia Thomas called for help on their CB radio and then pushed the car the last two miles to the end. They were met there by a very grateful patrolman.

The group made it back Saturday night, tired but happy.

Convocation Center Nears Reality

Have you ever had a dream or a vision come true, or perhaps you wanted it to come true? Well, maybe not, but for Gardner-Webb College, a longstanding dream is about to come true.

This long-standing dream is the Convocation/Special Events Center. It will be one of the most extraordi-

Fund Raising Campaign for the Convocation center fell slightly short of the \$3000 goal. The drive was sponsored by the Student Government Association "in answer to the plea of students who have asked that Student Government become more involved in worthwhile activities." SGA President Randy Kilby stated in a recent issue of the Pilot that "this is a chance for students to prove that we can be unselfish and truly interested in the future of this college."

It seems that the 295 students who participated in the campaign pledged a total of \$1,770.80. Whether this is indicative of the fact that the majority of students did not wish to "be unselfish and truly interested in the future of this college" will never be known. All one can do is wonder.

Dr. Craven Williams believes the Convocation Center is the most pressing need for the campus due to the inadequacy of the present facilities for the performing arts and the physical education program. There is also a need for better facilities for intercollegiate basketball.

Roll Over

"Peabody"

Perhaps you recall a Convocation personality who has been demoted by the boob tube, addicted to "Leave It To Beaver," and tempted by Olivia Newton-John. Yes, David Meese is the man who can animate a piano with off-the-wall imitations of electric guitar with a soul-sister Bee Gee combination.

Though he studied at Peabody Institute of Music, the decision was made to exchange classical communication in order to upbeat Christian flair. The financially struggling student picking up monetary night club gains turned accomplished concert pianist then found his way to Oklahoma where one should "walk two steps until you smell it and two more steps until you step in it." This is the place where WORD Records sought to find the owner of an accidently-listened-to tape submitted sometime before by impressed listeners. A contract is signed, traveling increases and Mrs. Meece (catch that? he's married!) stays behind to uphold many of the city's musical events, unless, of course, he's going to the Orient.

Upbeat sound does not cloud the message when communicated in meaningful lyrics. That is paraphrasing Meese philosophy. If you've heard the music, you've heard the quality, and if you've caught the lyrics, you've caught the message. The man's fingers move to create a "Gore Boulevard" scene and while he speaks of the "urchins," the crowd laughs, then later wonders how the pale guy made them cry.

Teresa Yingling