

PERSONALITY OF THE MONTH



What's That White Man Doing Here?

This edition's personality of the month was chosen early in the month and it wasn't until just days ago that we realized the significance of his chalky complexion. But that's the way it should be, isn't it? "Without regard to race, creed, color, or sex."

Michael Patterson is, in many ways, untypical of Fayetteville State University's students. He maintains a perfect 4.0 grade-point average while participating heavily in campus activities, particularly in theatre, which is his major. He also happens to be a Captain of Paratroop Artillery in the U.S. Army and is, if you hadn't already noticed, caucasian. It is the last happenstance that led to the title of a play he is working on and which we "borrowed" for the title of this article about him. He's a skydiver, photographer, and journalist, who has acted in commercial films, worked in radio, and written and directed a 16-mm 20-minute Documentary.

As a member of the Drama Guild, Mike recently traveled with several other students to Memphis, Tennessee for the 42nd Annual National Association for Dramatic and Speech Arts Conference where, at a party in another school's rooms, a voice from the crowd rang out during a momentary break in the music, "What's that white man doing here?" Mike says, "You can take it any way you want to. The guy may have only been curious. He may have been surprised, pleased, angry, happy, or a myriad of other things. I think that it was appropriate. During the early sixties in Mississippi one of the most often vocalized complaints about the black man's plight was that white men often could not see them. A white man would 'look through' a black man as if he didn't exist. I am often reminded of that complaint in funny ways. At our first Drama Guild meeting this year Mr. Hockett, the guild's faculty advisor, asked the 'guy in the glasses' to respond to a question and pointed at me. I couldn't help but laugh...there must have been five guys in glasses but only one 'white dude'. We've become overly-sensitive to any reference to skin color by a member of another race. That's why the words 'What's that white man doing here?' seemed particularly appropriate to me."

Born in Houston, Texas into a military family, Mike is the oldest of five children, most of whom reside in

Roseburd, Oregon. Mike stayed with them for 17 years, moving through Texas, California, the Dakotas, Virginia, Montana, Germany (twice), Oklahoma, Colorado, Arizona, Hawaii, and "others". He left home to begin his own life at the early age of 17.

Having said goodbye to his family in Germany, he slowly worked his way across the states until he landed in Oklahoma in college at Central State University. It was there that he became involved in the civil rights movement, and spent several months working with the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee in Mississippi registering black voters. He marched with King at Selma in those years and received a shock along with many others his age when he returned to Oklahoma and was met with a notice to report for his selective service examination physical.

"In those days your physical was followed within 30 days by the draft notice itself. I talked to a recruiter who got me the job of my choice. I was to become a Morse Code Interceptor. Ever listen to code for several hours at a time? Well, the only way out was Officer Candidate School. I took it - talk about out of the frying pan and into the fire!! After 6 months at Fort Sill they had done about as much to me as they could and pronounces me a professional artillery man. To make a long story short; they sent me overseas, I came back, got out, went back to college, majored in Radio and Television Production, went back in the Army, went overseas again, got stationed at Fort Bragg, and was selected for a 'scholarship' to attend FSU to finalize my degree."

Majoring in Speech-Theatre, Mike has directed *Hansel and Gretel*, played Mike Maffucci in *No Place to be Somebody*, Preacher Haggler in *Dark of the Moon*, and played the old Demon himself, Mephistopheles, in *Horace Hockett's Demons*. It's been a year of very late nights filled with rehearsal after rehearsal. "I'm fortunate" says he, "to be married to a girl who understands my twisted motivations. After nine years of married life in the Army though, she's come to accept not seeing me until 10 or 11 at night." His two children, ages three and four, will probably be as happy as his wife to see him graduate...or just to see

him.

The future? Mike, Peggy, and the kids are on their way to Germany in June where he will work in Heidelberg in a job somewhat akin to Public Relations where his Liberal Arts degree will stand him in good stead. When asked about whether or not he feels that he should have majored in a more technically oriented field, like a science, or business, he answered, "Definitely not. Throughout my life I've tried to do everything with a sense for quality. A Liberal Arts degree, when pursued with real motivation, can give you the tools to do everything well. It gives you the foundation of character, appreciation, and a strong, supple mind. Through my education I am familiar enough with humanity to know what the end result of any job should be. Give a person with a Liberal Arts background 6 months and they'll do twice the job a person with four years of 'technical' education will do."

And that's what Mike Paterson is doing here.

Ebony Reflections

"Life has not changed. Only some people have been growing, becoming different, that is all. After a youth spent fighting the white man, why should not the president discover as he grows older that his real desire has been to be like the white governor himself, to live above all blackness in the big old slave castle? And the men around him, why not? What stops them sending their loved children to kindergartens in Europe? And if the little men around the big men can send their children to new international schools, why not? That is all anyone here ever struggles for: to be nearer the white man. All the shouting against the white man was not hate. It was love. Twisted, but love all the same." *From The Beautiful Ones Are Not Yet Born* by Ayi Kwei Armah.

Live And Learn

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have the opportunity to get involved. We never know enough!

On March 21, 1978, in Bryant Hall, Miss Hoke and Mr. Stokes presented an interesting topic, "The Black Family." The participants all seemed interested. Comments were being made to the fact that this production has helped clear up some things in

Interview With A Star

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"Sometimes I regret about the baseball. But at that time I was very cocky. I actually thought I was the best thing since sliced bread. So, the incident forced me to grow up instead of hanging my head between my legs. Anyway, if it wasn't for the baseball incident I wouldn't be here."

Jim contributes a lot of time in helping to work with the rehabilitating of delinquent youth. "Was there any particular reason, something that happened when you were a youth to motivate your involvement?" I wanted to know.

"No, nothing in my childhood. I came from a normal family: Mom and Dad and four of us children. However, years later my wife would sing in prisons and I started accompanying her and I became aware of the hopelessness there. So, I became involved." He worked now with a volunteer group of about 250 persons who are Christians and are called the God Squad. Jim pointed out that his group offers counseling and also works with the individual in and out of prison, in areas such as housing, food, etc. He emphasizes that this is no free hand-out program. He thinks of it in terms as teaching a man how to fish in order to feed himself rather than giving him the fish. "First you show the individual how to find a respectable part of himself, and then he'll be able to become a respectable part of society," he states.

When people look at him and ask, "You're an actor and

you go to church?", he bounces back with, "You go to church to worship, but you perform your service in the street helping mankind."

Our interview is about to wind up. "Are there any other points you'd like to make about the film?"

"I think the film is good. That it has something to say, and to all of you, I appreciate your patronage."

I thanked Mr. Iglehart for a great interview and headed for home, armed, of course, with about ten autographed photos. Strange, but a quote of Will Rogers came to mind: "It's great to be great, but it's greater to be human." I don't know if Mr. Iglehart has ever heard the quote or not but I'm certain that somewhere down the line he has learned it. Thank you, Mr. Iglehart. Much success to *Death Force*.

James Iglehart Fan Club, 27531 Mandarin Avenue, Hayward, California 94544.

DEATH FORCE

"Death Force" is an R-rated tale of retaliation by a Samurai sword-wielding ex-GI. James Iglehart stars in the *Cosa Nueva* Production as a man bent on revenge when his drug-dealing buddies leave him for dead in the South Pacific, take over a crime syndicate in Los Angeles, and threaten his "widow" and son. Co-starring in the film are Carmen Argenziano and Leon Isaac. Jayne Kennedy stars as Iglehart's wife and Roberto Gonzales, an Asian Olympic Karate Champion, guest stars in one of the most brutal Karate and sword fights ever filmed. Watch local listing for *DEATH FORCE*'s return.

FSU Student Attends Minority Law Conference

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individual schools and general law school criteria.

Later on Saturday a panel discussion was conducted by people from state government, corporations and private law practices. Also, Fred Williams, a UNC law school graduate, presently working as a public defender in Cumberland County participated in the panel discussion. The Moderator was Ronald Penny, a third year UNC law student. Ms. Yvonne Mims, a Duke law school graduate now working in the Charlotte based Julius Chambers firm, joined Mr. Williams and others on the panel.

Now we are back to lunch again and I am going to seek out the young man I ate with the previous day. I found him. We ate and talked then returned to attend informal

Deadline Dates

Fall Applications:
Student Date Form - May 1, 1978;
Family Financial Statement (ACT) - May 1, 1978;
and BEOG Student Eligibility Report - May 1, 1978.

discussion groups with individual professors from UNC and Campbell. Again the emphasis on writing and reading with great skill was reiterated. These group discussions ended at 6:00 p.m.

After dinner, we returned to participate in the big social event, a disco party. The party was scheduled to last until the sun rose. I couldn't stay that long. At 2:00 p.m. after jumping and shaking and talking I surmised that law students couldn't party. They all seemed preoccupied. I went back to the motel in which I resided and had no trouble finding sleep.

Sunday was anti-climatic and very few people showed up for the informal breakfast meeting. We ate almost in silence. An optional church service concluded the conference.

Members of MLSA from the Fayetteville community are Mrs. Mittie Smith, wife of FSU's Dr. Ronald Smith, Pat Timmons and Rhonda Crawford.

Any student interested in law school may contact the admission office of known law school, take the LSAT, LSDAS or both in the fall of the year preceding your potential entrance to law school. This is important because most law schools have March 15 deadlines for all requirements for consideration for admittance. Also contact your school placement officer. He would be able to give you all kinds of information about prospective law schools. Start early preparing yourself and remember Reading and Writing skills must be superior.