

The Mighty Gents

By Cheryl M. Brown

The drama guild presented "The Mighty Gents" under the direction of Mr. Elliott Moffitt, November 9-14, in the Butler Little Theatre.

Moffitt chose to direct this play because it contains a message and he felt it was appropriate for the students. The play does not come out and tell what the message is. It surrounds conversation concerning goals and self-evaluation.

Moffitt notes it is important to introduce the students to intellectual subject matters to discuss and debate.

The values represented by "The Mighty Gents" are to be taken in opposition. They are four men over thirty, no jobs, no education and consequently no future, who knows what it is they have to do, but just can't seem to do it. This theme is repeated several times. They have been together since teen years representing one of the many street gangs in Newark, New Jersey. They call into question; how much is enough and are your friends more valuable than yourself? Can five minds combine and select what is best for each?

There were many messages delivered in this tragic play. The most outstanding message was probably the need for education. Bryan M. Evans (Frankie), Cedric Stephenson (Zeke),

Charles E. Mooney (Eldridge), Emanuel Vaughn, Jr. (Lucky), Manuel Blackmon (Tiny), Cindy Medley (Pretty Mama), Andrea Gatlin (Rita), Marion Crowe (Frankie's father) and Gregory Moore (Braxton), displayed good acting abilities to obtain the personalities of these characters.

Because the characters were so real to life the audience was able to comprehend the message the play was trying to present.

Richard Wesley, the author of the play, has ventured into a non-realistic style of theatre. The characters and language are of a stereotype. This is focus on Black playwright, because they depend on Black actors. After establishing a program to prepare the Black actors to do any type of theatre, plays can be selected from an extensive variety. Mr. Moffitt selects plays that cater to the taste of the expectant audience. Excitement, entertainment and intellect are what he looks for.

This year the drama guild will be attending the National Association of Dramatic Speech and Art Convention. The talents of the many promising actors will be tested at this annual event.

Faculty Focus

By Theresa Randall

What do Peter and Patricia Valenti have in common? They both hold a Ph.D from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; they both teach English at Fayetteville State University and they are married.

How do you feel about being the only married couple teaching in the same department? How has this benefited you?

Pat - I didn't realize we were the only married couple in the same department at the university. I think it is helpful even though we work in very different areas. Peter is more into film and media; that's where his publications are and I'm more interested in teaching per se, developing curriculum and dealing with questions of pedagogy more than any research.

Peter - I feel that I've benefited from Patricia. I've asked her questions many times when I was teaching American Literature about what she has used and about whether she thinks something will work. Now that she's teaching it she talks to me about different authors and I suggest for example, Crevecoeur, ideas she might want to use in class.

How do you think the English curriculum can be improved?

Pat - I think, particularly in the freshmen writing courses, there can be an effort to make these courses more servicable to the university as a whole. There has been discussion as to what the english department can do. I will be very interested in doing whatever I can to make the writing courses more precisely geared to the students needs; not just their personal writing needs that they'll need to get a job, but what they'll need to know to work adequately in other courses offered by the university.

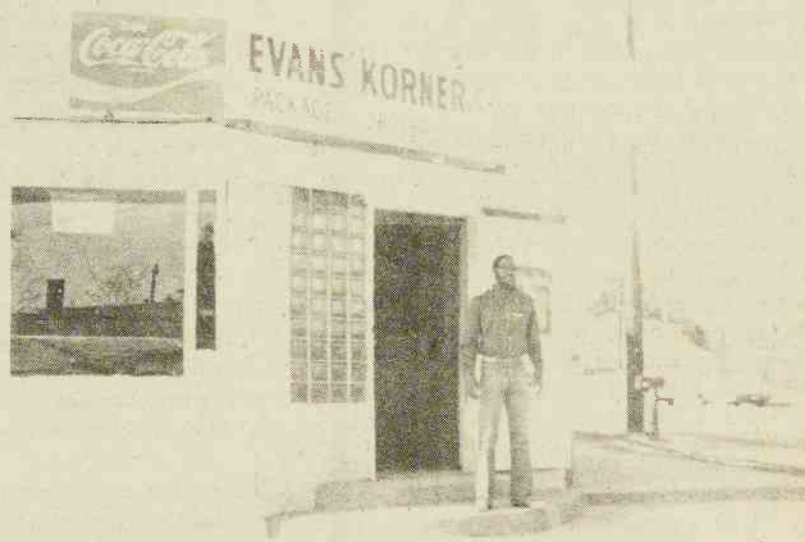
Peter - That's true, the English curriculum is probably most critical at the freshman level where people get their basic training in writing. I think that the whole university needs to be aware of the importance of these courses. One difficulty that might be taken into consideration is the size of classes in the freshmen sequence. Classes sometimes get so large that the students don't get all the individual attention they might need. In the upper level courses we have had enrollments that have been, in general, mainly composed of english majors. Universities should make its students aware that the reading of literature and the close critical attention you pay to literature is a skill that will stand you in very good state no matter what your career is. I think as a whole the university ought to be aware of the need of humanities, particularly the study of literature and of writing. In terms of improving the curriculum we can move toward making literature courses more accessible to all students. Hopefully, this new course, the introduction of literature will do that; it will offer a wide variety of literature and give students the chance to work with ideas they probably haven't considered before.

Pat - I want to second what Peter said about English courses being more accessible for more people. I hope people can realize that reading literature and understanding thought is not something that you have to major in in order to find enriching. I am proposing an Interdisciplinary Honors Senior Seminar that has been approved by the curriculum studies committee and is being brought to Academic Affairs and the University Senate. This is one of the ways in which I think reading of challenging primary source material can be brought and benefited by all students from all areas. Students in their senior year, with a GPA of 3.0 and above who would be interested in reading basic material from different areas can take this course.

What would you like to see happen in the future as far as education is concerned?

Peter - I'm interested in seeing the communication area developed and using our communication center as effectively as we can. Now that we've got the radio station in the process of upgrading its power to 100,000 watts, I think this will make available all kinds of opportunities that weren't here before. We need to develop a curriculum which will train people in these various areas of communication and we need to teach ourselves about how these different new technologies in communication can effect the community. This is the kind of research that I'm interested in. I have been doing some historical things in terms of the ways the public is affected by media. There are many immediate things anyone who's interested in television or broadcasting or any area of communication can do right here in Fayetteville. The potential is unlimited and just up to us where it goes from here. We have to be fully aware that the future of the society as well as the future of the university is going to be geared to these new communication systems.

Student Profile: Bryan Evans



By Cheryl D. McCalop

The perplexity of the economy may serve as a deterrent to some people's desire to enter entrepreneurship; however, one student at FSU decided to overlook the obstacles and explore self-employment.

Bryan Evans, a junior majoring in Speech, has opened "Evans' Korner," a grocery/package store on October 1st, located on Murchison Road across from FSU's athletic field. His decision to open the store, Bryan explains, was prompted by financial reasons. "The store is a family business, and since it was not being used, my father, Mr. James Evans, suggested that I reopen it to supplement my income." He says he really enjoys being self-employed, and doesn't have the hassle of trying to work school hours around job hours. While he is attending classes, his wife, Phyllis operates the store.

FSU students are among the patrons of "Evans' Korner," and Bryan believes that him being a student may have some influence on the students' patronism.

When asked about future plans for the store, he states, that "depending on its success, he would like to remodel and expand the lounge area and grocery line to better accomodate customers' needs.

In addition to classes, Bryan is involved in extra-curricula activities. He is a member of Groove Phi Groove Fellowship, an announcer at FSU's radio station-WFSS, and played Frankie, in FSU's production of "The Mighty Gents," just to name a few.

In the community, Bryan has served as an election precinct judge in District 13, for 5 years and is a member of Mt. Sinai Baptist Church. He graduated from Terry Sanford High School in 1974, and immediately entered the work force. After 5 years, he decided to attend college to pursue his ambition to work in Television Broadcasting. Max Robinson is his favorite newscaster because, as Bryan stated, "I like his style."

Bryan Evans is truly ambitious and hard working, and places a very high standard on education. "Running a business and attending school full time is hard work, and it takes alot of time and patience. If it came down to choosing between the store and school, Bryan states, "I would have to choose school. Working before attending college has taught me the value of education. And with the help of education, I can fulfill my goal in life." Just ask Frankie!

Beauty And The Beach

Officials in Topea, Italy are obviously concerned about sight pollution on the city's beaches. In order to make Italian sun-bathing more eye-pleasing, the City Council recently passed a law restricting full exposure on Topea's nude beaches to those "young women capable of exalting the beauty of the female body."

The old, ugly women of Topea didn't take the new ordiance sitting down, however, and the town officials soon found themselves in hot water. The less attractive members of the city's female population banded together to protest the discrimination, and succeeded in convincing the local lawmakers that the public nude beaches should to open to the good, the bad, and the ugly.