

Tom Powell talks

Louisa Spaventa
Staff Writer

Tom Powell's last interview was with the Times, but last semester I was interviewing Mudhoney so we decided a mutual slum-fest was alright. Somehow, Powell has arranged the space in his Archdale office to accommodate both indoor and outdoor settings; lawn chairs and carpet chairs told me this.

Question: Why are you back at Guilford?

Powell: It's a nice place to teach. It's a very simple reason. I like working in small groups with students who are animated and from whom you can entice an opinion. I like the freedom to design your own courses. We have a tremendous amount of creativity which we can exercise here.

Q: In your opinion, after having left and come back, do you think the atmosphere has changed at all, do you feel a psychic change?

Powell: It might be too early to say in way. I do notice there seems to be more forms to fill out. It seems that things are a little more organized- which may be good or bad. There seems to more focus, perhaps, among the students.

Q: What is the antonym of a Philosophy Professor?

Powell: If you've seen the t-shirt that's flaunted in places like K-Mart fairly often, the one that says

"Because I'm the Mother- That's Why"- the person wearing that is the antonym of a Philosophy Professor.

Q: I wanted to ask you about the process by which you came up with your recent book...

Powell: It was an unintentional book that happened. I was in Newfoundland and was preparing things for teaching this year. One of the things I decided to do was to write down- maybe twenty pages double-spaced- text just listing things that really drive me crazy when I see them in a student paper, because one thing I'm certain of is that all professors, in addition to the explicit standards they have for what counts as a good paper and a bad one, have all these little buttons that can be pushed. When the button's pushed, the grade goes down. I think that its much more fair for the students to know where those things are. You're walking on a mine field when you write a paper for a professor. For example, in a philosophy paper, if a student ever ends a paper with "But after all, who knows?"- instant F- forget it.

I kept coming up with more positive tips to help a student write. By the time I was done, the darn thing was about fifty-thousand words.

Q: Do you wish your classes were smaller than they are?

Powell: Absolutely. That's my greatest worry, I guess, in terms of

change at Guilford. Sam Schuman told me once that the magic number for a Humanities class is seventeen. He's not far off. I do know that something happens between eighteen and twenty-five that makes it harder for me to know the class.

Q: I heard you hunted somewhat while you were away. Would you ever stick antlers on your wall?

Powell: No, I wouldn't. Because that to me is emblematic of a kind of hunting that I think is immoral, ugly, maybe even sacrilegious. It's viewing a hunted animal as a trophy, as somehow a little Brownie point that you get for having killed. I don't think you can hunt with that kind of attitude and come away from it unscathed.

Q: Can you recommend a good B-rate comic-horror movie?

Powell: "Heathers" is pretty hard to beat. The other movie is the sequel to the "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" which is absolutely, hysterically funny if you have a really twisted sense of humor.

We also talked about music: punk (yes, he listened to the Pistols and The Clash), Deadheads and crowd behavior. Let this be your "Get to Know Guilford Professor Month," you might try Powell through E-mail or just sniff him out because, as you can probably tell, he's a very busy man.

Editor's note: Powell spent the last two years in Ireland and Newfoundland.

Randy Specs

Jonathan White
Staff Writer

Collard Green College put out a literary magazine twice a year called *The Crapper*. Randy happened to pick one up. Now Randy through most magazines, so-called literary magazines peeled apart by editorial skunks with roadkill stink. To Randy's surprise the magazine was filled with poems by most of the editors and only two poems that were written by students not involved with the publication. Randy was furious with hate and started kicking up a fuss out loud to himself.

"Now just wait one damn minute! These so called literary trashzines are fer the people by the people who pay fer the editorial trust which should allow the voices of the campus to shriek and shrill. This here is a sack o' corn cobbled ears cut. All these poems are by, cept 2 or 3, the editors.

"Is *The Crapper* fer the elitist burning bush seekers? Did that bush say in a loud thunder tone, 'Thou shalt not publish the voice of campus rats. They write and they write rubbish?' Did the tablet read and tell yer minds to conceive a polite attempt to stick all of yer filthy ink-stained palms to pass out poems only you wrote on index cards so ya could send yer

names to Grad schools and communities of green ink spoil?

"Poets must publish, editors publish poets, and does this mean that poets must place bets on their work against the emperors/editors and their train of pink poem poesies?"

"Point being, that if a hunter know that thar's birds out in the woods, but he don't see none, he searches further into the thicket to flush 'em out. If the writers are not forthcoming, SEARCH FURTHER."

Randy was rightly concerned and decided to talk with the faculty advisor of *The Crapper*, who was about to head out west to another college. Randy paraphrased his spilt innerds to Marv Gails and he said, "Well, yeah, the editors pulled the shades over on me. I did not get to see all that was submitted to *The Crapper*." Thus, he washed his hands clean like Pilot, unlike the editorial board.

Randy with his hands shoved in his pockets, grumbled out to whomever was listening, "What can these self-centered porridge poet eater say fer themselves? Can they say they looked into each corner for the darkest root to be picked, or did they finger themselves for the issue?"

UNION EVENTS

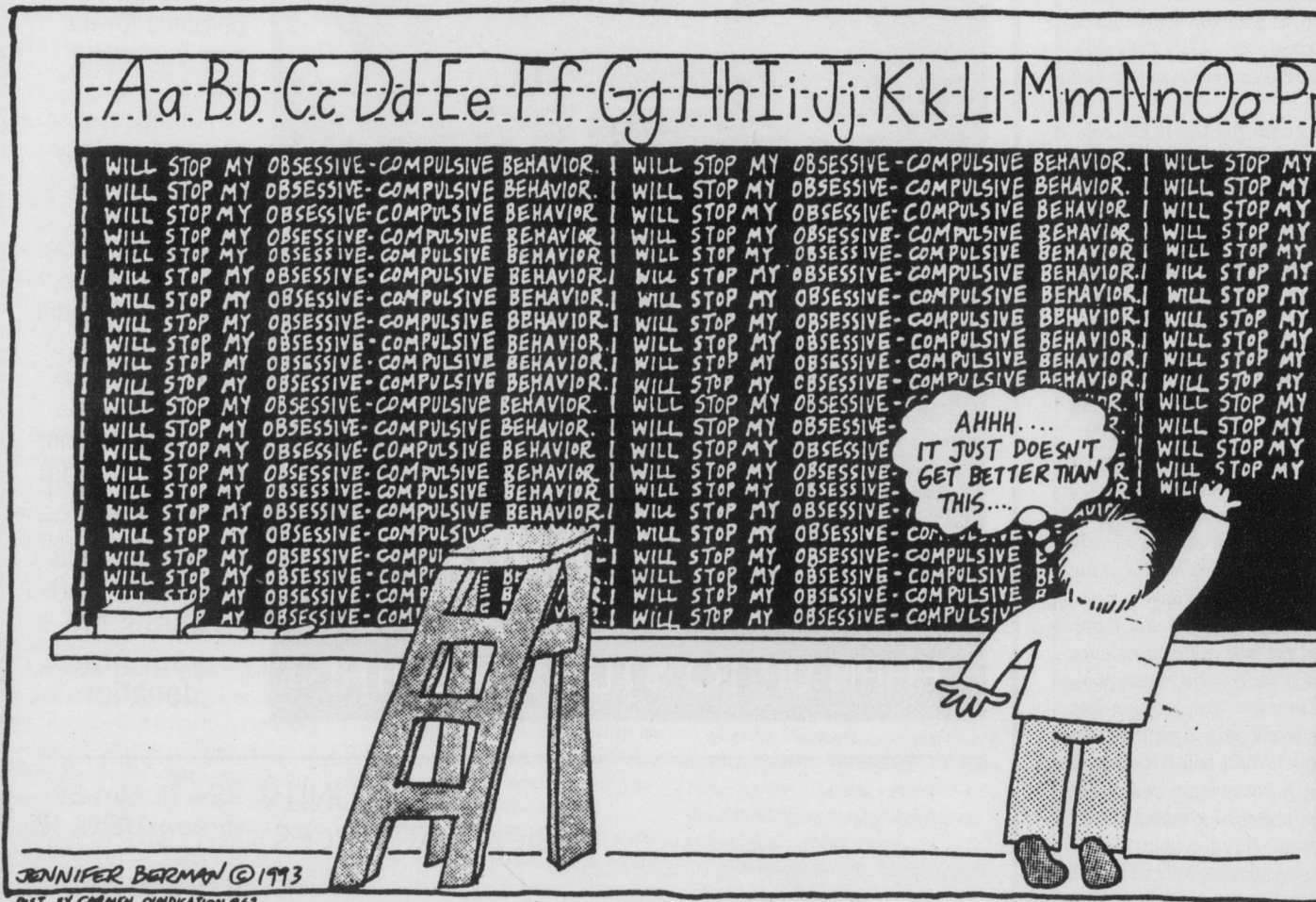
Friday, Sep. 24 --
Colonel Bruce Hampton & the Aquarium Rescue Unit
-student need to bring their I.D.'s
-off-campus \$10
9:00 PM
Dana Auditorium

Sunday, Sep. 26 --
movie in the Under ground
"Reservoir Dogs"
8:00 PM

Monday, Sep. 27 --
Union Forum
-all students welcome
9:00 PM
Boren Lounge

Thursday, Sep. 30 --
Rollerskating
-free for Guilford Students
10:30 PM - 12:30 AM
Skateland USA

Friday, Oct. 1 --
Student Coffeehouse
8:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Sternberger



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