



Oh Yeah?

by F.N. Stewart

The Art of Coal Fires

Many years from now it will be funny as hell. In fact, it is ALMOST funny now. You see, I live in a huge fourteen-room house. Now a house like that is really fun to live in; because, it provides a completely new world of experiences just about every week. This week is has been a new and unfamiliar disgust with the principle of heating a room with a fireplace in which is burning coal.

The oil ran out again, again on a Wednesday, and again when the temperature was playing somewhere in the teen's. Something there is about an oil-burner furnace which does not like heating on Wednesdays. Now we hve used up better than seven hundred gallons of oil in a couple of months. That's right, seven hundred gallons of oil in a couple of months. A gallon of oil is not expensive, only about seventeen cents a gallon. But seven hundred gallons of oil is expensive; and rather than have the oil man really hate us for not paying the bill or retire very young when we pay the bill we decided to change to another form of heating. If we don't use anymore oil, we won't owe the oil man any more money. He has been very understanding so far, but, I don't really want to know how far his understanding will go.

So we decided to change to electric heating because, all in oil, heating is expensive, as I have just said. But not having enough money to buy electric heaters, because we paid the oil man part of what we owed him, we had to have another means of heating until we got together enough money to pay for electric heaters. Now the house has five fireplaces in it. The trouble is that the fireplaces are little ones designed to burn coal (which was probably the way a house was heated when this one was built.) I have heard my mother talk of having to carry in wood and coal when she was a little girl. But (and not to tell how my mother is) Mom's age would give only a little change from a half-century mark. So heating a room with coal is a new idea for me. I had always thought of fireplaces as being something completely ornamental to a house and having no practical purposes whatsoever. Now after using them for a while, I am convinced that fireplaces are only ornamental and have no practical purposes whatsoever. Electric heating will probably be best, if we ever get any.

Cold Coal

The first noticeable thing about coal is that it turns anything it touches, or that touches it, completely black. Hands, shirts, pants, rugs, shoes, walls, floors, and noses seem to be favorites for coal smears. Coal does not ignite easily. You have to build a wood fire first to create enough heat to light the coal. And as everyone knows, wood fires have to have wood. Wood is a common item, but wood to burn in a fireplace to start a coal fire is not so common. We have found, thru experience, that old crates are excellent for starting wood fires. We gather enough old CHARLOTTE OBSERVER'S and another newspaper and start the pieces of crates burning. Once the wood catches and begins to burn well, we pour on the coal.

When cold coal is poured onto a hot fire the result is a mess. Coal soot fills the room and settles on everything in the room. It has a clinging way of going into noses, ears, and hair. This undelightful process will continue as long as the coal is producing a flame. Incidentally, it is not the flames from burnin coal that heat a room; it is the coal's coals, when glowing red hot, that heat a room. The heat from the flames goes right up the chimney, doing nothing in the meantime but drawing cold air into the room as the hot air rises. After a long while the coal will settle into glowing embers of heat. But, sadly, this time of glowing does not extend over a long period of time, so fresh cold coal must be put onto the fire thus beginning the whole mess once again.

Gold Coal

Coal becomes a precious thing. We actually begin to steal coal from one another. There may be honor among thieves, but on a cold night when there are three different fireplaces burning coal there is no honor among friends, at least not as far as coal is concerned.

"Who got my coal?" says the first.
 "Must have been the girl you dated last weekend, I haven't been that close to you," says the second.
 "Don't look at me, I got a flu," says the third.
 "Oh yeah, and I bet your flue is burning my coal," says the first.
 "Well get yourself a couple of aspirin," says the third.
 "You can't burn aspirins," says the first.
 "Sure you can," says the second, "throw them on the coal."

Coal fires will eventually heat a room...eventually. You usually don't care by then, because you have gone to so much trouble to get a fire started and have suffered so much from the soot and smell that you are almost content to sit around and study your stoic philosophy with a heavy coat on (plus sweaters, scarfs, gloves, two pairs of pants, and a hat).

If you are romantic, the open fire in the room causes fire-gazing and daydreaming. There is something nice about an open fire in a chilly room, except when the fire is on the rug. That happens occasionally also. You cannot study by firelight, leastwise not study books by firelight. Because the side next to the fire is always too hot and the other side of your body is too cold. Anyway, you can't see the words on the page.

Cold fires, which is what coal fires are, are nice for teaching humility, tolerance, and patience; but I wouldn't want to heat a room with one. If I have seemed to describe coal fires as bad, they are not...they are worse!

Additional Appointments Announced

On Friday, January 10, the University appointed two new faculty members. - Ernest Carter Grant as assistant professor of engineering and Dr. Robert Milnor Gleaves as assistant professor of Spanish. Both appointments were effective September, 1969.

Mr. Grant, a native of Windsor, holds a BS, BSEE, and MS from N. C. State. In the past he has worked as a computer systems engineer for the Naval Electronics Systems Command, has served as an electronics engineer for the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, and as a teaching fellow and assistant research engineer at the University of Michigan. He holds one patent and has another which is pending.

Mr. Gleaves holds the BA degree from David Lipscomb College and the MA and PH.D. degrees from Vanderbilt University. He was an assistant professor at the University of South Florida before coming here. He also served as a teaching assistant while at Vanderbilt. He has published one article and has several on which he is presently working.

The University also announced two new promotions which will be effective July 1. Susan Smythe Crane was promoted from instructor to assistant professor. She is assistant head of the technical services division in the UNC-C Library.

William A. Smith was promoted from instructor to assistant professor of electrical engineering.

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte has named Neal K. Cheek to the position of assistant director of admissions. Mr. Cheek will be responsible for freshman admissions and recruiting, working particularly with high school counselors.

He has just completed an

internship program in the admissions office of the University of South Carolina where he received his MA degree. He is a cum laude graduate of Wake Forest University.

A graduate of Myers Park High School, he has been a resident of Charlotte for 16 years.

Film Contest Scheduled

Creative students on campus will finally have a chance to demonstrate their talents. Bill Osborne, Chairman of the Committee of The Arts of The Association of College Unions International, has announced the newest project of his committee; they are sponsoring the "First Annual Association of College Unions International Independent Film Makers Competition."

The project is designed to provide an outlet for the creativity of the young film makers of today. Competition is open to anyone who is regularly served by a University Union; however, each entry must be endorsed by the Union Director. All entries will be viewed by a Union committee before they can be submitted.

Each contestant must pay a \$4.00 registration fee to cover handling, return postage, and insurance.

Entries may be in 8mm, 16mm, black and white, color, sound, or silent. All entries must arrive in Gainesville, Florida no later than February 15, 1969.

Judging of the films will be at the J. Wayne Reitz Union at the University of Florida from February 21 to February 23, with

the judging to be conducted by film professionals. Entrants may sit in on screenings.

The actual presentation of awards is planned for March 25, at the Denver Conference. Prizes and awards are to include \$2000 in cash awards, plus merchandise prizes and trophies.

Top winning films will be compiled into one show which will be viewed at the award presentations; it will also be available for rental to member institutions after March 25.

Interested students should see Mr. Winniman in U-266 for entry blanks. Come on, film makers; here's your golden opportunity.

GONDOLA



Restaurant

Have
YOU
tried our
LASAGNA?

W. MOREHEAD AT INDEPENDENCE

The Amber House

A good University like UNC-C deserves good food, and that's what we serve from six in the morning 'til 11:30 at night.

5625 North Tryon Street

Bulletins

Snow

Unless otherwise specifically communicated over T.V. and radio, classes will be held. An attempt will be made to have the switchboard open on such days so that students may call the school in order to receive information concerning class cancellation.

Parking

The Traffic and Parking Committee has been extremely lenient over the past semester with regard to parking violations. This policy was necessary because many parking areas were not properly marked. At this time parking lots ARE properly marked and students are advised to avoid parking in prohibited spaces (such as yellow lanes, and the through road in the main lot at C building) because violations will no longer be dealt with leniently.

Emergency permits are available in the Business office at no cost when an unregistered car must be parked on Campus due to unusual circumstances.

Give

The Drive to help Vietnamese orphans will continue into Second Semester - Have you contributed.

HERLOCKER'S PARK DRIVE-IN

1 1/2 Miles Behind UNC-C on Route 29



On the Curb or inside

Students enjoy the Herlock Burger "A Meal on a Bun" for only 19c

UNC-C Bookstore

BUY BACKS - the UNC C BOOKSTORE has begun buying back old texts. If you have some to sell, hurry over with them; we can buy back only a limited number.

100 of the newest records on order, including the new one by the BEATLES that has been banned so far. We'll have them in (in a plain brown wrapper) as soon as the New Jersey Police finish looking at the cover. Keep you posted!

Read any good books lately? Read any books lately? Read any lately? We've got any you could possibly want. [and if we don't have it, we'll order it for you!]



Drop buy sometime!

After a little shelf-shifting, we're now ready for the spring semester. Are you?