

Miss September



(Staff Photo—Killough)

Miss Judith Mauldwin

Miss Judith Mauldwin, a sophomore at Charlotte College, is employed by Ivey's Department Store. Judith, 19, is 5'5" tall and has blonde hair and brown eyes. She is a graduate of West Mecklenburg High School.

Book Review

By George Killough

The Black Obelisk, by Erich Maria Remarque, translated from the German by Denver Lindley; 434 pp., price \$4.50.

In 1923 a vanquished Germany experienced a wild inflation, and it is during this uncertain era, in the city of Werdenbrück, that the author places his young hero, Ludwig Bodmer. Bodmer, a twenty-five year old veteran of World War I and man of literary aspirations, wanders across a vivid background in his quest for the true meaning of human existence, encountering characters which possess a striking *verité*. Through his humorous and sometimes touching adventures sifts a message which is now cynical and now hopeful.

The black obelisk is an unsalable monstrosity, the first acquisition of the firm Heinrich Kroll and Sons, Funeral Monuments, with whom young Bodmer is employed. The obelisk, having been in stock for many a year, has become almost a trademark of the company.

The firm is operated by Georg and Heinrich Kroll, the younger, the elder Kroll having passed away. Bodmer and the cheerfully cynical Georg get along well together, but Heinrich is the butt of an unceasing cannonade of jesting. Heinrich is a highly successful salesman and is well acquainted with the ins and outs of the tombstone trade, but his long-term payment plans cost the company dearly in the face of the ravaging inflation. His combination of a narrow mind, ludicrous eccentricities, and Nazi sympathies provide an interesting contrast between humor and foreboding.

Also among the colorful *dramatis personae* are Kurt Bach, the agnostic monument sculptor of questionable achievement, whose phi-

losophy embraces only pleasures of the flesh; and old Wilke, the superstitious coffin-maker, whose romantic endeavors have been thwarted by the nature of his work.

Then there is Lisa, the voluptuous wife of Watzek, the horse butcher. Bodmer is almost slain by her jealous husband, who guesses that she is having a love affair. He is placated by our young hero, and in friendship's name, the butcher sends him a generous portion of horse sausage.

Bodmer earns extra income by occasional tutoring and by playing the organ at Sunday Mass at an insane asylum. It is here that he becomes infatuated by a beautiful inmate, a schizophrenic who calls herself Isabelle and who fancies him to be a former lover of hers. Her eventual recovery results in the loss of her love for him.

Also included in his romantic adventures is Gerda, a pretty girl acrobat, who causes him considerable annoyance when she discovers a questionable attraction for Edward Knobloch, the parsimonious owner of the Walhalla restaurant, a man with whom Bodmer has been waging a good-natured feud.

An excursion of the local poet's club for the purpose of educating a naive young poet to certain facts of life may prove humorous to many readers. The poet's encounter with the Iron Horse provides him the inspiration for many future verses.

Bodmer finally receives the opportunity to work for a Berlin newspaper. The Iron Horse's death and Bodmer's sale of the black obelisk to mark her place of rest seem to be a symbol of the story's turning point. The last chapter could be styled an epilogue, for it

Features

The Traveling Salesman

A lady who lives in the wealthy section of New England has a small son who fell out of a row-boat on a pond near the family mansion and came back home soaked from head to foot. She told him he must stay in his room until she could dry out his suit and iron it for him. A little later she heard a commotion in the cellar. Exasperated, she left the ironing board, and called down from the top of the basement stairs, "Are you down there wetting your pants again?" There was a dead silence for a moment. Then a deep masculine voice answered meekly, "No ma'am. I'm just reading the meter."

In Washington, a government survey was ordered to study the migratory habits of birds. Thousands of species were released with metal strips attached reading, "Notify Fish and Wildlife Division. Wash. Biol. Surv." The abbreviation was changed abruptly following receipt of this penciled note from a vexed Alberta agriculturist: "(Gents: I shot one of your crows last week and followed instructions attached to it. I washed it, biled it, and surved it. It was awful. You should stop trying to fool the public with things like this.")

Carl Sandburg was persuaded to attend the dress rehearsal of a very serious play by a very serious young dramatist, but unfortunately slept through a greater part of the performance. The outraged dramatist chided him later, "How could you sleep when you knew how much I wanted your opinion?" Sandburg reminded him, "Young man, sleep is an opinion."

The origin of Kissing: prehistoric man discovered that salt helped him survive the fierce summer heat. He also discovered that he could get salt by licking his companion's cheek. The next thing he observed was that the whole process became ever so much more interesting when the companion belonged to the opposite sex. First thing you know, the whole tribe had forgotten about salt.

Thanks to Bennett Cerf for the above, taken from his book, *Good For a Laugh*.

ties together a number of loose ends and answers the reader's question, "What happened afterwards?"

Bodmer's various philosophies, evoked by divers stimuli and changing moods, provide many fascinating contrasts, as do his adventures. Almost any reader will find that some portion of the book will ring a bell from his own experience, if he does not immediately identify himself with Bodmer.

In this, his latest work, the author of *All Quiet on the Western Front* has penned an unassuming masterpiece. Even the most critical reader must admit that what the book lacks in epic dimensions and sensationalism is fully compensated by the author's insight and the force of his simple style. The lack of a strong plot is a definite asset to this type of novel, which attains its unity through its vivid characterizations, rather than a labyrinth of complex events.

A wealth of continental atmosphere seeps through the excellent translation by Denver Lindley.

SHOWDOWN

By Johnny Craig

Don't quote me, but . . .

I've started my column in the *Collegian* in the same manner for almost a year, and for the benefit of the new students, I would like to say that I have been called the "New Look" *Collegian's* answer to the syndicate's Earl Wilson or Walter Winchell, and my aim is to give you a behind the scenes look at the forthcoming attractions here in Charlotte.

DEALER'S CHOICE . . .

The picture "The Joker is Wild," starring Frank Sinatra, Mitzi Gaynor, Jeannie Craine, and Eddie Albert, is the relived biography of Joe E. Lewis, perennial and popular night club luminary. Based on a book by Art Cohn, the screenplay traces the life of the funnyman from his debut in Chicago niteries through the present time when he is still knocking 'em out of their chairs with his inimitable, puckishly suggestive, hard-drinking brand of humor.

This Paramount production is due to be released the first of October.

(MESSAGE Continued)

ment in curricular and extra-curricular activities. Although you may be employed part-time in addition to your hours of study and class preparation, there should also be some time for extra-curricular affairs. The Student Government will offer a variety of activities in which you will be invited to participate. Your area of service may be found in selling advertisement for the yearbook, writing an article for the news-

ACE IN THE HOLE . . .

Since we are playing table stakes, I'll bet all my loot that the movie "Around the World in 80 Days" will play at the Manor Theatre until Thanksgiving.

You may think the price is high, but the entertainment will far surpass the admission.



THE DEALER'S DOPE . . .

"Affair in Reno" is 75 minutes of delightful comedy and drama, starring an all-star cast. This movie—along with "Sea Wife," with Joan Collins; "House of Numbers," starring Jack Palance; and "Pickup Alley," featuring Victor Mature and Anita Ekberg—are all due to be released in September.

THE POOR MAN'S STAKES . . .

For your best entertainment buy, mark October 19 on your weekend calendar.

paper, or playing on the basketball team. Your contribution to Charlotte College will go far in promoting its progress.

It is our sincere hope that your days at Charlotte College will be happy and successful ones and that you will come to love your college as you assume your part in building its future. This is your college; let's work together to make this a better year for you!

Bonnie E. Cone, Director

Poet's Corner

By Hal Kellams



(Editor's Note: the space donated to Mr. Kellams is his own, and does not necessarily reflect the mental ability of the rest of the staff.)

THE PROMISE

The sunlight's flash on scarlet and gold
Sends out the season's message.
Fall encroaching ever on,
Marks the summer's passage.

Gone are the beachside frolic times,
Memories now, no more.
Time here for more studious pastime,
Than lying on the shore.

Soon coming on are the winter days,
Whose frigid arms shall hold,
All the land in its icy grip,
Nipping, chilling, cold.

With the land now dying all around,
Oh, to hear a robin sing.
Held close and dear to the hearts of all,
The promise of next spring.

GOODBYE

Hy diddle, diddle
a cat and a fiddle
a cow jumped over the moon
if your brains are so rattled
that you now believe this prattle
You'll be going away real soon.

LUNACY

Quickly, quickly I must away
a minute longer I cannot stay
I've things of much import to do
and if you believe that you're
crazy too.

GIVE ALL

To pass my course
I'll surely try.
My motto is
to do or die.

If such the case
shall be with me
where is the spot
my grave shall be?