

# Mates switch roles, empathize with each other

"There comes a time when the house is a cage and the family seems to be a warden, a time when the sheer glamourlessness of it all finally gets to you, a time when you find yourself face to face with your own loneliness."

Sound like a frustrated housewife? Well, actually it's a frustrated househusband.

"The Kitchen Sink Papers," by Mike McGrady, is about the author's year of "male motherhood."

McGrady was a syndicated columnist for Long Island's "Newsday." He was forty years old, married sixteen years, and had three children. His job brought fame, fortune and artistic gratification.

"The very harmony of my life was one of the reasons for changing it. I found myself wondering whether even paradise would turn out to be a colossal bore."

His wife, Corinne, was becoming bored with being a housewife at the same time. She had begun to develop her artistic talent by creating cookbook stands out of plastic.

After many threats of role reversal, the couple finally decided to try it late in 1973.

Corinne would pay all the bills, play father and do all the men's work, while Mike would keep up the house, cook and take care of the kids — woman's work.

At times they were troubled with who should handle which job — like helping the

sorting of socks. I washed... three dozen pairs of socks, all of them wool, most of them varying shades of gray." And then, of course, Mother Mike got all the questions he never had time to hear before: "Dad, what is rape anyhow?"

The three children were a bit confused by the switch. They didn't know who to go to for favors anymore. When Liam, the youngest son, lost a tooth he said, "I think the good-tooth fairy will bring fifty cents for this one." Mike told him he was too old to believe in such things, but Liam shrugged it off. "Never mind, Dad. It's not your job this year. I'll tell Mom about it."

Their role reversal also brought strange reactions from their friends. Any time they went to a dinner party someone would ask Mike what he was doing now — working on some great novel? And when Mike and Corinne explained the situation the reaction was always the same. "What are you really doing?"

"The women's reactions constantly surprised me... I would never have guessed that they would be so threatened by the loss of servant's status."

## books

by Neva Dennis  
Staff Writer

The Kitchen Sink Papers, by Mike McGrady.  
Doubleday, 185 pages, \$6.95

youngest son assemble an airplane, help him launch it and watch it crash. The present father? It was surely a man's job to work on a model with his son. He had always helped before, and besides, Corinne knew nothing of the mechanics of an airplane.

But most often the roles were clearly defined and always funny. "There had been nothing in my background to prepare me for

McGrady wrote a best-selling novel, *Naked Came the Stranger*, and two non-fiction books, *A Dove in Vietnam* and *Stranger than Naked, Or How to Write Dirty Books for Fun and Profit*. His style in *The Kitchen Sink Papers* is closer to the novelist than the reporter. He goes into detailed descriptions of everything he does from cleaning to cooking, including his family's reactions — "Yeck... This is gloopy." However, his detail never gets tiresome because it's important to his view of the woman's role. And he admits that he still slips into the traditional male attitudes.

His description was often full of analogies to make you see or feel what he was saying. "Losing an identity was in some ways like losing an anchor, for a time I felt adrift, floating." Or, when he was experiencing his first ironing job — "No assembly line worker in Detroit, no person tightening the same bolt on the same door of every sedan coming out of the factory, ever put in more dummy time than a normal housewife." Or, when he talked about the joys of motherhood — "True, I was the servant, the deliveryman, the cook and the chauffeur — but at least I was part of their lives."

McGrady's object, from the beginning of the experiment, was to prove that such a reversal could be done. But in the end, and you sense this throughout the book, he is convinced that... "The sole benefit of an experiment such as this one... is that each person will begin to understand the problems of the other."

When he realized how fast his one hundred dollar a week allowance was gone, he was embarrassed to ask for a raise. He

tried hinting at it because he remembered fighting with Corinne the year before about her raise from \$90 to \$100. Now he saw that inflation had taken a greater toll on prices than he had thought.

The organization of the book is chronological at time. He has some chapters designated as days. Yet McGrady sometimes back tracks at awkward moments, so you're never sure where you are in time.

Since the title of the book *The Kitchen Sink*

*Papers* implies an intriguing outlook or unexpected disclosure like *The Pentagon Papers*, the reader might be disappointed. But McGrady does illuminate things we take for granted about all mothers and housewives. As he develops a better understanding of the housewife's role, so does the reader. He makes you appreciate all that your mother (or wife) has done. And he makes you wonder how you could have been so ungrateful.

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## KALEIDOSCOPE

### Cinema

Chapel Hill

**High Society**—(Shows at 7 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday in the Chapel Hill Public Library. Free admission.)

**Conduct Unbecoming**—A sordid crime occurs in the British Army in India and a tense trial results. With Michael York and Susannah York. (The Movies 3. Shows at 3, 5, 7 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$2.)

**Emmanuelle**—French Porn. (The Movies 1. Shows at 3:10, 4:50, 6:30, 8:10 and 9:50 p.m. Admission: \$2.)

**Let's Do It Again**—A sequel to the popular "Uptown Saturday Night." With Sidney Poitier, Bill Cosby, and Jimmy Walker. (Plaza 2. Shows at 2:45, 4:55, 7:05 and 9:15 p.m. Admission: \$2.25.)

**Last Days of Man on Earth**—(Plaza 3, Shows at 2, 3:25, 4:50, 6:15, 7:40 and 9:05 p.m. Admission: \$2.25.)

**The Night Caller**—With Jean-Paul Belmondo. (The Movies 2. Shows at 2:20, 4:10, 6, 7:50 and 9:40 p.m. Admission: \$2.)

**Royal Flash**—Richard Lester directed this film based on the very funny George MacDonald Fraser novel. With Malcolm McDowell and Alan Bates. (Plaza 1. Shows at 2:05, 3:55, 5:45, 7:35 and 9:30 p.m. Admission: \$2.25.)

**A Shot in the Dark**—The second film featuring Peter Sellers as Inspector Clouseau. With Elke Sommer. (Carolina. Shows at 7 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$2.25.)

**Women in Love**—Ken Russell's juicy version of the D. H. Lawrence novel. With Oliver Reed, Alan Bates and Glenda Jackson. (Varsity. Shows at 2:20, 4:40, 7 and 9:20 p.m. Admission: \$2.25.)

Durham

**A Boy and His Dog**—"An R-rated, rather kinky tale of survival." (Northgate 2. Shows at 2:20, 4, 5:40, 7:20 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$2.50.)

**Farewell Scarlet**—A sexual whodunit. X-rated. (Yorktowne 2. Shows at 1:45, 3:35, 5:25, 7:15 and 9:05 p.m. Admission: \$3.)

**Let's Do It Again**—(Center 2. Shows at 2:15, 4:30, 6:45 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$2.50.)

**Rooster Cogburn**—A sequel to "True Grit", with John Wayne as the one-eyed, cockeyed sheriff, Rooster Cogburn. With Katharine Hepburn. (Carolina. Shows at 3:26, 5:19, 7:12 and 9:05 p.m. Admission: \$2.50.)

**Royal Flash**—(Northgate 1. Shows at 1:35, 3:25, 5:20, 7:10 and 9 p.m. Admission: \$2.50.)

abc southeastern Theatres

**Carolina**  
CHAPEL HILL

ENDS THURSDAY

7-9

**PETER SELLERS**  
and ELKE SOMMER in  
BLAKE EDWARD'S

A SHOT IN THE DARK

Varsity

2:20  
4:40  
7:00  
9:20

D. H. LAWRENCE'S  
"WOMEN IN LOVE"

**Three Days of the Condor**—Robert Redford versus the CIA. With Faye Dunaway. (Yorktowne 1. Shows at 2:20, 4:40, 7, and 9:20 p.m. Admission: \$2.50.)

**Treasure Island and Dr. Syn**—A Walt Disney double feature. (Center 1. Shows at 2, 3:30, 5, 6:30, 8 and 9:30 p.m. Admission: \$2.50.)

### Music

The **UNC Jazz Lab Band** will perform at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday in the Pit (or in Great Hall if the weather is bad).

The **UNC Men's Glee Club**, directed by Robert Porco, will perform at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Hill Music Hall. Free admission.

### Theatre

**Kiss Me Kate** continues at the Village Dinner Theatre in Durham. All shows begin at 8:20 p.m. and a buffet dinner is served from 6:45-8 p.m. Tickets are \$10.50 Sunday and Tuesday-Thursday, \$11.50 Friday and \$12.50 Saturday.

The Duke Players are sponsoring a **playwriting contest** and will perform the winning entry. Original (one-act, full-length or radio) plays will be accepted through Dec. 4. For more information, call the Branson Theatre (684-3181).

**1776** will be presented at 4 and 8:30 p.m. Dec. 5 in Page Auditorium. Tickets are available at Page Box Office.

**1776** will also be presented at 8 p.m. Dec. 7 in the Stewart Theatre, N.C. State. Tickets are available at the Stewart Theatre Box Office.

**Don't Bother Me I Can't Cope**, winner of the 1972 Drama Desk Award and Obie Award for best musical, will be presented at 3 and 8 p.m. Dec. 6. For reservations, call the Stewart Theatre Box Office (737-3105).

### Gallery

The **George Kachergis Retrospective Exhibition**, works by the late UNC art professor, is displayed through Jan. 4 in the Ackland Art Center. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and 2-6 p.m. Sunday.

Watercolors by local artist Anthony Ballenger are displayed through Nov. 30 in

the movies

1  
2  
3

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3-5-7 & 9 p.m.

Now At The Movies 3



the North Gallery of Morehead Planetarium. Hours: 2-5 p.m. and 7:30-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and 7:30-10 p.m. Saturday, and 1-5 p.m. and 7:30-10 p.m. Sunday.

**Michael Naranjo**, sculptor, will display his works through Nov. 30 in Mary Duke Biddle Gallery for the Blind, third floor of the N.C. Museum of Art, Raleigh. The **38th Annual North Carolina Artists Exhibition** continues through Dec. 14 on the fourth floor of the N.C. Museum of Art.

### Olio

**Child of the Universe** continues through Nov. 24 at the Morehead Planetarium. **Star of Bethlehem** starts Nov. 25. Shows are at 8 p.m. weekdays; 11 a.m., 1, 3 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; and 2, 3 and 8 p.m. Sundays. Admission: \$1 for children under 12 or through grade six, \$1.25 for students and senior citizens and \$1.50 for other adults.

A \$1500 grand prize will be awarded in the current **poetry contest** sponsored by the *World of Poetry*, a monthly newsletter for poets. Poems of all styles and on any subject are eligible for competition. Rules and official entry forms are available by writing to: *World of Poetry*, 801 Portola Drive, Department 211, San Francisco, Calif. 94127. Contest deadline is Nov. 30, 1975.

**Sammers First Annual Photography Contest and Show** will be held during June and July 1976 in the Colorfax Galleries in Washington, D.C. Only college students are eligible to participate. Color and black and white photography may be submitted in sized up to 8 X 10 to Sammers First Annual Photography Contest and Shows, P.O. Box 243, Falls Church, Va. 22046. There is a \$1 entry fee for each photo submitted and each should be labeled with your name and address. Contest deadline is Feb. 25, 1976. Emory Kristoff, staff photographer for the *National Geographic*, and Sue Neighbors, free lance artist whose latest work is the October cover for the *National Observer* and Rachel Gilbert, gallery coordinator for the seven Colorfax Galleries in the Washington, D.C. area, will judge. First prize is \$150.

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2:05  
3:55  
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7:35  
9:30

ALAN BATES

**Royal Flash**

PHONE 967-4737

**Plaza 2** HELD OVER

ELIOT RD. AT E. FRANKLIN

5th BIG WEEK

2:45  
4:55  
7:05  
9:15

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**Plaza 3** NOW SHOWING

ELIOT RD. AT E. FRANKLIN

2:00  
3:25  
4:50  
6:15  
7:40  
9:05

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ECON. 32-2	Howle	11:00 MW
ECON. 32-1	Field	9:30 TTh
ANTH. 41-7	Wessman	12:00 MWF
ANTH. 41-3	Patrick	11:00 TTh
ANTH. 41-4	Polgar	9:30 TTh
SOC. 52-3	Landsberger	1:00 MW
PHIL. 20	Rosenberg	10:00 MWF
POLI. SCI. 17-1	Clinton	12:30 TTh
POLI. SCI. 41A-1	Richardson	11:00 TTh
POLI. SCI. 86A	Scott	10:00 MW

We are still waiting for approval from the professors of several other courses. We will be glad to record and transcribe any course which has an enrollment of 200 or more, with the permission of your professor.

The subscription fee for all courses in \$10.00 if you register by January 17, 1976.

After this date the subscription fee will be \$15.00.