

Dudley's

# STARGAZER

When Columbia brought out "A Man for All Seasons" some fifteen months ago, one could easily see how a single motion picture is capable of glorifying the name of its releasing firm. But now, even if Robert Bolt's a classic were not a grace to the name, Columbia would have a film capable of bringing it to the same level.

This most distinguished measure of cinematic excellence is James Clavell's screening of the popular novel "To Sir, with Love". Poignant it is, though just a mite corny, and modern and, in its own way, beautiful, "To Sir" is the story of an unemployed Negro with an engineering degree who, for want of a weekly paycheck, accepts a teaching assignment in one of the rowdiest high schools in London's West End. In a semester he has even the most uncooperative of students addressing him as "Sir" and behaving in a way befitting adults, both in and out of the classroom.

This incredible man is Mark Thackeray, and his charges are the collective rejects from most of London's other schools, thrown together indiscriminately with an opportunity to show their absolute lack of

breeding and ethics. Initially the kids take Sir and his values and his outlook on life as a farce; but when he announces that they are to be treated respectfully with the understanding that they shall learn to merit respect, they suddenly realize that he is not joking, that they actually must face responsible adulthood in order to meet the world and find acceptance after they graduate.

The lead role is filled very fittingly by the magnificent Sidney Poitier, who unquestionably deserves an Oscar for this brilliant portrayal. Those around him, most notably Judy Geeson and Christian Roberts, and, in the background, Geoffrey Bauldon, add to the superiority of his vehicle. Miss Geeson is one of Thackeray's female problem pupils and Roberts, the most unruly of the males. Mr. Bayldon, portraying another teacher named Weston, appears occasionally to preach his pessimistic philosophies of the education world.

"To Sir" is somewhat unrealistic, granted; but it is encouraging in its suggestion that such a crowd of in-kids as Thackeray was faced with can be made human after all. They are not teenagers in need of discipline, as Sir discovered, but instead a gang of children who had just never found a pressing need to grow up. So Thackeray did the only thing possible: he made education a game, explaining to the class that "It seems you know so little and laugh so well that we ought to have a right good time together." And so they do, and so will the audience, for this helping of corn and cacophony is nothing short of a hopelessly hopeful pipe dream.

# Sex Symposium Focuses On Abortions

Medical, legislative, and sociological-psychological aspects of abortion were featured Sunday evening in the second of three symposia on sex sponsored by the Student Christian Council. Views were presented by a three-member panel composed of Dr. Murdock McKeithen, Laurinburg physician; State Senator Jack White; Mr. Kenneth Kramer, St. Andrews instructor.

Dr. McKeithen started the program by defining abortion as the emptying of the uterus. The three principal types are spontaneous (for no apparent reason), therapeutic (usually by a physician for psychological or physical health reasons), and criminal (illegal and usually crude). Hemorrhaging and infection often are complications rising out of illegal abortions. Dr. McKeithen added that there is no pill yet available to induce an abortion.

Senator White, promoter of North Carolina's law liberalizing abortion, explained some background of the recently-enacted law. For over a hundred years North Carolina made abortion illegal unless the life of the woman was in danger. The new law makes some provision for legal abortions if the life of the mother or her mental health is at stake, if the child would be born with defects, or in the case of rape or incest. To make rape or incest a valid reason, the offense must be reported to police within seven days. The woman must have been a resident of the state at least four months prior to the operation. In addition, three doctors not associated in the same office must certify that the abortion is necessary. "This is to prevent our becoming an 'Abortion state,'" the Senator explained. If done outside the law, abortion is a

felony punishable from one to ten years. Available statistics indicate that to one-one and a half million abortions are performed in the U. S. each year with about 8,000 legal.

Senator White estimates that most abortions are on married women, though it would seem otherwise. Senator White believes that there is no compro-

mise to this question; one is either for or against reforming the law. Objectors include religious groups that consider abortion murder. He feels that "birth" is the point of becoming human. Thus, to the senator, the morality of abortion is a matter of deciding whether life begins at conception, birth, or the acquiring of reasoning ability.



## Gustafsons Leave St. Andrews, Promotion And Retirement

By SCOT McCREA

In 1958, Flora MacDonald College hired Robert Gustafson as an associate professor of religion in order to give Professor Leslie Bullock time to concentrate on developing the Christianity and Culture Program.

Professor Gustafson assumed responsibilities in the department of religion, and C&C was subsequently begun. Professor Gustafson is obviously vintage material at St. Andrews, and it is with profound regret that the St. Andrews community learned of his recent decision to leave Laurinburg and SA for another post in Whiteville, N. C.

The good professor has decided to accept the position of Dean of Instruction at the new Southeastern Community College in Whiteville, though the decision was obviously a difficult one to make. The Gustafsons are as sad about leaving the admittedly unique SA community as they are looking forward to the tremendous challenge they feel is offered at Southeastern.

Obviously, the Gustafsons have mixed emotions about the future. Prof. Gustafson could not hide his anticipation of his new job, and explained it in detail. The college is unique in many ways; first, an open door policy on admissions is maintained, meaning that any high school graduate can attend with only basic stipulations.

Secondly, the college offers several major programs simultaneously. There is a "college parallel" program, which is basically the first two years of a liberal arts course; a technical program, offering studies in TV, radio, automotive engineering, electronics, etc.; a vocational program, for those interested in secretarial skills and the like; a vast adult program that goes on continually, and finally a night program.

Each department has its own dean, each of whom is then (or will be) linked to "Dean" Gustafson, who will act as overall Dean of Instruction. The potential is obvious and Prof. Gustafson's choice is understandable, despite his regret at leaving St. Andrews.

How does the outgoing assistant professor of mathematics, Mrs. Gus feel about pulling up roots once again and starting anew? She could not answer for a moment because she was attending to the needs of their daughter Sheryl, but when things were calm for a moment we learned that Mrs. Gus is retiring from teaching to become a "dean's wife".

Prof. Gustafson is anticipating the kind of success at Southeastern that California has had with its fantastic junior college system, which provides for a wide variety of potential students, while taking some of the pressure off of the senior colleges.

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