

How To Get an "A"

By Beth Battle

I first wrote this article for the December issue of the Belles. Unfortunately, exams caught up with me along with laziness, and I didn't turn it in on time. Luckily, though, I have a second chance to write it. Hopefully, with a little revision, it will be just as informative and useful.

The Belles staff recognizes the fact that there are people on this campus with academic troubles. Grades have come out and we are now facing heat from both our parents and the administration to step up the effort we put in academics. For many, this semester will determine whether we graduate or not, so good grades are imperative. We realize how important hard work is, but it always helps to have an extra advantage. Here's the advantage. Several teachers graciously told me their Christmas wishes, wishes that in several cases were not granted. With Valentine's Day coming, a great way to put your teachers in a good mood is to fulfill these wishes. Give them what they didn't get for Christmas and perhaps they'll give you a better grade.

Dean Watson personally assured an "A" for anyone who would get her a new dodger for her sailboat. I know that she didn't get one for Christmas but she'll still take one, even on Valentine's Day. This is good news for every student, especially the ones in her British History. Maybe the whole class can get together and buy it.

The English department asked for sensible, entertaining gifts. Mr. Tate wanted a CD player for Christmas. I dared not ask what type of music he listens to for fear that he'd say some heavy metal group. You can ask him and buy him some CD's for Valentine's Day. Ms. O'Shaughnessy wanted a few good books to read for Christmas. We all know that she's such a swift reader that she's probably finished any that she received for Christmas. So why don't you buy her some more? Oh, a tip for you really clever people out there: don't give her any of the books that she taught you last semester. Granted, they look brand new, and we all know why, but just don't do it. Dr. Bauso's Christmas wish showed the gift of foresight or a meteorologist. Dr. Bauso wished for a flannel shirt for Christmas. Let's hope he got it and managed to

survive the cold. But, hey, one shirt is just not enough, so get him another.

Dr. Esthimer didn't get any of his Christmas wishes. After asking him what he wanted for Christmas, I had to practically force him to suggest a tangible gift. He kept insisting on world peace. He finally declared that if he couldn't have world peace he's take a classic 240Z, which is "cool," and we all know that Dr. E. is cool. He then changed his mind, saying that he'd always wanted a baby brother. After my insistence that no one could give him a baby brother, he said his Christmas wish would be "A" students, all of them. Let's face it, it would be easier to give him a baby brother.

The math department was particularly dumbfounded by the question of what they wanted for Christmas, especially Ms. Birch. She gave me an utterly blank look and said that she'd never been asked before. She went home to work on this difficult world problem. Give her time — she'll come up with an answer, and if she doesn't, just surprise her. Speaking of time, that's exactly what two other Saint Mary's teachers asked for. Mrs. Jenkins and Dr. Johnson both asked for more hours in the day, probably to grade those long tests they give you. Unless you happened to have met Father Time or Baby New Year while you were celebrating the new year, which I'm sure some of you thought you did, this wish would be impossible to grant. Not so impossible was Mrs. Jenkins' other wish. She merely asked for courteous students. Get the hint: if you're nicer to her she just might take pity on that 69 and turn it into a 70.

Dr. Caddell wanted a sixteen-foot Old Town ABS canoe for Christmas. I'm sure he wants to go on maneuvers in Louisiana on it, not just fish in North Carolina. Again, this could be a class project — raise the money selling donuts or whatever else makes a profit, and buy it for him.

Students who read this, I'm sorry I couldn't include all of your teachers. But here's a little advice: if you're polite, hardworking, and show even moderate intelligence, I'm sure you will get a good grade. Also, try chocolates and roses — everyone's a sucker for those.



Poet Enlightens Classes

By Sheri Roberson

During "Muse Week," Shirley Moody led many English classes through a variety of activities to show them how a poet views the world. In some classes students wrote poems about themselves using symbols and metaphors to reflect their feelings. She also brought in a snakeskin, seashells, prisms, and a crystal ball as well as her word bag to inspire the creativity of each student.

Mrs. Moody started writing poetry when she was thirteen years old, but she did not publish her first poem until she was thirty.

The first book her poems appeared in was entitled **Four North Carolina Women Poets**; a new edition will be published in April of 1988. **Charmers** is the title of her first "solo" book, which will be released in May. For the past ten years, many of her poems have been published in literary magazines.

Mrs. Moody enjoys teaching as much as she likes writing poetry. She spends about twenty weeks a year teaching poetry in schools, inspiring students ranging from the early grades through high school.

Theft Of Library Materials

Like businesses, libraries inventory their holdings to discover their losses. During this summer and continuing this fall, the staff checked our shelves for missing materials. Since the previous complete inventory in 1984, 44 non-circulating reference volumes and 331 circulating books have been lost. (Replacement value = \$12,000)

During this fall 190 articles of the SIRS series of reprints which is heavily used for current research have been stolen. (Replacement value = \$133.00) For \$133.00 5 books could have been bought! The factor which makes it difficult to track down thieves is that most stolen articles were not checked out.

Library News

Assessing The Old Year To Begin 1988

In the snowy days of January, self-evaluation is the trend. Individuals resolve to trim their girth, to exercise more and to stop smoking. Businesses inventory their success or failure by counting merchandise languishing on the shelves after the final holiday sale.

The Kenan Library brought in the new year by collecting statistics. From columns of numbers, the actual patron use of equipment and services and loss of materials are determined.

The most obvious pattern in the statistics was like inflation; everything went up. In the fall of 1987, the staff answered 984 questions, compared with 260 recorded in the fall of 1986. Of the 984, 559 requests were for traditional research information.

Computer questions rose to 310 in the fall, over twice as many as recorded in the spring of 1987. The increase in questions, such as "Why won't it print?", "What happened to my file?" and "Why won't it double-space?", is not surprising; students checked out **1835** items of software in the fall.

The two VCR's, which were purchased this fall, were used 77 times. This number reflects assigned use by 4 classes and the Guidance Office.

New Computers In The Library!

Seven computers are available to students in the library this spring. In addition to the standard IBM PC's, a new color IBM-25 with 3.5" disks and a peripheral 5.25" disk drive has been installed. With this computer is a near letter quality printer. An APPLE has been loaned by the Science Dept. to accommodate its assigned software.

For faculty, the library has 19 disks of public domain programs available. Several disks of utility programs can be copied to make your computer easier to use. Simple word processing programs, file managers, outlining, test-generating programs, games and even musical composition programs are yours for a disk and a few minutes time.



Announcements

Area Performances

THEATRE IN THE PARK presents "To Kill A Mockingbird" by Harper Lee, directed by Ira David Wood III. This riveting courtroom drama will be performed February 19, 20, 25-27, March 3-5 at 8:15 p.m. and February 21 at 3:00 p.m. Admission is \$8.00 for adults and \$7.00 for students and Senior Citizens. For reservations call 755-6936. February 19 performance sold out!!!

JESSE AND THE BANDIT QUEEN — a saga of the relationship between Old West legends Jesse James and Belle Star, features two actors playing multiple roles. Written by David Freeman. Directed by Roy Dicks. Recommended for mature audiences. Presented by Raleigh Ensemble Players at the Sertoma Arts Center, Shelley Lake Park, North Raleigh. Performances at 8:15 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, January 29, 30; February 5, 6, 13 and 14. Tickets are \$6.00. For more information, call the Sertoma Arts Center at 782-7583.

Workshop Offered

Auditioning Well will be taught by Roy Dicks at the Sertoma Arts Center on four consecutive Saturdays, beginning February 20. The two-hour sessions will begin at 11:00 a.m. Tuition is \$25 and registration is at the Sertoma Arts Center. Dicks, director of REP's February production of "Jesse

and the Bandit Queen" and their recent repertory production of "The Norman Conquests," has directed over 25 plays in the last five years.

Contact Sertoma Arts Center at Shelley Lake (782-7583) for registration information.

Original Scripts Sought

Raleigh Ensemble Players, a non-profit community theater which has produced over 30 plays in the past six years, is seeking original scripts for its 1988-89 series of monthly play readings, "Sunday in the Park with REP."

The theater company plans to stage a mainstage production of the play selected best of the readings.

The winner of the last year's competition, "Homeplace," by Phil Hines of Greenville, NC, was produced for a 3-week run last Fall.

Playwrights whose plays are chosen for reading will be notified of the reading date and invited to attend. The series is designed to give playwrights public exposure and to offer a forum for discussion and evaluation of individual works.

Mail inquiries and scripts (with SASE) to "Sunday in the Park with REP," 6905 Park Place, Raleigh, NC 27604. Deadline for submissions is March 15, 1988.