

## News Briefs

**Kramer to Speak in San Francisco** - Robert Kramer, Associate professor of German here at MHC, has been invited to speak at the annual meeting of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages/American Association of Teachers of German in San Francisco, Calif., November 24-26.

Kramer will present a comparison of early German silent films with later American films. The comparison will include such characters as Frankenstein-The Golem, Dracula-Nosteratu, and Dr. Strangelove-Rotwang.

Kramer's presentation is part of a workshop entitled Alternatives to the lecture Method of Teaching. Also on the program will be representatives from the University of California, Old Dominion University, Ohio State University, and Yale University.

Kramer is a native of McKeesport, Pennsylvania and earned both undergraduate and master's degrees from Mississippi State University. He has continued his study of German with the aid of a Fullbright Grant in 1970, a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1975, and a grant from the American Film Institute this past summer. He has taught at Mars Hill since 1965.

**Math Professor Honored With Nomination** - Mr. Emmett Sams, Professor of Mathematics, here at MHC, has been nominated for the W. W. Rankin Memorial Award, an award which honors annually at most three persons who have made outstanding contributions to mathematics education in North Carolina.

This award is given by The North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics, an organization of 1500 members ranging from kindergarten teachers to university professors. It is given in honor of Dr. W. W. Rankin, formerly of Duke University, who was instrumental in organizing annual mathematics conferences for teachers and who was first to develop mathematics institutes in North Carolina. The first award was presented in 1974 and a total of four persons have received the award.

**"The Dancing Donkey"**, a delightful children's musical, by Dutch playwright Eric Voss, will be presented by the Department of Theatre Arts beginning Friday, December 4 at 7:00 PM. The play will also present a matinee Saturday, December 5 at 2:00 PM in Owen Theatre. The Mars Hill Production will be student directed by Charlotte Tiencken, a senior Theatre Arts major from Mt. Pleasant, S. C.

The cast includes John Kelly, a junior from Rose Hill, N. C.; Cindy Zoll, a sophomore from Camp Hill, Pa.; Dianna McWilliams, a junior from Marshall, N. C.; Mark Moore, a freshman from Mars Hill; Jill Knight, a freshman from Decatur, Ga.; and Russ White a freshman.

No reservations are needed for these performances.

ing and increased road travel. But, another fact appeared in the FEA statistics. Heating oil purchases represented an even greater part of the rise in consumption, as industries short on natural gas shifted to the easiest available alternative source. Because of strikes and other afflictions, the coal industry has not been able to raise production to the level needed to supply the nation with the fuel which Carter had foreseen as the energy "ace in the hole".

**Delta Announces New Sisters** - by Beth Barber. The Sisters of Delta Phi Zeta Sorority would like to welcome their new actives. The new sisters are Jan Cooke, a Junior Home Economics-Fashion Merchandising Major from Albemarle, N. C.; Marcia Holliday, a Junior Education Major from Winston-Salem, N. C.; Belinda Smith, a Junior Education Major from Canal Winchester, Ohio; and Kay Waters, a Sophomore Education Major from Greenville, S. C.

**News From The Inter Greeks** - by Beth Barber. The Sororities and Fraternities held their first Inter-Greek Carwash on Saturday, October 22. The Inter-Greeks are made up of Delta Phi Zeta, Sigma Alpha Chi, Delta Omicron, Omega Kappa Alpha, Alpha Phi Omega, Sigma Kappa Lambda, Pi Kappa Phi, and Phi Mu Alpha. This club is to promote Greek spirit and become closer between the different Greek Organizations on campus. Along with the Carwash, the Inter-Greeks promoted **Pride 700** at last Saturday's game against Newberry.

**Freshmen Class Officers Election** - by Becky Davenport. The Election and Open Forum Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all the candidates and voters in the Freshman class Election for the support of their class. It was a very close election. All the students had a lot of support but after all the votes were counted, this was the outcome: President: David Atkinson; Vice President: David Goins; Secretary: Donna Mitchell; Treasurer: Mary Pinkston; Senators: Richard Heaton, Pam Kelley, Marcia Parker, James Holmes, David Gatch, Evelyn Dellinger, Ann McKay.

**What Energy Crisis?** - Despite President Carter's declaration of the energy battle this country must fight, Americans apparently have not heeded his call to arms, at least if Federal Energy Administration (FEA) reports are any indication. According to the FEA, for the month ending in mid-August, American oil consumption had increased eight percent over the same time last year. As expected, a large part of the increase was due to summer vacation-

### The Immigrants- By Howard Fast

# "Pursuit of Happiness" Sought by Immigrants

By Joy Bridges

Howard Fast has written many novels and biographies, including Spartacus, Freedom Road and April Morning. A former resident of New York City, he now lives in Los Angeles, California where he feels like an immigrant himself.

This novel is the first of a projected trilogy that will tell the story of three California families over the course of the twentieth century. This narrative shows America being built on the foundation of the interrelationships of the alien peoples who emigrated here.

The story opens with Joseph and Anna Lavette, French-Italian peasants, who come to the promised land, "America," land at Ellis Island and are promptly cheated by a new "friend" who speaks Italian and offers to change their French francs into American dollars. Later, they learn that he gave them only one-third of what their money would have brought in an honest exchange. "Joseph learned that he had been cheated, and he also learned that there was nothing he could do about it. He learned that the process of being cheated, put upon, robbed, bamboozled, was an intricate part of the existence in America of two immigrants who spoke no English and had neither relatives nor friends."

Soon their money was gone and Joseph could find no work. They were approached by a labor contractor who offered Joseph a job building the Atchafalaya Railroad. They were desperate so

they signed on, although it meant traveling seven days in a drafty boxcar to California. Anna's child, a son, was born in the boxcar and named Daniel.

Joseph saved enough money to buy a fishing boat and the family settled in San Francisco. Joseph and Anna were killed in the San Francisco earthquake and fire. Daniel was saved because he had been out on the fishing boat.

Feng Wo, a Chinese man, waited for Daniel. He spoke to no one and asked no questions. In 1910, Chinese lived by suffering in California and Feng Wo was wary and alert at all times. He had not eaten in three days and he had a wife and daughter to care for. He made a desperate plea for employment as a bookkeeper and Daniel took him on. Daniel now had three boats and eleven men on the payroll.

Feng Wo took over, not only as bookkeeper but as houseboy and cook. Daniel had decided that the difference - Nob Hill and the Embarcadero was the difference between those who worked the boats and those who owned the boats. He decided that he was going to own a lot of boats. It was just a matter of time.

Mark Levy was a ship's Chandler. His wife hated the business so he put up his store as collateral and went into business with Daniel.

When World War I came, they went into shipping on a large scale and made a lot of money. Daniel married a San Franciscan socialite heiress and had a family. As time went on Daniel became estranged from his wife and got caught up in an affair with Feng Wo's daughter. He realized that he had no love for his



The newly elected Freshman Class Officers are as follows: President: David Atkinson, Vice President: David Goins, Secretary: Donna Mitchell, Treasurer: Mary Pinkston. The new Senators are: Evelyn Dellinger, David Gatch, James Holmes, Pam Kelly, Ann McKay, and Marcia Parker.

(Photo by Archie Jones)

wife but he hesitated to divorce her because her background and her cool, blonde, "WASP" good looks were a symbol of his success to him. Also he finds that May Ling would not be welcome in his circle even if he married her so the situation just drifted until the Depression when he suffered a series of financial reverses that left his wife controlling most of the stock in his business. She wrote him off as a bad loss and demanded a divorce herself. Thus, he was broke but he was free to marry May Ling and recognize the son he had by her. Oddly enough, he felt as though a burden had been lifted from his shoulders. He had been a success in a world that he really had no respect for and little love for. He had proved that he could do it but it had given him little pleasure.

He started back in the fishing business on a very small scale and settled down to enjoy the rest of his life with his wife's family around him. Daniel's life had been a classic American "success" story. This success had not fulfilled him but, nevertheless, only in the melting pot of America could he have had the chance to attempt his climb to the top. In Italy he would have been frozen into place. He was born a peasant and he would have died a peasant.

All of the characters in this novel used the opportunity America afforded them to change their lives and choose their own paths. If these paths did not make them very happy, well, the Declaration of Independence only guarantees the "pursuit of happiness" not happiness itself.