

S.G.A. Senate Report



By Sara LeFever and Steve Harrell

Vice President of the S.G.A. Richard Heaton open fire upon the first senate meeting of the year with his usual charisma and candid humor. This initiatory meeting took place on Wednesday, October 11 at 7:00 pm in Belk auditorium. At a time when there was no reason to be at ease, Heaton himself was, and made it a point that everyone else was too.

Roll was called by Dean Dalrymple after Brent Anderson led the assembly in prayer. Emphasis was put on the importance of attendance. Heaton made clear, being conscientious of the hard work and total commitment it takes on part of every senator, that if any member missed a meeting more than twice unexcused, his or her membership would be removed, a rule enacted by himself and Brad Tilley last spring.

Following roll call, a brief introduction of S.G.A. department heads were made. These leaders were; Dean Dalrymple, Kurt Bomar of the Finance Committee, Linda Wells of the Judicial Council, Becky Davenport of the Elections Committee, Tom Milesakowski of Defense, and Garry Fish; Attorney General.

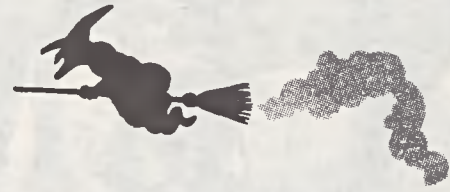
The swearing in of the new senators was next on the agenda. Everyone rose and took the oath, repeating after Heaton. ("We should have practiced that, ya'all.") Heaton pointed out that this was the first year that senators have come directly from the dorms.

President Tilley highlighted the meeting with a speech. He spoke of the forming of S.G.A. in 1963 and its accomplishments since then. (Example - at one time, M.H.C. men and women were to stay within six inches of each other, no closer. S.G.A. came to the rescue.) Tilley pointed out the main objective of the senators was to represent the students of the college. "S.G.A.'s strength comes from your participation," he said. Tilley stated he felt S.G.A. has the reputation of being nothing more than a student court, a place to go when students get in trouble. He desires for this reputation to change. Tilley followed by adding further comments on the M.H.C. student government. He feels not enough students want to become involved. "This apathy says 'I need someone to lead me. I don't know where I want to go.' We, the S.G.A., are those leaders."

In comments coming after President Tilley's speech, Heaton introduced a new policy - that all senators will be assigned office hours. "We can have the best S.G.A. in this college's history if we work for it," he said. "S.G.A. is the nucleus of a productive student body."

Other items of interest discussed by Heaton were the proposal of an S.G.A. bulletin board, the senate handbook, the random invitations sent out to students to observe the senate in session, and the introduction of a new committee - The Publicity Committee.

Remarks about committees, their purposes, and functions followed and then the meeting came to an end.



Fire! Fire!

FIRE! What would you do if you were confronted with one in your residence hall? Are you aware that a large majority of the residence halls can go up in flames within 12-20 minutes? Are you concerned about the dysfunctioning of fire protection equipment in your dorm or apartment? What about the archaic fire alarm system in Spilman that you have to pull a string to work the bells? Who's going to stand there and pull if during a fire - your degoted R.D. or R.A.? I doubt it. What about the residence halls that either don't have fire extinguishers or the extinguishers have been tampered with? The only Residence Hall on campus that has fire escapes is Spilman. Can you see 120 men or women in the other Residence Halls trying to get out of the two side doors and one front door during the panic of a fire? It would be the Holocaust all over again.

Last Spring a group of students concerned about the jeopardy of students because of the condition of fire equipment and the residence halls and because of the lack of training in fire protection and safety measures by the general public, devised a fire safety survey that was administered in the cafeteria. The main objective of this survey was to compile information pertaining to:

- student concern about the adequacy of fire safety in their residence halls
- The awareness and knowledge of students about fire safety devices
- The awareness and knowledge of students about procedures in case of a fire.

Here are some startling statistics from this survey:

67% of the sample had had no fire instruction. Those who had received instruction had received it from their R.A./R.D., not by personnel trained in fire safety and prevention, such as

safety and security here on campus.

A corollary to this is that housing staff is trained minimally in the use of fire extinguishers, alarm systems, or methods of escape during a fire. It seems that since R.A./R.D.'s give the largest percentage of students fire instruction and 25% of the sample would contact their R.A./R.D. first in case of a fire, R.A./R.D.'s wouldn't be much help unless they had formal training.

Nearly half (42%) of those polled had not had a fire drill during the 1977-78 school year. 8% didn't even know if they'd had a fire drill or not! Considering it is a state law to have one fire drill per semester, and considering the fact that if there was ever a fire there would be mass chaos because there would be confusion as to where to go and what to do, this is a frightening statistic.

When asked who they could contact first in case of fire, the greatest percentage of the sample (36%) said the fire department. However, 94% of this proportion didn't even know the phone number for the fire department.

Lastly, and most importantly, 78% of the sample was concerned about the adequacy of fire safety in their residence hall.

You may be saying, "So what". I can't do anything about this. Now you can. The Housing staff is forming a fire safety committee to explore the issues above, plus many more, in order to devise constructive proposals to improve fire safety on campus. We are interested in getting YOUR input into this crucial problem and would greatly encourage YOUR participation. Please, these issues are no laughing matter because they do affect your life directly. Think about it and if you are interested in joining this committee and/or giving input, contact the Housing Office by November 8, 1978.

— Kathy Martin

"South Pacific" to reopen Friday

Rodgers and Hammerstein's Pulitzer Prize winning musical, "South Pacific," will reopen Friday, October 27, in Owen Theatre.

The musical was based on James Michener's "Tales of the South Pacific," which also won a Pulitzer. It was first produced in 1949 with Mary Martin and Ezio Pinza playing the lead roles of Nellie Forbush and Emille deBecque. A movie version was completed nearly 10 years later, directed by Josh Logan and featuring Mitzi Gaynor and Rossano Brazzi in the lead roles.

The story revolves around Ensign Forbush, small town girl and Navy nurse, stationed on an island in the Pacific during World War II where a large French plantation - overseen by Emile deBecque - is also located. Nellie Forbush and Emile deBecque's story is paralleled by that of Lt. Joe Cable and Liat, the Tonkinese daughter of Bloody Mary, the island's shrewd entrepreneur.

Directed by C. Robert Jones, associate professor of theatre arts at Mars Hill, the production's final performances will be held October 27-29. Curtain time for the plays will be 8:00 p.m. except on Sundays which will feature a matinee performance beginning at 2:30 p.m.

All seats are on a reserved basis and ticket information may be obtained by calling the box office at 689-1239 from 1 to 5 p.m. daily.

