

legislature and life

by dr. win minter

"The statement, 'God does not exist' is a contradiction, due to the affirmation and denial of the subject. To say 'Jack Dunne does not exist' is not only contradictory, but blasphemous. The National Lampoon had a cartoon of a man fucking a giant apple pie as his disraught mother implores "Is nothing sacred?" Homecoming Week at UNCC has put me in a quandry as to what to say about it. That it did not exist, as was the contention of the piously ignorant on campus, would be a more interesting speculation, but reality is, and so was Homecoming Week. The 50's nostalgia thing is fun. It gives people a chance to ridicule an era that they desperately would like to return to. The values of more than a decade ago seem absurd, yet are fascinating"...(From Dr. Minter's "Discourses on Pataphysics", Oxford Univ. Press, 1974).

What, you may ask yourself, has the above selection to do with our venerable Student Legislature? Is this perhaps some esoteric ontology, cleverly constructed as to allow for a direct experience of the Student

Legislature, or is it meaningless jargon? Let us examine more closely the suggested relationships between the Student Legislature and Homecoming Week, or yet even less ambiguous, Politics and Michael Mouse. It is Politics obviously, but is it Legislation? Can Legislation be confined to a definition? What is the relationship between Legislation and life? It can at times be accused as mere imitation, and yet it loses its form when it aspires to duplication. Alas! A quick and steadfast answer is not to be had. "But these queries have no relevancy to problem solving methodology!" You are quick to exclaim. This is a legitimate point, but upon closer examination we find that this attitude is not only false, but indicative of a serious, deep-seated misconception rampant in our society. Next week we will take a closer look at the causes of such illusions, real or imagined, temporary or impermanent, sacred or profane. However I digress. Let us examine the real issue at hand, or in medical terminology, at philanges. Dr. William Lowrance explains the

matter thusly..."Where the roots of Western culture, both Greek and Hebrew, considered the aim of life the perfection of Student Legislatures, modern man is concerned with his genitalia." Dr. Patrick Miller concurs with his classic..."Est-et non". Now my question to you, if "you" is discernable from that which is not "you", is "How can the delimita of The Legislature being of UNCC, yet transcending it by self sentience, be solved"? The Legislature has awareness of itself, and this awareness of itself as a separate entity makes it feel unbearably alone, lost, powerless. Perhaps Dr. Jane Ross reconciles this contradiction in part in her contention, "Videri quam esse, qua qua qua, hic hoc bonjour madame, ca va?"

I hope that this short explanation has cleared up any doubts as to the function and application of the Student Legislature. As my time grows short, I have only these words to leave you with... "Ne'er pass a wooden farthing, lest the Keep/At Horn and Hardart comes out swinging wild"... Polonius.

a review:

legislature, Feb. 18 Performance

by bill hipp

The door opened into the simple but cleanly designed set of the SGA meeting on Feb. 18, 1974 at 11:30. In the tradition of Pirandello and Scheckner the characters were either in place or casually roaming in. Action began when Jack Dunn deftly called order with the assistance of the ashtray, which played itself. The slow rhythmic thud of the ashtray set the pace for this as yet unappreciated mode of experiential theatre.

Richard Butterfield turned in a fine sensitive performance; what can one say, the man has presence. His lack of a report was in itself a statement of the existentialist abyss which we all must face in these frightening times.

Jack Dunn provided the strong base on which all the action pivoted. He embellished his gravitas with exquisite hand movements of approval at the proper moments. It set one to

mind of the finely honed discipline of Balanese temple dancers. His deep insight into the tone of the experience was demonstrated in his statement, "I guess everybody must be asleep this morning."

Bill Kincaid, as UNCC's Everyman, added color to the meeting. His statement in reference to a 30 keg, all day, outdoor beer party planned for the spring: "The students will get out of class, go to the Belk Tower, grab a brew, and listen to the band," exemplified the lusty, fun-loving, vital nature of the typical UNCC student.

Barbara Sapp's sweet young voice and concern for all the students as to the planned Spring-In party brought a lump to the throat and a tear to the eye.

The music, performed by Eric Nelson, which blared in through the wall, crescendoed at just the proper moments in order to

obliterate anything interesting which might have been said.

Perhaps the essence of the event could be most clearly seen in the relationship of the chorus of yeas and nays which would follow each question. The form itself was probably borrowed from the tent revival theme of an assenting Amen. But its tenor suggested it is directly derived from some Jungian archetypal ritual, a deep low neanderthal chant. Seeing our legislature's performance is indeed a positive edifying experience. It forces the person witnessing it to re-evaluate certain aspects of their life. Presenting such an excellent exercise in boredom the legislature reveals the excitement of other such overlooked activities, such as sleep, or thumb twiddling. The next presentation will be Monday, Feb. 25, in the Parquet Room, admission is free.

journal photo/john baynard



journal photo/paul beck

and yesteryear

by charlotte porter

self over some ridiculous issue. Jack Dunne exhibits the most strange from his behavior last

Prior to his election to the top spot, Dunne was an extremely quiet person on the floor. One got the impression that most of his work was done behind the scenes. Dunne still leaves you with that impression. Of course, there isn't much reward to being charged with the care and feeding of some several dozen legislature members. Dunne does as good a job of controlling them as I have seen in a long time.

There are a few members of the legislature who have been quiet for quite some time, and I would like to mention these quietly.

The first who comes to mind is Foster, the figurehead of the Rules Committee. Rules is charged with making sure that the by laws are violated during the course of the meetings. When Foster brought up a rule, it is guaranteed to either swiftly bite matters or confuse the members of everyone, or at least the reporter.

Foster has changed some in the past year. He's gotten quieter. He speaks less on issues that come before the body and seems to be bored with the whole thing. One Sigmon has also gotten

quieter. Jane has always been a powerhouse in the legislature, but she's sitting back now and letting the younger, more rabid, members do all the bitching on the floor. Ms. Sigmon's working is behind the scenes, where she is chairman of the Ways and Means committee.

One thing that hasn't changed is the number of turkeys on the body.

They are unavoidable. Certain types gravitate to political life, and two of those types are those who are concerned and intelligent enough to do something and those who are concerned but unable to do anything but waste the legislature's time with inanities and their own expanded sense of self.

There isn't much one can do about them. The legislature may be congratulated for having less of them than they did last year. But while losing some turkeys, they also lost some of the best minds ever on the legislature, most notably Ron Young and David House.

In conclusion, I may say "Ron, wherever you are, get back here."

Not looking forward to the legislature elections. Somehow it seems that no one can change the legislature; all end up being corrupted.