As you know, I have just returned from a sort

of exploratory trip to Earth; and I think you will

be really amazed at what I have to relate: I de-

cided before I left Mars that since this was my

first trip to our neighboring planet; and since my

time was limited. I would visit what has been rep-

resented to us as Earth's most culturally advanced

country - the United States. They do have a fairly

high degree of culture down there. Amazingly enough, beyond all of their industralization, organization, and efforts to place all humans in

categories; there do remain certain individuals who

possess understanding, and true aesthetic values

in spite of the general stagnant and unfeeling ma-

jority. The majority, my friend, will be the main

topic of my letter - and don't laugh, because I'll

In spite of the fact that more people in the

United States are getting an education than ever

before, and in spite of the fact that art and understanding are supposed to be on the upswing.

and in spite of the fact there is a growing con-

cern that they might blow themselves up (for cer-

tainly what blows up must come down); in spite

of all these facts to show that man is probably

truly advanced; there is retained an institution

which he proudly calls (and even boasts to be) the

It is the belief in witchcraft. They call it religion.

snake handling. I excused it as a joke because these people were not educated; and when I visited a

big tent where one of the witchdoctors was trying

to heal a cancerous woman by praying to his god,

I felt it to be some sort of entertainment; and

when I toured through a high school and saw stu-

dents assembled once a week to view a priest who

was talking of morals, and love, and dirty com-

munist, and hell all in the same breath - and,

generally repeating the same thing another priest

said the week before: I thought it was probably

School, and saw children no older than five years,

being taught about ghosts, and virgin births, and

crosses, and some sort of garbage about roasting

in hell if you're bad and walking on gold streets

if you're good - with true love and compassion

for fellow men (no matter what their country or

color) barely mentioned; and when I walked around

a college campus and saw what was supposed to

be the educated men - I didn't believe my eyes

sacrifice (sacrifice of all true reason of those at-

tending). In almost every dormitory room there

was a book of myths called the Bible which was

read periodically, the myths absorbed as history, and its true value almost completely disregarded.

On Sunday mornings the students go to the temples

and sit with blank, bored, and pseudo-emotiona!

faces while the priest goes through the high school

routine again. In certain of the sects: holy water

is sprinkled, latin is babbled, markings are put on

the face to remind one of the death and the roast-

ing he is libel to face, the "blood and body" of

the virgin-offspring is eaten in some sort of Pagan,

kneeling ritual - and humble prayer to the gods

in all their ceremonies. It seems that God made

man and woman (out of mud, string, glue, and

with all manner of omnipotent power thrown it)

and he took these two and set them down in a

beautiful garden where they yielded to temptation

and were cast out, thus man was forever condemn-

ed - until this other god came along and allowed

himself to be hanged on the cross to "save" man-

kind. But I won't go into all this George, because

you've porbably already read it somewhere your-

Anyway, modern man insists on calling this

priest Jesus a god. He is no longer a man to them.

Why aren't they satisfied in letting him stay a

man, and doing good because he is one? I don't

understand it. Anyway, they go around making

signs of the cross about themselves, and fingering

beads, and whispering lots of "Mother Marys" and

"Praise Jesus" like it was a thing quite mechani-

Before I wrote you I sat for a long while try-

ing to figure out what made men on Earth act in

this strange manner. Children outgrow believing

Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny, why don't they

outgrow their gods in a like manner? I suppose

religion, apart from ethics, gives them ease when

they think of death. At burials there is always a

priest to mumble over the deceased and make

everyone feel generally incomfortable. The soul

then decends to heaven, supposedly, or a great

relm of indicision, where he will rest in bliss for

the rest of his natural infinity. In the case of im-

portant men (especially of the church or politics);

great, gaudy, awe-inspiring, and mechanical rituals

are performed - complete with latin, incense,

candles, beads, "Mother Marys", colored lights,

flowing robed priests and morbid organ music -

I could imagine no more disrespectful way to

oury the dead. And the people who attend the

burial go back to their college anthropology class

and snicker at primitive tribes because they wor-

in general - a circus.

cal, quite moral, and (to me) anything but holy.

This humbleness to the gods is quite the thing

Everywhere I looked there were temples of

But . . . when I visited what they call a Sunday

some sort of lecture on the Dark Ages,

and ears. George, I swear this is true.

Now when I visted the mountains and saw

wonderful backbone of his whole existence . .

swear to you I saw it with my own eyes.

Letter To A Friend

DEAR GEORGE,

The Daily Tar Heel

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Don't Knock the Mock

We will be extremely interested to see how well the student body turns out for the Mock Democratic Convention this weekend, inasmuch as this is exactly the sort of event that Carotina students like to ignore, in their infinite and incomprehensible capacty to ignore the things they could get the most

This convention, of course, is not going to determine the late of the nation and it really isn't anything more than a bunch of students getting together to have a little fun. But the fact remains that it is going to be a valuable, educatonal and instructive experience.

Today is the big day for the convention, with nominations, a speech from Tennessee's outstanding Senator Gore, and the choice of the campus of its nominee for President of the United States.

And it might be well to mention that the choice of our student bods will not go ignored by the stage, though it may go ignored right here at the point of its genesis. Radio and television will carry The convention throughout the state, and there will be a great - many people listening, watching, and taking note. We are voters, or many of us are, and the politicians would like to know how we are going to vote - they know, despite the fact that we may not, that our votes count and could elect a President.

The Mock Convention was instituted with the idea not only of giving students a chance to have a good time and blow off some political steam but also of giving all of us a chance to learn something about the inner workings of a natonal party convention. Whether or not we need to be reminded of it, it is well to bear in mind the fact that these conventions, on the national level, decide whom the two men will be from whom we are going to choose our next President. And there is little need to stress the importance of their de-

We will not be casting votes in a national convention. But this should not keep us from casting our votes in a thoughtful, concerned manner. And it certainly should not keep us from attending the convention. That would be ridiculous,

The Other Side of NSA

The disturbing element about the National Student Association is that it has two sides. This dual characteristic makes it vary difficult to say whether or not the NSA should be kept on this campus.

On one side we have the NSA as it is publicly revealed: a somewhat hotheaded, eccentrically liberal organization which passes resolutions and leads movements that are by no means the wish of all the students enrolled in NSA

And on the other side we have an organization that is working quietly and effectively to promote international relations, trying not to burn its way into the headlines but to accomplsh the much more difficult task of making our fellow humans throughout the world realize that America is a great and good country pepulated by people who, for all their petty prejudices. are great and good as well.

This characteristic of the NSA can be seen in the Fovign Student Leadership Project, a program limited to some 18 of the more than two thousand colleges and universities in the nation. The Universty of North Carolina has been honored the past few years by being included among these 18.

This is a program which transcends the normal foreign exchange arrangement, for herein are brought students from foreign nations who are acknowledged leaders in their communities. These are the cream of the crop, and they are coming to America, under the aegis, of the National Student Association.

The purpose of the program is to acquaint these students with our country so that they will carry a favorable impression of America back with them upon their return. These young visitors are the leaders of the future, and this program is giving them a favorable impression of the country which is diametrically opposed to the principles of th Soviet Union, the other great power from which they will be receiving overtures.

We may have in our midst a future Prime Minister, President, Secretary of War or Ambassador,

These students are not mere cohorts and companions; they are exceptions to the rule; and they are exceptional exceptions. They need and deserve our support.

On the campuses which they have visited these students have proved to be leaders of the first order. They have taken active and conscientious part in student affairs, seeking not only to gain but to give, to make us aware of their heritage and the problems which their countries face.

This is, for us students, the most valuable aspect of the program and a good reason for retaining membership in the NSA. We need desperately to rid ourselves of the creeping provincialism which has swept over the American college scene, and in order to do this we need to meet and know people our own age from other countries. We need to accept them into our groups and to teach them our customs and foibles. They must learn that the America of the machine age is human too; and we must learn that we are not the only nation in the world with anything of value.

We tend to think of the Narional Student Association as a unit which is almost useless in its prolixity and narrowminded, highminded psuedo-liberalism. But it also must be recognized as an organization which has elements of the sane in it, which can contribute greatly to our campus and national awareness.

We cannot with a clear conscience advocate the retention of the NSA on this campus at the moment, yet neither can we, in light of this Foreign Student Leadership Projet, reject the NSA. The problem is a disturbing one, because neither side has a total rightness to it.

The Student Legislature will decide whether we are going to vote on the NSA: we will decide whether to keep it. And we can only recommend that all factors of the organization be taken into account by each student who rouses himself from his lethargy long enough to vote.

Bob Stokes

Guinness Stout

The question is, not "Who dunnit," but who could do it. No one but Alec Guinness, that's who

"Our Man In Havana." Carol Reed's screen production of Graham Green's hilarious novel by the same name, finds the British funnyman at his side-splitting best, grinning and grimacing in the zaniest bit of saties since "The Horse's

Only Guinness, as Mr. Wormold, the mealy-mouth vacuum shop owner, could make a shambles of the British Secret Service, leave three corpses in his wake, and find a pretty mate (Maureen O'Hara) in cae fantastic sweep!

Starting out as typical spy-incheek comedy, an observant audience soon begins to read between the lines of Guinness & Co., and discovers the reasons for political unrest in Cuba.

Mr. Wormold, a widower with a sweet daughter (Jc Morrow) of expensive taste, seeks to end his financial problems by accepting an orfer, from a dapper British spy agent (Noel Coward), to be their secret agent in Havana. The spoofing begins in earnest when Wormold tries, without success, to recruit additional agents in his superior's comic fashion.

Confused with the futle results of his methods, Wormold creates ficticious fellow-agents and even draws imaginary pictures of hidden military installations (which by some strange coincidence, resemble his vacuum cleners) for data to send to the home office.

The ingenius farce comes to a chaotic and daify climax, as the craziest scheme since Orson Wells' Martians landed on Pulaski Highway backlires on Agent Wormold, and cadavers start appearing with more regularity than cross-burnings at Father Devine's revival Dixie, "Wagon Train" and the DAR. Of course the meetings.

To help this mysterious comedy English coffee so that's different grounds. to its ridiculous conclusion. Worretirement as a German spy to plot against him, along with Cuban Police Captain Segora (Ernie Kovacs), who proves superior at checkers, but inferior at absorbing his vic-

The story, although fast moving under Mr. Reed's able direction, was so satirical at times that the audience needed a special delivery pun to make them laugh. The transitions of the scenes were also a slight deterrent in the overall effect, as they sometimes left the audience in more confusion than the actors themselves.

Alec Guinness' wit was at its razor-sharp peak, so much in fact, that many times he left his viewers Noel Coward was a superb counterpart at the sprite age of 60, and quips of the performance.

cellent in his role as a straight and lights it for her. man for Guinness' saunts, as was idea. Maureen O'Hara was on stage, but just added to the con-

In fact, it couldn't be much fun- the coffee which both are guzzling. nier unless Fidel Castro took the

Edward Neal Riner The Coffee Club Complex Coffee clubs are as much a part of America as

Coffee clubs are for business men, pseudo-bu imold's trusted friend, Dr. Hassel- ness men (the kind who have to borrow a dime to bacher (Burl Ives) comes out of pay for the black brew), professors and students

English have their coffee clubs, but they drink

The biggest coffee club we have heard of to date is the one in Lenoir Hall. This club is usually called to order about 9 a.m. and adjourned late in the afternoon. (Sometimes there is a recess so members may switch to the Pine Room; however, in our brewing this is a different club entirely.)

So the club is in session for hours, but members continuously enter and exit. The coffee stays the same. Well, almost the same. Actually it gets worse as the hours pass, but this is incidental to the Lenoir Coffee Club.

In fact the taste of the coffee, the number of days it has been brewed, the acid test and the number of inches of grounds in the cup usually start each day's conversations,

Although Lenoir and its coffee could never get the Good Housekeeping "Seal of Approval" nor a 21-gun salute from the League of Honest Coffee Lovers, the two are responsible for many scratching their unperceptive heads. long friendships and new romances.

Only in Lenoir Hall would a mating call be "Would you like another cup of coffee" with the provided some of the most clever following reply, "Yes-s-s, I'd love one; black, please." After this beginning the romance turns to spooning. He offers her his spoon to stir her Ernie Kovacs seemed naked with- coffee. Then to climax the affair (that is, as far out a cigar, but was inguely ex- as they dare go in Lenoir), he offers her a cigarette

However, love is not the only thing involved in Burl Ives, the second-hand dector, the vapors from the steaming DJ (drive juice). Inwho gave Guianess a first-rate tellectual pursuits flow throughout the hall as cof-

Conversations go from drops of "why the Democrats must win' 'to drops of "Camus was a symbol of his time" to drops of "big business and social-"Our Man In Havana" has suc- ism don't mix." No matter the discussion, each cess written all over it in big 'G's, person's opinion is as bitter to his partner as

But all talk is not serious. Tall tales pile up part of Ernie Kovacs, the Cuban to equal the stacks of cups on the table. Some Police Captain. But then the Cu- jokes are funny; some are hilarious; some are ban's might run it as a news- terriffic. However, all jokes rival the liquid black death for potency.

FIND OUT,

WELL!

coffee club with some big, big cups of life.

'Misunderstanding'

reasonable for Mr. Wolff, regular reviewer for the Tar Heel, to review his own Petite Dramatique production. Therefore, fearing no "critic's say" was forthcoming because of Mr. Wolff's abstinence, and feeling that "The Misunderstanding" deserves more than no mention at all, this writer has undertaken to review it in stead of the regular critic.

Synchronization of powerful talent and dynamic theme in the production of Albert Camus' "The Misunderstanding, or Cross Purposes" made for an evening of dramatic intensity rarely seen among amateur groups. But unfortunately, it was this very intensity, sustained relentlessly throughout the performance, that took away much of the force from the climax which should have risen above any other level of the play.

Miss Betty Green, though an actress of unmistaken talent, is the one responsible for keeping the play at such a highly intense level from which the climax could rise no further. As Martha, she was necessarily taut, but too seldom did she reach a point beyond rigidity, and one had the feeling of having waited in vain all night for at least a brief

Marion Fitz-simons, on the other hand, achieved a character of greater depth through variation in pace and mood. She of all the players seemed most "alive" if such an adjective may be applied to Camus' characters who are more instruments through which to explore existential questions and dilemmas than dramatic figures with whom we may identify.

Bill Smith's performance was uneven, at times meeting the challenge of his part, at times falling

Bobby Hicks reached moments of surprising emotion, so real at times they caught up the audience before collapsing into melodrama.

John Harris as the Servant who comes with the final "no" as God at the end of the play evoked the feeling of aged indifference of his character with competence.

Throughout the performance one never lost the feeling that the actors were secure in the knowledge of what they were saying, due no doubt to Mr. Wolff's familiarity with the subject being dram-

Pat Hunter

A Word From Mars BUREAU JOINT DEFENSE CHIEFS DEPT. ARMY NAVY HERELOCK

Chain Of Command

shiped trees, and rocks, and evil spirits, and paint their dead . . . How sad it is that Americans in the 20th century, religion-wise, have advanced no farther than the Neanderthal.

Well George ,I guess I'm certainly no judge of it all, but it seems to me lots of men on Mars who never went to Sunday School as a child are much more satisfied than any holy man I saw on Earth. And our ethics are cleaner. It seems that man on earth keeps looking at nature as some sort of immoral thing and invents god to lift him from it. How absurd, nature is neither moral or immoralit is non-moral, Man on Earth has let ritual replace deed; fear replace love. They all seem to have the idea that there is a loving spirit outside themselves. I wonder why they won't put it inside themselves and take responsibility for their own actions? It would make them much more like the Christ they worship. At present, they seem to be only hypocritical, humble worms, Really George, 1 thought it was a joke at first - but now I don't know whether to laugh or cry.

> As ever, Philip Fraley

HO! : 4.266 1 I'M NOT WANTED! THE LEAVE .. TA GOIN!











