

Alumni seminar concludes

# UNC arts programs growing

by Bruce Mann  
Feature Writer

"There has been a mass movement on the campus away from certain areas towards the arts. And this makes it perfectly evident to me that the arts do indeed speak to the human condition, and do so in a loud voice which has been apprehended perhaps more by our students than by our administration."

The words are those of Dr. Wilton Mason, UNC Professor of Music and Chairman of the Division of Fine Arts, and the comment set the theme for a panel discussion presented to alumni attending the third 1970-71 Alumni Seminar, "The Arts—Who Needs Them," Saturday morning in Swain Hall.

Thomas Patterson, Professor of Dramatic Arts and Director of the Carolina Playmakers; Joseph Sloane, Professor of Art and Director, Ackland Art Center; and Wesley Wallace, Professor of Radio-Television-Motion Pictures and Director, The Communication Center, all echoed the theme and stated variations

during the panel discussion, titled "The Future of the Arts at the University."

Dr. Mason said that due to the Merzbacher reforms, the enrollment in the arts curriculum has expanded enormously. "The impact of the Merzbacher curriculum upon the arts is shattering." Basic appreciation courses in Drama, Art, RTVMP, and Music are all "filled to bursting," and Music has already been forced to turn down the equivalent of six music appreciation sections.

This expanded interest in the arts by students has not been met with financial response by those in positions of influence, however, such as parents, legislators, and administrators, and the arts are still in great budget difficulty. As Dr. Sloane explains: "The children of the generation of people who are now controlling the money and the influence in the country want the arts where their parents don't. And this makes a real problem because the parents control the legislation and the parents control the money and the parents control the

influence while the students simply go do what interests them. This is quite an enormous problem."

Citing his own department's large increase in student load as an example (enrollment rose 640 tickets in one year's time), Dr. Sloane pointed out that "the reason this is a real difficulty is because this does not represent additional students, which the legislature recognizes. These are the same students who are here. They're just doing different things. They're going from one part of the University to the other."

However, Dr. Wallace feels that the administrators, parents, and legislators might be influenced by "pressure of the students," because "students out there are saying—we're going to do it whether it's provided for us or not."

In explaining to alumni exactly why students are turning to the arts, Dr. Patterson commented that students "are much interested in the content of what they are working in. The human condition again. They get terribly excited about it. Much more excited about it than I believe students were when I was in college."

Dr. Wallace agrees, saying that the

appeal of RTVMP for students is discovery, an interest in the "creative process." "We're dealing in our area with machines. But we're also concerned and involved with the operation and participation by students who want to do things. They are impatient with being told—they want to discover," he said.

According to Dr. Mason "one of the great appeals of the arts, as opposed to more technical studies and the sciences, and so forth, is the fact that "we have tried to preserve close teacher-student relationships. We still have the studio where you work on a one-to-one relationship." However, Dr. Mason warns, this brings with it "the necessity of providing enough faculty in the arts so that the students can take part in such a relationship."

Dr. Mason promises that the voices students are raising in favor of the arts will be heard. "We are currently in the process of trying to prod the administration to heed these voices," he said, "and I think this is going to be one of our principle preoccupations for the next two years, if the experience of this year proves to be an accurate index of what is going on."

## Three TV specials competing Tuesday

by Howie Carr

The television networks have done it again this week, giving their viewers four nights of worthless reruns, while scheduling three possibly-worthwhile specials in competing time slots Tuesday night.

The first Tuesday spectacular begins at 9 when Channel 4 broadcasts John Dos Passos's 1959 off-Broadway play, "U.S.A." It's a free-wheeling play with no central characters, and it runs two and a half hours.

ABC, meanwhile, has pre-empted "Marcus Welby, M.D." at 10 p.m. for an hour-long special entitled "How To Stay Alive." Narrated by Robert Young, the program focuses on the attempts of five heart attack victims to change the habits that originally brought on their coronaries.

At 10:30 Channel 2 will be running a half-hour special entitled "Southern

Exposures." The famous French still photographer Henri Cartier-Bresson went to Greenwood and Fayette, Miss., to record his impressions with a 16 mm hand-held camera. Included in the footage are shots of Charles Evers leading voter registration drive, and a faith-healing revival.

On Wednesday morning at 10 Channel 28 will air a thirty-minute special on "Dinah (Shore) Meets the Vice President." Not only does Dinah meet the Vice President, but also his wife Judy and their three-year old granddaughter. Channel 28 has even bigger things in store that night as it broadcasts "America's Junior Miss Pageant," at 9 with Ed McMahon and Anita Bryant.

Channel 28 rallies later in the week, though, as it broadcasts a 1944 movie "Passage to Marseille," on Tuff Theater Friday night. Humphrey Bogart leads a cast that includes Claude Rains and Peter Lorre.

## Campus calendar

Yale Professor Bruce Russett will speak Tuesday night at 8 p.m. on "The Public Revolt Against the Pentagon" in 104 Howell Hall. The talk is sponsored by the Political Science Department and the Curriculum on Peace, War and Dissent.

A College Foundation Loan Officer will be on campus May 5 to meet with all students who have borrowed at any time from College Foundation and with those interested in applying. If you missed the previous meeting, be sure to attend. There will be two sessions, at 4 and 7 p.m., in 104 Howell Hall.

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LOST: A man's white bathing suit with Red Cross water safety instructor's patch. If found, return to the DTH office in the Carolina Union.

LOST: gold charm from my necklace on campus, April 30. Has sentimental value. Please return to Elaine Kahn, 929-4754.

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