

Scott Langley

# Hallucinatory Bertolucci

A lion sits on a platter with an apple in its mouth, ready to be devoured. This is only one of the many strange images in Bernardo Bertolucci's film, "The Spider's Stratagem." Those people who know Bertolucci only from "The Conformist" will be surprised and perhaps awed by hallucinatory style of this film.

Based on "Theme of the Traitor and The Hero" by the Spanish writer Borges, it concerns a young man who visits a town to discover why his father had been killed many years before. His father was a famous anti-fascist and it is assumed that the fascists killed him. The town is fresh with the growth of spring, but, paradoxically, it seems to have died. Practically everyone in the town is over sixty years old.

As the young man tries to find information, the town becomes threatening. Someone locks him in a barn, someone else wakes him up to

punch him in the face. When he asks questions, he is told "We are all friends here." Three of his father's friends tell him their story of the death, and he realizes that they have agreed on a story beforehand.

As he comes closer to the truth, he seems to be taking his father's place. There are several flashbacks in which the father appears, played by the same actor as the son, but the other characters are as old as they are in the present. Past and present seem to merge. In the end the young man finds out the secret, and so he must not be allowed to leave. As he waits for his train, it is announced that it will be ten minutes late, then twenty, then forty. Finally foliage grows over the tracks, and we realize that he is trapped in the town forever. The spider's web has been spun around him.

Bertolucci has filmed all this as a nightmare. His bravura camera

movements are breathtaking in themselves and they have been edited into a truly poetic succession of images. In this he is greatly helped by the photography. This is surely the most lucidly beautiful color film of the year, capturing perfectly the verdure of the gardens and the shadowy menace of the town.

Claims have been made that this is Bertolucci's best film. This may not be true, but it is more mature than "Before the Revolution," less shallow than "The Conformist," and more consistent than "Last Tango in Paris." At any rate missing the first run of a Bertolucci film would be like missing the latest Fellini or Bergman.

Showings are a 7 and 9 Wednesday and Thursday, Friday at 7 and Saturday at 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 in Murphey 111. The print is excellent.

# Typists, it's up to you

by Robert Ely  
Feature Writer

This is the last Wiretap column until next fall.

**Typing course:** Several letters and telephone calls have been received from persons interested in a University sponsored typing course. As mentioned in past columns, this course could be taught and administered similar to the reading improvement program now offered by the Guidance and Testing Center.

Those interested in such a course should leave their names and phone numbers in the Wiretap box at the DTH. These names will be given to Dr. James W. Little, director of Guidance and Testing, so that he may have an indication of interest from which to proceed in making tentative plans.

As always money is a problem. Little said recently the Center might be able to provide typewriters and space. A teacher for a trial course would not be exorbitantly expensive, but would probably have to be paid from other sources.

Little is interested in the idea and seemed willing to help establish the course so it's up to those of you who need it to show your interest.

**Campus mail:** Everybody's Grandmother probably said once, "you get what you pay for." Apparently, such wisdom was never more applicable to anything than it is to the campus mail service.

A letter from a Hinton James resident reads, "The U.S. Postal Service is a paragon of efficiency compared to the campus mail."

"On March 5 I received a letter asking me to go for an important interview on March 2. The only thing campus mail brought me on time was a letter telling me that I had not been selected for the job for which I had missed the interview."

Neither rain, nor sleet, etc. Campus mail probably just needs a motto of their own. Why don't all you dissatisfied customers write them and suggest one. It might force a little self-evaluation, providing they receive the letter.

**Triangle spring festival:** Take note, Union Activities Board. Three students have an idea that Duke, State and UNC could



get together on an all triangle Jubilee. You three who wrote in, if you really want to work for something like this, join the Union Music Committee next fall.

Wiretap began as a reader question answering service. Response to the column has been good. Thanks to those who kept the cards and letters and kickbacks coming in.

Now that it has been established, the column should evolve to more of an action-line than it is presently. To those who need problems solved, I offer this advice. Secretaries rule the world. You have to get by them first in order to get much of your information. Their attitude is often indicative of their boss's.

The ubiquitous University bureaucracy will always be frustrating and discouraging. Not only is it frustrating to students, but to everyone connected with the University, especially those individuals who collectively are that bureaucracy.

Don't be too quick to point an accusing finger. The department or person whom you blame for inaction may be as incapacitated as you are by the bureaucracy.

**Final question:** A co-ed here writes and says "Is there a chance I can get a barber pole from the barber shop that recently closed?"

Why don't you call the barber shop to which you refer and ask? I'm sure there is a chance, though unless you attend UNC-G, I can't imagine what you want one for.

## STUDENT SERVICES COMMISSION

### ALL REFRIGERATORS MUST BE RETURNED

APRIL 26-27 1:00-8:00 p.m.

#### RETURN LOCATIONS:

North Campus Residents: W. Cobb Basement  
James Residents: James Coffee House

All Other South Campus Residents: Morrison Lower Parking Lot

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Drive My Car  
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Eleanor Rigby  
Yellow Submarine

Strawberry Fields  
Penny Lane  
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Lucy In The Sky  
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I Am The Walrus  
Hello Goodbye  
Fool On A Hill  
Magical Mystery Tour  
Lady Madonna  
Hey Jude  
Revolution  
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Don't Let Me Down  
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Old Brown Shoe  
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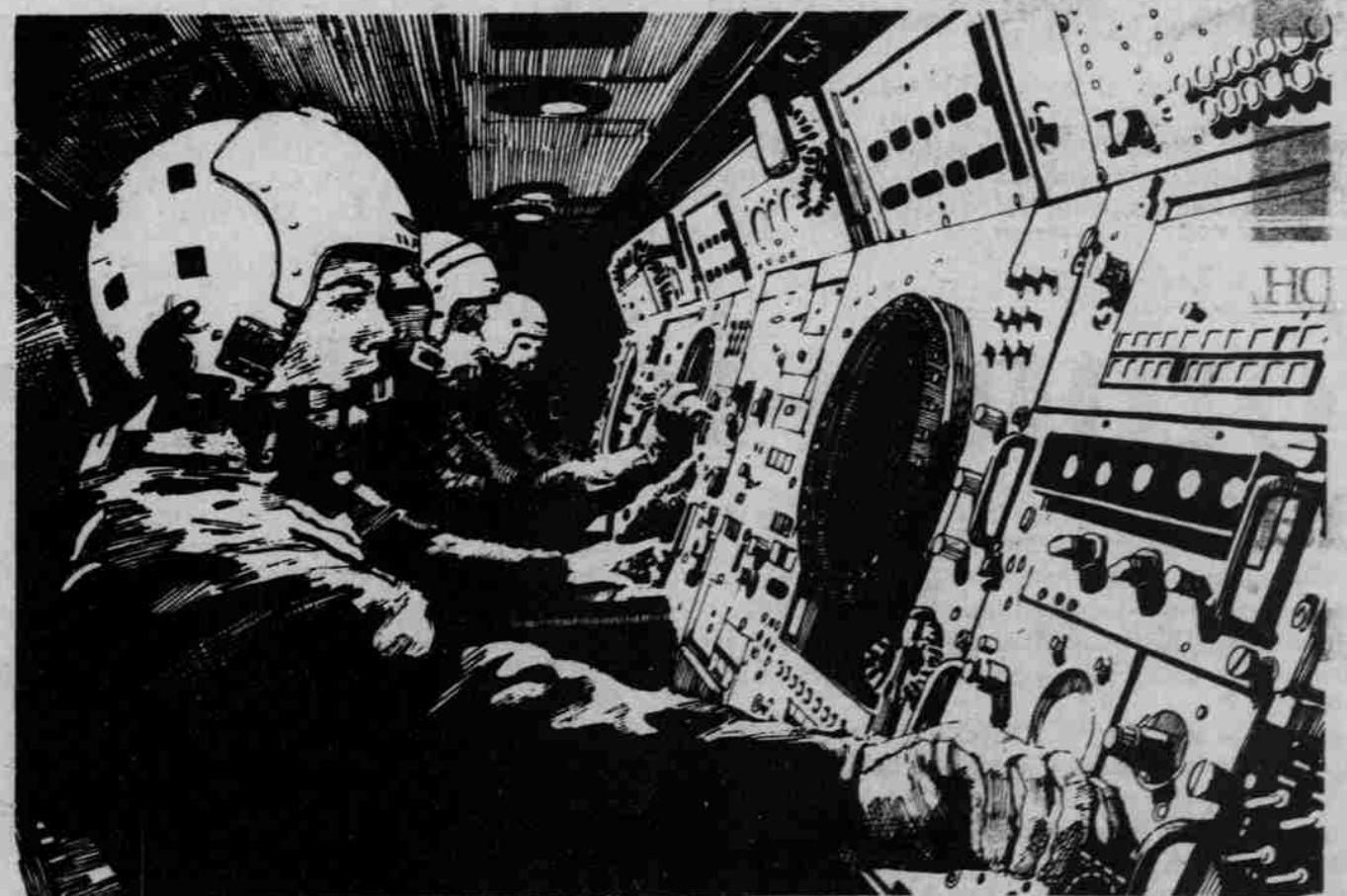
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