

CNC Community CHRONICLE

Archives

October 3, 1975

#22 of 1975

SUNDAY - Oct. 5

An Occasion for the Arts (Colonial
Williamsburg)


dies solis

MONDAY - Oct. 6

10:00 - Dean's Ad. Council

2:15 - Div. Coord.

Noon - Chairmen,
Arts &

Letters Div.

N.N.Credit Union
Representative
on Campus
CC Bd.
Rm.


dies lunae

WEDNESDAY - Oct. 8

Noon - Faculty Theology Group

2:30 - Chairmen, Ed. & Comm.
Div.


dies mercurii


dies martis

TUESDAY - Oct. 7

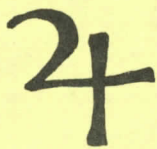
FRIDAY - Oct. 10

Div. of Ed. & Comm. - 9:00
Faculty Dining Room - CC

Proposed Course Offerings &
Class Schedules/Spring, 1976
Submitted by Department
Chairpersons to Associate Dean
of Academic Affairs (Deadline)

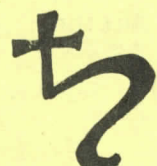

dies veneris

Faculty Meeting - 3:00 P.M. - N125


dies jovis

THURSDAY - Oct. 9

10:00 - President's Ad.
Council


dies saturni

SATURDAY - Oct. 11

DEAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

CNC Committees

The following list of committees is presented for your information. If there are any omissions or errors in committee membership, I would appreciate your calling them to my attention.

Standing Appointed Committees

Academic Budget Committee

*Bauer
Chang, K.
Daly
Kernodle
Knorr
Riley

Advisory Committee on Credit-Free Studies

Colonna
Markusen
Mazzarella
Randall
Salger, Amber (student)
Williams

Advisory Committee on Off-Campus Credit Studies

Daly
Doane
Hilliard
Maniyar
Scheiderer

Advisory Committee on Special Activities

Brown
Bull, Dorothy (student)
Hammer
Harwood
Hines
Lopater

Affirmative Action Committee

Blount
Capehart (staff)
Ellis (staff)
Friedman, Affirmative Action
Coordinator
(ex-officio)

Maniyar
*Morgan
Randall Slocumb
Reppen Winter

Athletic Committee

Bryant, Steve (student)
Colonna
Herrmann
Ireland, John (student)
Limerick (student)
Polis (ex officio)
Riley
Seats
Vaughan (ex officio)
Wilkes, Susan (student)

Bookstore Advisory Committee

Bauer
Brown
Haskins (staff, ex officio)
Hones
Keeton, Keith (student)
*Persky
Reppen
Scotti
Turner, Paul (student)
Vazzana

Buildings & Grounds Committee

Banks
Bright
Brower, Edd (student)
Cazares
Cones
*Edwards
Frazier, Candy (student)
Hones (ex officio)
Mosteller
Staman
Webb, J.

Financial Aid Committee

Brower, Edd (student)
Hones
McLoughland
Moses, Randy (student)
*St. Onge
Taylor, Tommy (student) Wildblood
Ward Williams

Graduation Committee

Blount
Cheek, Faye (student)
Doane
Freiden
Johnson
Onasch, Richard (student)
Royall
*Simmons
St. Onge
Walker, Maureen (student)

Happy Hour Committee

Armistead
Hoaglund
Simmons

Library Committee

Bostick
Caviness
Eddins
Freiden
Harwood
Hoaglund
*Jenkins
Kinmouth, Robin (student)
Lopater
MacLeod
May, Terry (student)
Parks
Sancetta
St. Onge
Webb, G.
Wise

Traffic Control Committee

Cofield, Ronetta (student)
Gooding, David (student)
Mosby, Ray (student)

Student Activities Committee

Almquist, Claudia (student)
Anderson, Barbara (student)
*Armistead
Bankit, Eric (student)
Brower, Edd (student)
Doerries
Fisher, Lloyd (student)
Healey
Jones, Bill (student)
Lyon, David (student)
Rollins, Jim
Simmons
Vaughan
Webb, J.
Wildblood
Wilkes, Susan (student)

Standing Elected Committees

Academic Status Committee

*Banks (acting)
Blount (ex officio)
Booker
Scotti
Sanderlin
Vaughan

Admissions Committee

Armistead
Brown (Secretary)
*Guthrie
Herrmann
Hubbard, R.
McLoughland (ex officio)
Simmons

Faculty Advisory Committee

*Bostick
Daly
Doane
Doleac
Hilliard
Markusen
Scheiderer

Faculty Evaluation Committee

Boyd
Harwood
*Millar
Persky (Recording Secretary)
Sacks (Vice Chairman)
Squires

Committee on Student Responsibility
& Academic Work

Barnes, Ray (student)
Brown
Durel
Gallo, Elyse (student)
Mazzarella
Saunders
Shaffer, Theresa (student)

Curriculum Committee

Avioli
Healey (Secretary)
Hubbard, J.
Knorr
Musial (ex officio)
Parks
*Pugh
Spielberger, Jim (student)
Swindlehurst
Walker, Maureen (student)
Youngblood, Donna (student)

Degrees Committee

Blount (ex officio)
Edwards (ex officio)
Jenkins
Jones
Maniyar
Saunders
Winter
*Wise

Nominations Committee

Lopater
Morgan (Vice Chairman)
Musial (ex officio)
Randall
Riley
Webb, G.

Ad Hoc Appointed Committees

By-Laws Revision Committee

Doleac
Durel
Edwards (ex officio)
Harwood
*Sacks

Honors & Program Committee

Bradley, James (student)
Ferry
Fisher, Lloyd (student)
Miente, Danny (student)
Moen, Wanda (student)
Nauman
Onasch, Richard (student)
Parks
Seats
*Walker, Maureen (student)
Webb, J.
Wildblood

Ad Hoc Elected Committees

Committee on Merit Pay

Bauer
Durel
Moore (on leave)
*Parks
Pugh

Committee on Tenure

Bostick
Colonna
Doerries
*Parks

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Tenure Workload Study

We are planning to use the seven day week beginning on Monday, October 13, as the basis for reporting data for the SCHEV Tenure/Workload Study. Additional information concerning procedures for the Study will be presented at the Faculty meeting on Friday, October 10.

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CNC Honor Students

The CNC Honor Society cordially invites all faculty members to attend a Wine & Cheese Party honoring last semester's Dean's List students. It will be at 8:00 P.M. on

Saturday, November 1, in the Board Room (CC214). The cost will be \$2.00 per person and guests are welcome. I hope it will be possible for you to support this worthwhile student event. Members of the Honor Society have asked those who are planning to attend to contact one of the following persons by Friday, October 23:

Maureen Walker - 599-7197 or 877-8144 or CC, Room 230
Wanda Moen - 599-4040 (evenings)
Dean William Polis - 599-7160.

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SGA & Student Class Officers

Listed below for your information are Student Government and Class officers for the 1975-76 academic year:

SGA President - Edd Brower
 Vice President - Barbara Anderson
 Secretary - Martha Fulcher
 Student Auditor - Claudia Almquist
 Attorney General - Lloyd (Skip) Fisher

Senior Class President - Maureen Walker

Junior Class President - William Levinson

Sophomore Class President - Patrick Grace

Freshman Class President - John Sellengberg.

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Successful Oral Exams

Congratulations are in order to PAUL KILLAM who passed his doctoral oral examinations at the University of Massachusetts during this past week. Paul plans to receive his degree in February.

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October Faculty Meeting

The October Faculty Meeting will be held at 3:00 P.M. on Friday, October 10, in N-125. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- I. Approval of the Minutes of the September Faculty Meeting.
- II. Committee Reports:
 - A. Nominations Committee (Mr. Morgan)
 - B. Academic Status Committee (Dr. Banks)
 - C. Admissions Committee (Mr. Guthrie)
 - D. Curriculum Committee (Dr. Pugh)
 - E. Degrees Committee (Dr. Wise)
 - F. Faculty Advisory Committee (Dr. Bostick)
 - G. Faculty Evaluation Committee (Dr. Millar)
 - H. Ad Hoc Committee Reports, if any.
- III. Announcements (Dean Musial).
- IV. New Business:
 - A. Faculty Workload Study (Dr. Pugh)
 - B. Other
- V. Adjourn.

ADMISSIONS OFFICE

The following is a summary of our freshman credentials this year compared with those of 1974. Two points are worth noting: (1) our mean verbal S.A.T. score is up 5 points this year and our mean math score is up 27 points. The September 15 issue of The Chronicle of Higher Education reports that "the average scores of high-school students on the Scholastic Aptitude Test dropped dramatically between 1974 and 1975 --down 10 points on the verbal section and 8 points on the mathematical section;" (2) In 1974, 46% of the men and 72% of the women ranked in the top two-fifths of their graduating classes (high school). This year, 53% of the men and 76% of the women were in the top two-fifths.

CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT COLLEGE PROFILE OF ENTERING FRESHMEN

AUGUST 1974

Rank in High School Graduating Class (Based on 254 Freshmen Students)

<u>Class Rank in Fifths</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>
1st	13%	40%
2nd	33%	32%
3rd	29%	20%
4th	13%	3%
5th	2%	0%
Not Ranked	10%	5%

Scholastic Aptitude Test Scores by Percentages

	<u>Men</u>		<u>Women</u>	
	<u>Verbal</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Verbal</u>	<u>Math</u>
750 - 800	-	1%	-	1%
700 - 749	1%	-	-	1%
650 - 699	1%	3%	1%	1%
600 - 649	3%	3½%	1½%	4%
550 - 599	9%	12%	10½%	5%
500 - 549	12%	17%	10%	12%
450 - 499	15%	18%	21½%	16%
400 - 449	17%	19%	20%	22%
350 - 399	23%	14%	20%	24%
300 - 349	12%	10½%	11%	12%
250 - 299	4%	2%	3%	1%
200 - 249	2½%	-	1½%	1%
Verbal Mean Score	-	430	Verbal Mean Score	- 432
Math Mean Score	-	465	Math Mean Score	- 437

AUGUST 1975

Rank in High School Graduating Class
(Based on 276 Freshmen Students)

Class Rank in Fifths	Men	Women
1st	16%	39½%
2nd	37%	36½%
3rd	27%	15%
4th	13%	7%
5th	5½%	1%
Not Ranked	1½%	1%

Scholastic Aptitude Test Scores by Percentages

		<u>Men</u>		<u>Women</u>	
		<u>Verbal</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Verbal</u>	<u>Math</u>
750 -	800	-	1%	-	-
700 -	749	-	-	1%	-
650 -	699	2%	2%	1½%	-
600 -	649	2%	6%	1½%	4%
550 -	599	5½%	10%	5½%	9%
500 -	549	12%	16%	8½%	14%
450 -	499	22½%	19%	21%	19%
400 -	449	22½%	28%	26%	16%
350 -	399	20%	10%	19%	26%
300 -	349	13%	6%	11½%	9%
250 -	299	1%	2%	3%	3%
200 -	249	-	-	1%	-
Verbal Mean Score -		435		Verbal Mean Score -	
Math Mean Score -		462		Math Mean Score -	
				432	
				467	

NOTICES

Crises in the Family and the Law to be Examined at CNC

During October, Christopher Newport College's Voyages for Adult Learners will organize several discussion groups whose foci will be the family and the law in America. Two groups will center on the family; two groups in the law.

Mr. Christian Moseman, family counselor with Family Service Travellers Aid, will conduct a class in Family Life Education. This class will use Virginia Satir's book Peoplemaking as a tool for structuring an investigation into the healthy family in our time. This class will meet on Thursday evenings, beginning October 9.

Mr. Michael Diana will conduct Parent Effectiveness Training workshops on Thursday evenings, beginning October 2 and on Saturday mornings, beginning October 4. This course is designed for parents who want to increase their skills in raising responsible children.

Morgan E. Scott, Jr., Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Newport News, will lead an examination of the American System of Criminal Justice. This examination will be divided into two parts. The first will be set in the General District Court, Main Street, Newport News, and will take up, typically, the American System of Criminal Justice, the Common Law System and the roles of the Judge, Jury, Prosecutor and Defense Attorney. Against this background, the group will explore how the "fictionalized" courts of radio and television have generated a court system apart from reality.

The second discussion group will explore problems facing the Criminal Justice System. Its major focus will be on America as a society of law and the exceptional danger which befalls such a society if law suffers a crisis, or a series of crises. Among the topics to be discussed will be the trial by jury in a world "created" by the media; capital punishment in a world where social research "reveals" its value as questionable, and the existence of crimes without victims.

For more information call the Office of Continuing Studies, 599-7045.

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Artists-In-Concert Series

Christopher Newport College will feature The Royal Shakespeare Company of Stratford, England, on Friday, October 10, in its Artists-in-Concert Series.

The Company will present Terry Hands' Pleasure and Repentance at 8:00 P.M. in The Campus Center Theatre. Starring in this performance will be Lynette Davis, David Suchet, Hugh Sullivan, and Bill Homewood.

Terry Hands was Artistic Director of Theatre-go-round from 1966 to 1968 and directed The Criminals, The Merry Wives, Pericles, Bartholomew Fair, Women Beware Women, Richard III, The Balcony, The Man of Mode, The Merchant of Venice, Murder of the Cathedral, Romeo and Juliet, and recently Cries From Casement and His Bones are Brought to Dublin (The Place, 1973) and The Bewitched. His work outside The Royal Shakespeare Company includes: Founder-Director of the Liverpool Everyman Theatre; Director of The Great God Brown, Murder in the Cathedral, The Four Seasons, Orison, and Fando and Lis, all in Liverpool between 1964-66. He directed Richard III at the Comedie Francaise which won the Paris Drama Critics' Meilleur Spectacle de L'Annee Award in 1972. In 1974, he directed Pericles at the Comedie Francaise.

For ticket information call the Office of Continuing Studies, 599-7045.

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Assistant Readers' Services & Reference Librarian

Position to be filled by November 1, 1975. Incumbent will serve as reference librarian, take charge of orientation program which will include classroom instruction and serve as general assistant to Readers' Services Librarian. Master's degree in library science from an A.L.A. accredited school required, additional master's degree in subject area or two years reference experience preferred. Starting salary \$11,500 to \$12,100 depending on experience. Faculty status, 4 weeks vacation and standard state benefits. Apply to Miss Bette V. Mosteller, Librarian, Capt. John Smith Library, Christopher Newport College, P. O. Box 6070, Newport News, Va. 23606 An Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Newport News Educator's Credit Union

Beginning with the payroll check to be issued on November 16, 1975, it will be possible to regularly deduct for the Newport News Educator's Credit Union. Payroll deductions may be made for savings accounts as well as repayment of loans.

The Credit Union is currently paying 5 3/4% on passbook savings, insured to \$40,000 and with free term life insurance matching savings up to \$2,000.

Non-members of the Credit Union are invited to join and current members are urged to initiate the form for payroll deduction. In order to place the deduction in effect for the November 16th check, the payroll deduction form must be in the Credit Union office by October 16.

Mrs. Elizabeth Welch, Personnel Officer, has membership and payroll deduction forms in her office.

Mrs. Linda Gary, Manager of the Newport News Educator's Credit Union, will be on campus at noon, Monday, October 6, in the Board Room, Campus Center, to answer questions and provide membership forms.

FACULTY NEWS

JAMES R. HINES gave a talk on "The Role of the Private Citizen in Musical Activity in Ante-bellum America" at a meeting of the American Guild of Organists held at Old Donation Episcopal Church in Virginia Beach, Virginia on September 15, 1975. Jim also attended the Southeastern Chapter meeting of the American Musicological Society held at Duke University on September 26 and 27. He was named to the local arrangements committee for the Spring meeting which will be held at William and Mary on April 9 & 10, 1976.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Virginia Foundation for the Humanities and Public Policy

Institutions of higher education and other non-profit organizations may submit applications to this organization for programs focusing on the humanities and on issues of public policy related to the state theme, "Values Revalued: The Individual and Community in a Changing Commonwealth." Programs should include humanities teachers as participants, should be designed primarily for adults, and should provide for open discussion between humanists and citizens.

Deadlines: December 5, 1975; March 5, 1976. Preliminary discussion with the Foundation is encouraged.

National Science Foundation

NATO Postdoctoral Fellowships in Science - Deadline: November 10, 1975

NATO Senior Fellowships in Science - Deadline: November 15, 1975

Student-Originated Studies - Deadline: November 10, 1975

Graduate Fellowships - Deadline: December 1, 1975

Research Initiation and Support Program

There is a new NSF program for strengthening programs of training and research

for young scientists at the graduate and postgraduate levels at educational institutions. Includes support for the following: "exploratory research by young scientists; acquisition of scientific equipment, instruments, and research and training facilities; and for other activities aimed at meeting departmental, interdepartmental, and institution-wide training and research needs." Awards will be on a competitive basis for not more than four years. Mrs. Neiman of the College of William and Mary has information.

Ethical and Human Value Implications of Science and Technology - supports research, education, and public understanding projects 1976 priorities are: in-depth case studies of specific issues; experimental summer workshops by national organizations; national conferences or workshops on critical issues in research or teaching. Deadlines: Jan.15, 1976 for case study proposals; February 15, 1976 for all other proposals.

Graduate and Postdoctoral Energy-Related Fellowships

Graduate fellowships: \$3900 for 12 months; deadline-December 1, 1975

Postdoctoral: \$12,000 per year for study or research for students who have recently received doctorate.

Application materials from Fellowship Office, National Research Council, 2101 Constitution Ave., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20418

Virginia Office on Aging

This office is requesting proposals for training to persons providing services to the elderly. Information concerning the program is available. Deadline: October 17, 1975.

Title I - Community Service and Continuing Education proposals in preliminary form are due: October 13, 1975.

U.S. Department of Transportation - Program of University Research

Research funded may be interdisciplinary and may span a wide variety of fields in the sciences and social sciences. Student participation is encouraged. Request for instructions should be addressed to: Office of the Secretary, DOT, Office of University Research (TST-60), 400 7th St., S.W., Washington D.C. 20590. Deadline: December 1, 1975.

National Endowment for the Humanities - Fellowships in Residence for College Teachers

These fellowships are designed for teachers in "smaller private and state colleges," and emphasize the improvement of knowledge and understanding of academic subjects in order to improve teaching. Two activities are involved: participation in an academic year seminar and pursuit of an individual program of study and research.

Stipends for 9 months: \$14,500. Postmark deadline for request of application materials and descriptions of seminars is October 14, 1975. Contact: Karen Fuglie, Division of Fellowships, NEH, 806 15th Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 20506. Tel.: (202) 382-5827.

National Endowment for the Arts - Work Experience Internship

This program, designed to acquaint participants with the policies, procedures, and operations of NEA and to give them an overview of arts activities in the country, will run from February 9 through May 6, 1976. Interns will work as members of the NEA staff and, in addition, will participate in a series of seminars with artists, journalists, arts administrators, and others.

Applicants must be sponsored by a state arts agency, university, or service organization. Stipend: \$1950 plus travel. Deadline: November 21, 1975. Future programs: summer June 1 through September 3, 1976, deadline March 19, 1976; fall September 20 through December 17, 1976, deadline July 16, 1975. Application forms may be obtained from Kathleen Bannon, Work Experience Internship Program, NEA, Washington D.C. 20506. Tel: (202) 634-6380.

U. S. Office of Education

Environmental Education Projects - Applications are being accepted from institutions of higher education from now until December 1, 1975. Processing will be subject to the availability of funds. Information and forms may be obtained from Bureau of School Systems, Office of Environmental Education, FOB6, 400 Maryland Ave. S.W., Washington D. C. 20202.

Danforth Foundation - Associate Program; Nominations for 1975-76

"This program seeks to recognize and encourage effective teaching and to foster activities which humanize learning....offers distinctive opportunities for interdisciplinary and inter-institutional activities among faculty...."

Nominations are solicited from students, faculty, administrators, and other Associates. There are annually about 300 Associates. The nomination of women and minorities is particularly encouraged.

Appointment is for a 6-year term. Each Associate attends three conferences during that period, funded by the Foundation.

For further information and nomination forms: Danforth Associates Program, The Danforth Foundation, 222 South Central Ave., St. Louis, Missouri, 63105.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nominations Committee

The Faculty Advisory Committee submits to the Faculty the following candidates to fill the vacancy (1) on the Nominations Committee:

Jane Chambers (A & L)
Bob Nason (N & Q)
Gary Vazzana (B & E)

(All divisions are currently represented on the Nominations Committee.)

Commentary

The Unscientific Method

By Ignoring Accepted Rules of Evidence, the Authors of a Popularized Book on Plants Reach Many False Conclusions

Arthur W. Galston

Editor's note: This review adds a further dimension to the topic of Frank B. Salisbury's Editorial in the April 1974 BioScience. It is an abridgment of Dr. Galston's column in the March 1974 Natural History (p. 18-24) and is published with the approval of the author and the gracious permission of the magazine. (Copyright © The American Museum of Natural History, 1974) Dr. Galston—on his way to the Far East—authorized me to make deletions to bring it within our space limitations. Each incision into the main body was very painful, but the extractions were mostly explanations necessary for lay readers.

Did you know that plants can respond to human speech, thoughts, emotions, and prayers? That they are capable of purposeful alteration of their behavior? That they can count, communicate with each other, and receive signals from distant life forms on other stars and in other galaxies? That they can respond selectively to certain forms of music, develop conditioned reflexes, and predict cyclones, tornadoes, earthquakes, and volcanoes? Did you know that plants have accomplished the dream of the alchemists: transmuting one element into another? And did you know that you can rid plants of insect pests or fertilize the soil in which they grow simply by exposing pictures of the growing plants to particular frequencies of electromagnetic radiation? All this, and lots more, is laid out for you in "The Secret Life of Plants," written by Peter Tompkins and Christopher Bird, and recently published by Harper and Row. The book is becoming a best seller. Well, that's show biz. But the harm this volume is capable of doing may outlast both the profits and the authors.

The author is with the Department of Biology, Yale University, New Haven, CT 06520.

How can any two reasonable authors advance so many patently false, unprovable, or impossible conclusions? The answer is by ignoring all the ordinary rules of evidence and by damning, circumventing, or flouting the scientific method whenever it serves their purpose to do so.

The experiments of Cleve Backster on electrical phenomena form the foundation for much of what Tompkins and Bird have written. On 11 December 1973, Backster, a former CIA polygraph expert, told the *Christian Science Monitor* (page 9, 2nd section): "The only problem in this kind of research is that Mother Nature doesn't want to jump through the hoop ten times in a row simply because someone wants her to. It's difficult to structure repeatable experiments. There are some phenomena that occur that make this kind of thing very difficult. For instance, once you are sure something will happen, it very well may not. I suspect that's because you are communicating to the biological material as long as you keep your consciousness involved in the experiment."

Isn't that neat? According to that explanation, anyone doing experiments

can "prove" anything he wishes simply by getting a result once—or perhaps once in a while. What about the times the experiment doesn't work? Mother Nature is just being a little coy. What about another experimenter who tries to repeat your work and can't? Well, that person may not have the proper mental attitude or may not be properly attuned to the plant being employed. As Marcel Vogel, another Tompkins-Bird hero who is trained in electronics but not botany, puts it: "Hundreds of laboratory workers around the world are going to be frustrated and disappointed . . . until they realize that empathy between plant and human is the key, and learn how to establish it. No amount of checking in laboratories is going to prove a thing until the experiments are done by properly trained observers. Spiritual development is indispensable. But this runs counter to the philosophy of many scientists, who do not realize that creative experimentation means that the experimenters must become part of their experiments."

Well, that at least is putting it squarely and honestly. What do you want to believe? Results that are ob-

tained when carefully described experiments are repeated by competent investigators anywhere in the world? Or results that can be obtained only by a select few in "special contact" with their test material? Scientists are well acquainted with results that occur only occasionally.

The trouble with "The Secret Life of Plants" is that it consists almost exclusively of bizarre claims presented without adequate supporting evidence. Thus, if the unwary reader believes much of what Tompkins and Bird have set down, he will be cluttering his mind with mythology rather than science. And if the reader attempts to order his life on the principles and generalizations they put forth, he will be led seriously astray. This book bears the same relation to scientific botany as astrology does to astronomy.

As a professional plant physiologist concerned with an analysis of such plant-life processes as flowering, leaf movements, rhythmic behavior, and hormonally controlled growth, I can only react with incredulity to the Tompkins-Bird description of botany: "Why botany, a potentially fascinating subject dealing with plants, living and extinct, their uses, classification, anatomy, physiology, geographical distribution, should have been from the beginning reduced to a dull taxonomy, an endless Latin dirge, in which progress is measured more by the number of corpses cataloged than by the number of blossoms cherished, is perhaps the greatest mystery in the study of plant life." This statement stems either from ignorance or from willful misrepresentation. For the study of botany is precisely the study of plant structure, function, distribution, evolution, physiology, and biochemistry. Taxonomy, so castigated by the authors, is an essential foundation for the understanding of plant group relationships and evolution.

To say, as the authors do, that "what makes plants live, or why, does not appear to be the purview of science" is to pretend that vast libraries of books on plant physiology, growth, and development do not exist. Indeed, plant physiology is now the largest branch of botany. Can Tompkins and Bird be innocent of this information?

The authors obviously know some science, but they present it in such a fragmented and selected form as to create consistently incorrect impressions. For example, they mention the experiments of the late Alexander Gure-

witsch, a Russian biologist who claimed to have proved that dividing cells emit "mitogenetic radiations" that cause other cells to divide, and they cite only other investigators who agree with him. They say nothing about the crucial experiments of Alexander Hollaender, which disproved the existence of mitogenetic radiations. They attribute to L. Ron Hubbard, a former science fiction writer and the founder of Scientology, the discovery that light from sodium vapor lamps is harmful to plants. This information was described many times before Hubbard's mention of it, and its basis is well understood.

In time, the effects of this book will fade away—you can't fool too many people for too long a time. Meanwhile, some plant lovers will croon to their cattleyas and murmur to their mimoses. This may comfort the vocalizers, but it won't do a thing for the plants... unless Tompkins and Bird have more hard evidence than they have yet shared with us.

