

# Mark Twain Lives

by Jean Beatty

Actor Will Stutts ably presented "An Evening With Mark Twain" in the afternoon of April 21, 1975 in the auditorium of Capitol Campus. The single-artist event was sponsored by the University's Cultural Committee, and was open to the public, admission free.

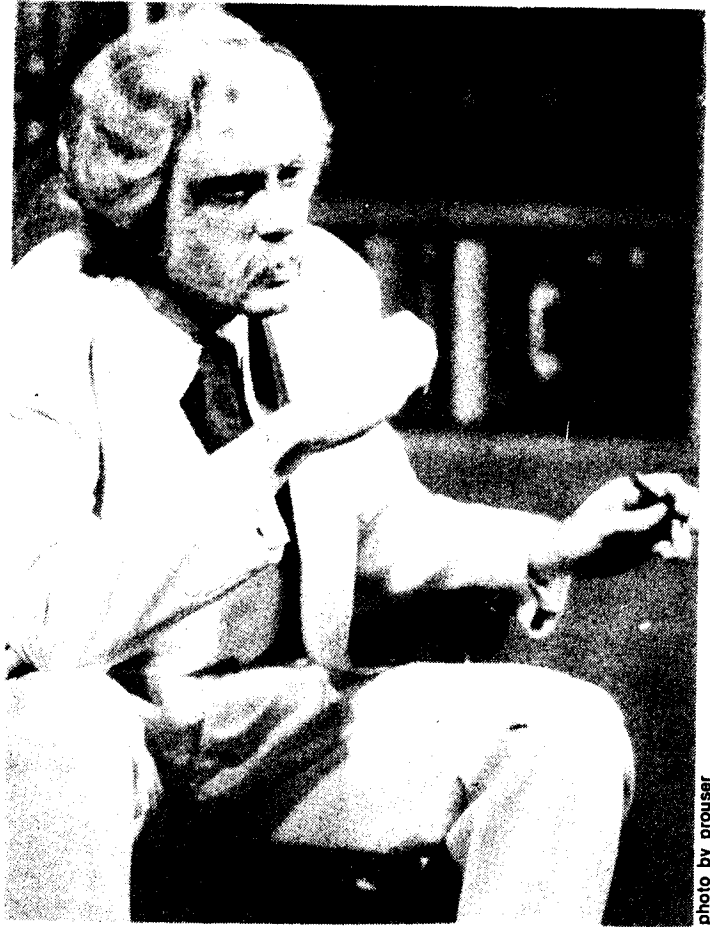
Will Stutts, 26 years old, is the youngest of the current actors portraying Mark Twain, Frederic March having "done" Twain in the 40's and Hal Holbrook, in the 50's.

Stutts' youth is perhaps responsible for his direct approach to Mark Twain's works. He senses those elements of the American humorist's art to which youth and vitality always respond--smoking, drinking, and the sudden delight of the bizarre.

Stutts claims that in more than 300 performances no two performances have ever been exactly alike. The point is not likely to be challenged because the easy manner of Mark Twain's humor lends itself more readily to an irregular format than to a strict one.

Stutts skillfully draws the audience into the slow-moving world of Twain by first calling the performance a "service." We, the audience, then know that the pace is not likely to gain momentum; rather, we are expected to relax into Stutts' mood, and we do.

Braving the pitfalls of audience boredom in any single-artist performance, Stutts moves from one subject to another with a rich sense of timing. He punctuates his story-telling with a skillfull sequence of match-striking, and he knows just when to inject the bizarre into the monologue for a sense of relief.



Mark Twain portrayed by Will Stutts at a recent show in the auditorium.

photo by prouser

While referring to the necessary cultivation of the habits of smoking and drinking so that in the event that one gets sink, like a sinking ship, he has something to throw overboard, Stutts uses the pipe-lighting ploy masterfully. The pipe never does get lit, each ignited match having burned out with the artist's involvement in the story.

Most notable of the bizarre were:

-the story of the extraction of a tooth with roots attached to the nerves of the patient's big toe;

-the story of a "fitting glass eye which, twirled uncontrollably to the delight of the adults and the terror of the children;

-the final tale, the story of a marble memorial placed high on the hill in honor of 39 yards of the finest carpet manufactured, containing the mortal remains of one of the townspeople who got caught in the machinery.

"An Evening With Mark Twain" is a delight in its easy folk syle. It is a nostalgic reminder of another time--a time whose easy, informal life style not only pervaded the lives of middle America in the 19th century, but also bequeathed to future generations the subtle irreverence of unvarnished truth now so common to American thought.



On The Fringes

photo by prouser

Life is like a carousel;  
Pulsating steeds disappear rapidly.

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## Vendorville Food Service Studied

by Fred Prouser

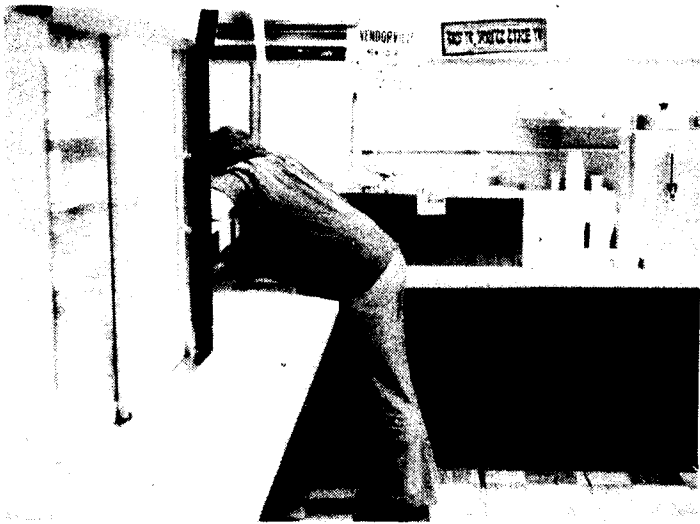


Photo by DeLong

A meeting with Housing Food Service officials recently provided some insight into the food operations on campus. The following items were discussed by Rod Minaya and this reporter.

1. Discussion on complaints that were received on the quality of food served in Vendorville by students was brought to the attention of the housing officials, and they informed us that many had already been taken care of.

2. Discussed at length were questions about purchasing and preparation of the food sold in Vendorville. Kitchen personnel scheduling problems were mentioned by housing officials as the reason for slow service at the noon hour and at night. Pricing structure on items sold in Vendorville was explained and the possibility for input on menu selections and special items was considered.

3. It is possible to obtain a balanced diet from the foods offered in Vendorville, but the responsibility lies with the individual student.

4. The SGA has agreed to allocate funds to print comment cards and set up a suggestion box in Vendorville. Also the SGA voted to establish a food service committee as a standing SGA committee, chaired by Senator Malpass.

5. Norman Gautreau, head of Housing and Food Service, stated that, "If at any time any student or anyone is not pleased with his purchase, he is requested to return it to the counter for refund or replacement."

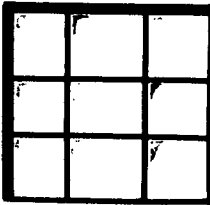
6. Any complaints that cannot be resolved on the spot may be referred to Rod Minaya, through the Chess Club mailbox in W-110.

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