

"TO BE OR NOT TO BE" ---COOL

by Mr. Alan Price, Instructor of English

It was almost dusk on September 30, 1955, when James Dean folded his white Porsche-Spyder into a Ford sedan at a highway intersection near Paso Robles, California.

James Dean, for those who might have forgotten, was a motion picture actor. His roles in East of Eden, Rebel Without a Cause, and Giant commanded salaries of \$100,000 each. But James Dean was more than a movie star — he was cool.

Dean had quit college at nineteen after a fight with his fraternity brothers. Then after supporting himself for a while by parking cars and working as an usher at movie houses in Los Angeles, he became dissatisfied and took the long bus trip to New York where he "fit to cadence and pace better." It was in New York that his acting talent was discovered and developed at Actor's Studio — artistic birthplace of Marlon Brando. And it was also in New York that James Dean developed his strange, elliptical language. A favorite self-expression: "Include me out." That was cool.

Back in California after his success in East of Eden, Dean frequently kept Hedda Hopper and other interviewers waiting for hours. "I'm a serious minded and intense little devil," James Dean was quoted as saying, "terribly gauche and so tense I don't see how people stay in the same room with me. I know I wouldn't myself."

The critics said he had talent. He spent his nights at the hamburger joints on Sunset Strip in a torn, dirty sweater, chain smoking cigarettes and drinking coffee. James Dean

was nominated for an Oscar for his performance as a neurotic misfit in Rebel Without a Cause. At that time he was living on a desolate stretch of beach where he had been driven after neighbors complained about his too loud hi-fi. Cool.

So on the last day of September in 1955 he was driving to a race meet in Salinas, California. He had just been given a ticket in Bakersfield for doing sixty in a forty mile an hour zone. Now he was doing eighty, ninety, a hundred — reports differ. But all reports agree that he collided head on with a Ford driven by Donald Turnupseed, a "non-cool" aeronautical engineering major returning home from The University of California for the weekend.

James Dean at twenty-four was dead; the steering column went right through his chest. Turnupseed lived. The whole, tragic incident was relived in the fan magazines for years. And yet if one of the two had to die, I somehow am glad that Turnupseed lived. And he wasn't even cool.

ATTENTION STUDENTS

Once again the Highacres Staff is looking for talented freshmen to join the newspaper staff. Any student interested in the paper can contact any one of the editors or Miss Goodman, advisor, for further information about joining.

DRAFT LAWS QUESTIONED

by Robert Fogarty,
Student Affairs Editor

A growing concern of many students is the Draft. The recent discontinuance of graduate student deferments alarms many of us. It is becoming more and more apparent that our right to seek an education is in danger.

As good Americans, we should be willing to sacrifice a few years of our education, if our national security is endangered, thus emphasizing the need for fighting men.

However, it is the general belief that our national security is not currently endangered by the Vietnamese War.

Why, then, should students even be considered for the Draft?

Why should the future leaders of our country be taken from the schools when there are others who can and want to enter the Service?

Thus far, General Hershey, or any of the other officials, have not answered these questions satisfactorily. All Americans should express their concern and demand answers to these questions. We encourage all to write to General Hershey, Director of the Selective Service in Washington.

By expressing our beliefs, we are exercising one of the freedoms guaranteed to Americans. It is the belief of this writer that the Draft laws are unfair and need to be improved. Anyone who has an opposing viewpoint, or any opinion of the Draft, is welcome to submit a reply for publication. Simply deposit it in the Collegian Suggestion Box.