

## Mason Proffit Deemed Forensically Rubric

by Thomas Kinter

Last Friday night Mason Proffit and Fresh Air gave a concert in Madill Hall. Both bands showed a great deal of tightness and drive and made the audience feel it.

Fresh Air seems to have gotten down to basically simpler things than they have in the past. Geortner and Brown on drums and bass were never showy but always driving right on the beat and Becker was uniquely excellent on the guitar. There was perhaps a bit too much of his guitar and not enough of the other instruments, but together they succeeded quite well.

Mason Proffit is a very tight, very talented loud electric Nashville-type country band which seems to have been borne out of the earlier synthesis between rock and modern country centering on the Byrds rather than the later one centering on the Grateful Dead etc. In fact their music is strikingly similar to the Byrds' *Sweetheart of the Rodeo* album.

John Talbot on steel, banjo and guitar stood out as the best musician. The drums, bass and keyboards were all good; and Terry Talbot on guitar and lead vocals played and sang well, which brings us to what he was singing.

The lyrics were bad. These along

with his numerous pointed, witty remarks and pushy, condescending stage presence simply did not live up to the music itself. He proceeded to lay down a Philosophy of Life, given freely (sort of), which offered a decisive solution to nearly every difficult issue on the American scene: the Racial Problem, Dope, My Lai, rednecks, etc., etc., etc.

Normally it would be better to dismiss trite philosophy and moralizing and just enjoy the music, especially when the music was this good, but Mason Proffit shoves it down your throat; so you can't ignore it and you listen to them mourn the horror of My Lai and confront the audience with were you there? "Were you there when Jesus bled?"

And then, after a few of these, they call up the audience to dance a ring of ecstasy around the Maypole of modern life and rock'n'roll and feign indignation at the audience's hesitation. Also it just doesn't set well to hear them first bitching about somebody (who?) stealing "our rock'n'roll" and then bitching about Merle Haggard-loving rednecks to music they stole from those same "rednecks."

So as philosophers, as preachers, as moral arbiters they failed, but their music still came off really well.

## Joint Exhibit Opens In Griffiths Art Center

by Thomas Kinter

Michael Heming and David Salley, both of 57 Judson St., are presenting a joint exhibit of drawings in Griffiths Arts Center beginning this week. Heming has done chairs, and Salley has done junk cars.

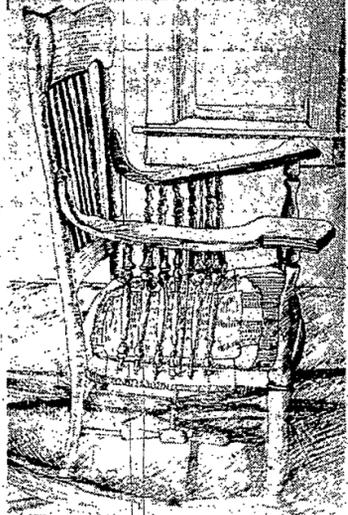


Photo by D. Ross K. Drawing by Michael Heming

There is one very basic similarity in the drawings: both chairs and junk cars seem to be either growing out of or receding into something. Heming's chairs (cf. "The chair becomes your old man.") are either finally changing from chairs or they are just beginning to be chairs. Salley's cars are either growing out of the field and the snow or are being eaten up by them.

Heming's drawings are precisely executed with just enough intentional asymmetry to animate them beyond wood, cloth, etc., beyond the typical bilaterally symmetrical chair, made for the typical bilaterally symmetrical Man who can't be found.

Salley's drawings bring out real beauty in these scenes of decay he has found, yet he achieves this without romanticizing or essentially tampering with what is before him.

It is in this indefinable achievement which can only be circumscribed or indicated, that both Salley and Heming carry their work beyond exercises or imitation into art; Salley in his unctritived depiction of natural beauty out of decay, Heming in his precisely achieved asymmetry.



Drawing by David Salley Photo by D. Ross K.

## Matteson Takes Sabbatical in Ireland

Dr. Robert S. Matteson, associate professor of English at St. Lawrence University, recently left for the British Isles to spend a half year's sabbatical leave doing research in Ireland.

A specialist in 18th century English literature, Dr. Matteson will be working in Dublin and in the small village of Cashel, County Tipperary. His research and study will be done prin-

cipally in the 17th century diocesan library at Cashel, where he will identify books which belong to Archbishop William King of Dublin.

King, who was archbishop during the first quarter of the 18th century, was a friend of writer Jonathan Swift, with whom he carried on a voluminous correspondence. King's library was one of the richest collections of books in private hands at that time, accord-

## Interterm Travel At Home And Abroad

by Christopher Silver

As a supplement to last week's article, "Domestic and Foreign Excursionists," it will be the attempt of this article to delve further into the academic experiences of St. Lawrence students during the January interterm. Melissa Woodard was interviewed concerning the trip to Israel sponsored by Dr. Daniel O'Connor, professor of Religion.

The group arrived in Tel Aviv to begin their excursion through Israel which extended for two weeks. Their final week overseas was divided between Greece (primarily Athens) and Italy (primarily Rome).



From Tel Aviv, the students headed South to the Dead Sea, stopping along the way to observe archeological diggings and various historically significant villages. Miss Woodard commented on the poor condition of much of the uncovered evidence as well as the above-ground structures. "Most of the things we saw were not well-preserved, attributable, in part, to the vast transition that has recently overwhelmed Israel."

Heading northwest, the group spent five days in Jerusalem and then went to Nazareth where they found shelter in a convent. The next night was spent in the guest house of a kibutz near the Sea of Galilee. Miss Woodard found her stay in the Kibutz to be one of the highlights of the trip.

After traveling to the west coast of Israel, the group returned to Tel Aviv where they boarded a plane for Athens. Miss Woodard felt that this was a well-timed divergence from the "very rigid agenda" followed for the two weeks. Each full day of sightseeing was followed in the evening by lectures or slide shows.

Oriented primarily to the past, Miss Woodard developed, as she stated, a strong feeling for the significance of many aspects of the Jewish history that are of relevance today. Her only criticism was that she had not been able to meet very many Israelis while there.

What impressed her most was the "resourcefulness and incredible productivity" displayed by the Jews in spite of many foreign and domestic problems. In spite of recent problems with the Arab nations, Woodard observed neither discrimination toward those Arabs remaining in Israel nor any outward signs of military activity.

John Ellis spent the January interterm in Nairobi, Kenya along with 12 other students and the sponsor, Dr. Peter French. Their first few days were spent at the Limuru Conference Center where they met their African Host Families and observed the workings of the Center; a place devoted to

ward improvement of social conditions in Kenya. Mr. Ellis revealed one disappointment with the Center, that being that he had to walk seven miles from his guest home to get to it.

Groups from all over Kenya met at the Center to discuss problems such as the institution of a Civil Service system in Kenyan society. Beyond this, the Limuru Conference Center provides for the primary education for a good number of children whose

Upon leaving the Center, the group traveled to Nairobi where each student spent nearly three weeks in an internship program. Mr. Ellis served as a reporter for the biggest news-



paper in Kenya and in the course of his internship, came into contact with a number of important government dignitaries. He wrote four articles, families could not afford the cost. one of which was published in the paper.

Mr. Ellis found, much to his disappointment, that Kenya, especially Nairobi, was very European. He noted that although many Blacks in Kenya resented what was termed as an intrusion, most had come to accept and work within the European framework that had been imposed. He had gone there "expecting almost anything."

The group stayed at the United Kenya Club in Nairobi which Ellis found to be "very European, very intellectual, and very stuffy." Yet, on the whole, he found the Kenyan people he came in contact with to be friendly and most hospitable. He found that being in a place that was predominantly Black gave him a



Fifteen St. Lawrence students spent their interterm touring and studying in the Soviet Union. Pictured above are many of the participants, on a sight-seeing expedition in Moscow's Red Square.

warm feeling and, as he stated, "it did something nice for my head."

His overall impression of the trip was that it was extremely worthwhile and offered to him a chance to observe firsthand exactly what is going

on in Africa. Zachery Kent spent January in the Lower East Side of New York City working in the "University Settlement," the oldest social welfare center in the City. The "Settlement" provides various forms of assistance to the needy.

Mr. Kent worked, as a volunteer, in the "afterschool program", which consisted almost entirely of Puerto Rican children. The program consisted of tutoring and recreation, and no one was allowed to partake of the recreation unless he came to the "Settlement" with a book.

Commenting on the needs of the children who came each afternoon, Mr. Kent replied that "each kid was different in his own way." One child whom he met there had previously witnessed his mother being stabbed by her lover.

His project was to study the question of "why Puerto Rican children were having difficulties learning in school." Although many sociologists have attributed this to a language and customs maladjustment, Kent discovered that the "atmosphere was as much a drawback."

Finally, Robert Tourville was asked to describe his experience in the nation's capitol during his three-week stay during the January interterm. The purpose of the trip sponsored by Dr. Bernard Lammers was to give interested people a more personal insight into the functions of the American government.

The first two weeks were tightly structured so as to insure the students of a thorough examination of the various governmental agencies. Each day would be spent in a briefing by a representative of an agency at which time the students were expected to come forth with "probing, pertinent questions."

Briefings were held at such places as the Pentagon, the Chamber of Commerce (a strong national lobbying agency), the Defense Department, the Treasury Department, and with ex-Senator Eugene McCarthy.

At night, a number of students made use of the facilities in the Library of Congress to work on their specific topics. Mr. Tourville mentioned that informal after-dinner sessions were held so as to plan the following day strategy for the briefings.

## State Department Official To Speak

Robert B. Wright, director of the Office of East-West Trade, U. S. State Department, will visit the St. Lawrence University campus Thursday, Feb. 24. His visit is sponsored by the St. Lawrence economics department.

During his stay Wright will speak to economics classes on matters of trade policy and East-West economic relations. He will lecture at Clarkson College in the afternoon and speak at a meeting of the North Country Economics Association in Potsdam in the evening.

Since 1960 he has been director of the Office of East-West Trade with responsibility for administration of the Mutual Defense Assistance Control Act and for backstopping U. S. participation in the multilateral strategic export control program and related East-West trade control matters.

He was a participant in the United States-Rumanian economic and trade talks in 1964 and in 1962 made official visits to the U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia.