

Pulitzer Prize winner

Campus welcomes author

BY LEAH NELSON

Pulitzer-Prize winning author Norman Mailer will visit Trinity Wednesday, April 25. "An Evening with Norman Mailer: Readings and Conversation" will begin at 8 p.m. in Laurie Auditorium. The presentation is free and open to the public as part of the Stieren Arts Enrichment Series, made possible by Jane and Arthur Stieren.

"Mailer believes that an audience should, in fact, not leave his readings unaffected," said professor Peter Balbert, chairman of the English Department, regarding Mailer's visit to Trinity.

Mailer has been lauded as one of the foremost writers of our time. His accomplishments include a Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award for "The Armies of the Night" (1969) and another Pulitzer Prize for "The Executioner's Song" (1980). Mailer's most recent award and the award which means most to him, according to Balbert, is the Emerson-Thoreau Medal awarded by the American Academy for Arts and Sciences. Past recipients of the award include Robert Frost, Hannah Arendt, T.S. Eliot, and Robert Penn Warren.

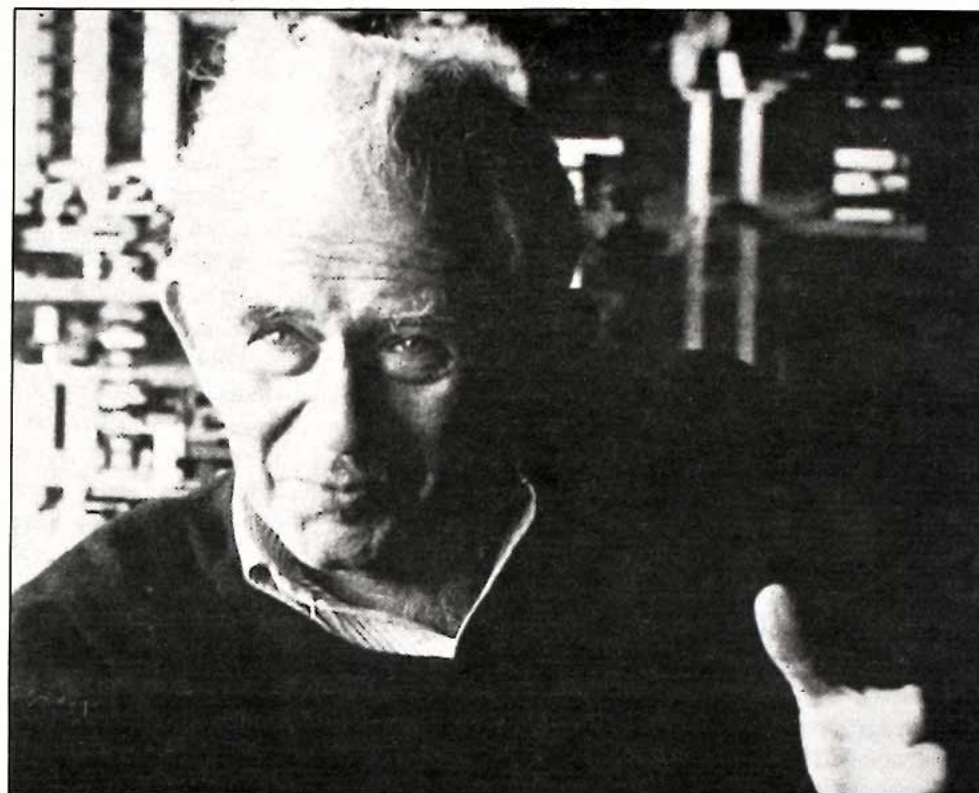
Mailer will spend a day in San Antonio, arriving in the midafternoon on April 25. According to Balbert, Mailer "does not do anything before his presentation. He psychs himself up, literally.... He doesn't eat, he drinks some coffee, but generally speaking,

he likes to be alone."

After Mailer's presentation, he will attend a reception at the vice-president's house, which is only open to invited guests. Even though the presentation and the reception are on a weekday night, Balbert predicts a large turnout at both events.

On Thursday, April 26, Mailer will be attending the Hemingway/Mailer seminar class. The discussion will focus on Mailer's novel, "The Executioner's Song." Balbert is quite enthusiastic about Mailer's seminar appearance. "He likes to be pushed in that kind of a class situation, particularly a small class, which is the way he likes it. Hopefully they will push him. He really plays off an audience that wants to be engaged with him..." Balbert said. "It should be an electric experience for all concerned."

Although Mailer is a celebrity and a controversial figure, he has little to do with the media. He refuses to give newspaper interviews, even for the purpose of self promotion. Balbert said, "He believes that they [newspaper reporters] should cover the event... usually there's enough in the event to get a sense of him." Because Mailer is the focus of media attention, Balbert said people have preconceived ideas of who Mailer is. "My hunch is, that when people meet him personally, here...you're going to see a person very different than, in fact, how the media portrays him." Balbert stressed the importance of Mailer's, and other writers of



Norman Mailer will read his works on Wednesday

his caliber, work and contributions to the culture. "What the media doesn't understand," he said, "is those kinds of people are, in a sense, our advance scouts for our culture. They're testing the waters."

"He is not simply a writer who has won as many major awards as probably any living writer, and he's not simply a writer who has been engaged in some of the most central cultural and intellectual controversies in our time... he is also a person who is very warm, personally," Balbert said.

To coincide with Mailer's visit, Balbert

has allowed the library to display his collection of, as he put it, "Mailerama" on the first floor of the library. The collection includes dust covers from the first editions of all of Mailer's books, from "The Naked and the Dead" on, autographed editions, galley proofs (which are advance copies of a book), various manuscripts, and a limited edition poster from Mailer's campaign for public office in the late 1960s.

"Next to my kids and my wife, there's nothing I love more than my first editions," he said. □

Outstanding Trinity scholars honored

BY JULIE POUCHER

What began as a social club at the College of William and Mary has evolved into one of the most prestigious honor societies in the country.

The Trinity University chapter of the national Phi Beta Kappa honor society, now in its 17th year,

recently initiated 53 outstanding junior and senior liberal arts scholars. Twelve juniors elected in 1989 were also recognized at the March 31 ceremony.

Librarian Craig Likness said the Trinity chapter never accepts more than the top 10 percent of the graduating class, and usually accepts no more than five juniors. "This year's

class was unusually large. Typically in the past we've elected approximately 30," he said.

The criteria for attainment of Phi Beta Kappa vary from year to year. Nationally, the society represents a "commitment to the liberal arts and sciences," according to secretary of the Trinity chapter and Likness. Individual chapters, however, are

responsible for determining guidelines for acceptance.

This year's senior initiates were required to attain a 3.61 GPA, but according to Likness, it has been as low as 3.5 in past years. Seniors must have completed 90 hours in the liberal arts and sciences by graduation, and taken one course in math and two semesters of a foreign language. Language and math classes from high school do not count toward this requirement unless the student has obtained AP credit equivalent to the requirement.

Starting with the class of 1993, initiates will be required to have completed one course in college calculus, and three semesters in a foreign language. AP credit will still count.

Senior initiate Chris Mammen, a philosophy major, said he planned some of his courses around the requirements; he took four math classes and two semesters of French. Mammen said of his election, "I kind of had the expectation, but it was a thrill, a surprise." Senior initiate Margaret Oertling, an English major, said "I was pretty sure that I could be eligible."

Both juniors and seniors elected must have majors within the definition of liberal arts and sciences; solely business-oriented majors or solely music majors are ineligible. Until last year, education, communication and engineering majors were also excluded. This year included several education and eco-

see **HONOR**
page 9



WORK IS HELL SALE

T-SHIRT
\$17⁰⁰
POSTPAID

MUG
\$8⁹⁵
POSTPAID

BUY
BOTH FOR
\$21⁴⁵
SAVE \$4⁵⁰



INCLUDE THIS AD CIRCLE ITEM(S)
AND SIZE(S) (S•M•L•XL)

Send To: LIFE IN HELL, DEPT. 54, 2219 Main St., #E,
Santa Monica, CA 90405
Allow 3-4 weeks delivery. Free catalog with order.

YESTERDAY'S GARDEN
(512) 494-4698

Remember Graduation, Mother's Day and
Weddings with a beautiful custom
designed dried floral arrangement

Everlasting designs by Theresa Howard