

Ellery Queen Not So Urbane

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — Christopher Rebecca Lee, a 30-year-old university freshman, says that her father, a detective story writer, Ellery Queen, was not as urbane as his books would indicate.

"Here's Ellery — tall, dark," Miss Lee said of her father's fictional sleuth. "Here's dad — short, fat. It's hard to make the transition."

"My father was a fairly dominant personality in his own home. A great premium was placed on intellectual competence in our house. Consequently I think that without meaning to he scared the hell out of us."

Miss Lee said that her father, Manfred Lee, who died in 1971, would not have approved of her decision to resign from a New York public relations job to enroll at the University of Florida this fall as a zoology major.

"He went off on a gamble to write," she said in an interview. "He felt that for his kids that wasn't the way to do it; that a good job and a decent income was still the most important thing."

Manfred Lee and his cousin, Frederic Dannay, teamed to write 35 mysteries under the pseudonym Ellery Queen. They rarely saw each other, but regularly produced one book a year. Lee did most of the writing while Dannay concocted plot, did research and edited.

Miss Lee and seven other Lee children grew up on an estate in Roxbury, Conn. Her mother, Kaye, is still alive.

"My fifth grade English teacher was such an Ellery Queen fan and had this image of my father

as this gorgeous WASP (white Anglo-Saxon Protestant)," Miss Lee said. When he visited the school one day, she suddenly realized that Ellery Queen was a short, fat man in overalls and red socks, Miss Lee said. "She was really destroyed."

Miss Lee said, "Ellery Queen's appeal has basically been that most of his detective work was done through his brain. He wasn't a James Bond, a knock-em-up, shoot-em-down. He wasn't a Mickey Spillane."

"My father felt very strongly that there was something special

about writing," she said. "He often said writing was a torture. He had this big thing for suffering, the Jewish disease."

Miss Lee said she did not enjoy reading her father's books because he drew too frequently on family friends.

"My mother would use pet words and mannerisms that would frequently appear in his books," she said "When I was a teen-ager it would wreck it for me. I'd be reading about this glamorous woman and then out would come one of my mother's phrases."

Spacecraft Center Loans Meteor Analysis Equipment

Equipment for meteor analysis has been placed on long-term loan with Texas A&M University by the Johnson Spacecraft Center.

The meteor radiation analyzer (MRA) will be used under the direction of Dr. Ronald Schorn, Dr. George Kattawar and Dr. Edward Fry of TAMU's Physics Department. They and Dr. Gilbert Plass, department head, conduct a variety of astronomical research.

Graduate student Bob Johnson of Plano will employ the MRA in his master's degree research.

A one-of-a-kind system, the unit was constructed for NASA under Lockheed Electronics Co. contract. NASA budget cutbacks prevented planned JSC observational programs. The equipment is valued at more than \$200,000.

JSC scientist Burton Courpalais and engineer Robert Ma-

riah designed the system. They will visit TAMU in mid-October to consult in equipment setup.

The MRA detects light-emitting meteor trails through nine photometers that permit study of the meteor's chemical composition. A rotating shutter chops the trail into segments, allowing a measure of the meteor's velocity and mass. The system also indicates the direction the meteor is traveling, according to Schorn, a professional astronomer.

Schorn believes the system will detect second-magnitude and brighter meteors, an atmospheric phenomenon caused by grain of sand to marble-sized material colliding at very high speeds with the earth's air covering.

He said the MRA will be set up at the TAMU Research Annex. Later use at McDonald Observatories in West Texas is possible. Schorn does planetary research there.

The system consists of an equatorially mounted package containing the light-sensitive devices and associated electronics. The detected light of a meteor trail is converted to an electrical signal and, through a logic unit, digitized and stored on magnetic tape. The system includes a power supply.

Schorn said taped data can be programmed directly into the department's computer for analysis.

The detector unit contains photometers of different sensitivities and filter capabilities in a 22 by 16 by 10-inch package. The unit's effective collecting aperture is five centimeters per photomultiplier tube.

"The system is designed to operate automatically once it is in operation," Schorn said. "The optics cover a field of view of 23 degrees. The motor-driven equatorial mounting keeps the detector unit pointed at a particular part of the sky."

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FALL SEMESTER is clearly underway at A&M, as students across campus spend studying hours outdoors during an unusually sunny day. (Photo by Gary Baldasari)

Biology Institute to Serve Life Sciences Problems

The Institute of Developmental Biology has been formed at TAMU to serve as a base for studying fundamental problems in the life sciences.

TAMU President Jack K. Williams said the new institute in the College of Science will be directed by Dr. Herbert A. Roller.

Roller and a colleague, Dr. Karl H. Dahm, also of TAMU and who will head one of the institute's units, are credited with the first isolation and chemical synthesis of the juvenile hormone, one of two hormones in insects which regulate developmental processes.

"The institute will be a driving force to enlarge TAMU's contribution in the international effort to investigate basic problems in biology," Dr. Williams noted. "In addition to its research activities, the institute will provide challenging academic programs for undergraduate and graduate students, post-doctoral fellows and technical personnel."

Besides support provided by the university, the program has outside funding which totals nearly \$1 million over the next five years. The bulk of the funding was provided by a National Science Foundation grant to Roller and Dahm for studies concerning the role of hormones in development.

"Our efforts in developmental biology over the last five years have proved successful with respect both to scientific achievement and funding," pointed out Science Dean J. M. Prescott. "It is evident that this area is one of the most productive ones in biology, and it is now highly appropriate that our research and instruction efforts in developmental biology be placed in an organizational context."

Wolfe Speaks At Seminar

Dr. Arthur Wolfe, associate professor of management at TAMU, will be the featured speaker at this week's senior engineering seminar session Thursday in the Zachry Engineering Center.

Dr. Wolfe will address senior engineering students on aspects of being a professional manager, according to course instructor James H. Caddess.

Dr. Wolfe's talk is one of a series of presentations to members of the required engineering course participants which expose the students to professional engineers and management personnel.

Caddess noted that although student attendance is required, he and the class welcome visitors interested in topics for the semester-long course. The course is a part of the Mechanical Engineer Department's curriculum.

Meetings are held each Thursday in Room 203 of the Zachry Center at 10 a.m.

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Stock Ups Begin For Fuel Crisis

A year ago, A&M, along with other institutions and municipalities, was caught in the midst of a nationwide energy crisis. Determined to avoid a repeat of last year's energy squeeze, TAMU's Physical Plant personnel, like the proverbial squirrel, are stocking up for a long, cold winter.

Two new one-million-gallon fuel oil storage tanks have been completed since last fall and are now receiving fuel oil shipments to fill their capacity.

"Last year TAMU had a fuel oil storage capacity of only 150,000 gallons," noted Wayne Terrell, information manager of physical plant. "When the unexpected natural gas curtailment hit us, our underground storage represented only a four day supply of fuel to keep our steam generators running. It seems we had tank trucks constantly lined

up on Asbury Street to keep that one storage tank supplied."

Terrell explained fuel oil is the back-up fuel to natural gas in the production of campus electrical energy and environmental conditioning for buildings. But with natural gas curtailment becoming almost a fact of life, TAMU must be prepared to supplement the demand with the more expensive fuel oil.

In view of the federal government's recent mandatory controls on propane and fuel, Terrell believes that TAMU made a wise move in expanding its storage capacity as early as possible.

The new federal guidelines call for priority of propane to residential users followed in descending order by: agricultural producers, food processors, mass transit companies, hospitals and nursing homes, industrial vehicles and equipment used indoors, fire and police departments, oil and gas drillers, small businesses and gas utility companies that use propane to beef up their output of natural gas during peak consumption periods.

Energy experts expect roughly the same priority system will apply to fuel oil when those new regulations are posted later this month.

Even with indications that natural gas curtailments will again be severe this winter, Terrell feels better about TAMU's situation. "We have expanded our fuel storage tremendously. In addition to the two one-million-gallon above ground tanks located away from campus, we have added another 150,000-gallon underground storage tank on main campus. This gives us a total of 2.3 million gallons of storage representing a full month's supply."

Terrell emphasized the continued need for conservation of energy during the winter months.

"Although we have additional capacity this year, we will not know the adequacy of our system until we actually see how severe the energy crunch will be this year."

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Meeting Thurs., Oct. 4
8:00 p. m. Room 229
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All Interested Persons Please Attend

Interviews for membership on the 19th Student Conference on National Affairs Committee of the Memorial Student Center will be held October 8-12. Interested students with a minimum GPR of 2.5 overall should apply at the SCONA Desk in the Student Programs Office of the MSC before Wednesday, October 10.

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