

Mail sorter has unusual job

By JANE G. BRUST
Battalion Reporter

Valerie Vickers said it used to be nerve-racking to work alone in the small windowless room. She said she used to feel closed in, especially when she could hear people talking outside but not see them.

In spite of the cramped, cluttered room, however, Vickers said she likes her job. In fact, she said she's seen some interesting — and sometimes funny — things.

Vickers is a student worker in the Commons, where she sorts and distributes mail each day for students living in Mosher and Aston Halls.

"There was a package the other day," the senior said, "with air holes punched in the top and sides. It was shoe box size and it was labelled 'Living.' I couldn't get any noise out of it, so I don't know what it was."

Vickers, who is working with the mail for her second year, said women get "thousands of packages" while men don't get as many. Women often get clothes and items for their rooms, she said, while men often get cookie packages - Vickers said more such "CARE" packages

from home come in around mid-term examination time.

Throughout the semester, men send off for a lot of records, Vickers said, and women send off for a lot of makeup. Some women get little books from Frederick's of Hollywood as well, she said.

In addition to the books advertising daring lingerie, women receive catalogues of china selections and honeymoon trips.

"That's how you know who's getting married," she said.

Vickers said she learns a lot of little things about the residents at the other end of the mailboxes.

She said she can tell who is studying to be a CPA, who is an education major, who is a pre-med major — based on the mail they receive about their fields.

"CPA's get a lot of review things for exams," she said, "and education majors get a lot of teachers' aids."

Vickers also knows when someone is having a birthday or when someone is going on a trip.

"It's neat to see their airplane tickets come in — I always wonder where they're going," she said.

Spending one hour each morn-

ing sorting the mail, and another 30 to 40 minutes stuffing the boxes, Vickers said she not only sees but also hears some interesting things.

"People don't realize there's a person back there in the mailroom," she said. "I hear all kinds of things in the hallway and in the lounge.

"If people don't get mail," she said, "they have one of two reactions. They either get mad and slam the door shut, or they get sad and say, 'My mother doesn't love me anymore.'"

Sometimes students think GTE doesn't love them either.

"I hate putting out the phone bills," Vickers said. "Everybody wants theirs all at once, and then they say, 'Oh, my God, I'm dead! I couldn't have talked that long!'"

Certain other kinds of mail bring more positive reactions.

"You can tell when someone gets a check from their parents," Vickers said, "because you can hear them say, 'Well, they finally came through.' Then the guys say, 'Let's go party!' and the girls say, 'Let's go shopping!'"

Having sorted through thousands of scented envelopes, overseas postcards and miscel-



Photo by Dillard Stone

Vickers puts the mail in Commons boxes.

laneous parcels, Vickers said she's learned a lot about how the postal system operates and a lot about how people operate. She said mail is pretty important to college students, especially when they've just had a big test.

While Vickers does not personal-

ly know all the individuals receiving mail she distributes, she said she would like to meet the students who receive the more unusual pieces — especially "Sexy So-and-So" who gets letters from "It Better Not be Anybody but Me."

Sunday Specials

MORNING

11:00 **66** THE JEWS OF HUNGARY: A STUDY IN SURVIVAL

AFTERNOON

12:00 **66** THE DEVIL AND DANIEL MOUSE This animated fantasy tells the story of a young mouse who sells her soul to the devil in exchange for success as a folksinger, and her long-time partner who must bail her out of trouble; singer-songwriter John Sebastian performs four original tunes.

12:30 **66** THE JEWS OF HUNGARY: A STUDY IN SURVIVAL A look at how Hungarian Jews have maintained their religious life and traditions in a Communist nation is presented.

1:00 **2** GIRLS OF THE SOUTHWEST PAGEANT

2:00 **15** THE INFORMATION SOCIETY Marc Porat examines the opportunities, advantages and risks resulting from our burgeoning computer society. (R)

3:00 **15** DON'T FORGET THE KHMER Filmed on location at a refugee camp in Thailand, this documentary focuses on the plight of the Cambodian people — the violence they have been subjected to and the uncertainties that the future holds for them. (R)

3:30 HBO THE BEACH BOYS IN CONCERT The pop music group, which has spanned nearly two decades with tunes of romance and fun in the California sun, performs such classics as "California Girls" and "Surfin' U.S.A."

4:30 HBO HBO SNEAK PREVIEW

EVENING

7:00 **3 13 24** CATASTROPHE! NO SAFE PLACE Hosts Charles Bronson and Jill Ireland present footage of the most violent earthquake and ensuing tidal wave to hit the North American continent, a real-life Brazilian towering inferno, a U.S. harbor disaster and a plane crash on Prison Island.

8 YELLOW CAB Detectives patrol their New York beat with a yellow cab in this real-life drama.

9:00 **11** PM MAGAZINE SPECIAL EDITION

11:00 **69** JAMES ROBISON SPECIAL "Wake Up America"

Sunday Sports

MORNING

10:00 **7** FRED AKERS

11:00 **7** TOM LANDRY

11:30 **7 11** NFL TODAY

AFTERNOON

12:00 **3 7 11** NFL FOOTBALL New Orleans Saints at Washington Redskins

2:00 **66** BUM PHILLIPS

2:30 **2 66** NFL '80

3:00 **2 66** NFL FOOTBALL Cincinnati Bengals at Houston Oilers

3 7 11 NFL FOOTBALL Chicago Bears at Philadelphia Eagles

6 NFL FOOTBALL Regional coverage of Seattle Seahawks at Oakland Raiders; Cincinnati Bengals at Houston Oilers

13 WORLD AMATEUR TEAM GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

EVENING

8:00 **3 13 24** NFL FOOTBALL San Diego Chargers at Dallas Cowboys

15 COLLEGE FOOTBALL Rice vs. Texas A & M

11:30 **2** GRANT TEAFF

3 TOM WILSON

12:00 **3** MERRILL GREEN

Sunday Movies

MORNING

10:30 **13** ★★½ "The Woman Hunter" (1972) Barbara Eden, Robert Vaughn. A wealthy woman fears for her life when she suspects that she is being followed by a jewel thief and murderer.

AFTERNOON

12:30 **66** ★★½ "Harum-Scarum" (1965) Elvis Presley, Mary Ann Mobley. A movie star becomes involved with intrigue and a beautiful princess while travelling in the Middle East.

1:30 HBO "Hooper" (1978) Burt Reynolds, Jan-Michael Vincent. A professional movie daredevil regarded as "the greatest stunt man alive" jeopardizes his romance and risks his life in planning a spectacular car leap with a younger rival for his title. (PG-1 hr., 39 min.)

2:00 **24** ★★ "Masquerade" (1965) Cliff Robertson, Jack Hawkins. A private detective is hired to discover the

whereabouts of a young prince from an oil-rich Mideastern kingdom.

3:00 **69** ★★½ "Way, Way Out" (1966) Jerry Lewis, Connie Stevens. A meek astronaut is propelled into space with a pretty female companion to operate a lunar weather station.

4:00 **13** ★★½ "In Search Of Ancient Astronauts" (1974) Narrated by Rod Serling.

5:00 HBO "You Only Live Twice" (1967) Sean Connery, Donald Pleasence. Secret agent James Bond travels to the Orient to learn who is behind the hijackings of American and Russian space capsules while they are still in orbit. (PG-1 hr., 57 min.)

EVENING

7:00 **2 6 66** "Sophia Loren Her Own Story" (Premiere) Sophia Loren, Rip Torn. Screen actress Sophia Loren stars as herself and as her mother in this film adaptation of her autobiography. □

7 11 "Father Figure" (Premiere) Hal Linden, Timothy Hutton. A man who had been separated from his sons by divorce years earlier struggles to re-establish a relationship with them when he regains custody after their mother dies.

HBO "Every Which Way But Loose" (1978) Clint Eastwood, Sondra Locke. A two-fisted

trucker and his orangutan companion take off in pursuit of a pretty country-western singer, while a vengeful motorcycle gang pursues them. (PG-1 hr., 54 min.)

9:00 HBO "Dracula" (1979) Frank Langella, Laurence Olivier. In a 1913 English coastal town, an aged professor seeks vengeance against the centuries-old vampire who murdered his daughter. (R-1 hr., 49 min.)

10:30 **7** ★★½ "Double Kill" (1975) Gary Collins, Penelope Horner. The conniving husband of a wealthy woman devises a plan for her murder.

11 ★★½ "Alex And The Gypsy" (1976) Jack Lemmon, Genevieve Bujold. A middle-aged bail bondsman arranges the release of a young, outgoing gypsy girl and ends up falling in love with her.

11:00 HBO "Hooper" (1978) Burt Reynolds, Jan-Michael Vincent.

11:15 **13** ★★ "Torn Curtain" (1966) Paul Newman, Julie Andrews. In order to obtain a secret formula necessary for perfecting a new weapon, an American physicist pretends to defect to East Germany.

24 ★★½ "Billie" (1965) Patty Duke, Warren Berlinger. A stubborn male chauvinist discovers his daughter to be a better athlete than any boy around.

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