movies...

'Caretakers' depicts mental asylum

by Joseph C. Lambert

The caretakers, now shining in the Boston area, tell one of the poorest psychiatric dramas to reach the screen since the beginning of the era, and are likely to influence the field.

Joan Crawford and Robert Stack head an unconvinced cast. The essential plot of the movie revolves around the "good guy," an unsmiling patient, and the "bad guy," aphaetic and dangerous. The latter is controlled by Crawford and Stack, and their efforts are thwarted by the efforts of the "good guy," the head of the hospital and nursing staff, who wishes to place all patients in comfortable beds.

The movie pursues the diagnosis through plots and subplots devoted to the doctor, his miscellaneous affairs, the doctors and the super-sensitive nurses, the behavior of several types of mentally insane women when thrown together, and, naturally, the ever-impending suspicion of the State Mental Health Board, where the two sides of the mythology were to be debated.

Unfortunately, even the well-known actors in the film are unable to convince in the archly melodramatic scenes. The climax, an unpleasant imitation of "David and Lisa," holds such interesting lines as "(sighing) "Paul, just look,"..." (Oh, Eliot's imagination, those thought-provoking lines). The faces of the characters on the "bad side" and the triumphant smile on the face of the "good guy." This reviewer was not moved by the general scenes showing the borderline cases (as a matter of fact, we found these scenes hilarious), nor by the supposed smugness, where a hundred women sang, stabbed imaginary babies in the sinks, and lay on the floor in presentable positions. In the end, the film is terrible.

An evening seeing this current double feature is a privilege not to be accorded to a dog, nor to a more person. This reviewer has never before been so bored as he was at this motley pair of film productions.

Movie Schedule

If you look closely, you can see the hairs and the disgusting, beady eyes," explains Gill Robbins (second right) about an instrument made from an armadillo. The Highwaymen concert was sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega.

-Photo by William Park

Poetry Series to begin next week

William Jay Smith, poet-in-residence at Williams College, and his wife, Barbara Howes, will give the first reading in the Department of Humanities Poetry Series November 5 at 8:00 in the Hayden Lounge.

A former Rhodes Scholar, Smith is the author of several books of poems, including "Colossus at Dawn," and "Poems 1968-1970." His wife is the former editor of the literary quarterly "Chimera." She is the winner of the "Poetry" magazine's Don Linkin Prize and has published three books of poetry, the latest "Light and Dark."

An informal discussion will follow the reading.

Theatre Schedule

Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2:00: Student screening of "Lawrence of Arabia." Wednesday, Nov. 2, 8:30: Symphony Hall, Robert Bacon, "The Great Escape." Thursday, Nov. 3, 4:45: Sta. John's College, "A-4TOR." Friday, Nov. 4, 7:45: Statler-Hilton Hotel, "The Battleship Potemkin." Saturday, Nov. 5, 1:00: "If You Look Closely, You Can See the Hairs and the Disgusting, Beady Eyes" show at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, "The Great Escape." Sunday, Nov. 6, 5:00: "If You Look Closely, You Can See the Hairs and the Disgusting, Beady Eyes" show at the Statler-Hilton Hotel, "The Great Escape."