

ADVENTURES IN FORMALISM

or I'm Mad as Hell and I'm Going to Take it Some More

By Nolen Gertz

Amid the media frenzy of articles written on our current president and his actions, you are probably thinking to yourself, "I know the country is going down the toilet, that this is quite possibly the worst president ever, assuming he was even really elected, and I don't need another 'intellectual' reminding me about it." Upon reaching your boiling point, and before wearing yourself out, of course, you might finish, "I'm sick of hearing about this, reading about this, thinking about this; wake me up when it's 2008!"

By simply hearing the President's name, or by reading a headline in passing, or by coming across a protest—even just a sign for one coming up—a response is evoked. What is this response? Well, without actually know-

ing anything about you, I will be so presumptuous as to suggest that what is evoked, more than anything else, is annoyance. Yes, annoyance. Not angst, nor anger, nor righteous indignation, but something closer to aggravation, and dare I say it, boredom. This is due to the existential roots of our current dilemma. For what else can we call it when every day we come across more and more reasons to be outraged with the direction in which our country is going, and instead we every day find more and more reasons to continue with business as usual? We would much rather change the channel, turn up the volume on our iPods, follow TomKat, and generally look at what's currently right in front of us instead of having to

