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The Daily Cardinal

OL. LXXVIII, No 168

University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706, Friday, August 9, 1968

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Henderson: 'Soul' is Black Pain

By PAT MCCARTHY
Cardinal Staff Writer

The two day symposium, Anger and Beyond: The Black Writer and the World in Revolution, opened with a little bit of "soul" Thursday afternoon at the Historical Society Library. Prof. Stephen Henderson, head of the English department at Morehouse College in Atlanta, speaking on the black writer and America in a state of revolution, stressed "soul" as a special state of awareness that is possessed by black people alone.

He said "soul is the black man's pain, survival motion set to music, not only the boogaloo and the tighten up but the sound of the prison ham-

mer as well." He said that "soul is more than sound," it was a totality of experience, but also stated that "soul" was more or less undefinable.

Prof. Henderson's explanation of "soul" came during his presentation on black prose and poetry in the United States.

Charging that the news media twists the story of the black American, Prof. Henderson stated that they fail to grasp the fact that a revolution has gone on in the minds of black Americans and this revolution will become externalized in the future. He said, "A confrontation will come, but the question is how?" Prof. Henderson stated the United States was built on violence, the extermination of the Indian and the enslavement of the Negro serving as examples. Seemingly in despair over the state of white American attitudes, one

black poet said "I ain't seen no metaphors stop a tank."

But despite popular belief, there is an abundance of black American literature. Prof. Henderson stressed the poetry of the Afro-American as a particularly effective media. He said the philosophical basis for the black poet is "to inform the soul." Prof. Henderson cited James Brown as the best poet of our day, for he sees the poetry of "soul" to be energy and deep down feelings. Poetry is not meant only to be read but to be set to music. Prof. Henderson believes the medium for poetry in the future will be the tape recorder.

In the first half of the session, Former U.S. Ambassador Mercer Cook discussed the black writer and Africa in a state of revolution. Quoting from many African authors, Dr. Cook demon-

strated the moving force of their messages.

Dr. Cook said over 400 volumes have been published by African authors since 1950 in a basic switch from the song, dance, poetry and tale literary culture of colonial Africa.

WEATHER



The weather today will be hot and humid again. The high will be in the 80's. There is a sixty per cent chance of thundershowers.

WSA Summer Board Proposes Pass-Fail Bill

By KATHY McDONNELL
Cardinal Staff Writer

The WSA Summer Board is preparing a number of proposals to be considered by Student Senate in the fall which may result in a sweeping reform of the grading system and an extension of student influence in university policymaking.

Its major recommendation is the establishment of a student-faculty committee "to re-evaluate and make recommendations on the purposes of the University."

The Summer Board proposals aim at a new emphasis on teaching and undergraduate education. To create this new emphasis, the Board is recommending the publication of a course and teacher evaluation prepared jointly by students and faculty which would be distributed with the timetable. Also proposed is the inclusion of student evaluations of professors' teaching ability in considerations for promotion or tenure.

WSA President David Goldfarb said that he anticipates difficulty in achieving the long-range aim of the grading reform proposals, which is the operation of the entire University on the pass-fail system. For the present, the Board proposes that students in all colleges be allowed to take any or all courses on a pass-fail basis, with the exception of major or profession-oriented courses, and that individual faculty members be allowed, with departmental approval, to offer one course each semester on a pass-fail basis.

The Board is also recommending extensive departmental reforms which would increase student participation in policy-making at the departmental level. It proposes that students be insured membership and voting seats on all departmental committees which formulate educational policy, and that students be allowed to attend all departmental meetings in a non-voting capacity. The Board stipulated that these student representatives will be chosen democratically by their fellow students in the individual departments. The aim of these proposals is the establishment of a formal policymaking structure through which students can exert their influence, a process which at present varies greatly according to the various departments.

The Summer Board is further proposing the establishment of a student-faculty committee to reconsider degree requirements. The last review of requirements for a degree was completed five to seven years ago, by a group composed entirely of faculty members.

Other proposals still under consideration by the Summer Board include a change from the semester to the quarter system, the abolition of any compulsory class attendance which still exists at the University and of compulsory ROTC Orientation, and the development of inter-disciplinary courses and opportunities for field study in individual disciplines. All the discussed proposals will be put into final form and approved by the Summer Board next week for the consideration of the Student Senate next semester.

The Summer Board also announced WSA support of the United Farm Workers' national boycott of California grapes, and is urging the University and Madison businesses to do the same. David Goldfarb said that neither the Wisconsin Union nor University Residence Halls were using boycotted grapes, and that Kohl's, a Union supplier, is also honoring the boycott.

City Council Passes Riot Funds

By GENE WELLS
Cardinal Staff Writer

The City Council Thursday night approved for the second time an appropriation for the purchase of riot gear for the Madison police force.

The 17-3 vote was taken because Ald. Paul Soglin had questioned the legality of a vote at a prior meeting approving the appropriation.

Joining Soglin in dissent were Ald. Wheeler and Mrs. Alicia Ashman. Soglin and Mrs. Ashman had asked to be recorded as voting against the appropriation at the prior meeting. Wheeler said he was not present at that meeting.

A public hearing on the appropriation preceded the vote. One speaker registered himself as favoring the appropriation. He stressed the importance of keeping students from gaining control of their

Universities and suppressing black people, and reminded the aldermen that much more riot equipment would be needed in the future. Then he turned the floor over to a group of about eight students who gave a singing demonstration for the aldermen and left.

Other speakers opposing the resolution stressed the importance of exploring methods other than force to control riots and demonstrations.

Aldermen speaking in favor of allowing the public hearing noted that young people often feel they are not a part of the democratic process and should be allowed to speak. They also said it was important that full consideration be given to the matter before voting.

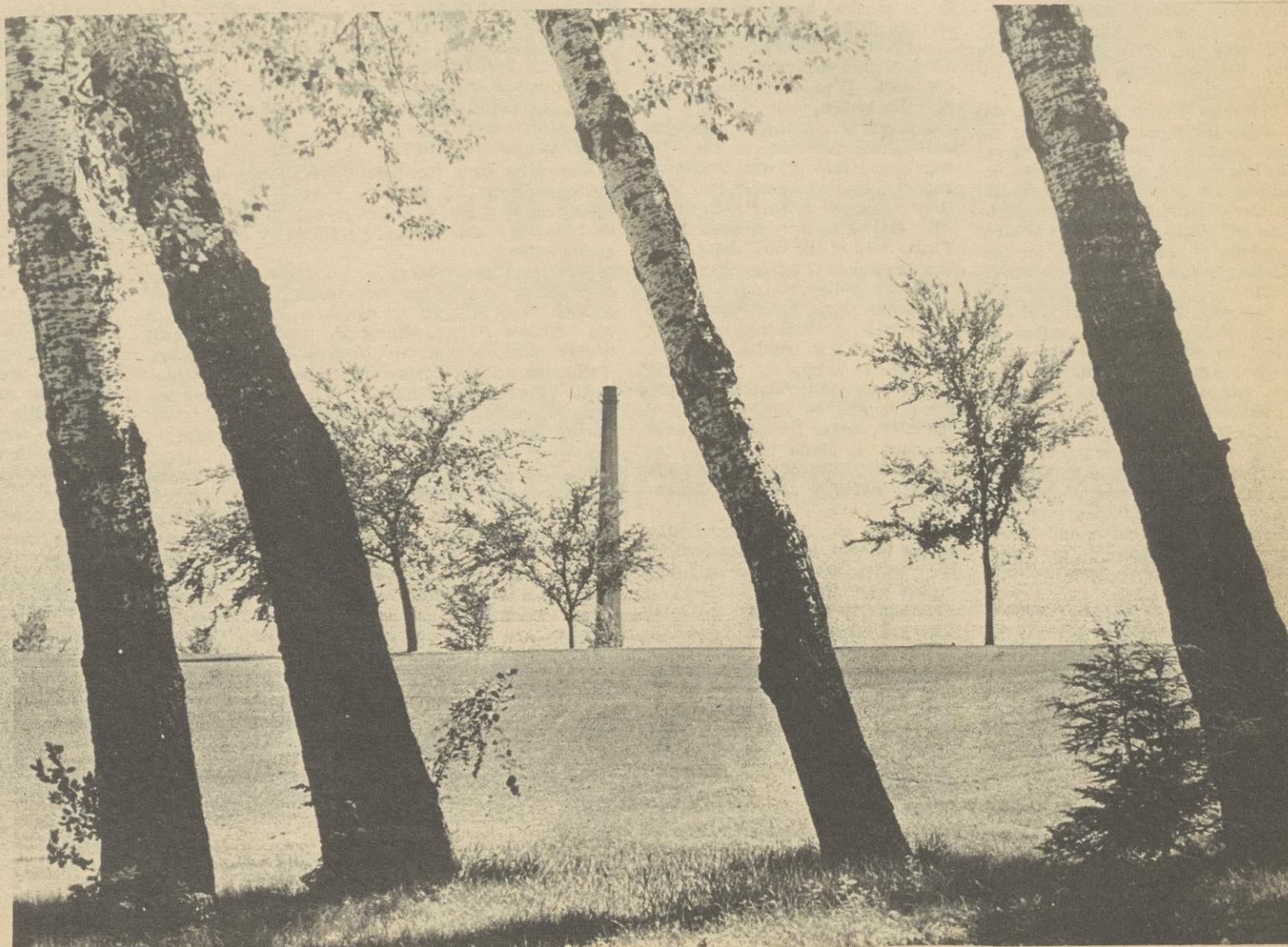
However, no opinions were changed by the public hearing.

All who voted against the appropriation were originally opposed to it. After the hearing, the council proceeded to a vote without debating the appropriation among themselves.

Earlier the aldermen approved a recommendation that police salaries be raised and that the structure of the police force be altered.

The recommendations provide for a \$100 per month raise for policemen, the hiring of community service officers to handle the routine duties now performed by policemen, and a no-strike agreement from policemen.

A large group of Madison policemen was present at the meeting. Most of them left after the recommendations on restructuring of the police force was approved, without waiting to find out if they would get their riot gear.



THE DAILY CARDINAL

a page of opinion

Nixon- The Republican Reply

The failure of the Republicans, in nominating Richard Nixon, to offer a candidate who would repudiate the policies of the Democratic administration demonstrates inadequacies, and may even sound the death gong for the American two party system.

It simply has no rationality or relevance to public opinion. Four years ago the Republicans offered a ridiculous alternative to a fairly popular administration.

Now with the incumbent part considered one of the most unpopular in the history of this nation, they have come up with a platform and candidate whose vague programs are almost indistinguishable from those of the present administration.

Nixon's strategy of coming across as neutral as possible to party members so he would make no enemies, will fail in the national elections. A challenger can never sit back and wait for the man in power to make a mistake.

The battle in the Democratic party is understandable in political terms. The Democrats in public office possesses real power, and it is being challenged by party men with no stake in present policies. But it is pure insanity for the poverty stricken Republicans who have few commitments to the present policies, not to challenge them.

They didn't even have to offer any concrete programs. All that was needed was an image; a symbol of challenge and change would have made them serious challengers.

The symbolism of Rockefeller's stand carried, after all, few real promises which would be distasteful to conservatives. His Vietnam plan had little to add to the one being used by the administration: he made no consideration of bombing or immediate Viet Cong recognition.

According to the Associated Press, shortly after the nomination Rocky said that there were few differences between himself and Nixon. On a national television

show, he said he would support anyone his party nominated, even Regan.

Nixon's Vice-presidential choice originally for Rockefeller, did not find it too difficult in his heart to switch to Dick.

But the delegates would not even accept the symbolism of challenge and victory. They had a chance to profit from all the bad the Democrats have done, but instead they took Nixon.

It is doubtful that the past week's harangue by party leaders against Johnson will convince many Americans that the Republicans are presenting a mighty challenge, or even a pipsqueak alternative to those in power.

The fact of Richard Nixon overpowers all statements made deploring the state of the nation. Who could take Dirksen seriously, one of Nixon's strongest supporters, when he attacked LBJ, his buddy and partner-in-arms?

Who could take seriously the words of Brooke, the Republican's Negro, as the television camera focused on a bloated Georgia delegate who managed to both doze and pick his nose at the same time?

The Republicans have offered no alternative to the Johnson administration—they know it, the people know it, and the Democrats know it.

All this points to the de facto existence of a one party system. It is the party in power which will, in Chicago, determine whether there is any chance for a change in the country's policies.

The program being offered by the Republicans is so neutral that one can easily imagine Humphrey, without apologizing for a single act of the Johnson administration, managing to offer the American people an image more anti-Johnson than Nixon's.

Tricky Dick is that way only with alleged Communists and fellow Republicans; the professionals in the Democratic party are going to make mincemeat out of him.

On the Soapbox— Socialist Alliance Ideology

By CAPT JOSEPH W. BOLLENBECK
US Army Retired UW 1915

Incomprehensible is that the anniversary of Castro's 26th of July revolution was observed in Moscow and on the UW campus! If any doubt about the Communist oriented ideology of the Young Socialist Alliance existed, last Friday's action dispelled all doubts. Even Chairman Quinn wore a "Via Che" button.

Speaker Harry Ring of the staff of the "Militant" echoed the Communist determination to obliterate all capitalist nations, to impose on free nations by force and violence, a diabolical ideology which denies freedom of speech, of press and which is determined to obliterate religion, completely ignoring the fact that, after fifteen years of Communist enslavement, Cuba's economy is worse than under Dictator Batista. Food and clothing are rationed, freedom of press and of religion denied. Preposterous was his assertion that the average Cuba enjoys more freedom than the average American. I have been in Cuba and also have witnessed Soviet enslavement.

The casting away of the 1940 progressive constitution, the planting of Soviet intercontinental missiles, the pernicious training of South Americans in terror tactics to employ in their countries to instigate revolutionary overthrow of existing governments, operations which currently are going on in Guatemala, Venezuela, Panama, Columbia, Peru, Bolivia and Argentina, all are proper, according to Ring. Replying to an explanation for the execution with only a semblance of a trial of over 500 Cubans, his absurd explanation was that all of them were "criminals." Even a criminal is entitled to a fair trial. Summary execution without one is barbarism at its worst, yet that is characteristic everywhere of Communist elimination of the opposition. This is what the SYA and Ring call "Humanist policy."

Nor did Ring explain the confiscation of over \$1 billion worth of American owned industries seized without compensation, including two nickel plants owned by the U.S. government.

Typical of the evasive and irresponsible reply by Communists and their brainwashed fellow-travelers, was Ring's reply to a question, why the revulsion of 20 of the 21 South American members of the Organization of South American States' of Cuba's constant acts of aggression, and subversive intervention, caused them to engage in political, economic and diplomatic isolation of Cuba, was Ring's reply, "Because the United States told them to."

Cuba's continuing determination to further revolution through armed violence, is demonstrated by her sponsorship of the so-called Latin American Solidarity Organization, based in Havana, an organization heavily weighted with representatives of ultra-liberal splinter groups sympathetic to the Castro pro-violence thesis.

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An Analysis

Meeting In National Shame

By TRAN VAN DINH
College Press Service

While President Johnson and Gen. Nguyen Van Thieu were meeting in Honolulu recently, South Vietnamese Prime Minister Tran Van Huong was in Saigon commemorating the "Day of Shame," the day of the partition of Vietnam 14 years ago.

Premier Huong said, "Today is a time for mourning. So long as our country is divided, so long as the war goes on, our national shame affects all of us, from the richest to the poorest." Indeed, the division of Vietnam and the war are symbols of shame not only for the Vietnamese, but for the whole world.

But why does Vietnam still remain divided (and not united in 1956 as stipulated by the 1954 Geneva Agreements) and why does the war continue? The Johnson-Thieu communique of July 20 provided the answers. The United States is still insisting on "the territorial integrity of the Republic of (South) Vietnam" and "an end to aggression," thus promoting the division of Vietnam and avoiding the fact that the U.S. has committed aggression against Vietnam.

In other words, despite the goodwill of the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV, North Vietnam), which accepted in good faith President Johnson's statement of March 31 and went to Paris for talks to end the bombing of its territory, Washington has not changed its position, and has even escalated the war. According to Sen. William Proxmire of Wisconsin, the U.S. has dropped more bombs on Vietnam (especially since 1968) than in all theaters in World War II. (2.1 million tons in World War II; 315,000 tons in Vietnam in 1965; 512,000 tons in 1966; another

932,000 tons in 1967 and already 441,368 tons in the first four months of 1968.

The U.S. also has escalated its defoliation program. The Defense Department's herbicide budget shows: \$12.5 million in fiscal year 1966; \$38.8 million in fiscal year 1967, and \$45.9 million in fiscal 1968. (The Washington Post, July 18, 1968).

No words can better describe the painful patience of the DRV representatives in Paris than those reported by playwright Arthur Miller in the New York Times on July 21. Minister Nguyen Xuan Thuy, head of the DRV delegation, was quoted as having said, "Imagine our self-control to call an American 'Your Excellency' when our wives and children are dying under American bombs." And yet, the U.S. is asking for "restraint" and "reciprocity" while dropping more bombs on the territory of the DRV, while the DRV has never sent a plane to destroy an American city or a single soldier to harm an American housewife.

Copying an old colonial policy of the French in the last part of the 1946-1954 Vietnamese Liberation War, the U.S. is trying to "Vietnamize" the war in South Vietnam. Secretary of Defense Clark Clifford, in his inspection tour of South Vietnam the week preceding the Honolulu meeting, promised to supply the Saigon troops with all the M16 rifles they need, even at the expense of the American GIs.

But like the French plan of creating light Vietnamese battalions in 1953, the U.S. plan is going to fail even more quickly. The Vietnamization of the war can only precipitate the downfall of Thieu-Ky regime as it is a way to supply indirectly the Liberation for-

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MORDACITY

Czechoslovakia

Dick Anderson

When a man is afraid, he sets up a personal wall to prevent others from reaching him, whether their intent is antagonistic or not. Scared governments do the same; this is one reason why the Soviets took over Eastern Europe after World War II.

Now the buffer zone is cracking, and one of the biggest and most recent cracks is formerly dependable Czechoslovakia. Indeed, Czech liberalism and nationalism has gone nearly as far as did the Hungarian version of 1956.

Logically, from this point of view, they shouldn't. Soviet control in Eastern Europe is inevitably failing anyway, as one country after another chooses to follow its own course, particularly in the economic sphere.

The Czech government has not given the Russians any actual reason for interfering, as Alexander Dubcek has pledged to continue participation in the Warsaw Pact, avoiding any sort of movement toward either a neutralist or pro-Western position.

Russian military interference would make diplomatic relations with most of the world's other nations incredibly difficult. Particularly the "third world," the neutralist camp, would be quick to decry any Soviet military moves.

The struggle of Communist parties outside the Red bloc for recognition as legitimate political parties would be made more difficult, and many of them would probably disassociate themselves from the Moscow line.

If the Russian army were to have any problems with the Czechs, China would be able to leap upon it as evidence of Russian impotence. Indeed, the Chinese are likely to benefit from the entire situation in the struggle for control of outside Communist parties, many of which are moving toward a pro-Chinese position anyway.

Finally, the hard-won detente with the United States would be severely strained, with hawkish positions in both nations greatly strengthened.

Unfortunately, however, the point of view in the Kremlin is hardly the same as that here, and the Soviet leaders do not always use the same kind of logic as Americans.

It is true that the Czech liberalization problem so far poses no direct, physical threat to Soviet territorial integrity in the immediate future. But the Czechs do pose a serious threat of another kind.

The Iron Curtain has been useful to the Russian

government not so much as a defense buffer zone as it has been a thick cushioning against the impact of ideas which might lead to the Russian people's demanding a real governmental change.

So long as only a few voices cry out for freedom in the Soviet Union, the men in the Kremlin need not be too worried. But when a neighboring country as close to the U.S.S.R. in every way as is Czechoslovakia moves radically toward democratization, the writing becomes clearly visible on the Kremlin wall.

Kosygin and Brezhnev may also feel that using a mailed fist in Czechoslovakia would push the other East Europeans back into line, which could well be true in the short run.

As any student of the American involvement in Vietnam realizes, an outright provocation is not necessary for military interference. And the Soviets could certainly claim that they had been invited by concerned Czechs (re the Slovak worker's letter recently published in Pravda) or that they had seen a need to prevent a rightist coup.

As for neutralist countries like Egypt or the Brazzaville Congo, these nations are at best very fickle in their allegiances. They might well criticize the Soviets, but a man like Gamal Nasser would understand the Soviet action, for it would be exactly what he would do and has done under similar conditions.

Lastly, the Soviets must be quite confident that they have the military muscle to do the job. The present maneuvers along the border are the largest since the Second World War.

This last consideration brings up the question of just what the United States ought to do about the present crisis. Obviously, one thing the U.S. definitely should not do is embarrass the Dubcek government by an outright, public offer of military assistance, as that would only put an extra strain on already taut relations with the Kremlin.

However, for the United States to stand idly by while newly free Czechoslovakia is overrun would be an error of the first magnitude. It would make further efforts in Vietnam utterly ridiculous, for there is an obvious logical contradiction in supporting a rather undemocratic government in Saigon while failing to support a truly liberal one in Prague.

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Buses May Be Re-Routed

Officials of the University of Wisconsin have agreed to seek approval for re-routing the campus buses in the city.

Madison Vice Chancellor Robert H. Atwell authorized the U.W. Physical Plant Division to get city and state approval for campus buses to use the city streets as well as the campus area.

If campus buses are to continue linking the lower and west campus areas, there-routing must be approved by early this winter.

Observatory Drive, the route that now links the lower and west areas of campus, will soon be blocked due to the razing of 600 North Park St. and the construction of the new undergraduate library. The campus buses transported over two million passengers on this route the last academic year.

Though no definite re-routing has been decided upon for the de- tour, the new route will most likely go east via Charter Street

and Johnson Street, turn north on Lake Street, then west on State Street and finally on to Park St. to University Avenue.

Part of the work on the new undergraduate library was scheduled for completion for the beginning of classes, but the top two floors now are scheduled for completion near the end of the first semester. The delay is due to the need first for partial completion of the new \$13 million complex on the corner of State and North Park Streets.

Engineering Dean Kurt F. Wendt suggested in the Lower Campus Development Report that the use of city streets for campus bus service should be a permanent re-routing.

That report, recently adopted in principle by the University of Wisconsin Board of Regents, urged the study of new bus routes on Langdon Street and to the southern edge of the campus.

Mordacity

(continued from page 2)

Supposedly American foreign policy is based on promoting democratic trends throughout the world. This country missed an opportunity in Hungary; now there is a much better one, and the U.S. definitely should take advantage of it.

Certainly we want to avoid getting into a war in Central Europe. But we should quietly assure Dubcek of our support and friendship while using every possible channel to dissuade the Russians from attacking Czechoslovakia. And this country cannot simply let the Czechs go under.

Dubcek is presently bargaining with the Russians in a Czech border town, and he is clearly a competent and wise man.

Alliance (continued from page 2)

Despite China's seizure of Tibet, of 51,000 square miles of India, threats to Burma and India, Russia's seizure of parts of Finland and Poland, liquidation of Latvia, Lithuania and Esthonia, her virtual control over East Germany, Poland, Bulgaria and other satellite nations and her current attempt interfere in Czechoslovakia, the YSA, China, the Soviets and Castro have the gall to call the United States "imperialist," when virtually all of its land expansion has been through purchase, not by conquest. After liberating Cuba and the Philippines we gave them their freedom, did not hold onto them.

These brainwashed young refuse to admit that Castro has built his own "Berlin wall" by imposing a virtual ransom payment to escape Cuban Communism. Intellectuals and the highly trained, who cannot swallow Communist oppression, are among the 4,000 who monthly seek visas to escape. Instances where a payment of \$1,000 to obtain a visa are frequent. Property must be given to the state. Money in the bank cannot be removed. Is this "humanist action?"

Religion On Campus



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10:30 a.m.
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Meetings: 8:00 p.m.
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"THE BIBLE SPEAKS TO YOU" Sunday 8:00 a.m. WKOW
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Part II

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234 STATE ST. 255-4066
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CALVARY CHAPEL (LC-MS)

713 State Street (across from library) 255-7214
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312 Wisconsin Avenue 257-3577
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The Daily Cardinal

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Madison Campus Adds Forest Science Major to Curriculum

A new forest science undergraduate major leading to a bachelor of science degree in natural resources has been authorized for the University of Wisconsin campus in Madison, Dean Stephen C. Smith, School of Natural Resources, announced here today.

"Foresters of today and tomorrow no longer fit the traditional stereotype of a man with an ax, a saw, a love for the out-of-doors and a uniform," he said.

Speaking before 60 Wisconsin, Michigan, and Minnesota youth at the Trees for Tomorrow Careers Summer Camp, Dean Smith said foresters of tomorrow must have the knowledge to attack a broad range of problems and bring the latest scientific tools to bear upon these problems. For example, foresters must be able to use computers in mathematical simulation and organizational analysis, and apply basic knowledge from sciences as diverse as soils, genetics, entomology, economics, ethics, entomology, economics and sociology.

He pledged that the new undergraduate forestry major at the University of Wisconsin in Madison would be dedicated to meeting the needs of future forest management and use.

For many years the Univer-

sity of Wisconsin has had an outstanding graduate program in forestry, but the undergraduate major was first authorized during the spring of 1968. The Wisconsin State University—Stevens Point, was also granted approval for a forestry major by Wisconsin's Coordinating Council for Higher Education.

An innovative core of courses emphasizes the importance to the forester of a sound foundation in the biological and physical sciences in conjunction with a deep appreciation for the social sciences and humanities. Forestry education at the university level is no longer a narrow education with a vocational emphasis, he said. In this respect, the program of the School of Natural Resources, Madison, is in agreement with the new directions being taken by the Society of American Foresters. For example, environmental forest management is the central theme of their annual meeting in October.

Forestry is important to the state of Wisconsin. Forest land management for pulpwood, hardwood, recreation, environmental corridors, water yield, wildlife habitat and erosion control is a basic asset for the future economic growth of the state, he said. Students from this major will be

National Shame

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ces. The so-called total mobilization loudly decried by Nguyen Van Thieu has met with the strongest opposition from the Vietnamese people, especially the students, despite brutal repressions and arbitrary arrests.

At a deeper look, the recent Honolulu meeting (perhaps the last) was totally irrelevant and totally irreverent. It is irrelevant because it did not deal with the realities either on the military front or the diplomatic front. It is irreverent because it showed total disrespect for peoples. President Johnson has the mandate (based on his promise of peace in the 1964 election campaign) until January.

provided with the necessary knowledge for modern resource management as well as for continuing graduate study to obtain professional competence.

Increasingly, the profession is recognizing that the undergraduate degree must build a firm and broad foundation with professional specialization coming through graduate study. These areas of specialization are covered by the forestry programs leading toward Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees, he said.

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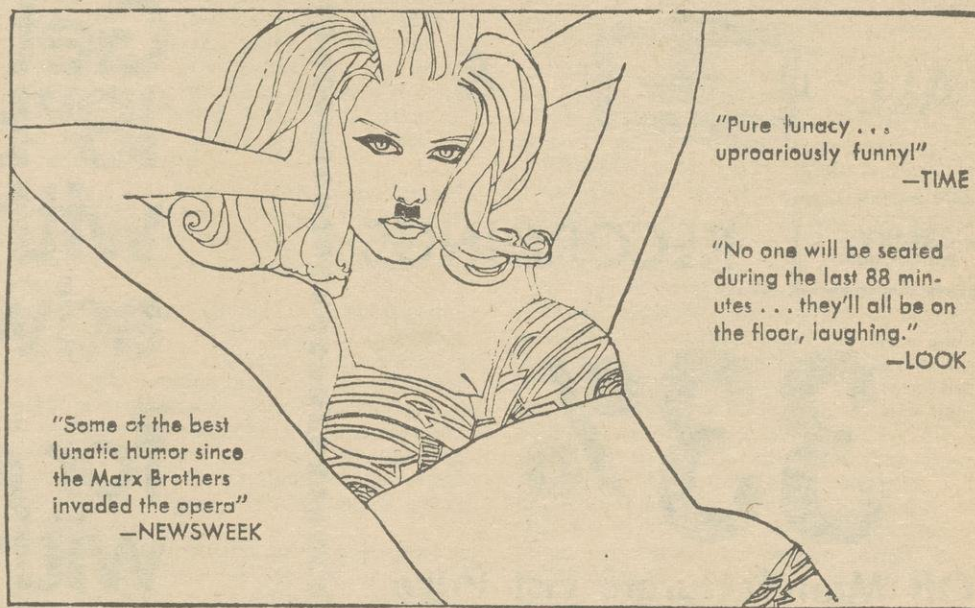
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Earnest

(continued from page 8)

seven members of an eleven-member troupe got an opportunity to be in both plays? Surely there was another play to accommodate the complete company if we were to receive any truly comprehensive view of acting skills and ranges, another play that the director would have been happier working with. The similarity does not lie in the inherent style of the two works—one 19th century, one contemporary—but in the identical direction imposed on them both. The focus is on surface discipline rather than internalization; "Rock" with its lack of an over-seer, "Earnest" with its unmistakable presence. We are in desperate need of a true repertory group—a permanently established one—on this campus but this was not it and simply because there are no standards, it does not follow that we should lie to ourselves and cheer the coming of a void to fill a void. Both the people in the company and their audiences deserve much better.

A footnote since the subject of voids is fresh on my lips and I'd like to make a clean sweep. In over three years, it has only seemed appropriate for me to shirk a critical responsibility once before: Marcel Marceau's appearance rendered any words I could possibly come up with as superfluous. The inevitable recurs but in reverse: Wednesday night's "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way To The Forum," the last Players production of the summer, opened and in a better world, would have closed. Period.



—Photo by Jay Tieger

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On Sincerity and Style: In Dead 'Earnest'

By LARRY COHEN
Fine Arts Editor

The current rendition of "The Importance of Being Earnest" (which ends its run tomorrow evening) at Compass Theater has been given a breathy, manic production—as if its director detested Oscar Wilde's play. The distinct impression I received last Saturday evening was that Prof. Emil Karioth was curiously subverting the script and fully intended to sacrifice all of his actors rather than take away an ounce of glory from the alternating "Viet-Rock" (a weaker and far more dishonest "play"). The three-act presentation was a series of acting slips united by their trainer's obsessive mistake.

Let me throw out some questions that puzzled me. What, as the director's note on the program optimistically states, is "a triumph of artificiality?" Are actors machines, mouthpieces of dialogue or something more? Why go back to a proscenium stage after "Rock" if the so-called Repertory Company is to be regarded as something more than just a group who happen to be performing two plays; are there connections other than versatility to be made by the playgoer? And finally, is Gwendolen's statement at the start of Act III—"in matters of grave importance, style, not sincerity, is the vital thing"—to be taken ironically or literally as the clue to the evening's intentions?

Some speculations follow; I am told that both performances and audiences for "Earnest" have been erratic, but with all fairness to the cast and director, the problems I'd like to outline seem inherent flaws that wouldn't change very drastically from night to night.

There are many right ways of doing this play or any play; there is probably no one right approach but that does not preclude the notion that there are wrong ways to work as I feel is true about this production. One can start with people, treating Algernon, Jack,

Gwendolen and Cecily as living persons with histories, feelings and motivations. The NET film version (shown last week on 21) adopted this semi-realistic milieu, going as far as showing us footage of Cecily (Susannah York) running through open country fields as a prelude to the second act. It is also possible to reverse the tradition, as Orson Welles flipantly suggests, and play the comedy with "tweedy, red-faced Victorian squires, not by attractive faggots." Other possibilities for a production spine: an incorporation of "The Pearl" or a suggestion of Aubrey Beardsley.

Karioth's program note instructs us that "the characters are not 'real,' but they are very much alive" and indeed, this is a viable idea if the production did not contradict our willingness to believe it so immediately. The first act proceeds at breakneck speed with the performers disciplining themselves to get the dialogue out as fast as possible. The speed and the insistence on clipped diction are not only exhausting and exasperating; they become monotonous for the audience because the lines are frequently read incomprehensibly and they reduce competent actors like Richard Fire and Howard Waxman to spitting all over the stage and each other.

The technique—sort of a speed-reading course with absurd dimensions—demands that the actors play Eliza Dolittles to Karioth's Henry Higgins with alarming results. Diction and an accompanying British accent are the delities; if the servants stutter or slip for just a fraction of a second, the entire character vanishes as well as it frequently did last Saturday. More is involved in acting and what Karioth tries to pawn off as style than simply vocal gurgling and a hand behind the back to indicate upper-class breeding. Liz Weiss's colorful costumes are designed to help but they end up as compromised as counterfeits; they should house people and not

epigrammatic mannequins.

The slips and the recoveries are too frequent to remain in the realm of the actor's responsibility and fault. The technique produces a drill squad of annoyances, perversely making me watch the actors when they turned around to make sure that there wasn't a wind-up key in their backs. Marianne Ritis's Gwendolen is pitched at an impossible shrillness, one that the actress cannot maintain for more than a few minutes at a time. It is a grating voice placed in a stuffed museum piece that moves and Jack, as a result, is necessarily made to seem a book for even looking at her. Halfway in the first act, the voice and diction drop leaving Miss Ritis on stage without Gwendolen, something like the Wizard of Oz without the curtain.

The suffering, however, is evenly distributed. Fire's Algernon comes across as the verbal pyrotechnist that he is in the text but there is more to Algy—his self-awareness, his under-surface inversion of values, the boredom—which Wilde implies in the text but cannot bring off all by himself. The puns and witty insanity, the eye-rolling and the posturing are simply not enough if we are to be more than just amused by Algernon; if we are to care about him or want to continue watching him simply because he is interesting and the time might be well-spent, he has to interact.

Karioth does not allow his actors to look at or listen to each other; because he has addicted them and finally us to mere surface polish, they never become charming or even slightly provocative. As in "Rock," we are bombarded with "style" rather than quality. The cues are rigidly present and the sentences are spit out as fast as the performer can get them out of his mouth; but the tongue unfortunately tends to get in the way and after about ten minutes of such frenzy, so does the

mind.

We are relegated to the position of observing normally respectable actors as completely isolated vehicles, each a stutter in a complex of a cleft directorial palate. Fire stuffs down cucumber sandwiches and it is amusing; Waxman frantically pulls out a cigarette and lights it before Lady Bracknell can ask if he smokes and while the idea is tired but clever, it is also virtually impossible to pull off in the time allotted. Sybil Robinson's forementioned lady of social hypocrisy is all frozen mask; when she actually blinks, the shock to the system is extraordinary.

The second act slows down a notch although Ellen Gilman's Miss Prism opens the scene in the garden room so the opening dialogue—so repetitively vital for the myth denouements of the baby in the handbag—is all but inarticulate. Jean Witkin's Cecily is the evening's only pleasant surprise, almost as lovely as Miss York's performance in the filmed version. Her appearance and the relaxation she evidences are startling with the result that everyone she comes into contact with only look more misdirected and corpse-like.

Cecil O'Neal—one of the few happy things about "Rock" as I mentioned last week—was given the dual role of the two butlers, Merriman in London and Lane at the Manor House. The assignment is anything but pleasant. The culprit who did his makeup for the latter part—wisely uncredited on the program—plastered him with enough grease to look like a sweaty imitation of the mummy's tomb. And if his physical bent presence is sad and made me feel embarrassed for the actor, his vocal mish-mosh of alternating accent (British and New York) only extended the agony.

There were more surprises in store: the Ichabod Crane (epileptic arched back, palsied hands and hair parted down the middle) indulgence of Michael Goldberg's

Rev. Chasuble; the coyness of obviously planned artificiality (the Army Lists book in the last minute of the show is an excellent example); the deliberate attempts by James Wright's lighting before and after each act to make us conscious (as if we weren't enough already) that these are actors and not really characters.

But assume the validity of the approach for a minute. Wilde's play is very shrewdly organized to maximize discrepancies between surface and interior worlds; he affects a farcical pose to please his audience—be it the houses of 1895 or the Compass Theater patrons of 1968—and at the same time, condescends and mocks them. He is having a good joke on us all and his incredible superiority as a playwright partly rests on the riff he is pulling off. If Karioth recognized this, its presence is missing from the production. But there is still another subordinate question of internal logic: is "Earnest" at least consistent in whatever it is trying to do?

The answer here seems painfully obvious whether or not one rejects the approach and the premise underlying it. Forget the sincerity; is the style uniform? The answer is a variable but except in Miss Witkin's case, even the affirmation is disheartening. Miss Robinson's preserved quality and Goldberg's altogether appalling churchman remain steady but in their case, consistency is not a virtue. The rest of the cast slip and slip badly, the relative infrequency of the unavoidable loss of character and the substitution of actor playing himself being the only distinction.

So finally, why a repertory (if two plays can be considered one) and what do we gain by seeing some of the people who had excellent moments one night making fools out of themselves the next? And why is it that only

(continued on page 7)

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