

Meadow Brook Theater Guild Springs to Life

By Dan Polsby

Meadow Brook Theatre Guild was initially known to us as the producer of "Alice in Wonderland," Florida Freiburg's banal attempt to recreate Lewis Carroll's fantasy on stage. Since "Alice in Wonderland," the Theatre Guild remained strangely dormant, occasionally reading polite blackouts for polite gatherings of faculty wives, being partisan and bilious about the Belgian Barn, and doing nothing much of anything else.

Last Thursday, Friday and Saturday, the Theatre Guild sprang to life, a life we never thought it had, and produced an outstanding evening of one-act plays. Presented were "Lord Byron's Love Letter" by Tennessee Williams, "Lady of Larkspur Lotion," also by Williams, "Purgatory," by William Butler Yeats, and "Endgame," by Samuel Beckett.

Both Williams plays were interesting and well-done, although we wonder as to the fulfillment of the author's intention. Both plays were written as vest-pocket tragedies, but Williams, who is a consummate blunderer and a poor poet into the bargain, inadvertently wrote very much potential comedy into both plays. Kon Prokos, who directed both, played skillfully upon the incongruity of conspicuous skid-rovians uttering fluorescent verse. Perhaps "The Lady of Larkspur Lotion" is better rendered as a tragedy—Prokos' version is in no way therefore invalidated. His version was a delight.

Virginia Smith directed "Purgatory." Yeats is the Twentieth Century's foremost poet, but as a dramatist, he was no great shakes. "Purgatory" leans heavily upon Yeats' brilliant versification, and very little upon anything in the situation or ex-

position which is essentially "theatrical." The intense compression of the lines, combined with the preponderance of imagery and symbolism comprehensible only to the student of Yeats makes the play in many ways unsuitable for the general public. Furthermore, Miss Smith's direction, which made use of the entire stage, was quite diffuse, and tended to work at cross-purposes to Yeats' poetry. But the acting, featuring Ken Knepper as the old man, and Miss Smith as the boy, brought out fully the contrast and tension between the lyrical, Oedipal father and his practical son.

Beckett's "Endgame" is a spoty but interesting play. Played in the shadow of a "Shelter Area" sign, it is a study of incomplete people playing an absurd game in the contemporary world. Although sometimes too obvious, the play is in general a wildly funny phantasmagoria, a huge

practical joke on the world of politics, philosophy, and the theatre. The performance was a tour de force for both Richard Painter and Brad Driscoll. Painter, as the dyspeptic Hamm, exhibited great skill in rendering the not-always-perfect Beckett text so as to fully explore the demon-beset and bewildered personality of a contemporary underground man. Driscoll's Clov was sensitively and consistently portrayed; between himself and the fulminating Painter, Driscoll stole the evening.

The sets were simple and well-designed, consisting mainly of blocks and cubes to which the actors related. No platform, no backdrop, and no fancy sets were employed. In spite of the Spartan nature of the setting, the only possible complaint with the new theatre is that it is all concrete, and every word echos and reverberates as if in an armory.

Probation Policies Up for Senate Consideration

Oakland's probationary policy will receive special attention when the Academic Senate resumes its regular activities in fall, Donald D. O'Dowd, dean of the University and Senate chairman, predicted this week.

The dean cited a general feeling that OU's policy is difficult to work with and does not quite match the University's new grading system, adopted this term.

Presently, freshmen and sophomores are placed on probation if their GPA drops below 1.6. For juniors and seniors the figure is 2.0. All students on probation have one semester to regain a satisfactory average or will be separated from the University.

O'Dowd noted that especially the .4 jump in the criteria from the sophomore to the junior year seemed unfair to him.

"I'd like to adjust the probationary policy to the probability of the ultimate success of a student," he said adding that now poor students are permitted to continue their studies too long before final removal.

At many schools, O'Dowd pointed out, probation criteria are much closer to graduation requirements, at some even the same. At Oakland, he felt, either the former will have to be raised or the latter lowered, or the entire probationary policy be arranged in a gradual fashion, with requirements changing every semester.

Newshawks Win In Extra Inning

Newshawks beat the Pathfinders in the second extra-inning softball game of the season, 14-13. The contest was tied, 12-all at the end of regulation time. In the top of the eighth inning, Jack Frederick scored for the Pathfinders on Jim Burkhart's sacrifice fly.

In the bottom half, the Newshawks retaliated, with Tom Kurz scoring the tying run, after walking to open the inning, on Paul Turk's triple. Turk then scored the winning run on Jim Gallivan's single. Kurz pitched the distance for the Newshawk win. Mike Tennor started for the Pathfinders, relieved by Bill Haslock in the sixth. Haslock took the loss.

Racers kept their grip on first place by whipping the Faculty-Staff, 14-8.

Standings (through July 22)

Racers	7	1
Engineers	5	2
Newshawks	5	3
Pathfinders	4	4
Fac-Staff	2	6
Anibalettes	0	7

Schedule

Engineers vs. Fac-Staff	Tuesday 4:15 p.m.
Pathfinders vs. Anibalettes	Wednesday, 4 p.m.
Newshawks vs. Racers	Thursday, 4:30 p.m.

Engineers Start \$500 Electron Welder Project

An electron beam welder is presently under construction by the University Engineering Society. The Society hopes to have the apparatus completed by January in order to display it at the convention of the Society of Automotive Engineers, to be held in Cobo Hall.

The OU Society holds a junior division membership in SAE, and is thus entitled to participate in the group's convention.

Design and construction of the welder is divided into three parts. Members of the Society who volunteer for the project are assigned to one or more of the three phases.

Clare Wentworth, Dryden junior, is chairman of the power supply phase of the construction. Jerry Hagaman, Romeo junior, heads the vacuum-cabinet committee, and Phil Williams, Pontiac junior, is chairman of the electron gun construction group. Engineering Society president Ron Toles of Waterford is head of the project, which is budgeted, according to Toles, "at less than \$500."

The electron beam welder employs a beam of electrons, traveling at a speed near the speed of light toward the region to be welded.

An electric current is made to pass through a thin metal strip. This current causes the strip to heat to the point at which it emits electrons.

Power of 30 to 50 thousand volts causes the emitted electrons to accelerate to this high velocity.

The electron beam then passes through a region of magnetism, which is caused by an electric current through a coil of wire. This region of magnetism is so designed that it forces the electron beam to reduce its diameter.

Thus, energy of the beam is concentrated. When the electrons strike the region to be welded, they transfer their energy of mo-

tion to heat energy, thus melting, or welding the two pieces of metal.

The beam and the work piece must be inside a region which has been evacuated to a pressure no greater than .0000019 pounds per square inch. If the beam were not in such a vacuum, the electrons would reflect and disperse on collision with air molecules.

Several technical information trips have been taken, and others are planned to assist the society in construction of the project.

New Dorm Head To Be Here Soon

OU residence halls will get a new program director as Alice Schaeffer, 23, moves into Pryale House near the end of August.

Miss Schaeffer was hired last week by the Dean of Students' Office. She leaves a position as director of a girls' dorm at Stanford University. She holds a B.A. from the University of Chicago and an M.A. in English from Stanford.

"Her references are among the best I've ever seen for any position," Robert Holmes, assistant dean of students said detailing her qualifications.

Miss Schaeffer, who is about to be married, will reside in Pryale House with her husband, Lance Haddix. She will be responsible to Holmes' office, head all resident advisors, and advise the Association of Women Students. She will be in charge of a residence activities program and establish common dorm policies.



Robert J. Wisner

Former Oakland Teacher Receives \$124,000 Grant

Robert J. Wisner, director of the Committee on the Undergraduate Program in Mathematics, and former Oakland faculty member, has been named to direct a model summer seminar for college mathematics professors next year under a \$124,000 grant from International Business Machines Corporation.

This seminar is seen as a way to solve the critical problem of bringing and keeping college mathematics faculties abreast of an explosion of knowledge in the key science of the space age.

Wisner's solution is an eight-week seminar to be conducted at a university by two leading research mathematicians. Thirty mathematics professors from some of the better known liberal arts colleges will be participants in studying and discussing the frontiers of their field. They will then go back to their home institutions and conduct seminars to share their summer experiences with their colleagues.

Participants will be paid at full salary rates, and full travel expenses, rather than the \$75 per week provided in government-supported summer institutes. The thirty colleges will be asked to reduce the participants' teaching loads for a while to permit ample time for the home seminars, and for research which might be stimulated by the summer project.

The grant is unusual in that it was made on the basis of verbal suggestions by Wisner, and without any written proposal.

'Contuse' Available

Copies of Contuse II, Oakland's Literary magazine, are available at the dean of students' office, 140 NFH.

The publication, edited by John Gillespie and Joel Levinson, contains poems and essays by Konstantin Prokos, Bob Plec, Norm Kurilik, Joy Beaudry, Bob McGowan, Ken Renner, Keith Schall, and Dan Polsby.

In addition several student art works also appear. The artists selected are Charles Brownell, Mary Morse, Paul Shoemaker, Pat Welsh, Ilse Gray, Fred Pung and Robin Young.

Editors for Contuse III, to be published next year, will be Joy Beaudry and Keith Schall.

THE WEEK ON CAMPUS

Wed., July 31—Wesley Foundation, 12:30. O.C. 126. Cont. Ed. Play, "What A Life". 8:30. Barn.
 Thurs., Aug. 1—Cont. Ed. Play, "What A Life." 8:30. Barn.
 Friday, Aug. 2—End of Fall Semester enrollment period. Cont. Ed. Play, "What A Life", 8:30. Barn.
 Sat., Aug. 3—Cont. Ed. Play, "What A Life". 8:30. Barn.

A Champ, Not a Clown

The journalists were there. The ex-champs were there. The promoters were in their seats. The judges were there. So was the physician. And the huge crowd. Even Sonny showed up. The only one who wasn't there was Floyd.

The fact that there have been very few heavyweights in the world for the last eight years is somehow construed as an offense to Floyd Patterson. Nothing could be further from true. Floyd was an unusually able heavyweight boxer. He was never given an opportunity to demonstrate his skill, except before Sonny Liston. But it is no insult to a man's masculinity that he cannot overcome Charles Liston, the terrible compost-pile of sinew and rage.

No heavyweight alive has any credentials to fight Liston. What heavyweight can even beat Patterson, except Liston? When was Patterson ever beaten excepting by Liston and the Norse Knucklehead, who won on a fluke? Patterson would be the heavyweight champion today, if it weren't for Sonny Liston.

The last time Sonny worked for more than two minutes in a fight was sometime in the late 1950's. He has not worked up a sweat in a fight for almost five years. He doesn't even train very hard any more. The reason for this is clear: as Liston says, he could knock flat any boxer in the world in one round with one hand tied behind him. The words are Sonny's; the truth in the statement is God's.

The radio announcer was not even dutifully excited about the fight. He did not appear surprised when Floyd went down—rather he appeared somewhat interested that Floyd got up. The crowd did not go wild. In fact it did not even give a good cheer. Only a clandestine boo when Liston's arm was raised in victory. The night of July 23, 1963, nothing happened.

They ought to make a special rule requiring that Liston fight his opponents two at a time. The excitement and apprehension that used to be a part of boxing is extinct.

But one part of boxing is at last restored: for the first time in thirty years we have a heavyweight champ who is not an artiste, nor a clown, nor an old man, nor an unfit substitute for one of those things. We have a champ who is what a champ oughtta be: a big, insensitive, frightening animal, who snarls.

Minority Report

By Daniel Polsby

The editors of the Oakland Observer are a bunch of Calvinists. They suspect every good intention of being a bad intention; every change in the status quo of being a bad change. Last week, the editors reached a new low in their editorial "Cheezit the Bull."

Until the Sanford Security Service was commissioned, the Oakland campus was probably the largest unpatrolled piece of real estate in Michigan. Why there were no incidents here is a mystery. Why the local yokels from the high-school, full of liquor and other things, did not use the parking lot as an occasional drag strip is unknowable. Why the campus did not become a haven for prowlers and voyeurs is weird. OU was born under a lucky star.

Now that we have hired the instrument for seeing to it that no unpleasantness arises between town and gown, the Observer, always first into the fray, advertises in boldface that the cop had better be popular, or face reprisal. The inanity of that position is typical Observer editorializing; but we have every right to expect more.

Lt. Jim Yeager, OU's new Cop, takes his orders from Carlos Corona, personnel director. Yeager is trained, armed, and determined. He has dealt with bilious children before. He is not to be trifled with. This is not to imply that he is some sort of machine. He is not. He is a gentleman. He was kind enough not to be offended by the Observer's crudely heaved gauntlet. But if Corona gives him a job to do, Yeager will do it. For this, he does not deserve the disrespect of the students, nor of the Observer.

Yeager has not been given any orders concerning parked cars on campus. He has told us he will not bother parked student who are not loud and disorderly. Yeager is a fine, warm-hearted man; his job here is not to police the students, but to keep marauders away. And if any student objects to what Yeager does, the person to complain to is Corona. There are channels to take care of complaints: the anarchy which the editors seem to advocate is the plaything of children.

When will the Observer ever learn?

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Establish OU Inter-Faith Center

Pontiac Civitan Club has made the first contribution toward the establishment of an inter-faith religious center at Oakland University.

Lloyd Smith, president, and Nat Bressler, program chairman of the club, announced that a \$400 gift had been voted by the organization to make a start on re-decorating and furnishing a house on the Squirrel Road side of the campus. It is planned to have the house ready for use by all faiths when the new school year begins in September. The house will be used as a headquarters for liaison work with students and student groups and for various other related purposes, but no religious services will be held in it.

Additional funds are needed to make the building habitable, and the Pontiac Civitan Club hopes that its first gift will prompt other organizations in the area to provide additional help.

At the same time, the University Christian Federation announced appointment of the Rev. James P. McAlpine as minister. He will have offices in the inter-faith center. The Federation is an organization created by eight Protestant denominations in the area which have raised \$10,000 for this work with Oakland students.

Office quarters also will be available for Catholic, Jewish, and other faiths.

Catalog

A new University catalog is new being readied and will be released at the beginning of August, a good month behind schedule, Herbert N. Stoutenburg, director of admissions and registrar, announced this week.

Chancellor

Chancellor Varner was reported visiting Abeline, Texas, last week. Varner who is presently enjoying an official four-week vacation, will return Aug. 5.

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