

BUS STOP SMASH HIT!

Campus Talent Unbelievable

William Inge's three-act play, *Bus Stop*, as performed by the Behrend players, offers a panorama of action and mini-dramas as a small group of "rather-oddball-types" become stranded for a night at Grace's Dinor. Running until the 18th of this month, *Bus Stop* offers a variety of characters so uniquely bizzare — and funny — that they inevitably produce wild and pleasantly mixed reactions from the audience.

The central conflict is between Cherie (played by Becky Zellefrow) and Bo (played by Dan Roscher), a strong-willed cowboy determined to take Cherie with him to Montana — against her will. Their conflict is pivotal, but certainly not the only one in this multi-faceted comedy. Bo goes up against an

equally fearless Will (played by Mark Fuhrman), a sheriff who sympathizes with Cherie's predicament. Headed for a special run-in of their own are the bus driver Carl (Kyle Iddings) and Grace herself (played by Sue Klein.) Another encounter of strange design forms between the lecherous Dr. Lyman (Randy Murzynski) and the innocent school-girl, Elma (Carol Kuhl). Virgil (Paul Moore), Bo's closest friend, encounters fears in himself when making a decision about his future.

Though each individual gives a spectacular performance, the play itself is a reflection of a higher talent. Director Paul Iddings is the man directly responsible for *Bus Stop's* amazing success. His background is as impressive as his work with the present play. He carries a B.F.A. from Richmond Professional Institution, in Richmond, Virginia and an M.A. from Catholic University in Washington. He taught high school in Virginia before becoming Department Chairman of Theatre Arts at Mercyhurst College in 1971. He was also owner and artistic director for a resident year-round acting company of thirty, the Wedgewood Theatre, in Williamsburg, Virginia.

His approach to teaching Drama is at one time both direct and subtle, personal and professional. To any student on the stage, an awesome respect is generated by his amazing perception and ability to articulate his observations of the per-

former. His clear grasp of the potentials in every scene make his criticisms pointed valid. Yet his philosophy is a sometimes subtle one, involving the student in his own self-discovery of things Paul is always stressing. Paul speaks from experience, and takes into account the life-experiences each student brings with him onto stage. His direction can then be considered personal, yet it follows the universal method of the theatre art form, as discussed by Stanislavski and others.

The fact that he sees each actor as a unique potential, and the action in turn finds out himself the truth of acting, endears Paul Iddings to anyone who ever performed for him. Yet his greatest method for developing fine actors seems to be something else entirely. He stresses the importance of finding out all you can about the character you are playing — in order to see why the character behaves as he does. This is done to understand the intent running through the actions of the character. A subtext of meaning exists beneath the action on stage; by understanding the subtext an actor justifies all he does before an audience — a key element to a fine performance.

A student in one of his acting classes put it this way: "Bus Stop's success is due largely to its director, Paul Iddings. If you have not witnessed any of the rehearsal sessions, you are probably unaware of the extent of his contribution to the production. He encourages creativity in the cast members while they develop their roles. This is stimulated by his questioning of the intentions and attitudes of each character at every moment in the play. No character is allowed to be idle at any time unless there is an obvious reason for them to be. His attention to detail is astounding. Every minute detail of both the set and the characterizations is attended to. The end result is a play that the audience can believe in and become emotionally involved in."

If the end result is a fine play, Paul Iddings and company seem destined to always achieve their ends.



Above, Grace (Sue Klein) reacts to Will's (Mark Fuhrman's) jest. Below, Bo (Dan Roscher) gets physical and carries Cherie (Becky Zellefrow) off. On front page, clockwise from left: ensemble featuring also Carl (Kyle Iddings) and Virgil (Paul Moore), Next photo, Becky handles Dan; next, Elma (Carol Kuhl) and Sue Klein dancing; Dan about to pounce; and last at bottom, Dr. Lyman (Randy Murzynski) spellbounds Carol and Sue.



Student Senate A Mystery To Most

A recent campus wide survey instigated by the authors, revealed that while most Behrend students could spell Student Senate, not many knew anything about us. We began each interview by asking the students if they knew anything about the Student Senate. Aside from vacant stares, most students answered, "No." Due to this lack of awareness, we decided to discontinue our survey after the first question. Instead, we recognized our responsibility to educate the student populace in order that the next time we have a survey, we will be able to get to the second question in our interview.

The Student Senate is the recently installed form of student government that has replaced the old Student Government Association (SGA). The Senate is a streamlined cabinet-like government which represents all the major organizations on the campus. These are the Student Union Board, Joint Residence Council, Commuter Council, Inter-Club Council, along with a representative from the Upper and Lower classes. There are six senators and they are collectively responsible for maintaining and initiating student activities and

programs. Our traditional responsibilities and programs include maintaining communications with the administration and faculty in order to voice student opinions and interests, subsidizing the various clubs and organizations and keeping in touch with University Park. Our most conspicuous effort each year is the Spring Arts Festival, which for most students is the high point of the year. While this list of responsibilities is not long, it is extremely important for the Student Senate is the sole organized representative of the student body. The Student Senate is the most effective vehicle for getting things accomplished on this campus.

The six Senators have many ideas and plans, but alone, they can accomplish little. Dreams will remain dreams without your support. The more students that participate, the more that will be accomplished. If you are interested in making the remainder of this year enjoyable, please come to the Senate meetings. We meet every Monday evening at 7:00. You will find us in the Reed Lecture Hall or Seminar Room. If you cannot make a meeting, contact one of the six senators. "Help us, help you!"

Traveling

Why Not Try Britain And Ireland

You may have been worried about inflation if you were considering travel to Britain or Ireland. Don't be scared by talk of a declining dollar. When the news reports say, "The dollar has fallen against most European currencies," they'll mean the German mark and the Swiss franc before the British pound. The exchange rate has worsened against the pound, though, in the last year. What it will do in the future is anybody's guess.

The important thing to remember is this: For the tourist, a declining exchange rate means that products will be more expensive. What you're really

concerned with is the cost of living in the country you're visiting. In other words, considering exchange rates, what will the products cost in American dollars? Only then can you appreciate whether a country is expensive or not.

How do you find what current prices are? Write to each country's tourist bureau or talk to someone who's recently been overseas. Even guidebooks might be of some help, although for most, inflation has crept in between research and publication.

Of course, any day the dollar could drastically fall against the pound, it's wise to keep your eye on the exchange rates. You'll find them in the *Wall Street Journal*. Ignore the listings for "bank transfers." The rates under "foreign banknotes" are the closest to what you'll be paying.

Some travellers prefer to take tourist checks in dollars and exchange as needed in Europe. But obviously this puts one at the mercy of fluctuating rates — from day to day and also from bank to bank. If the dollar suddenly dies while you're abroad . . . best of luck.

It's best to make the exchange right here in the U.S.A. Most large banks will provide this service, if you can, find one with a foreign currencies department. It'll provide you with more efficient service. It will also probably have travellers checks in foreign denominations on hand.

On The Move

Before you can do very much preparation, you must decide how you will travel once you cross the big pond. There are many modes available, some dangerous to the budget, but many are cheap, if not free.

Hitchhiking is an old student stand-by with some advantages and some disadvantages. Its biggest plus is its cost — nothing. It is also one of the best ways to meet the locals. If you're lucky, an invitation home for a meal and a bed will not only save you money, but could be one of your most memorable experiences. Then again, a day standing alongside a road is nobody's idea of fun. And, of course, the potential acts of violence you might encounter need no explanation.

There's a lot to be said about travelling under your own steam — a European favorite for many generations. Backpacking along Britain's many public footpaths or Ireland's forgotten back roads gives you freedom to come and go as you please and provides chances to meet the walking natives. Youth hostels are sometimes convenient; otherwise ask a farmer for permission to camp in his woodlot.

Bicycle-touring was popular in Europe long before it was ever heard of in the U.S. And the lesser-used roads in Britain and almost all roads in Ireland are perfect for cycling. The scenery

is stupendous, drivers are courteous, and potholes are rare. On bicycle, you can go where you want to, yet you can cover a reasonable number of miles a day.

A warning for bikers though: Make sure you're well-prepared before you leave. You'll need proper equipment, including a good set of tools. Foremost of all, know how to maintain your bike. Like it or not, a ten-speed touring bicycle needs regular care and frequent repair. There are many excellent books on bicycle-touring that will set you straight before you leave.

Although bicycles can be rented in Britain and Ireland, it's best that you bring your own for long trips. Most airlines ask no additional charge for carrying your bike, but it usually has to be boxed.

The public transportation systems in Britain and Ireland are efficient and worth your consideration — if you have the extra money. You won't be hampered by bad weather or sore muscles. And you can reach practically any town using trains and buses. Here, too, you'll have the chance to meet the natives as they accompany you on your journey.

However, the passing view from a train or bus cannot be fully enjoyed in the brief instant you see it. And from the bus or train station you'll need your legs or your thumb to take you into the country. Unfortunately, often that's where the youth hostel is.

Various passes are available that allow unlimited travel on trains and buses during a period of time. These are worth their cost only if you plan to use public transportation extensively. See your travel agent for details.

Guidebooks

You may be tempted to buy one or more of the numerous guidebooks available in any bookstore. Most are excellent for preparing for a trip abroad and can provide you with more tips than can be presented here. Some are meant for the first class traveller and will be of little use to you. Several, such as *Let's Go: Britain and Ireland*, are meant for the student traveller and will be helpful.

However, these guidebooks are only extra weight taken along with you. Their directions to the sites are better managed as brief notes in your notebook. Historical and cultural information is as well consumed before and after your trip. Their lists of recommended restaurants and accommodations are practically worthless. They're limited to the major tourist centers where you'll likely spend only twenty-five per cent of your time. Then, too, as soon as these establishments discover the popularity these books give them, prices go up and services go down. Better methods for finding the best places to eat and sleep will be discussed in coming installments of this series.

Campus Map Showing Cross-Country Ski Trails

