

SKEPTIC'S

CORNER

As Rev. Warren Starret pointed out during Skeptic's Corner, the spectrum of existentialism may extend from the Judao-Christian revolt against the accumulated mythology of our past to the atheistical version where man occupies the role that God would have taken if he really existed; but they all agree in their analysis of man's predicament.

In their analysis, man's essence lies in his state of existence. Because of our manipulative world the freedom of choice requires an individuality of decision and a responsibility to others. A truly authentic life, in Rev. Starret's opinion, is exemplified by the life of Christ. We tend, however, to avoid wrestling with ethical and moral values by just following the opinion of the masses. It is this, "If it's Communist you bomb it; if it's poor you give it a welfare check," type of thinking that existentialism strikes out against.

We are threatened on one side by the mechanization and alienation of man by an impersonal world, and on the other by the abyss of freedom filled with nothingness. It is in this nothingness that existentialism is least understood. What is meant is that the once familiar, the patterns of reality that have been formed ever since

childhood, when seen again from your own eyes and on your own two feet that you realize the lack of meaning existence has. Yet when this is contrasted with the essence of living things which "in view of (their) integrated complexity of structure and function (have) an added dimension, so to speak, by virtue of (their) wholeness," the conjunction of essence and existence becomes a paradox. The existentialist argues that these two can not be separated because it is man's environment which defines who he is and what he can be with his limited freedom, and it is man who gives meaning to existence.

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This Thursday, Skeptic's Corner will have as its guest speaker, Rev. Martin, who is an outspoken man on civil rights. As director of the O.I.C., a job training and placement organization, and familiar with the Anti-Poverty Program, he claims to be at the grass roots of the "Negro" problem.

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ERIE PLAYHOUSE

On Nov. 11th and 12th, the Erie Playhouse will present the world premiere of AMERICAN BLUES, by Tennessee Williams, as part of a Studio Production series selected especially for the theater-goer with a taste for something a little different. Tickets are \$1.00 to members of the Playhouse, and \$1.50 to non-members. See Dean Lane for tickets to this production.