

Opening Night For PSU Theatre A Plus and a Minus

By ALAN SLUTSKIN
Collegian Movie Reviewer

In almost every field of study when an individual attempts an evaluation of a particular entity or achievement, the inevitable query arises: "What is your frame of reference?" This infamous equalizer need not always be defined through a direct comparison, yet this approach often establishes an indelible point.

During the Christmas holiday I had the opportunity to view two productions that lend themselves quite distinctly as yardsticks with which I have tried to measure recent accomplishments in theatre at University Park. Quite frankly I realized how very easily one can become so used to the quality of what they are seeing that they forget that better things exist.

I was fortunate enough to get tickets to a production of "Dark Of The Moon" at Adelphi University in Garden City, New York. The play was produced in Adelphi's "Little Theatre," a most aptly christened structure which just happens to be a scene designer's nightmare. The building is a quonset hut that was haphazardly thrown together by the Navy during the Second World War to be used as a barracks for the troops that they were training on Adelphi's campus. The stage is approximately the size of the Pavilion Theatre's, the wings are similar to the rest rooms at Beaver Stadium during halftime of a football game, there is very little fly space, and backstage is nonexistent. Bearing these facts in mind, the set or the opening scene of "Dark Of The Moon" was simply unbelievable. It was perhaps one of the finest adaptations of the translucent scrim ever achieved in non-professional theatre. Depth perception, the illusion of distance, and the credibility of a state of limbo were all impressions that immediately placed the audience in the grasp of the play itself.

That evening I found myself asking why our University Theatre, with the extensive facilities available at the Playhouse, continually stumbles at this most important element of production. In the past few years the University Theatre has given us interpretations of almost every phase of drama. Coinciding with these levels of performance have been attempts at scene design that

have ranged from an arrangement, of platform to a full stage set. Concurrently, the gamut of success is design has run from poor to fair.

Everything is there but something is missing. The tangibles are accounted for; the shallowness that remains must be overcome by some blending of talent, imagination, and the willingness to venture into the exciting.

At the opposite end of my yardstick I discovered that in my final column of last term, a review of "Guys And Dolls" entitled "The Little People Made It Work," I did a great injustice to Nancy Copperman, the choreographer. I believe I described her accomplishments with the grossly inadequate adjectives—"superb" and "exciting."

Two weeks ago I was on my way to Madison Square Garden to cheer for the old alma mater in the ECAC Holiday tournament. Since the Garden is only a few blocks away, I stopped at the Mark Hellinger Theater and got tickets to the following evening's performance of "Ilya Darling."

"Ilya Darling" is based upon the movie entitled "Never On Sunday," it stars Melina Mercouri and Orson Bean, and is currently enjoying what looks like a very long run on Broadway. The show was delightful, yet as it drew to a close I was bothered by something that I couldn't quite be sure of. As the curtain fell, I realized that I was being very unfair. I was trying to compare the choreography in "Ilya Darling" with one that it couldn't play on the same bill with; and dancing that evolved from Nancy Copperman's direction in "Guys And Dolls."

Onna White, the choreographer of "Ilya Darling," recently won a Tony Award for her work in "Half A Sixpence." Among her past Broadway credits are "Mame," "The Music Man," and "Irma La Douce," and "I Had A Ball."

These are the kind of credentials that are not ignored in professional theatre today, and yet Miss White lacks the feeling and excitement that Nancy has been able to surround movement with.

In this case Nancy Copperman was my "frame of reference" to Broadway. It should have been the other way around. Or should it?



DAVID BOYER, president of Delta Theta Sigma, accepts the Red Cross rotating Bloodmobile Plaque from Mike Weiner, president of Alpha Phi Omega, and Nick Mihelic, Bloodmobile chairman. Delta Theta won the campus-wide drive by contributing 27 pints. The drive was sponsored by Alpha Phi.

Luncheon Club Speaker

Vallance To Speak On Classified Research

The Faculty Luncheon Club at the University will open the Winter Term on Monday, January 15, with a talk by Theodore R. Vallance, associate dean for research, College of Human Development.

His topic will be: "Classified Research: To Be—Or Not To Be—Involved."

This is the first in a series of ten Luncheon Club programs on the theme, "Penn State's Response to Today's Social Problems."

Vallance, a faculty newcomer was appointed professor of human development and associate dean for research last October. He came to the University from Washington, D.C., where he was chief of the Office of Planning of the National Institute of Mental Health, responsible for developing long-range and intermediate-range program plans and for conducting studies leading to recommendations for innovations in programs of research, manpower development, and services.

response to social problems in their academic fields are: Elsworth R. Buskirk, director of the Human Performance Laboratory; James F. Petras, assistant professor of political science, a political theorist; David M. Ricci, assistant professor of political science, a specialist in comparative politics; David Gottlieb, professor of human development, who has had extensive experience with underprivileged youth; Charles L. Lewis, vice president for student affairs; Gerald M. Phillips, associate professor of speech, who is conducting a study in Harrisburg on communicating with underprivileged families; George E. Brandow, professor of agricultural economics; and M. Nelson McGeary, dean of the Graduate School, who will discuss his experience as a delegate to Pennsylvania's Constitutional Convention.

The Faculty Luncheon Club, open to all members of the University faculty, meets each Monday at 12:15 p.m. in Dining Room A of the Hetzel Union

Bldg. A buffet luncheon is served at 12:15 p.m. and the program starts promptly at 12:50 p.m. A ten-minute question period follows the 20-30 minute talks, and meetings end promptly at 1:30 p.m.

Demand for Technical Students Down in '67

Competition may be as keen as last year but recruiters in business and industry throughout the nation appear to be showing more restraint this season in making beginning salary offers to college seniors. Last January the number of offers reported for technical students was up 25 per cent over January, 1966.

In the corresponding period this year there has been a 26 per cent decrease, according to an announcement by Norman Frisbey, director of placement at the University, one of the institutions participating in the College Placement Council's 1967-68 survey of beginning salary offers to college seniors.

The decline in offers is among the statistics compiled by the Council for its first Salary Survey report of the season. The true import, however, may not be known until a greater number of offers have accumulated by the time of the second report on Mar. 1, a Council spokesman indicated. By then it should be apparent whether the drop in early-season technical volume indicates a sharp decrease in manpower needs or whether recruiters have been engaging in watchful waiting.

Thus far this year, 1,738 offers to technical students have been reported by the 115 representative colleges and universities participating in the Council's annual study. At this time last year there were 2,344 offers.

The biggest factor in the decline is the reduced activity of the aerospace industry. Traditionally, aerospace offers have accounted for the largest share of the volume in CPC Salary Survey reports. Last year at this time they made up 29.5 per cent of the total offers; this year the proportion is only 15.6 per cent, with 386 offers as against 924 in 1966-67. The chemicals and drugs group, another leading force in the recruiting marketplace, has also made fewer offers to date, but the decrease has been smaller. This year, chemical firms account for 6.4 per cent of the total compared with 8.2 per cent a year ago. The data, limited to male students, cover actual offers made from Sept. 1 to Dec. 12.

The number of offers for non-technical students has dropped also, but only slightly. A total of 739 offers is included in this report as against 786 last year.

Offers to advanced-degree candidates have declined in number even more sharply than those for bachelor-level students. The master's total is down 40 per cent while the doctoral-candidate figure is 45 per cent lower than last year.

In terms of average dollar value of offers to bachelor's candidates, the chemicals and drugs group is in the midst of what appears to be a paradox. Last June, at the end of the 1966-67 recruiting season, it stood third both in volume and actual dollar value. This year, in the first reporting period, it has dropped to seventh in volume but has risen to the top in dollar average, going from \$715 to \$747 a month.

Electronics employers, first in June at \$718, are currently second with an average offer of \$742. Tied for third at \$735 are aerospace and electrical machinery.

The metals industry, however, has recorded the largest percentage increase since June, raising its average offer 6.7 percent to \$729. Next in line are the automotive and utilities groups at 5.9 percent. The average automotive offer is \$732 while the utilities figure is \$721. Construction and public accounting are close behind with 5.2 and 5 percent increases. Public accounting firms are continuing their upturn in recruiting activity and, despite the lower volume in so many other areas, they have made almost as many offers as last year.

By curricula, chemical engineering students are continuing to receive the top dollar offers. Their average has gone up 6 percent to \$777. Next are mechanical engineers at \$753, a gain of 4.6 percent; electrical engineers at \$752, an increase of 3.3 percent; and industrial engineers at \$749, up 5.9 percent. Aeronautical engineers, third in June, have slipped to sixth with an average figure of \$744, a gain of 2.8 percent. The average offer for all technical curricula is \$748, a rise of 3.8 percent from the June closing of \$720.

Most of the non-technical curricula have experienced only slight increases in average dollar value since last year. Neither the humanities nor the marketing curricula have gone up a full percentage point, while the average for business students has gained but 1.8 percent. The current dollar averages are business, \$624; humanities, \$591; and marketing, \$589. The one exception is accounting which has risen 4.2 percent to \$664.

Varied Agencies Give Grants

A grant of \$97,860 for research in atomic chemistry has been made to the University by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research. The work will be under the direction of Philip S. Skell, professor of chemistry.

The Air Force Systems Command, Electronic Systems Division, has provided \$20,000 for a special project, the preparation of gels with controlled nucleation sites, to be directed by Dr. Heinz K. Henisch, professor of applied physics in the Materials Research Laboratory.

The Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction has made grants of \$33,670 for the preparation of materials for studies in religious literature for use in the public schools. A grant of \$20,196 provides for the preparation of a student's guide and a teacher's guide for the literature of Western religions, and a grant of \$13,474 provides for a prospectus for a course in the literature of Eastern religions. The work is under the direction of John R. Whitney, assistant professor of religious studies.

A grant of \$9,000 for Buddhist research under the direction of Chen-Chi-Chang, associate professor of religious studies, has been made by C. T. Shen of New York, N.Y.

Dorman G. Freark, associate professor of industrial engineering, will develop a graduate-level course in plastic shaping with the support of a \$3,500 grant from the Industrial Education and Research Foundation. The Foundation

has also made a grant of \$500 to the department of industrial engineering to be used to stimulate student and faculty interest in work relating to the needs of the forging industry.

Union Carbide Corp. has given welding equipment valued at nearly \$5,000 to the same department. Benjamin W. Niebel, professor and head of the department, administers the two departmental gifts.

A traffic signal controller, valued at \$775, has been given to the department of civil engineering by the Bliss Eagle Signal Co. Benjamin A. Whisler, professor and head of the department, is in charge.

Digital data logging systems equipment, valued at approximately \$500, has been given to the department of mechanical engineering by the Instrument Society of America. Dr. Richard G. Cunningham, professor and head of the department, is in charge.

The Council on Library Resources, Inc., has provided \$5,000 for an international conference on bibliographical form and style, administered by Harrison T. Meserole, professor of English.

An unrestricted grant of \$1,000 to the College of Business Administration has been made by Humble Oil Education Foundation. Dr. Ossian R. MacKenzie, dean of the College, administers the grant.

State Dept. Official Joins University

An official of the U.S. Department of State has been named director of the University's International Program Development.

J. Cudd Brown, chief of research and planning for the State Department's Bureau for East Asia, will assume his new post in the College of Liberal

Arts on Feb. 1. He will also serve as a professor of political science.

Brown is a 1948 graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. He has been a member of the Department of State since 1965, working in the Office of Development Planning.

Before joining the Federal Government, he was chairman of the Division of Social Sciences and professor of political science at Sonoma State College, Cotati, Cal.

Brown received his master's degree in 1952 from American University, and his doctor of philosophy degree in political science from the University of Oregon in 1956.

Outstanding Lecturer in 1965, he was named the outstanding professor and lecturer of the year at Sonoma.

From 1959 to 1962 he was Chevalier Associate Professor of Diplomacy and World Affairs at Occidental College, Los Angeles. From 1957-59 he served as assistant professor of international relations at San Francisco College.

Brown also spent six years as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer, including two years as vice consul and six months as acting consul in Mombasa, Kenya.

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Zern Returns This Term

Edward G. Zern, well-known outdoors writer and former advertising executive who served as visiting professor of journalism for the Fall Term, has been re-appointed for the Winter Term.

H. Eugene Goodwin, professor and head of the School of Journalism, said Zern will

teach Advertising Copy Writing, and a special topics seminar for senior advertising students.

Zern is a 1932 graduate of the University. He served as contributing editor to Sports Illustrated from 1935 to 1959, and has been associate editor of Field & Stream since 1959. 2

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