#### **Editorial** opinion:

# They need you

Poor attendence is damaging the Academic Assembly's efforts to serve students.

Although Assembly President Bob Mazur has said members are hurting only themselves by not coming, their lack of interest limits the ability of the college

councils to serve students. Assembly membership is composed of the president, vicepresident, a member-at-large and student senator from each of the

10 college councils. Mazur believes they have become overinvolved in activities within their own college. He wonders why they cannot send another member of their council to

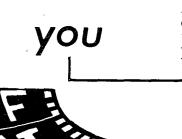
represent them. According to Mazur, the Assembly can accomplish a great deal for students in the coming terms by working more closely with the USG Senate. Next Fall Term, the Assembly will publicize a list of special courses including Liberal Arts 198 and 498.

Much of the work toward establishing a .5 grading system will be done by the Assembly. It also will be continuing to investigate the extent to which colleges and departments include student representation in academic policy making.

The Assembly, because it is composed of representatives from 10 different colleges, always will be more of a communications body than a service body. College council representatives can share problems and solutions, tactics and concerns.

If one student is aided by information learned at an Assembly meeting, it is worth two hours of committee reports.

Assembly members should attend their meetings. If they cannot, they should send representatives who will listen.



# REVIEW 'Harrad Experiment'

By JOHN F. WILSON Collegian Columnist

Based on Robert H. Rimmer's bestselling novel about sexual liberation. "The Harrad Experiment" emerges on screen as a mish-mash of sex education

and soap opera. Harrad is an experimental college founded by Philip and Margaret Tenhausen. Here male and female students are paired with each other and encouraged to have sexual relations. The only rule is that roommates stick together for at least a month before switching around.

Like the novel, the film concentrates on the experiences of four freshman students - a sexual athlete, a shy virgin, a fumbling introvert and a sexpot.

Rimmer's book showed the four slowly losing their hang-ups over a fouryear period, but the screenplay by Michael Werner and Ted Cassedy speeds up the process so that this takes place within a few weeks, thereby losing the novel's depth.

Whereas incidents in the original story took place in varied locales, the film never moves off the small Harrad campus except for a few scenes at a nearby diner. Here a silly effort to inject

some excitement into the proceedings takes place, an attempt by a lustful old man to carry off one girl in order to have

his wicked way with her. Presumably the film was curtailed to only two locations in order to keep it within a skimpy budget. Along the same lines, producer Dennis Stevens assembled an inexpensive cast, headed by James Whitmore and Tippi Hedren as the Tenhausens.

Whitmore, a talented actor, is wasted in a small role which gives him little to do besides moderating some group discussions about love. Hedren starred for Hitchcock about 10 years ago in "The Birds" and "Marnie" and then sank into obscurity. Her few scenes in "The Harrad Experiment" show that she still acts as woodenly as ever.

The young members of the cast who handle the central roles perform adequately but hardly memorably. Handicapped by the poor script and direction, they are unable to make their characters seem real enough to engage the viewer's interest.

Ted Post was a strange choice to direct this film, since he is primarily a director of action films such as "Hang 'Em High" and the forthcoming

"Magnum Force." His unimaginative handling of "The Harrad Experiment" contributes to the picture's dullness.

Even among the many second-rate scores being written for movies today, Artie Butler's stands out as being notably poor. He supplies a melange of bubblegum tunes and soap opera organ bits, all applied with the subtlety of a karate chop. For reasons unknown, a soundtrack album of this ridiculous score has been issued.

Although this film is rated R, it hardly fits into the skin-flick category. The students are shown taking their gym classes in the buff, but the love scenes are rather modest and will not interest the sex film audience at which the movie ads aim.

Both readers and non-readers of Rimmer's book should find little merit or interest in the film. Perhaps the novel could inspire a good movie, but "The Harrad Experiment" is not it.

#### Letter policy

The Daily Collegian welcomes comments on news coverage, editorial policy or noncampus affairs. Letters wooden frames begin to move as the air is filled with electronic music and mechanical sounds. Actors, faces hidden in the shadows, push the panels downstage, face forward, to introduce themselves and then march away. The stage darkens.

By DAVID CAWLEY

Collegian Columnist

Panels of corrugated steel within

A grant white K lays on the black floor.

theatre

So begins one of the most exciting productions ever brought to Penn State theatre. Innovative is perhaps one of the best words to describe the University Theatre's production of "Kafka on Kafka." Directed and adapted for the stage by Archie Smith, with production design by Rafael Ferrer, "Kafka" is more than the "collage" described in the program. It is an ofttimes fluid blending of several works by Franz Kafka with a

running monologue by Kafka the artist. Each sequence seems almost to melt into the next as actors appear on stage to change the set. They move with a madness indicative of the mood of the next scene. For example, when the office scene comes on stage, everyone seems to be a part of a huge machine and when a siren sounds they all cower or run across afraid. This decision to use the actors as an integral part of the action, even in set changes, is a daring one which often works.

The set design by Rafael Ferrer is instrumental in creating the surrealistic atmosphere of the show. Furry furniture, bedspreads matching the actor's costumes (and the mood in the scene at the beginning of Act II) and slides projected onto the panels from time to time are all effectively used and add to the mood. The contrast between the hard, bleakness of the steel and the softness in the furniture and costumes is good and the use of the entire depth of the stage gives the feeling of a whorehouse.

I was slightly confused, however, by the back wall of the stage. It was unclear to me whether the emergency exit door was supposed to be seen or if it was just a necessity of the depth of the stage.

Delbert Boarts' sound design and Charles H. Firmin's lighting are gratingly effective. Sirens scream, a heart beats, clocks tick as the mood of each scene is set. Spotlights follow the siren and a red light colors a torture scene, but the glaring scoops which blind the audience momentarily at the end are the most effective.

The costume design by Al Kohout,

## REVIEW 'Kafka on Kafka'

starting in tones of gray and white and moving into bright colors and wild designs, also adds a great deal to the mood. A large cape which forms a effigy of Kafka's father is the most dramatic while a jumpsuit worn by Jonathan Frakes is the most creative and noteworthy design.

The company of 12 actors, with the help of several stagehands, create the illusion that there are a great deal of people in the show. The separate delination of each character is strong enough to make each believable and one has trouble telling them apart only when the physical appearances are similar.

As the three Kafkas, John Pielmeier, Ralph William Allred and Dan Ellentuck turn in extremely competent performances. Pielmeier, as the guilty Kafka, is excellent in a leading role which is quite demanding and which affords him the more dramatic moments of the play. Allred evokes a mood of emptiness and alienation which is exemplified by his appearance throughout the show atop a platform tower. In a part which is more emoting than actual acting, he is effective and believable as Kafka the artist. Ellentuck has some good moments but seems

For the most part "Kafka on Kafka" not only held my interest, but also kept me involved in the action of the show. The production reminded me a great deal of Tom O'Horgan's imaginative "Lenny" in the smooth transition between scenes and in the inventiveness of the production itself. But, there was a lack of power in the scenes, especially in the first act, which prevented the show from realizing its full emotion impact and made some parts a little long.

Archie Smith, in adapting Kafka for the stage, and Rafael Ferrer, in designing the show, have done a very commendable job.

The minor flaws of the show in movement and length are not so important as the fact that for once in the history of Penn State theatre, someone has dared to present a work so different in its concept and presentation that it may have offended some people and disturbed others, but it could not have left anyone cold or unaffected. I would be very much interested to see "Kafka on Kafka," the rough edges smoothed out and polished a little bit, produced to its full extent on the Broadway or Off-Broadway stage. For, in my opinion, it has the potential to be one of the most exciting works of modern theatre

# the Collegian

PATRICIA J. STEWART

Business Manager

Successor to the Free Lance, est. 1887 Member of the Associated Press

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Election of officers will be held as well as discussion concerning next year's programs.

All are welcome!

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Helen Eakin Eisenhower Chapel

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4:00 pm

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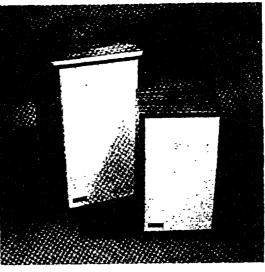
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