

# Poor Reception For Steinbeck Performance Here

By THEODORE E. GILLIAM

The best in lyceum programs turned out to be "The Best of Steinbeck," a scintillating specimen of theatre, presented here Thursday night, November 29, 1956. A host of Steinbeck's characters were lifted straight from the pages of his books in all their stark realism — because of the brilliant acting of Constance Bennett, Robert Strauss, Frank McHugh and Todd Andrews.

From the eight selections presented, **Of Mice and Men** and the "Molly Morgan" scene from **The Pastures of Heaven** remain most vividly in my mind.

Constance Bennett as Molly, a young woman who refused to face reality, was superb, doing some atmospheric acting that was extraordinary. She gave evidence of a talent that is seldom seen in the movies where she reached fame which T. E. GILLIAM tends to stereotype actresses. Except for her voice, a bit refined for the part, Miss Bennet's portrayal of the hard-boiled waitress with a heart of gold in "Two-A-Penny" from **The Grapes of Wrath** exhibited an earthy realism. In **Of Mice and Men**, she expertly captured the mannerisms and character of a lonely, egoistic flirt.

There was nothing mediocre about any of the group, but Robert Strauss was simply "par excellence" in roles running the gamut from the sensual Preacher Casey from **Grapes of Wrath**, Al, the cafe owner—a one-man Greek chorus—in "Two-A-Penny," the dog-loving Pirate from **Tortilla Flat**, the farmhand in "Molly Morgan," to the mentally deficient Lennie in **Of Mice and Men**. His portrayal of Lennie was

pognant enough to draw tears. Why his killing of Curley's wife and his death at his buddy's hand—one of the most heart-rending and pitifully sacrificing acts in any literature or in actual life—was laughed at by some of the audience raises a question of their mental status. One might well think that the mentality of those to whom the scenes were funny is not a whit above that of Lennie.

Frank McHugh and Tod Andrews gave meaningful and good interpretation to each of their roles. The parts for which they are particularly and respectively remembered are Pilon and Danny in "Danny and the Pirate" from **Tortilla Flat**, a satirical comedy about the "paisanos" in Monterey. Frank McHugh also did a lively monologue of "The Mackerel" from **Tortilla Flat**.

All the groups are stars of stage, screen, television and radio, Robert Strauss having been nominated for an academy award for supporting actor in "Stalag 17." Their theatrical accomplishments and experience made them quite competent to bring to life some of Steinbeck's memorable characters, which literally cry from the pages to be heard.

Another outstanding feature of the program was its sparse use of scenery, consisting of merely a few stools, chairs, a table and two border stands. Practically everything but the conversation was left to the imagination. This demanded a far greater creative effort on the part of the performers as well as imaginative participation from the audience.

Incidental music was appropriately played throughout the performances. One very notable feature of the music was that it perfectly matched each mood or idea being conveyed, thus enhancing the acting rather than

distracting the attention. Once more praises must be given to the North Carolina College Lyceum Committee which selects such topflight entertainment for the student body. Let us hope that they will continue to select equally as well in the years to come.

## From The — PRESIDENT'S DESK

By BENJAMIN S. PAGE

The Student Government Association is now preparing a code by which all student functions will be governed. The code will set forth rules and regulations in regard to decorum, etc. This undertaking has long been needed at NCC, and President Charles Holland expresses hope that it will serve some useful purpose. It is not aimed to destroy student privileges; rather, it is designed to protect the individual student at all times.

SGA is also working on a string of honors, which it hopes to bestow upon speedy Lee Calhoun, NCC Olympic Champion. Since Lee is bringing home the bacon from Melbourne, the NCC Student Government and student body at large feel that

the general population here owes Lee some sort of honor. It would naturally never approach the honor that Lee has brought to us, but it would at least be a token of our gratitude.

The tentative schedules includes a reception at the terminal when Lee arrives, a parade through the downtown area,

# Senior Of The Month — Chemistry Major Likes Busy Life

By GWEN McCALLUM

"I like to be busy. Too much leisure bores me". These are the words of the December choice for Senior of the Month. These are the words that describe perfectly the author of the words—constantly busy. These are the words of Valeria Marcelette Powe, (known around campus) colloquially as "Val".

Valeria, a Chemistry major, is a native of Cleveland, North Carolina and a graduate of Allen High School in Asheville, North Carolina. She first began her busy life as a student at Allen High where she was an active member of the school's basketball team, debating team, Student Government, and Choir

and some sort of banquet and dance. The plans are as yet still tentative, but December 16 is under consideration as a date for the honors. We hope that the plans will materialize.

The athletes' banquet is still in the planning stage, but President Holland assures us that things are progressing satisfactorily. We hope this year to honor our athletes in a manner befitting their gridiron performances. After all, the CIAA Championship is not quite a small honor, and we would certainly have our footballers know how much we appreciate their unrestrained efforts during the past football season.

The Student Government, I am sure, wishes to take this opportunity to wish you an exceptionally Merry Christmas and a wonderfully Happy New Year. And when we see you again in January, please do not forget that the NCC Student Government Association is your organization and functions for your good. It needs, therefore, your undying support.

as well as the Crown and Scepter Club.

Following this precedent,



VALERIA POWE

"Val" plunged, immediately into NCC's host of extra-curricular activities once she became a part of NCC's family. Her activities have included the Dramatics Club, which she served as treasurer, the Choir, of which she was also treasurer, the Student Congress, the Student Welfare Committee, the Women's Assembly Steering Committee, the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Pan-Hellenic Council, and Grand Marshall. She has also been President of the Pyramid Club, Secretary of the Junior Class, and Vice President of the Sophomore Class. This year she is President of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, President of the Women's Assembly, Secretary of the Pan Hellenic Council and a Senior Counselor.

Even with all her activities, Val still finds time to engage in her favorite pastimes

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