

# Drama Club Tastes Success With Play 'Dream'

## Banks Says 'Well Done'

BY DICK BANKS  
In The Charlotte Observer

A lot of people have been talking about the cultural enrichment Mecklenburg can expect from UNC-C.

Well -- the enrichment began Friday night where drama is concerned, with a most delightful presentation of Albee's incongruously comical and painfully pertinent "The American Dream."

Drama at UNC-C obviously is in capable hands. The director of last night's production is Dr. Catherine Nicholson, a publicity-shy lady from Troy. An Associate Professor of English, she began teaching drama and speech at UNC-C last fall.

After last night's final bows by the cast, Dr. Nicholson couldn't be found, either to take a bow for herself or to receive the ribbon tied roses brought up for her. Orchids would have been in order, for that matter, because the play went well.

Room 200, a converted lecture hall in Building C of the Liberal Arts Complex, was packed with a young audience of the bright sort that laughs in the right places.

No real stage. The actors seemed to be emerging from cloakrooms. And no proscenium curtain. But once the show got going, who cared?

More likely by labors of genius than by happy accident, the cast performed evenly, with assured timing, as enchanting in visual characterization as in handling Albee's often viciously amusing dialogue.

The favorite of this member of the audience was Pat Price as the bemused visiting Mrs. Barker, taking off her dress upon invitation to make herself comfortable and making use of wondering eyes, bountiful teeth and intriguingly prim speech to express Albee's contempt for the American Lady of Good Works.

Jan Wasdell nicely underplayed the apishness of Mommy, forever ritualizing the castration of timorous Daddy (Paul Atwell), boasting of her prowess as a belaborer of shoppings and relishing her repeated threats to ship Grandma off in a van.

Atwell's Daddy was less complex, but he never missed a trick in the role.

Mike Brantly, the enigmatic American Dream, did well with this climactic piece of abfuscation, although he did betray hints of the emotions he wasn't supposed to be able to feel. Bill Kinsey was many-faced Grandma.

Dr. Nicholson's imaginative direction kept firing visual and aural messages from the stage, sometimes two or three deep.

Her actors made good use of Albee's dramatic artillery, blasting at the inanity of the American home atmosphere, and the deadliness of materialism. Her actors made good use of the futility that rewards adulthood in our day.

Beyond these obvious statements lie Albee's symbolic shapes and shades that each can read according to his experience as to how the American has lost his way, sold his birthright, and bypassed opportunities to build a brave new world.

The comedy was put on with ease and restraint and with a sort of inner flow -- all admirably enjoyable.



A scene from the play, "American Dream". Photo by Fred Jordan.

## Dream Plays To Over Flow Audience

BY EARLEEN MABRY

The first dramatic presentation ever produced by a UNC-C group was given Friday night, April 14, and scored a large success.

A one act play, "The American Dream" was presented to an over flow audience of over 200 students, faculty, and visitors.

The play, in the words of its author, Edward Albee (also author of "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?") is "An examination of the American scene . . . a stand against the fiction that everything in this slipping land of ours is peachy-keen".

Its comedy is witty and entertaining, but the systematic satire and sarcasm point out the faults in the American Dream.

Mommy was played by student Jan Wasdell and her intimidated husband, Daddy was done by Mr. Paul Atwell.

Pat Price played Mrs. Baker, the frightfully busy bore and Mr. Mike Brantly was the Young Man -- the senseless, mindless American Dream.

Grandma was played to the hilt by student Bill Kinsey who came on in wig and built up shoes as one of the crabbier, most outspoken and funny old ladies ever seen.

The production was staged by Dr. Catherine Nicholson, professor of drama and speech. Her sheer determination and talent added to the ability of the actors, the imaginative and effective lighting, scenery, make-up and properties.

These qualities provided the UNC-C Drama group with its first presentation and its first success.



Fall Down -- Go Boom. Jan Wasdell takes a spill. Fred Jordan Photo.

## Jamgotch Takes Appointment, Writes Book

Dr. Nish Jamgotch, Jr., assistant professor of political science here, has been appointed as an Associate at the Harvard University Russian Research Center for the summer of 1967.

This appointment, he hopes, will enable him to complete work on a book, "The Soviet Union and Easter Europe: International Relations of a New Type?"

Dr. Jamgotch, whose speciality is Soviet government and politics, began his monograph two years ago while associated with the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, Stanford University.

He will leave for Harvard in early June and complete his research in time to return for the second summer term here beginning

July 17. During the second term he will offer a course, Political Science 450, "Politics of the International Communist System." Dr. Jamgotch says that the course will follow basically his research.

The Minneapolis, Minn. native received his Ph. D. from Claremont Graduate School in California. He came here from a visiting assistant professorship at Scripps College of Claremont.

While in the Army, Dr. Jamgotch was an interrogator of Soviet defectors to Europe and later became a Russian Linguist and Research Intelligence Analyst.

He has taught at California State College at Fullerton, California State College at Long Beach, and at the Claremont Colleges.

Dr. Jamgotch says that he feels honored by his appointment and that he is delighted to be able to have the Harvard facilities available for his research.

The book will be published by the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace.

## Officer Race

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pledge 100 per cent of our abilities

and attention to secure the class of '68 a graduation and a position of respect on this campus which each senior will remember with pride in the years to come."

John Hostetter, senior candidate: "The expected vicissitudes and mutual fluctuations relative to graduating seniors can be made diminutive if that person leading them is working on their side.

"Man, I am definitely on your side. Besides it sure would make my mother proud and happy if I were elected."

## Chorus Presents Program

The University Chorus will present its Spring program of Carolina Composers on May 17 in the Parquet room.

The program, which will be presented at the 11:30 break, will consist of approximately 16 numbers, all written by Carolina Composers.

Many of the authors, inspired by the prospect of having their new music publicly presented, have

written anthems especially for the chorus to sing in this program. Indeed, author Elwood Coggin dedicated his number, BE YE GLAD AND REJOICE, O YE RIGHTEOUS, expressly to the chorus.

The chorus, with 65 voices, guarantees a program of variety and beauty, with anthems to please all types of musical tastes.