

'The Graduate' Grave Or Light?

By BLACKWELL BROGDEN

Special to The Daily Tar Heel

The question concerning "The Graduate" is how to classify it. The Embassy Pictures release can be taken as a serious comment on the inhibited and unsure modern youth, or an oddly funny treatment of the same subject.

One is inclined to believe it is serious. Mike Nichols, directing his second film (his first was "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?"), would not seem to be producing a "spoof" with such subject matter. Anne Bancroft, who brings off the only convincing performance, that of a neurotic and alcoholic matron seducing the willing son of a friend for her own pleasure, is not a very funny character.

The story behind "The Graduate" is built on a young man returning to his California suburb after four very successful years in an eastern college. Society bores him, his parents make a showpiece of him, he is alone. Ben portrayed by Dustin Hoffman, accepts an invitation from Mrs. Robinson, Anne Bancroft, to begin an affair. This affair lasts through most of the summer.

Ben's parents have other ideas. They force him into dating Elaine (Katherine Ross), who is the Robinson's daughter. Mrs. Robinson does not approve. Ben forces her to expose the matter to Elaine. Now begins a long period of solitude in which neither Elaine or her mother will speak to Ben. Summer ends and the fall comes. Elaine goes back to school. Ben continues to mope about town.

Loneliness grows and Ben decides to follow Elaine. Driving to Berkley he shadows her through the campus and town before building the nerve to speak to her. He manages to talk, though, and the two appear to be headed for marriage. Mr. Robinson enters the picture: He has discovered the affair Ben had with Mrs. Robinson. He plans to marry Elaine to a medical student immediately.

A long search across California ensues as Ben attempts to find the marriage and stop it. The search climaxes with Ben breaking into the church about 45 seconds too late. Nevertheless Elaine runs to him, and swinging a large crucifix, he fights off the wedding company as the two escape.

The movie uses numerous special effects. With few exceptions, however, they come out only as contrived special effects. Special effects do not create moods or characters, they are extensions, powerful extensions, of the moods and characters inherent in the actors performance. The only effective scenes using unusual camera techniques are ones involving Mrs. Robinson. She is the single character who justifies them.

Ben is totally unrealistic. How many young men graduate from an eastern college as an athletic star, a student government politico, a Phi Beta Kappa, and a bashful virgin? Even if Ben has a realism, Hoffman overplays the naivete of his character at the expense of the insecurity, boredom and disgust with his environment that might link him to a flesh-

and-bone college graduate, a modern young man.

This overplay, possibly the fault also of the script and the director, gives the film its odd quality of humor. Somehow this is not present during most of Ben's relationship with Elaine, leaving Miss Ross to put in very good job as a supporting actress.

The background music score adapted several songs of Simon and Garfunkel, especially "The Sound of Silence", to emphasize the moods of loneliness, exhilaration, boredom and determination. But the songs, as many of the special effects, fail. Besides being unjustified by the acting, it is sorely obvious that they were not written for the movie.

The conclusion is one of the few believable incidents in the film. This end holds as well the key to the question of how to classify it. After the wedding scene with its highly romantic escape, reminiscent of Errol Flynn as a gay pirate or one of the Three Musketeers, Ben and Elaine find themselves isolated even from each other.

"The Graduate", then, is an unsuccessful attempt at a serious motion picture, one that is good for a laugh anyway.



-DTH Photo by Steve Adams

'Let It All Hang Out' Course Romps In Polk Place

Goodwill Sells Used Furniture

Having trouble furnishing that apartment? Need good reconditioned or used furniture at bargain prices? The Goodwill Store in Durham sells furniture, small appliances and housewares. Free delivery is available on large items.

The store is at 1121 W. Main St., across from East Duke Campus. Good reupholstered sofa beds and couches are priced from \$39.50, reupholstered chairs begin at \$14.50.

You can also find toasters, irons, mixers, electric frying pans, and other small appliances. Beds, chests, living-room furniture and dinette sets are all available at low prices.

Goodwill Industries helps the handicapped in the Research Triangle Area.

Campus Calendar

Items for campus calendar should be in the DTH office by 4 p.m. TWO days before they are to run. Items for Monday's calendar (to be run Sunday) should be in by Friday; items for Tuesday should be in by Saturday.

'AH, WILDERNESS' opening night, Playmakers' Theatre at 8 p.m.

UNC-DUKE Physics Colloquium in 215 Phillips Hall. Dr. Werner Trifshauer on Charge Dates in Cobalt Compounds by Mossbauer Experiments.

COMBINED staff lecture and research conference in Clinic Auditorium, N.C. Memorial Hospital. Dr. Douglas G. Cameron on "Anemia Associated with Disorders of the Small Intestine."

STRAY Greeks meet at 6:15 at the Pines Restaurant. Please bring dues.

OBSERVATIONAL Astronomy course of Experimental College meets at 6 p.m. at the Planetarium.

YOUNG Democratic Club meets at 6 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room of Lenoir. Kelly Alexander, Jr., will lead a discussion on "The Negro Vote in 1968."

CAROLINA State Student Legislature Delegation meets today in Roland Parker I of GM to make final plans for the upcoming session. All delegates and alternates must attend.

MULTI-PURPOSE Center on Church St. needs people volunteers to move furniture from Chapel Hill to Carrboro any morning this week. Call 942-2155 if you have questions.

Help!

The Features editor of The Daily Tar Heel is in desperate need of help.

Feature stories and reviews are badly needed. Please bring all contributions to The Daily Tar Heel office immediately. All copy should be triple-spaced on a 57-space line with a carbon copy.

Willing reporters also needed for work on features desk.

Spanish Sing Friday

Noted Spanish scholars Professor and Mrs. Alva B. Ebersole, will present a concert of Spanish songs at 8 p.m. Friday, in Dey Hall Faculty Lounge.

Prof. Ebersole, currently chairman of the Adelphi University Spanish Department, will join the UNC Romance Languages Department Sept. 1, 1968.

The Ebersoles have presented numerous concerts at the Sala Chopin, at the Mexican-American Institute, and have appeared on radio station XEQ. Since their residence in the United States, where Prof. Ebersole completed his doc-

toral studies at the University of Kansas, they have given concerts in Los Angeles (one with the Hollywood-Wilshire Symphony in 1966); Longview, exams; and a second concert at the Mexican-American Institute in 1955; and at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst.

They have sung roles with the Adelphi University Opera Workshop, in "La Boheme," "La Traviata," "Madama Butterfly," and Mozart's "The Impresario." They are members of the Long Island Choral Society, and the Adelphi University Glee Club, where they have done solo work on various occasions.

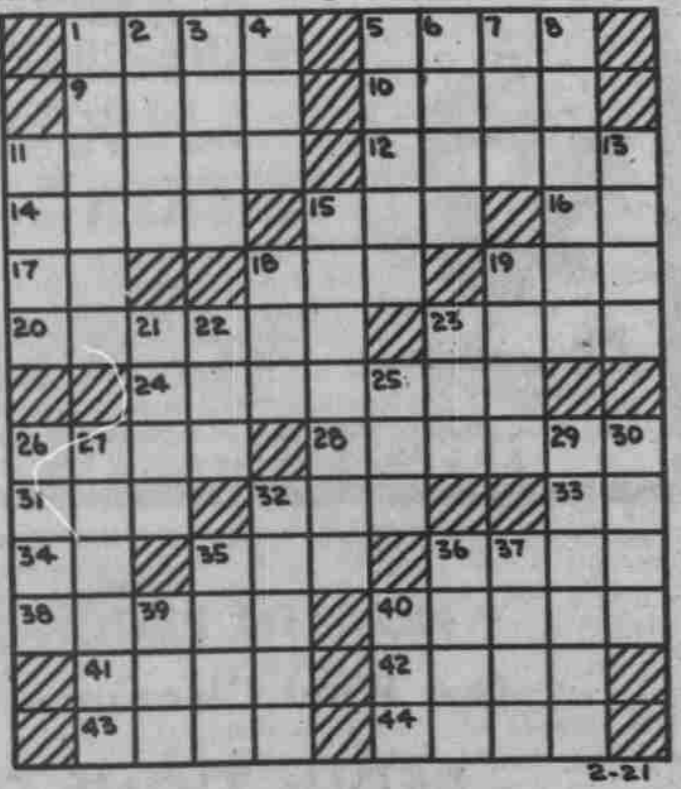
DAILY CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- Timber wolf
 - Applaud
 - Long heroic poem
 - Employ
 - Maxim
 - Levels
 - Hideous
 - Letter
 - Toward
 - Compass point
 - Obstacle
 - Knave of clubs in loo
 - Exchanges
 - Discolor
 - Annoys
 - Close
 - Expunges
 - Fate
 - Fascinate
 - Greek letter
 - Land measure
 - Little girl
 - Litigation
 - Valises
 - Concise
 - Elliptical
 - Warmth
 - Infrequent
 - Old measures of length
- DOWN**
- Credit-debit tome
 - Precious stone
 - Specter

- Sugar
- Acclaim
- Dwell
- Part of "to be"
- Group of five
- Relative
- Several
- Nuts
- Wager
- Mountain defile
- Touch end to end
- Speck
- Friar's title
- Before
- Dross of metal
- Terror
- Lives
- Location
- Passage-way
- Mast
- Close, as a hawk's eyes
- Russian mountain range
- Yellow bugle
- Definite article

Yesterday's Answer

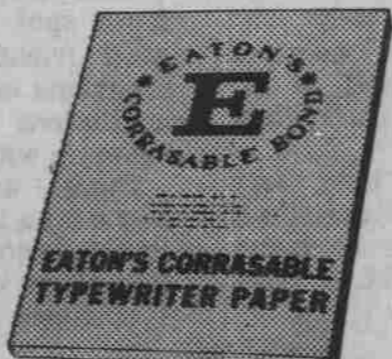
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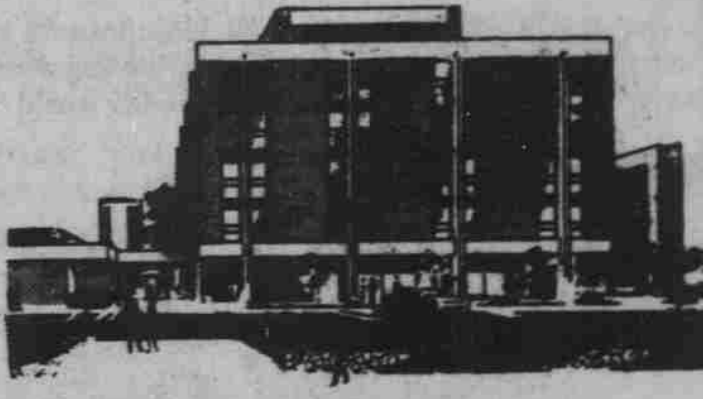
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PANLUS

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SIGN!

PHEW! THANKS, MISSUS - WHY DIDNT YER SIGN THE FLIPPIN' THING BEFORE?

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