

Bruce Mann

'Peanuts' play charming

Happiness is the Durham Theatre Guild's new production of "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" — a pleasant bit of charm based on the Charles Schulz comic strip, "Peanuts."

The term, peanuts, of course, refers to so-called insignificant or small people who seem to miss the important crescendoes of life, who seem to continually live a mediocre existence.

These are the people (and aren't we all peanuts?) who are chronicled in Charles Schulz kindergarten cartoon creations, who under examination prove to be as truly human and meaningful as any and everyone — who face the same problems, who suffer, and who ultimately find their own happiness in personal love.

The same theme pervades playwright John Gordon and composer-lyricist Clark Gesner's stage enterprise, which improvises comic, musical, and always entertaining variations on the universal theme, quoted from Socrates by Beethoven-adoring Schroeder, of "know thyself."

For example, take the case of Snoopy (Henry Clark). For this dog, there's a great deal of soul-searching to be done to find his niche in life, whether it be as a World War I flying ace, a jungle animal or a rabbit hunter. As he despairs: "Yesterday I was a dog. Today I am a dog. Tomorrow I'll be a dog. There's just so little hope for advancement."

For part-time psychiatrist and loud-mouth Lucy (played with lacerating beauty by Nita Novy), there's her dream, of becoming a queen or a beautiful lady, imperiled by Schroeder's devastating comment, "You're a very crabby person," which sends her on a survey to "impartially" discover the truth to the allegation.

For Linus (Eric Weitz), there's an attempt to reconcile his thumb-sucking, blanket-caressing tendencies with his intellectual prowess (his book report on

"Peter Rabbit" investigates the sociological pressures inherent in the situation involving Flopsy, Mopsy and Cottontail).

Even prim Patty (Darian Harris), all dressed in pink, realizes some anguish in life as she ceases jumping rope with the absurdist comedic cry, "suddenly it seems so futile."

Only Schroeder artistically performed by wide-eyed Bruce Moccia, who can deliver the Moonlight Sonata or "Home on the Range" in "adagio con brio," seems somewhat secure although Lucy is constantly hinting at marriage. Compared to Charlie Brown, though, he's enormously stable.

Charlie Brown (played with pathos-evoking success by Benjamin Harris) is not only "wishy-washy," but "thoroughly, totally, utterly 'blah.'" For him, "lunchtime is among the worst times of the day," since he has to eat sticky peanut butter sandwiches alone while admiring the red-haired girl from afar.

Charlie Brown cannot fly a kite nor be popular nor win a baseball game nor write a book report nor win at the game of life. In two words, his daily existence merits a consistent "good grief."

Absurdity, though, does not triumph, in Charlie Brown's case or the others,

since throughout the play, we find happiness for these characters merely in what they are.

For example, in the fugal song, "Book Report," each character takes on his own charming identity. In "Schroeder," which Lucy sings in counterpoint to Beethoven, we witness Lucy at her most ingratiating, Schroeder at his most solemn, both just being themselves.

And in "Supertime" (a tour-de-force in ragtime rhythm and in top hat and cane pranced by talented Henry Clark), Snoopy reveals himself and his show-stopping true love of a simple thing in life, food.

For "Charlie Brown," director Betty Setzer has created her own special staging, given the limitations of the Guild stage, and there seem to be no shortcomings. Her stage business in "T.E.A.M." ranges from cheerleading to chorus lines to catching outfield flies, and it all works imaginatively.

Her cast is remarkably good, though not musically super-charged. Hugh Dial,

Jr., the musical director, is a fine pianist, and although he should speed up his tempos at times, he shows more than solid control of the score.

Cooper Davidson's sets are also a simple highlight, being wood blocks painted yellow, green, red and blue to suggest a kind of cartoon world. The blocks double as piano, TV, podium, chair and doghouse.

Harrell Tice's lighting job, which includes projecting images for the set itself, is quite adeptly executed.

All in all, an entrancing way to start the Guild's 25th Anniversary Season. Witty comedy (at one point, Snoopy calls cats the "crabgrass on the lawn of life"), quintessentially tot-like but thoroughly entertaining music, and some of the area's most enjoyable acting and direction make us enthusiastically agree that "You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown."

The Great Pumpkin will continue to smile on the show during the weekends of November 5-6 and 11-13. Phone Durham 682-5519 for reservations.



Pat Paulsen

Paulsen to lecture

Like your lectures spiced with a little "ridiculousity, irrationality, and unconformity," with a bit of deadpan humor to top it off? The Carolina Union is bringing just such a lecture to Carmichael on Nov. 13 in Pat Paulsen's latest venture, "Pat Paulsen Looks at the 70's."

The former "presidential candidate" will expound on the major problems affecting mankind in the coming decade, including such issues as the sexual revolution, drugs, astrology, religion, ecology, and politics. The lecture will be supplemented with films and other visual aids.

Paulsen's appearance here is part of a national university lecture that is his first national tour since his 1968 presidential campaign for the Straight Talking American Government (STAG) Party.

Paulsen's rise to fame in the entertainment world began after he dropped out of college and became an unknown little theatre actor. When this failed to propel him into the limelight, he became a photostat machine operator in San Francisco.

He then tried working in a gypsum plant in Nevada and made two more unsuccessful comebacks in show business

before teaming up with the Smothers Brothers.

His weekly "public service" editorials, complete with expressionless face, monotone voice, and misplaced pauses poked fun at America's manners and mores. The satirical pieces not only drew up to 15,000 fan letters a week for the Smothers Brothers show, but also won Paulsen the Emmy for the 1967-68 season.

Tickets for this enlightening analysis of the current scene are \$1.50 with student I.D.'s.

Dance groups coming

What do a Japanese music and pantomime group, an Austrian folklore group and a ballet company have in common? They're all coming to the Chapel Hill area next week and tickets for their performances go on sale today for \$1 at the Union information desk.

The Chapel Hill Concert Series presents the Edo Bayashi masked dancers in pantomime on November 12, in Memorial Hall at 8 p.m. The group is billed as an "intangible cultural treasure from Tokyo."

On Nov. 9, the Houston Ballet comes

to UNC as part of the Memorial Hall Series. The dance troupe is in its fourth season featuring a repertory assembled by Artistic Director Nina Popova. Under the direction of a new ballet master, they will perform works by Balanchine, Bournoville, Anna Sokolow, and Job Sanders.

On Nov. 12-14 at 8 p.m., the Friends of the College will bring the "Tyrolerfest" — a colorful program of lusty Alpine music, traditional ballads and vivacious dancers to Reynold's Coliseum.

This 7 year old Irish hat looks like Peter



Your Irish Country Hat will look like you.

Individual. Hand-woven, hand-crafted where the lovely Connemara hills meet the sea. One of these hats was made for you. It's weather-proof, almost wear-proof—just about everything but you-proof. Soft, pure wool Irish tweed.



Julian's

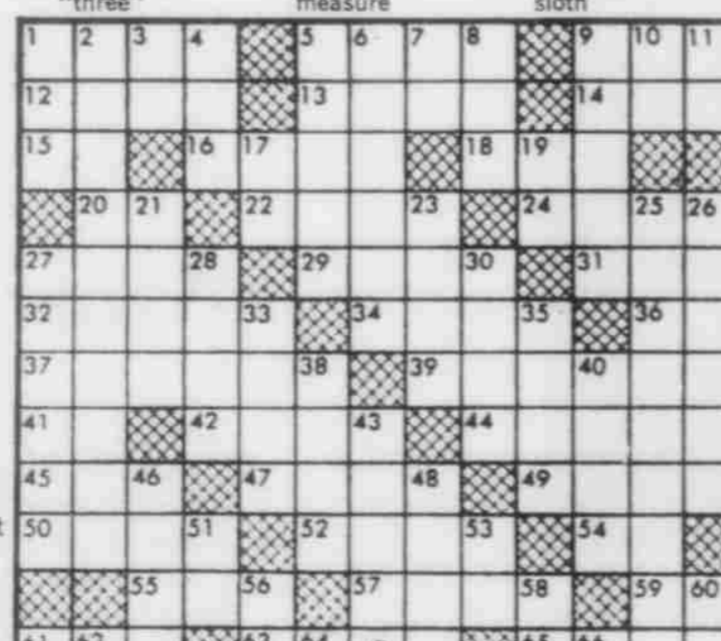
140 E. Franklin

Crossword Puzzle

- ACROSS
- Flat-bottomed boat
 - Journey
 - Unit of Siamese currency
 - Pitch
 - Communists
 - Falseness
 - Indefinite article
 - Transaction
 - Anger
 - Proceed
 - Egyptian sacred bull
 - Part of circle (pl.)
 - Wire nail
 - Dispatched
 - Small child
 - Put in position again
 - Soil
 - Near (abbr.)
 - Toward rear of ship
 - Buccaneer
 - Exists
 - Body of water
 - Style of painting
 - Ocean
 - Fall in drops
 - Chair
 - Slave
 - Female horse
 - Tuberculosis (abbr.)
 - Man's name
 - Prohibits
 - Hebrew month
 - Shoemaker's tool
 - Beer ingredient
 - Sheet of glass
 - Golf mound
 - Toward shelter
 - Assistant
- DOWN
- Music: as written
 - Assemblies
 - Preposition
 - Marry
 - Snares
 - Depended on
 - Cyprinoid fish
 - Greek letter
 - Widesaw
 - Note of scale
 - Symbol for tellurium
 - Babylonian deity
 - Sun god
 - Kiln
 - Cut
 - Smuggled goods
 - Thoroughfare
 - Cook meat a certain way
 - Profound
 - Spruce
 - Walked on
 - Spanish for "three"
 - Standard
 - Dillseed
 - Answerable
 - Old-womanish
 - Talk idly
 - Teutonic deity
 - Printer's measure
 - Wine cup
 - Resort
 - Insect
 - Near
 - Pronoun
 - Man's nickname
 - Three-toed sloth

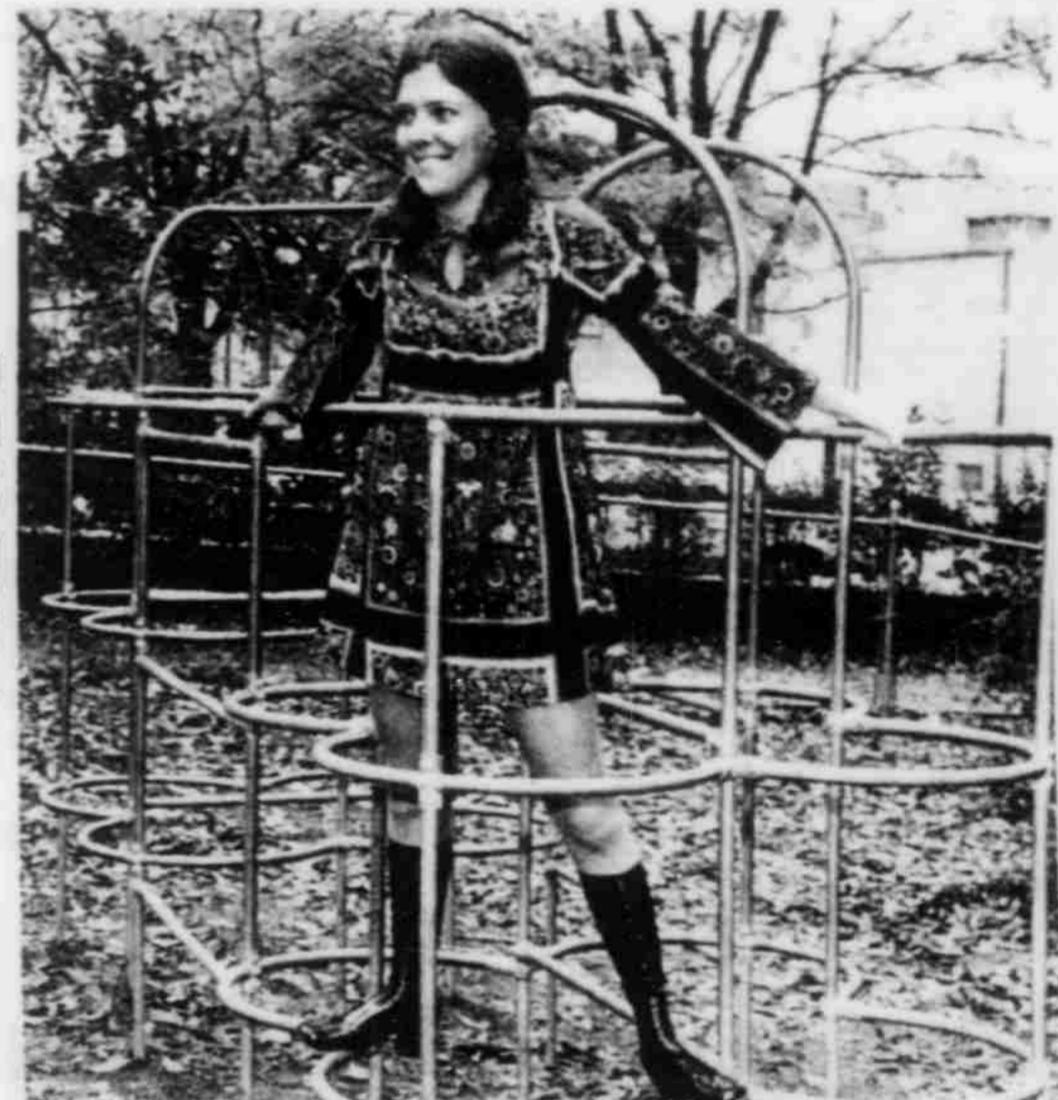
Answer to Saturday's Puzzle

PAP TWICE CAR
ALA OATHS ALI
CELERY AKIMBO
ART SPEND
BATE PI REEDS
ERE PANS PNEO
SO TANGENT PER
OSAR GENE PET
METER RT MARS
HALLS EON
PRETTY CRANKS
LON ERROR BEL
PES SERBS DAY



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FIRESIDE GIRL OF THE WEEK



FIRESIDE

FIRESIDE

OLIVIA GRIMES — Pi Beta Phi — A SENIOR ENGLISH MAJOR FROM WASHINGTON, N.C. IS IN A PURPLE AND BLUE PRINT SMOCK FROM THE FIRESIDE.

Gentle Green
Perky Pink
Baby Blue
Platinum

Sea Aqua
Sunshine

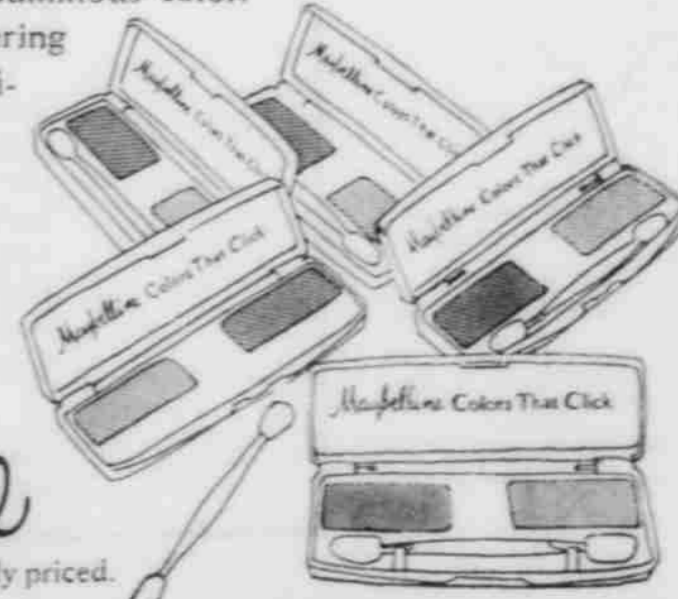
Azure Sky
Silver Glow

Golden Mink
Sparkling Snow

Colors That Click

Eyes that click wear Colors that Click, new Eye Shadow Duos from Maybelline. Two shades of shimmering shadow in every case. A Lid-Shadow for luminous color.

And a Lid-Lighter for glimmering highlights. Five smashing combinations to choose from. Buff them on for a frosty glow. And before you can say, "Focus Pocus," see beautiful eyes develop.



Maybelline

The finest in eye make-up, yet sensibly priced.

