

Love blind to spilt milk

By STEVEN J. AUSTIN
Syndicated Columnist

Dear Steven: My roommate is dating a guy who acts like he has never eaten with a knife and fork. The nerd drops food all over himself and can't make it through a meal without spilling something. At 19, you'd figure it was about time to act civilized, right? When will she realize what he's doing isn't cute, but pathetic?

— Pass the Bib

Dear Bib: Maybe never. The guy must be a blast to watch at a salad bar. I guess when they say love is blind, they mean you don't notice the ketchup-stained shirts and milk moustaches.

Dear Steven: Does a person have the right to demand seating in a non-smoking section of a restaurant even if such accommodations have not specifically been provided?

— Gave'em Up

Dear Gave: Of course you do. But restaurateurs have the right to tell you to leave if you don't like the way they conduct business. It's also your right to say something nasty on your way out the door.

Dear Steven: I recently finished writing my first novel and sent out copies of it to several book publishers. I found their names in a guide for new writers. I received my first rejection a couple of days ago, but my manuscript wasn't returned along with the letter. I'm going to sue those jokers for stealing my

straight up

work. What do you think my chances are of winning the case?

— Future Hemingway

Dear Hemingway: Forget it. Go back to your guide and read the section about unsolicited manuscripts. Unless otherwise stated, publishers usually aren't under any obligation to return unsolicited material. You should enclose a self-addressed-stamped envelope with every submission. Got it?

Dear Steven: I've been dating a guy for over six months, and now I find out he's married and is in town to set up a new office for his company. I really like him, but the last thing I need in my life is to be the crooked line in a romantic triangle. He doesn't know that I know. How do I break it off without getting him upset?

— Why Me

Dear Why: The dude has been dumping lines on you for half a year, and you want to give him a sweet goodbye? Well, we're all entitled to our own little trips. If you really want to break it off, a letter or phone call may be your best bet. A personal confrontation could result in a shouting match or an embrace which will make you think twice about your decision.

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Ivers creates mirror of society in 'Bathwater'

By SALLY PONT
Staff Writer

In the wake of the Royal Shakespeare Company's production of *As You Like It*, talk of PlayMakers Repertory Company's production of Christopher Durang's *Baby With the Bathwater* may seem like a descent from the sublime to the ridiculous, but so be it. Director Mitchell Ivers has created no whimsical Forest of Arden; he's constructed an absurdist mirror in which the audience can see itself.

No one left the theatre unscathed by ridicule, because the play presents images of all stereotypes: mothers, fathers, vegetarians, homosexuals, rollerskaters, etc. The types are familiar and bland, for they live fads without commitment. Still, there is a frequent and incongruous bite that reminds the audience that "normality" is perhaps the most ridiculous type of all. The characters are insane — not with the lurid passion of those in Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* — but with a mechanical stiffness.

theatre

A young couple tries to raise their child in the best fashion possible while coping with their own very modern neuroses. Nevertheless, the ramifications are scarcely normal. The couple "throws out the baby with the bathwater," as the saying goes, or, to use another cliché, "can't see the forest through the trees." Their good intentions are lost on the boy; they raise him as a girl.

The Young Man, played by David Gottlieb, resolves the conflict of his sexuality in a deft 10-minute monologue. Both the forest and the trees emerge as the Young Man acknowledges the insanity of the "normality" around him. The honesty that Gottlieb conveyed in this monologue was soothing after his disruptive upbringing. Gottlieb dispelled the audience's suspicion of the character's senseness. He

projected a resilient hope that future generations might be saved from ridiculous good intentions.

As strongly as the performance struck out against modern society, it seemed above all to be a plug for psychiatrists that might have helped other characters. As Helen, the mother, Wanda Melocchi gave the most disturbingly neurotic performance. Her tone leapt haphazardly from dutiful-mother softness to low, frustrated-wife bitterness (her only personal success was in writing the Cliff Notes to *Scruples*) to unwarranted anger as she shrieked at her husband, "Don't call (the baby) a baked potato!"

It was easier to sympathize with John Felch's portrayal of John, the father, but perhaps our sympathies made his character all the more disturbing. Felch played a lovable but spineless drunk whose answer to every problem, from adultery to dirty diapers, is a shot of Nyquil.

John and Helen's disjointed relationship is a reflection of our times, with the current 50% divorce rate. Their

marital problems were best enacted in a bed scene when the baby's Nanny, played by Wendy Barrie, seduced John while Helen slept contentedly.

Is this insanity normal? Are these off-the-wall loons mirrors of society? Do these things happen every day? Well, perhaps not every day. The situations are quite obtuse, but the character types are familiar. Their words ring harsh but true.

But what about the ducks? The stage was speckled with yellow ducks. They were a blatant reminder of the "bathwater," of the fact that with every line, every scene, the baby was getting thrown out again. The ducks were grim but also cute and consoling. *Baby* was a grim little production, but still it offered a ray of hope, providing people can open their eyes and see the forest as well as the trees.

Baby with the Bathwater will be performed at 8 p.m. through Saturday in PlayMakers Theatre. Call 962-1121 for ticket information.

WEEK'S FARE

TODAY

28 *La Argente* will be shown at 7 and 9 p.m. at the ArtSchool. Call 942-2041 for ticket information.

On Golden Pond will be shown at 8 p.m. in Stewart Theatre at N.C. State. Call 737-2451 for ticket information.

Baby With the Bathwater will be performed by the PlayMakers Repertory Company at 8 p.m. through Saturday. Call 962-1121 for ticket information.

The Last Song of John Proffitt: A Solo Play With Music will be performed by Tommy Thompson at 8 p.m. in Greenlaw.

Night Watch will be performed by the Raleigh Little Theatre at 8 p.m. through Saturday, at 3 p.m. Sunday and at 8 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday. Call 821-4579 for ticket information.

Nancy Frankel will conduct a plastics sculpture workshop at 3:30 p.m. today and Friday in rooms 211/212 of the Union.

Art in Public Places, a panel discussion, will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the New Art Building auditorium.

Journey to the Edge of Creation is the current show at the Morehead Planetarium. Call 962-1248 for more information.

Safehouse will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.

FRIDAY

Dan Cray will perform at 9 p.m. at Rhythm Alley. Call 929-8172 for ticket information.

29 *Sophie's Choice* will be shown at 7 and 10 p.m. in the Union auditorium. Call 962-2285 for ticket information.

The Carolina Choir will perform at noon in Great Hall.

Opera, Now and Then will be performed by the Opera Workshop at 8 p.m. through Saturday in Hill Hall auditorium. Call 962-2224 for more information.

John McCutcheon will perform a program of mountain music at 9 p.m. at the ArtSchool. Call 942-2041 for ticket information.

Claire Kolensky, flutist, will perform at 8:15 p.m. in the East Duke Building at Duke.

Black Traditions in Music, Dance and Verse will be presented at 7:30 p.m. in Great Hall.

Sky Rambles will be shown at 8 p.m. at the Morehead Planetarium. Call 962-1248 for more information.

The Connells and U.V. Prom will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.

Jack and the Cadillac will perform at Rhythm Alley. Call 929-8172 for more information.

SATURDAY

30 *Destination Moon* will be shown at 7 p.m. *Planet of the Apes* at 8:30 p.m., and *Deathrace*

at 10:30 p.m. in the Union Auditorium.

The Ballet Folclorico Nacional de Mexico will perform at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Call 962-1449 for ticket information.

Onyx Contemporary Ensemble will perform at 4 p.m. in Graham Memorial Hall. Call 962-4204 for more information.

The Wizard of Oz will be performed by the Center for Puppetry Arts at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. in Stewart Theatre at N.C. State. Call 737-3104 for ticket information.

An Indonesian Puppet Performance will be at 8:15 p.m. in Baldwin Auditorium at Duke.

Patronage of the Fine Arts as Ritual will be discussed at 9:30 a.m. in Murphey Hall, room 111.

Awareness Art Ensemble will perform at 9:30 p.m. at the ArtSchool. Call 942-2041 for ticket information.

Southern Culture on the Skids will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.

Taj Mahal will perform at 8 and 10 p.m. at Rhythm Alley. Call 929-8172 for more information.

SUNDAY

31 *Erendira* will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Union auditorium.

The North Carolina Symphony will perform at 3:30 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Call 962-1449 for ticket information.

Gerard Errante will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Hill Hall auditorium. Call 962-4204 for more information.

MONDAY

1 *Lancelot of the Lake* will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Union auditorium.

Blues in Your Shoes will perform at noon in the Pit.

An ArtSchool Forum will be held at 8:15 p.m. at the ArtSchool. Call 942-2041 for more information.

Robert Morgan will read poetry at 7:30 p.m. in Gerrard Hall.

John W. Dixon will lecture on Dante at 8 p.m. in the Lutheran Campus Center.

TUESDAY

2 *Family Face* will be read by Richard Hamburger and Lee Yopp at 3:30 and 8 p.m. in Gerrard Hall.

University-Civic Concert Orchestra and Fanfare Band will perform at 8 p.m. in Stewart Theatre at N.C. State. Call 737-2981 for more information.

Martin Walker will read from his novel "Seelenarbeit" at 4 p.m. in the Toy Lounge of Dey Hall. Call 966-1641 for more information.

Rick Altman, film critic, will speak at 5:30 p.m. in the Union auditorium.

WEDNESDAY

3 *Mean Streets* will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Union auditorium.

Richard Adler and the North Carolina Symphony Orchestra will perform at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

I Am of Ireland will be performed at 8 p.m. in Bingham Hall.

Trends in Modern American Literature will be discussed at 3 p.m. in Gerrard Hall.

Caroline Houser will speak on the National Archeological Museum of Athens at 8 p.m. at the North Carolina Museum of Art. Call 833-1935 for more information.

MOVIES

Plaza I—*Mask* at 2:20, 4:45, 7:05 and 9:35.

Plaza II—*The Breakfast Club* at 3:10, 5:10, 7:10 and 9:10 ends today. *Police Academy II* at 3:10, 5:10, 7:10 and 9:10 begins Friday.

Plaza III—*Witness* at 2:45, 5, 7:15 and 9:30.

Varsity I—*Amadeus* at 2 and 7. *Stop Making Sense* at 5 and 9:45.

Varsity II—*Paris, Texas* at 2:15, 4:45 and 8 ends Thursday. *The Purple Rose of Cairo* at 1:45, 3:30, 5:15, 7 and 8:45 on Friday and Saturday; at 2:15, 4, 5:45, 7:30 and 9:15 Sunday through Wednesday.

Varsity Lateshows—*Stop Making Sense* at 11:30 and *The Purple Rose of Cairo* at 10:30 Friday and Saturday.

Carolina Blue—*Beverly Hills Cop* at 3, 5, 7:15 and 9:30 ends today. *King David* starts Friday at 3, 5, 7:15 and 9:30.

Carolina White—*Baby: Secret of a Lost Legend* at 2:45, 4:45, 7 and 9:15.

Carolina Lateshows—*First Blood* at 11:45 and *Purple Rain* at 11:30.

Ram I—*Porky's Revenge* at 7 and 9:10, weekend matinees at 2 and 4:10.

Ram II—*The Starz Thing* at 7 and 9:05 ends today. *The Slugger's Wife* begins Friday at 7 and 9:05; weekend matinees at 2 and 4:05.

Ram III—*Friday the 13th Part 5: A New Beginning* at 7:05 and 9:10; weekend matinees at 2:05 and 4:10.

Ram Lateshows—*Revenge of the Nerds* and *Bachelor Party* at 11:45.


Carolina (Durham)—*Choose Me* at 3, 5, 7 and 9.

Carolina (Durham) Lateshow—*The Rocky Horror Picture Show* at 11:30 Friday and Saturday.

Carolina (Durham) Saturday Matinee—*Heidi's Song* at 1.

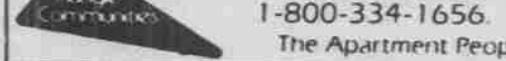
Compiled by Elizabeth Ellen, assistant arts editor.

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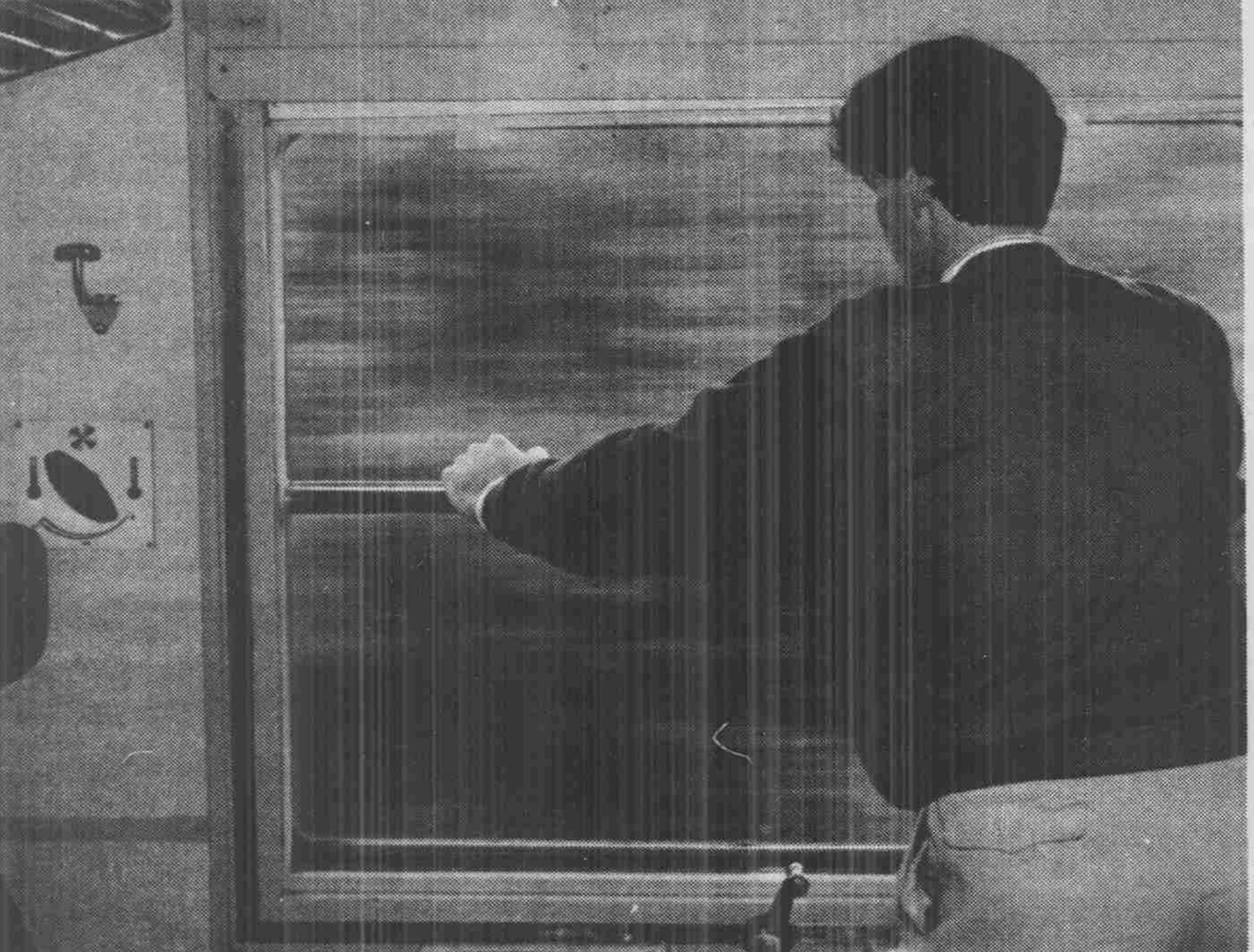
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