

# Commentary And Perspective



Photo by Barcelona

by mjf

The fact that the Design and Production Department is now meeting and talking (when time permits) over the difficulties in that particular school indicates once more, just as the Drama Department's meetings last November did, that all is not wine and roses at NCSA.

The plight of the D & P department is perhaps more serious (if one can talk about such things as being "more" or "less") than that of the School of Drama. Both faculty members and students in D & P have concluded that a decision must be made: either that school becomes a full-time production service for the other departments or the students be given adequate time to be students, learning their craft without unrealistic and often overlapping pressures. That is the nature of their dilemma. The work load on the entire department has been so overbearing (and at extremely inconvenient times, i.e., exams) that too often other academic and artistic considerations are (of necessity) given less emphasis and time. Certainly the department has not been able to function as it might under different, better circumstances.

Among the main points raised by the department is that they are seemingly always called upon to do work for shows without proper notification, man power or time. They maintain that they should receive a list of scheduled performances at the beginning of each year and that the schedule

should remain intact, allowing to sufficiently plan their time and resources. This is a legitimate complaint. (One glaring example is the fact that while actors, dancers, etc. finish their rehearsal periods at a set time which is never violated, D & P people often work well past midnight - 4:00 in the morning as some will attest - in an effort to do what is demanded of them). It would not be at all unreasonable for the D & P department to refuse an assignment which seriously taxes students.

Solutions are not easy to come by and certainly it's easy for me to sit here and write editorials without having these very real pressures sitting in my lap. Nonetheless, the problems again seem to be in the area of priorities: What is important for this school? What is most essential for its students benefit? Their growth?

The answers seem obvious to me. I hope they are elsewhere. Where it counts.

I've said it before - these are crucial times for this school. The areas of discontent being openly expressed by students and faculty members represent only the first signs of awareness of what is wrong . . . and why. Our administrators do not have easy jobs. But there is nothing easy about trying to implement a "bold new idea." If we really want a unique and special school, it's time everyone started working for it. In earnest.

## Recital Review

By Cortlandt Jones

On February 20th, I was not emotionally ready to sit and listen to a senior piano recital and expected to be bored from the beginning. Miss Rieko Nakashima changed my mind.

From the first note of the opening piece, "Prelude and Fugue in G minor," by Bach to the last chord of the closing piece, "Andante spianato and Grande Polonaise," by Chopin, my mind ran fluidly through every color and picture of its lifetime. Her swanlike fingers and hands showed excellent technique as they breathlessly drifted over the keys like stream water over rocks.

I believe the best performance of the evening was "Sonata in C major," by Beethoven. Its constant melody line depicted complete concentration in phrasing. This, I appreciated because understanding her through her musical communication is important.

Her interpretation of the entire program transcended an air of heaviness like a huge eagle flying in a baby blue sky. This mental picture does not represent a rejection, but an acceptance of her musical attitude.

The last piece by Chopin did project a rippling lyricism and percussive texture, but seemed to shift for an instant memory lapse. Her facial expression and recovery showed a nice mastery.

Also included in the program were "Poissons d'or" (from Images, Book II) by Debussy and Two Concert Etudes, by Liszt.

Miss Nakashima received three curtain calls graciously as the handful of an audience extended justified raves of applause.

## Distemper

By Gavin

On Wednesday, Feb. 17, one of the campus dogs was put to sleep for an advanced stage of distemper (a highly contagious and usually fatal virus.) Distemper shots are not legally required of dogs as dogs are relatively harmless with distemper and humans cannot contract the disease. It is, however, very unpleasant for animals and a very pitiable thing. With many animals in this area, most of which have had no distemper shots, anyone seeing any animal with distemper should contact the Humane Society immediately. Visual signs of distemper are: nervous tics, excitement and drooling of the mouth, (Animals in the advanced stage of the disease have shaking and seismic muscle spasms).

Announcements have been made over most local radio stations informing the neighborhood that animals should be vaccinated.

Dave, Shane, and Panion (real name "Tex") have had shots for rabies and distemper and tags to match. These tags must not be removed as he is then vulnerable to the whims of campus officials who have the legal right to have any dog shot by a security guard.

## A Trip To Granny's

by Edwin Schloss

If you want to try something really different one of these nights, why don't you go eat your fill at Ma's located on Fourth and Arden. It's probably one of the most unique experiences, you could possibly ever want to encounter, in fact, for those of you who don't want to encounter it, I can't blame you. But even so, I feel it is worth a visit.

The first thing you notice is that there are no neon signs to guide you to the restaurant, instead all there is is a rustic three story house across the street from the I.B.M. building. As you walk up the entrance way, you feel like you're on your way to visit Norman Bates' mother in Psycho. There is something macabre and brooding about the entire atmosphere. The night was covered in early evening mist, the half moon silhouetted the front porch, for a moment I wished I had gone to Sam's Gourmet instead. In the doorway, there is a musty smell of leftovers and burnt coffee. We waited for a hostess to usher us into the dining room, but after a few minutes of waiting we realized that we were supposed to seat ourselves. We walked down a long, drafty corridor, which leads into two box shaped inner rooms. As we found a place to sit the other customers look on with an occasional grunt, while others just continued to chew their cud with stone-faced intensity. We waited to be served but don't expect to find a menu, there isn't any.

Instead, a woman with plucked eyebrows and a red hair net walks in and chucks the food on the table without even looking in your direction. However, the other customers didn't seem to mind her presence in the least. Right outside the first dining room is a large staircase which leads to the private part of the house. People have told me since my visit that it is a boarding house for unwed mothers. Others say it is a boarding house for high school drop-outs. But as far as I'm concerned the atmosphere has such an arthritic authenticity that I prefer to think it's a watering hole for senior citizens.

But getting back to the food. The dinner was very tasty. It consisted of shredded lettuce, sliced tomatoes, a vegetable platter, mashed potatoes, English muffins, and your choice of entrees between fish and fried chicken - and for dessert a generous portion of vanilla ice cream and all you can eat for \$1.25. The menu varies from day to day.

When you finish your dinner, you go into the kitchen to pay for your meal which is another unique experience. There is dirt all over the floor, pots and pans all over the place, food sprawled over the kitchen table and Ma's kind face gleaming from behind a cigarbox which is used in place of the cash register. She smiles confidently hoping that you'll come again soon. I wouldn't count on it, Grandma.

## T. M. In A. M. & P. M.

by Fred Avery

As of March, 1968 close to 8,000 students representing over 80 high schools, colleges and universities have started the practice of Transcendental Meditation. Since then the movement has grown to well over 60,000 students on over 300 campuses including our own.

"Before I started meditation I was nervous, high strung, tense, and had many problems with drug use. When I started T.M. these problems immediately became much smaller, and with a year of meditation have completely disappeared. I expect to enjoy life from now on." - Male, 21, guitarist.

Joe Clarke, Eastern Coordinator for Students International Meditation Society,

visited our campus in January and quickly noted a disturbing degree of tension among many students. We need help and Transcendental Meditation is certainly a step in the right direction. Here's another chance:

A rap-in will be held on the benefits of T.M. for students of the Arts in the Student Commons Building, Seminar Room-B on Wednesday, March 10 between 1:15 and 2:15. The program will consist of a film, and a lecture, followed by a question and answer session. The school will be very fortunate to once again have Joe Clarke presiding; a very knowledgeable and well-spoken young representative in the field of meditation.



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