

And Never Was Heard An Encouraging Word

A common attitude of many students is something that has bothered me for two years. It's the attitude that since we are performing artists, we are qualified to pass judgment on any and all performances. Let me explain this. We are in a sense performing artists, but we must never forget that we are also students. Just because we are sometimes active in the performance field is no reason to believe we are now true performers.

Many students here, and I'm sure elsewhere, are overly critical of a performance. I believe that they feel that since it is a "performance", they automatically expect perfection. The line between perfection and performance is so broad and definite, it's hard to believe anyone with modest intelligence can confuse the two. A performance is only an artist's concept of a media. Perfection is something that no one has ever seen.

When someone watches or listens with the hopes of perfection, he can only walk away unhappy. Some musicians have such a great knowledge of a score that they could tell you that a pianist omitted a C sharp on the third sixteenth note of the 2nd beat of measure 124 of the last movement of a concerto. "Ah," they gasp afterwards, "how could anyone do such a thing!" It really seems that they have lost any real concept of music. Music is a means of expression, not a mechanical meeting of frequencies.

Recently, after a performance of an all Brahms concert, I found myself upset with some of my friends. Here was a concert of the music of one of the greatest composers -- music, so beautiful, that the thought of a whole performance of only his music would make many musician's mouths water. True, during this evening, there were many flaws, some quite outstanding. These people, the minute they heard a slight imperfection, automatically turned-off Brahms and tuned on their extra-sensory, super keen radar ears waiting for the next luscious "boo-boo."

Music was never conceived to be a means for criticism. It was written for enjoyment. Why can't people enjoy music for what it is, and not always what someone makes of it. Everyone has standards and ideas of what good and bad are. All I'm saying is that no one should completely turn away from music no matter how the performance is done.

Actors aren't any better. It is most distracting to try to follow a television show with drama students moaning and groaning with those well-supported, wonderfully rounded vowels. No matter how poor a show is, there are at least one million people who think it's worth TV's prime time. So the mush gets a little thick on those doctor shows, why all the fuss? Just like those musicians, they feel compelled to sit there and give a performance of their own. Whoever teaches "suffering" here is doing a fine job.

So the next time you witness a performance, do so with the right reasons. One day, we all will be true performers and we will want people to walk away satisfied.

-MARK CEDEL



N. C. ESSAY
STAFF



JANUARY ISSUE

EDITOR: LARRY FAW

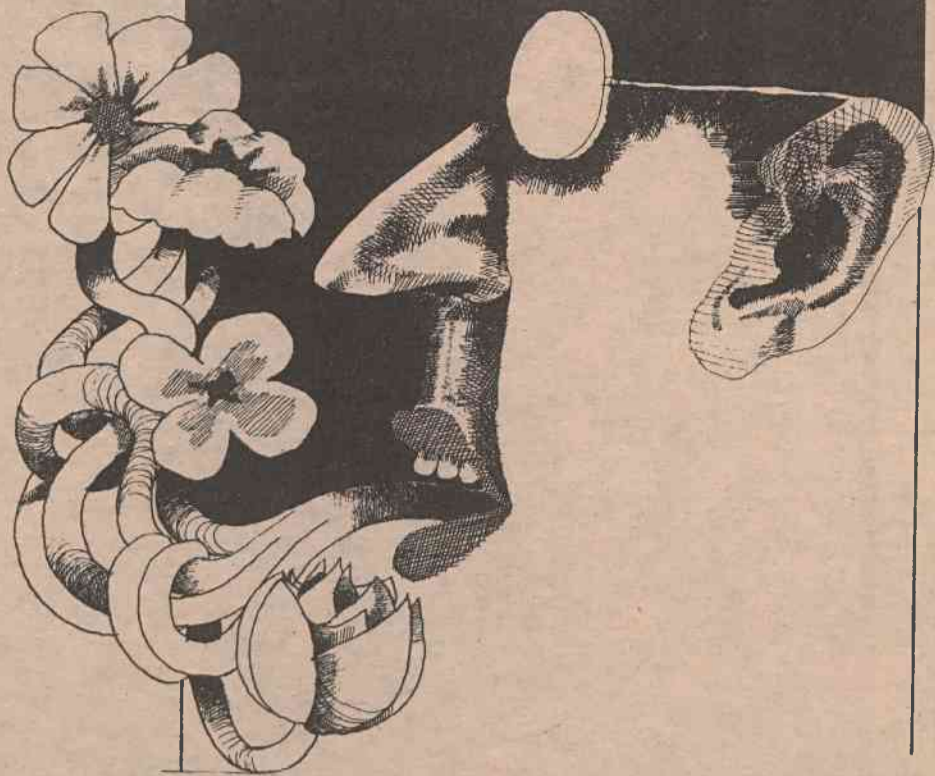
PHOTOGRAPHER: DAVID WOOLSY

CARTOONIST: DUKE ERNSBURGER

ADVISOR: BILL KING

VINCE BARBEE
MICHAEL BURNER
MARK CEDEL
SHEILA CREEF
LARRY FAW
BOB GAMBRILL
SEBASTIAN DE GRAZIA

CONNIE KINCAID
JOHN NEWTON
HENRY PANKEY
DALE PHILLIPS
PAMELA REID
CLIFFORD YOUNG



An Interview With Joe By Mo

Satire!!!

Mo - How long have you attended N.C.S.A.?

Joe - This is my 4th year.

Mo - Do you think things have changed since your first year and if so, how?

Joe - Things have definitely changed, and I think for the better. We're getting better dope than we could have ever imagined three years ago.

Mo - That's strange - Dean Hyatt seemed to indicate in his interview with the N.C. Essay there was less of a drug problem this year than there has been in previous years.

Joe - First of all - your're not going to listen to Dean Hyatt are you? What does he know? He's a member of the administration and all they want to do is keep the students under their thumb. They have no real interest in the students. What they have done is set up a system of torture, done "in the best interest of the student." If you've ever had any experience with the Judicial Board, you know what I'm talking about. Their main goal is to send you to a shrink. See, it looks good for statistics. The more people they send to the shrink, the more people they can say they have helped maintain the emotional stability.

Mo - Back to the original question of the drug problem on campus.

Joe - Drugs are no problem - the only problem we've had in previous years was shortage of supply. This is no longer a problem. We are close to accomplishing our goal of a joint per three students every two hrs. and a couple trips a week. Presently only a select few have the luxury of riding the Horse but hopefully with the demand for larger quantities we'll be able to get a better price - then its use will not be so limited. I view the future optimistically.

Mo - You are apparently in support of drugs.

Joe - Yes - I think the Arts is such a strenuous field that the only way to make it through is to kill your sensitivity.

Mo - To change the subject - Do you have any feelings about vandalism on campus.

Joe - No.

Mo - What is your explanation of the large number of assaults thus far this year?

Joe - I think it has mainly to do with the inaccessibility of the girls on campus - I mean what's a poor boy to do.

Mo - What do you feel are some of the other significant changes this school has seen over the past four years?

Joe - Well, the Commons Building has played an important part in changing the school. It provided badly needed office space, an additional dance studio, a new gym to have orchestra rehearsal in, and a brand new modern cafeteria to serve the same old food in.

Another big change is the sports scene. Many of the young men and ladies have become overtly jock. This has been responsible for the football, volleyball, soccer, and softball teams that are now such a vital part of school life.

Mo - In closing - do you think, bearing in mind the purpose of the school, that we are progressing or regressing?

Joe - Yes.

Poll of the Month

This month's poll is concerned with finding a suitable mascot for N.C.S.A. As usual the job has been dropped upon the Student Affairs staff. After many long and secretive meetings, the Staff has disclosed that a bird of some sort will be chosen.

Subsequently a poll was recently undertaken to determine the nature and color of our mascot. One may remember that the chicken was the school bird. The "Staff" egged by the

"Happenings" sheet decided that a change was needed. Says a member of the Affiars Staff: "I think there is a need to get the bird to everyone." This seems to be the feeling of the majority of the Staff and the Essay completely backs them.

However a mysterious pollster named Ferbul Charkwit (?) has submitted a similar poll. The Charkwit Poll seems to be more accurate than the Activities poll. Below are both polls.

ACTIVITIES

The Turkey	60 percent
The Duck	19 percent
The Chicken	6 percent
The Eagle	5 percent
The Pidgeon	5 percent
The Rock Cornish Hen	10 percent

charkwit

35 percent
10 percent
15 percent
10 percent
5 percent
25 percent

There is no truth in the rumor that the Fly and the Lobster were also submitted. The entire

student body has a chance to vote upon this issue. All ballots must be turned in by February 15 to the Essay staff.

A Puzzling Satire

A rat came scrounging its way through the woods when it came upon a nut- something he had never seen before. Rats had always had the common grains, such as corn, rye, wheat, etc., but a nut was something new. The rat was fascinated by the hard shell of the nut, and wondered what kind of a treasure was so well protected inside.

The curiosity of the rat increased, and the rat began forming a scheme to taste the unusual sweetness of his new found treasure. Little by little, and very slowly, the rat worked at his plan until the shell of the nut began to crack, and he tasted the wonderful sweetness of his nut. When the rat got a taste he began to work furiously, almost obsessed with his desire for his

new found treasure. It seemed like nothing could distract the rat from his nut, and although there were many setbacks, the rat labored on.

Next, a huge storm blew up, and the rat feared for his own safety. He tried to take his nut with him, but the nut would not budge. No matter how hard the rat tried to take the nut with him, he couldn't. Finally the rat fled to safety, and waited until the storm was over.

When calm again prevailed, the rat returned to the place where he had left his treasured nut, only to find it gone. He began to search furiously, but there was none to be found.

Finally, the lone rat returned to the rest, and regained his appetite for corn, rye, wheat, etc.