Playmakers Having a little fun in the upcoming production of "The Hostage," begnining May 7.

A Daily Tar Heel Drama Review

Meneaugh Is 'Captivating' As Madman

By LAURIE WILLIAMS
Special to the DTH

Mike Meneaugh is a 22 year-old Englishman. But last Thursday night he was a 42 year-old Russian clerk, moving from eccentricity to insanity in a captivating one-man performance of Gogol's short story "Diary of a Madman."

Aksenti Ivanov Poprischtchin is head clerk in a bureaucracy of nameless civil servants. He lives in a dismal one-room apartment with only his diary, his love fantasies, and his futile ambitions for diversion. He is funny hilariously, grimly funny.

Each day, and each scene, a new sheet is ripped from his desk calendar. Through October, December, and into nameless, dateless days, his mind disintegrates to the point where fantasy equals reality.

"If it weren't for the prestige," he tells us, "I'd have left the department long ago." But the prestige he ekes out of his job is continually threatened by the omnipresence of army officers, or Directors, or others who in his eyes cannot approach him in claims to an aristocratic past and an inevitably propserous future.

His paranoia first takes form in the anguish of his attraction to the Director's daughter. A fantasy is duly created to keep his mind from this pain: her lap dog is obviously corresponding with another doggie friend on matters of the household. If only those letters could be obtained, the insights there gained would solve all his difficulties.

Some of Meneaugh's most effective acting took place at this point, as he recounted to the audience and to his diary his theft of the canine with your doggie"), then later, letters ("I want a few words their quality and contents.

Dogs, of course, "have a shrewd view of everything." But the view is too shrewd, and reveals that beautiful, unattainable Sohpie is engaged to one of the hated breed of guard officers. Reduced to a dog himself, the madman barks his way off-stage.

After the intermission, the second fantasy is set up, this time involving the clerk as direct participant. In the newspapers he finds that SPAIN LACKS A KING. The king must therefore be in hiding, unknown. The day following December 8 is a day of "great jubilation." It is 2000 A.D., April 43, and "I am the king." The clearer the role assumes shape for him, the more deranged it is for the audience. The new king Ferdinand VIII is finally taken away to his country, a place of shaved heads and councilors who will not allow his destined rule in a senseless world.

These final moments, in the bare-stage representation of an insane asylum, had the professional skill of Marat-Sade. The agony of the damned is reflected in the eyes and voice of Meneaugh's mad, tortured character in a rare creation of credibility.

Much of the credit for such a brilliant performance goes, as Meneaugh is first to acknowledge, to Richmond Crinkley, director. Together they worked a pattern of movements about the stage, a depth of experession, and a flexibility of voice usage into an experience to hold an audience for over an hour and a half, for four curtain calls.

Another of the forces in the play which made it hold together so well was the eerie, surrealistic music composed especially for Meneaugh by Robert Cornford. It and the between-scene lighting pulled sequential plot into flowing continuity; a particulary good example found the clerk crouched under his desk in half-light, as self-assured and crazy as a hear-no-evil monkey. In another, red lighting accentuated a stylized whipping for the king's intractability in giving up his new-found crown.

Richmond Crinkley, professor here in the English Department, has had much experience with the drama as reviewer and student. He will show "Diary of a Madman" again in October as a special production for National Educational Television produced during Meneaugh's stay in Chapel Hill. He also predicts the possibility of an off-Broadway presentation next year with Meneaugh.

Meneaugh is a student of chemistry at Oxford, with an incurable love of theatre. His acting talent combined with Crinkley's direction and skill at plot interpretation created a near - perfect play, and the future success of "Madman" with this team seems inevitable.

TV Special

"Paths of Glory" is a movie about men caught up in the horror of World War I. But their ordeal is that of any war. Based on a true incident, its truth is the truth of all wars.

It is being televised Wednesday 9:30-11 p.m. on the ABC Television Network by the Xerox Corporation as a Xerox Special Event.

BEST SELLERS
(UPI)
(Compiled by Publishers' Weekly)

Fiction

MYRA BRECKENRIDGE — Gore Vidal
AIRPORT—Arthur Hailey
VANISHED—Fletcher Knebel
THE TOWER OF BABEL—Morris L. West
TOPAZ—Leon Uris
THE CONFESSIONS OF NAT TURNER—William Styron
CHRISTY—Catherine Marshall
COUPLES—John Updike
THE PRESIDENT'S PLANE IS MISSING — Robert J. Serling
ENDLESS NIGHT—Agatha Christie
THE EXHIBITIONIST—Henry Sutton

Nonfiction

THE NAKED APE—Desmond Morris
BETWEEN PARENT AND CHILD—Haim G. Ginott
NICHOLAS AND ALEXANDRA—Robert K. Massie
"OUR CROWD"—Stephen Birmingham
THE DOUBLE HELIX—James D. Watson
GYPSY MOTH CIRCLES THE WORLD—Sir Francis Chichester
THE WAY THINGS WORK — Simon & Schuster
THE ENGLISH—David Frost and Anthony Jay
KENNEDY AND JOHNSON—Evelyn Lincoln
TOLSTOY—Henri Troyat
RICKENBACKER—Eddie Rickenbacker
MEMOIRS 1925-1950—George F. Kennan

Lost And Found

LOST

MISTY HARBOR Raincoat, size 6 petite. Probably lost in Gardner Hall, Monday, April 22. Contact Anne Lambert at 933-4205. Reward.

GOLD WATCH and white gold class ring in 322 Phillips on Friday, April 26 between 12 and 1 o'clock. Call 933-3465 or 601 Ehringhaus. Reward.

PSYCHOLOGY NOTEBOOK Contact Laura Peck in 325 Joyner.

PRESCRIPTION sun glasses white frame in blue leather case. Call 942-6685.

CAMEO RING, gold with brown stone. Call Frank Ballard at 933-3374.

SUNGLASSES with dark rims. Left at Playmakers Theatre or Bingham Hall. Call Jim Newton at 929-3665 or 968-9305. Reward offered.

WALLET left in Morehead Planetarium. Call Landy Colton.

PROSE AND POETRY of Modern France left in Carroll Hall last Monday night. Call Emily at 968-9316.

ULYSSES in green hardback with notes. Call Pat Dearborn at 942-2085 or 933-3001.

TAN BILLFORD left in Woollen Gym. Call Sam Portaro at 968-9193.

LADIES' BULOVA white-gold watch. Reward offered by Kay McCray, 968-9030 or 966-8651.

BLACK WALLET with I.D.'S. Reward of $5 by Frank Hamilton, ATO House, 968-9086.

SCHWINN BLACK 3-speed bicycle. Reward offered by Joe Nonidez, 560 Craige, 933-3573.

GLASSES WITH GRAY FRAME LOST NEAR Saunders Hall. Call 933-3434.

FOUND

GOLD CHARM bracelet with six charms. Call John Lunsford at 968-9115.

BLUE RAINCOAT, ladies' size 6. Call Edward Finnell at 933-3323.

GIRL'S GLASSES with black frames. Call 929-3055.

Campus Calendar

APPLICATIONS for Order of the Old Well available in Dean of Men's Office. Deadline for submitting is May 6.

POPULATION PROGRAM Luncheon at Chase private dining rooms at 12:15. Dr. Gary London will speak on, "OEO Family Planning Programs."

NSA Interviews for alternates to regional and natinoal congresses will be held in Roland Parker 3-5 p.m. last day.

MHC INTERVIEWS for Morrison district in Attorney General's Office from 3 to 5 p.m. Applicants must have at least a 2.0 average and live in Morrison next year.

LINGUISTIC CIRCLE of N.C. invites all to hear Dr. James Foley lecture on Indo-European Morphophonology in 301 Dey at 8 p.m.

PSYCHOLOGY Colloquium meets at 4 in 301 Davie. Dr. Elton McNeil will lecture on "Therapy for Children Who Hate."

FASHION SHOW given by Law Wives at Chase Hall lounge at 8 p.m. Public invited for $1 per person.

NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY short course meets at the Carolina Inn at 7 p.m.

SALE at the Chapel of the Cross Parrish House, East Franklin Street, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. "White Elephants."

FILM, "No Handouts for Mrs. Hedgepeth," in the Gallery of the Wesley Foundation at 9 and 11 p.m. Student art on display for sale.

FILM FORUM meets in classroom 1A, Swain Hall, at 8 p.m.. Films by Marcia Daniels, Myles Ludwig and Rick Simpson.

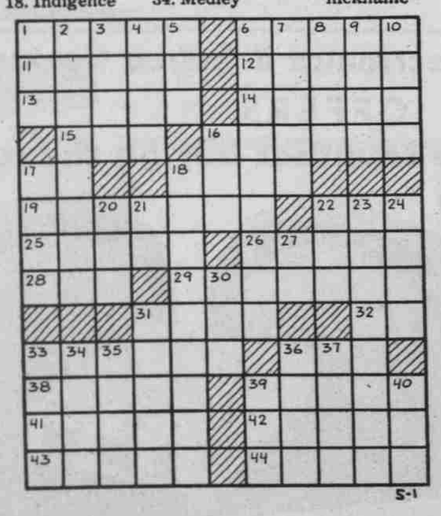
DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. Burn
6. Stately
11. Ancient district: Asia Minor
12. Girl's name
13. Hairnet
14. Steers, as a vessel
15. Metal container
16. Bets not won
17. Land measure
18. Glacial snow
19. Trust
22. Calendar abbreviation
25. Make amends for
26. Cleanse
28. Stitch
29. City on the Elbe
31. Fibbed
32. Iron: sym.
33. Round
36. God of the sky: Babyl.
38. Aloof
39. Comical
41. Warbles
42. Passageway
43. Tubes
44. Weavers' reeds

DOWN
1. Little girl
2. Solid
3. Celebes ox
4. King of beasts
5. Father
6. Regained
7. Appearing as if eaten
8. Snares (game)
9. Skin disorder
10. Young girl
16. Bulgarian coin
17. Arab garments
18. Indigence
20. Humble
21. Incumbent
22. Moreover
23. Advantageously
24. Kelly of the light feet
27. Verb form
30. Primary color
31. Plunge forward
33. Impetuous
34. Medley
35. Weights
36. External seed coating
37. Scent
39. The: Ger.
40. Boy's nickname

TABLE REGAL
ARRAY ALINE
PEACE TINEA
EAS BE AWN
SPEEDS
BOILED HAAF
AREAL TONGA
SARI SEASON
NEEDLE
MOO AA RUB
ELVES AFIRE
ALIVE LONGS
LADES GREET

Yesterday's Answer



S-1