

Dynamite play will be daring

by Frank Parrish
Feature Editor

The dubiously named Dynamite Theatre will not bring slapstick, simplistic gags and hackneyed comedic situations to the UNC campus. Director Sam Allen explains the name was only assumed in desperation.

The Dynamite Theatre operates as a Playmaker's Workshop project. And Workshop projects must have names. What the Dynamite Theatre will offer instead of any trite theatrics suggested by the name is "highly experimental theatre," according to Allen.

Bob Hardison, who oversees Workshop production, wanted this project staged during the first semester. Shortly after Christmas vacation, January 7 and 8 at 8 o'clock, Allen's project can be seen in Graham Memorial Lounge Theatre.

Interestingly titled "Alice's Period Fantasies," the three-act play will be a learning experience for both the cast and audience. Allen calls it "educational theatre." "We're not doing it according to anybody," Allen says. That is, the Dynamite Theatre will not ape the Becks' Living Theatre, Grotowski's Polish Laboratory Theatre or any other avant-garde group.

Allen, a graduate student in drama, wrote most of the script. He occasionally incorporated suggestions from cast members. During the summer, he says, "I was impressed by a repertory company in Los Angeles." The company, the James Joyce Liquid Memorial Theatre, inspired him with its "intensity" and "sincerity."

Allen says, "The Dynamite Theatre is concerned with experimenting and finding new ways." The Workshop, he thinks, provides "a place and a chance to experiment." Allen also thinks the audience will play an integral part in the production. It will not therefore have to participate.

Sam Allen is primarily interested in the audience's responses. He explains, calling forth Andy Warhol, that what the audience brings to the production is very important. Warhol probably meant that each member of an audience should proceed at his own rate of comprehension.

The play will consist of 15 or 16 scenes. Allen notes that he admires Fellini's work in films. But, he adds, Fellini didn't particularly influence the production. "Alice's Period Fantasies" are frequently his own, according to Allen.

The play's thematic unity is rooted in love and alienation, Allen observes. It contains "surprise endings" and is "hard to explain," Allen says. "Alice's Period Fantasies" has no leads.

"A lot of the people involved aren't in drama," Allen says. In fact, two cast members are from French and geography, respectively. Some of the drama majors have had to unlearn previous training. The non-drama participants, approaching theatre innocently, have sometimes adjusted more readily to the play's demands. In other instances, dramatic experience has proved invaluable when the veterans assisted the novices.

The cast has undergone sensitivity sessions and other warm-up exercises. Finding a rehearsal hall has presented a problem, Allen says. But when cast members are unable to attend a rehearsal, director Allen says he doesn't ask them for explanations. He has confidence in his players.

The cast includes: John Nesbit, Dick Robinson, Vic Hendrickson, Julia Keefe, Dennis Richards, Kitty Conway, Ginny

Gregory, Andrew Adler, Marie Jones, Doug Foy and Marilyn Poole. Lights will be handled by Mary Mac Moore and Tony Rivenback. Dennis Richards will supply the set. Musicians who will embellish the stage action are: Bill O'Brien, Art Levine, John Grubbs, Charles Huntley and Ernest. One of the musicians majors in physics.

"They've had to work doing things they haven't done before," Allen says of his cast. The people doing these novel things come from many parts of the University.

Of his own background, Allen says he received his undergraduate degree in drama at Wake Forest. He taught afterwards until he grew tired of teaching. Allen then bummed around California for awhile.

Allen's assistant director, Carla Shufford, works in the School of Education here. A variety of backgrounds will come of the foreground in "Alice's Period Fantasies."

The production will combine abstract and concrete presentation. Writer-director Sam Allen doesn't elaborate on how the abstract-concrete synthesis will be executed. But "Alice's Period Fantasies" promises to be devastatingly original.

Polish troops, tanks quell rioting cities

WARSAW—Polish troops and tanks imposed tight controls Wednesday on three major cities in northern Poland where crowds angered by government-ordered food price increases stoned Communist Party headquarters, burned buildings, looted shops and battled police for two days. The official news agency (PAP) in the first government report on the rioting in the tri-city port area of Gdansk, Gdynia and Sopot in the Bay of Danzig, said six persons, including policemen, were killed and "several dozen" others injured.

PAP said the rioters "demolished and set on fire" public buildings and looted dozens of shops. Diplomatic sources in Gdansk said mobs also stoned Communist Party headquarters, burned cars, trucks and other vehicles and chanted slogans against Communist First Secretary Wladyslaw Gomulka and other party leaders. Western diplomatic sources in Warsaw said government forces used gunfire and tear gas in addition to the tanks to quell the rioters. It was Poland's most serious violence since the "bread and freedom" uprising in Poland in the 1956 political upheaval that brought threats of Soviet military intervention and the return of Gomulka to power.

The riots erupted Monday after the Warsaw government ordered a 20 per cent increase in food prices. The food price increase was coupled with a similar hike in fuel costs and a meat shortage—and all before Christmas, still widely observed here.

Cambodia aid winning approval

WASHINGTON—President Nixon's request for \$255 million in foreign aid to arm Cambodia against North Vietnam won initial Senate approval Wednesday after opponents ended a two-day filibuster.

The Senate rejected 61 to 33 a move by critics of his policy in Indochina to slice \$155 million for Cambodia from an urgent \$550 million supplemental foreign aid authorization bill Nixon submitted a month ago.

The President said he needed the money, plus spending authority for an additional \$100 million already transferred to Cambodia, to help the embattled nation block North Vietnamese attacks without the need for further U.S. manpower. Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, opposed the amendment that would have cut off the entire \$155 million in new assistance to Cambodia, leaving only the \$100 million which Nixon has already transferred from other foreign aid accounts and now wants to replace.

Agent exposes Army 'spying'

WASHINGTON—A former U.S. Army intelligence agent was reported Wednesday to have told Senate investigators the Army conducted political surveillance of government officials, including Sen. Adlai E. Stevenson III, who might disagree with administration policies. Sam J. Ervin, D-N.C., who made the disclosure, demanded a full explanation and assurances from the Army that it would halt domestic spying operations immediately. The Army has no immediate comment.

The agent was identified by the Washington Evening Star as former S. Sgt. John M. O'Brien of Evanston, Ill., who said that from June, 1969, until his discharge a year later he was "a domestic spy for the Army," assigned to the Chicago area.

"My entire effort as a military intelligence agent was directed toward the offensive activities conducted by the Army involving collection of information pertaining to individuals and organizations decreed by the Army to be subversive in nature," O'Brien told the Star.

Dole may be new GOP head

WASHINGTON—Sen. Robert J. Dole, R-Kan., all but announced Wednesday that he is President Nixon's choice to be the new Republican national chairman.

Dole, grinning, joshed with reporters about speculation that he would soon be tapped for the top party post.

But the tone of his voice and the tense of his verbs left little doubt that the 47-year-old Kansan not only wants the job but will get it. He said he expected the announcement to come soon, "probably this week."

The job falls vacant next month when Rep. Rogers C.B. Morton, R-Md., leaves to become Interior secretary. The GOP National Committee, which formally chooses the chairman, is expected to satisfy Nixon's choice.

Aviation's birth celebrated

KITTY HAWK—The epochal achievements of the Wright Brothers, the first to successfully fly a heavier-than-air propeller driven craft 67 years ago, will be commemorated in impressive ceremonies today.

It was on Dec. 17, 1903, that Orville Wright, at the controls of a flimsy canvased winged craft, lifted off a wooden monorail and flew 120 feet in 12 seconds against a brisk 27 mph wind to launch the birth of aviation.

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- PEGASUS WILL BE OPEN DURING CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS COME DRINK WITH US 5-12 p.m.

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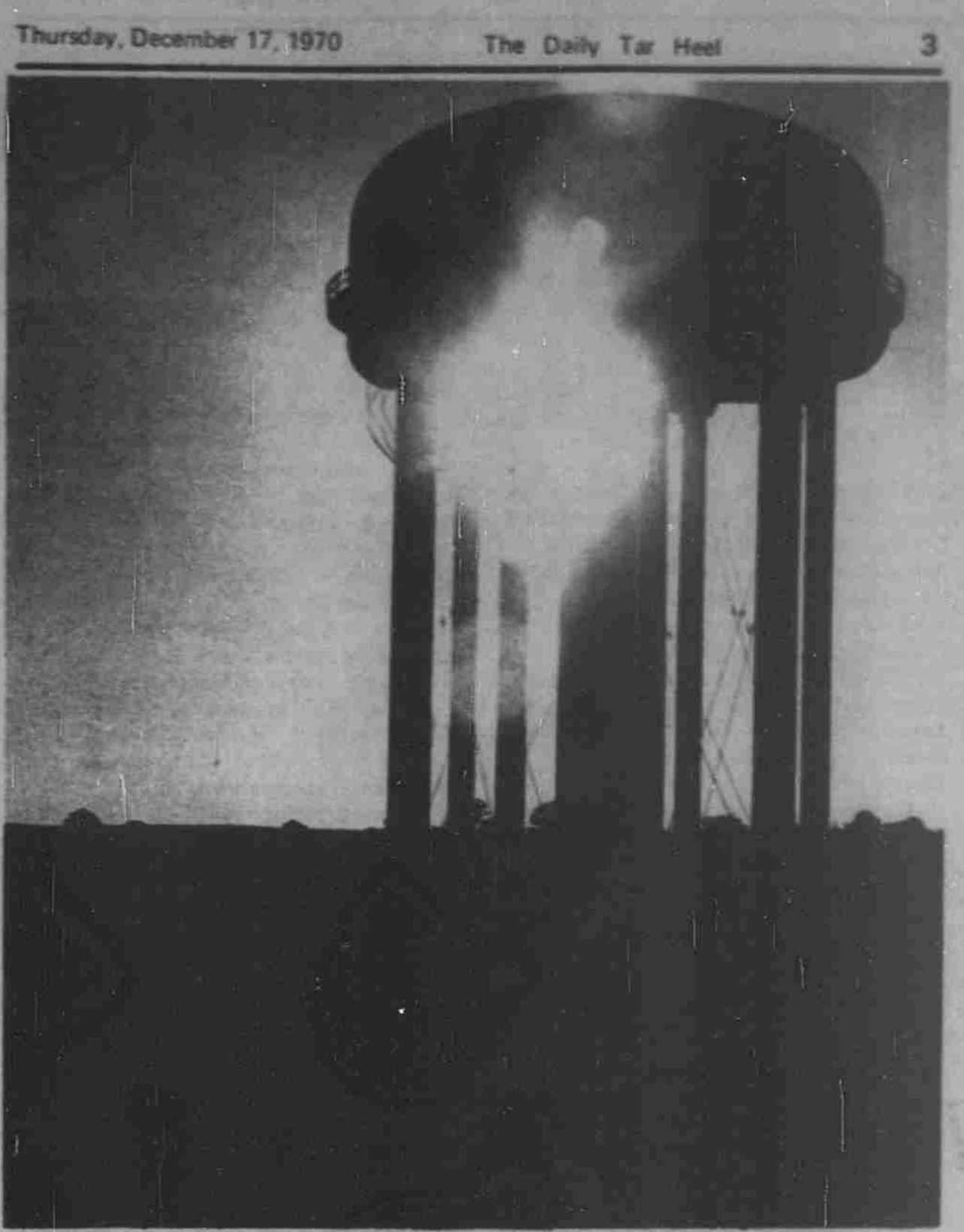
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The rains have come lately. But Wednesday, 10th floor Morrison residents were able to see this splendid, although unheralded vista. There was undoubtedly room at the top of the stairs. Such were the joys. Having seen this majestic tower, could anyone have complained about the duress endured by South Campus residents? Life at the top and on the edge of campus has its moments.

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