

# Summer Show Dwells On Realms Of Madness



Robert Hall as Mobius rehearses an emotional scene for 'The Physicists' before other cast members for the play which opens Monday.

Theater-goers who view "The Physicists" which opens Monday, Aug. 1, at Howell Memorial Theater will come away with the sense of having, like Alice, been on the wrong side of the looking glass.

For this provocative play by Swiss dramatist Friedrich Duerrenmatt explores the realm of madness and sanity and reason is overcome not by madness, but by reason.

**Intellectual Play**  
"The Physicists" is a suspense melodrama of murder and intrigue, but it is also an exciting intellectual play that makes a comment on the modern dilemma of a world facing possible destruction of mankind at the hands of its scientists.

The play is set in a madhouse run by a hunchback spinster psychiatrist and begins with all the earmarks of a suspense melodrama. The play opens, not on a rising curtain, but with a pre-set scene waiting to greet the arriving audience, of a murdered corpse on a wrecked stage, hinting from the beginning that things will not be as they seem to be.

**Deeper Plot**  
As the play progresses the audience becomes aware that

the madness is pretended to cover a deeper plot and the question grows: who is really mad?—the patients who one by one murder their attractive nurses to maintain their masks of madness, the neurotic female psychiatrist or the bumbling inspector who comes to investigate the murders.

The patients are three physicists who manifest their madness in an erie manner. Mobius recites poetry of world-destruction and says King Solomon has appeared to him and revealed the secrets of the universe. Beutler insists he is Newton and wears a long wig to prove it. Ernesti says he is Einstein and consoles himself with his violin.

Finally the plot begins to reveal that the physicists are neither mad nor evil but that each is self-incarcerated in the madhouse for his own personal reasons.

Mobius is pretending madness to hide from the world his discovery that could bring about its destruction if wrongly used. Beutler and Ernesti, physicists working as secret agents for their respective governments are each in the madhouse to persuade Mobius

to reveal his secret to their own governments or kill him if he cannot be persuaded.

At the play's end each is defeated by their common fatal flaw, that faith in reason has destroyed faith in humanity and God. In the end the inevitable mistake does happen and brings about the very thing that each thought only they as scientists and men of reason could prevent.

Mr. Duerrenmatt's allegory has an ironical message for modern audiences, that the

problem of all must be the concern of all. He writes with savage irony and the satire of each line is as explicit as the playwright can make it.

As a suspense play it is filled with bizarre action. As a play of ideas it is an exploration of a single thought that involves all humanity. It explores one of the gravest problems of our area, how to control the unlimited powers for destruction that the scientists have put at man's disposal.

## Tractor Day Event Nearing At Mead

The Agricultural Engineering department of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics will present its annual Tractor Power and Safety Day at the Mead Field Laboratory Thursday, July 28.

The Mead Laboratory is an 8,000 acre tract. Visitors may reach the field laboratory by taking Highway 77 north through Ceresco to Highway

63, which runs east to the Mead Station.

### Began As Demonstration

Tractor Day, as the event is commonly called, was begun in 1952 as a demonstration of the work of the Tractor Testing Lab. Since then, the program has expanded to include displays, exhibitions, and information on maintenance and operation of farm machinery.

The program will begin at 8:45 a.m. with a tractor tipping demonstration. New equipment designed to protect tractor operators from injuries will be used on tractors that will be intentionally tipped and rolled.

### New And Old

Both new and old tractors will be displayed during the day. Over 50 new tractors representing all of the major manufacturers will be paraded. They range from 10 to over 100 horsepower.

Old tractors that are still in running condition will also be shown. The oldest is a 1920 Townsend.

A lugging contest between two tractors, one with a gas engine, the other with a diesel engine, will be staged. Each machine will lug over 5,000 pounds.

### Exhibits And Demonstrations

Exhibits and demonstrations will also highlight tractor Day. New equipment, such as a completely automatic irrigation system which turns itself off and on, and a combine with only one control lever, will be shown.

Demonstrations of new techniques in irrigation and feeding will be put on for visitors.

### Information Center

An information center will be set up to enable visitors to obtain additional facts about equipment and techniques. Last year, over 17,500 people attended Tractor Day.

Lunch stands, sponsored by various church organizations, will be located on the premises.

Among the distinguished guests will be Chancellor Clifford Hardin and Governor Frank Morrison.

Tractor Power and Safety Day is the largest activity of the College of Agriculture and Home Economics. General chairman for the program is Delbert Lane of the Ag. Engineering department. The chairman of the Ag. Engineering department, Dr. R. W. Kleis, will preside.

## Cullum Discusses Literature

Albert Cullum, one of the nation's best known authorities on the introduction of fine literature to children, will address a Summer Session convocation at the University tomorrow.

He will speak at 9:30 a.m. in Love Library auditorium. The address is open to the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cullum, director of the public school's literature festivals in New York City, has an outstanding career as a language arts director and lecturer.

**Television Appearances**  
Since 1964 Cullum has made a number of national television appearances on CBS and the National Educational Television Network on such programs as "Camera Three," and "The Language Arts."

He is the producer and director of three educational films for children, "A Touch of Greatness," "Literature A Go-Go," and "From Sea to Shining Sea."

### Summer Stock

In addition to Cullum's major professional work in literature with children, he has performed as an actor and director in summer stock theater and is an artist in oils and water colors.

Frank Rice, associate professor of English and co-director of the University of Nebraska English Curriculum Center, said interested persons will be admitted to a special seminar conducted by Cullum at 2 p.m. in room 108 Burnett Hall. Seating will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

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## Religion School Requested

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following article was written by Carl Stuart for an assignment in Advanced Reporting under Mr. R. Neale Copple, Director of the School of Journalism.

By CARL STUART

What possibly could be more important for intellectual inquiry than the study of religion? This question was recently posed by Chancellor Clifford M. Hardin.

Discussion and consideration of a possible new department of religion at the University has been stimulated by the submission to the Board of Regents of a resolution by the Council on Religion of the University of Nebraska.

### Resolution

The resolution which was received in the Office of the Chancellor April 30 states:

"WHEREAS, historically, theological study was the primary motivation for universities in the Western World; and,

WHEREAS religious writings comprise many of the primary documents of the Western Culture; and,

WHEREAS the study of comparative world religions will enhance a more harmonious relationship and engender greater understanding among different peoples and creeds; and,

WHEREAS religion forms a recognized area of scholastic inquiry; and,

WHEREAS many state universities in the United States include a Faculty of Religion in their College of Arts and Sciences; and,

WHEREAS the University of Nebraska has no Department of Religion in its College of Arts and Sciences; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: that the Council on Religion of the University of Nebraska join with other bodies of the University in urging the Chancellor and Regents of the University of Nebraska to establish and endow a Department of Religion within the College of Arts and Sciences of the University of Nebraska, (signed) James C. Ransom, president."

### Rather Vague

Hardin said, "The resolution itself is rather vague. It only desired that there should be a department of religion. It was a very general request." He did remark that this was not to infer that the resolution was improper, but just did not include any detail as to what the department of religion should be.

Religious inquiry is a perfectly proper thing, Hardin said, and a valid area of inquiry, but consideration of a

new department comes down to a matter of priorities.

### Expansion Pressure

"The legislature has been very careful in allowing the opening of new areas, especially under the pressure of expansion," Hardin said.

There has been no serious proposal of a department of religion in recent years, according to Hardin. Neither has there been any faculty consideration of this, out of which a new course of studies normally arises.

"Only departments can be created by the Board of Regents," Hardin explained. He said the resolution has been presented to the members of the Board of Regents individually. He indicated that he had no idea what their feelings were about the matter.

### Earlier Question

At the inception of the University of Nebraska there was considerable question as to what the University would indeed be. "Would it be the traditional college or a university?" ("University Report," winter issue 1958-59).

Prior to inducting the first chancellor into office, Acting Governor W. H. James said these words, "Upon broad and unsectarian grounds has the University been founded."

### Vantage Point

The "University Report"

states, "From this vantage point in time, eighty-seven years later, it is clear that Chancellor Benton (the University's first chancellor) did not immediately comprehend that the new University was not of the same academic cloth as the private sectarian college but an institution with a much broader purpose."

Dr. Samuel Aughey, the University's first professor of Chemistry and Natural Sciences while addressing a Charter Day exercise in 1881 noted that one of the interests that brought the University into being was that there were those who "wished to relegate the higher education wholly to the Christian denominations."

### Sectarian Issue

Embroidered in the matter of sectarianism Benton was finally forced to resign.

"In the latter part of Benton's administration, it burst about the institution in full fury. The Regents, a strongly non-sectarian group described by Benton as radicals, demanded the cessation of the Chancellor's rules requiring compulsory attendance by students at daily chapel and Sunday church services. The Chancellor refused.

### Crisis Resolved

"The crisis was resolved on December 15, 1875 when the

Board demanded his resignation, effective in July, 1876." (University Report).

Benton was not alone in being dismissed from the office of chancellor over the sectarian issue. His successor, Chancellor E. B. Fairfield was dismissed in June of 1883 because of "public and faculty criticism over the sectarian issue."

Three professors also lost their positions over the issue the previous year in January.

### Historical Controversy

It is clearly documented that there has been a great deal of strife regarding the sectarian issue in the history of the University.

The present state statute reads, "No sectarian instruction shall be allowed in any school or institution supported in whole or in part by the public funds set apart for educational purposes, etc."

Assistant Dean Robert L. Hough said, "Outside of the statutory question I do not think there would be any resentment to a department of religion." He indicated that an opinion from the Attorney General's office would probably be sought before a any

Con't Page 2, Col. 1

## August Campus Events

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 University Theatre Summer Production 8:00 p.m. (Howell Theatre)	2 Teacher's College Luncheon Featuring: Walter K. Beggs, Dean of the College 12:20 p.m. (BR) University Theatre Summer Production 8:00 p.m. (Howell Theatre)	3 ΠΑΘ Luncheon 12:20 p.m. (NU 241)	4	5 Summer Commencement 7:30 p.m. (Pershing Aud)	6
7	8 Registration for Three-Week and Four-Week Post Sessions and payment of tuition and fees Classes begin				26 Final examinations and end of Three-Week Post Session	KEY TO ROOMS AUD Auditorium, Nebr. Union BR Ballroom, Nebr. Union LM Auditorium, Love Library NC Nebr. Center NU Nebr. Union PA Pan American Room, Nebr. Union SM Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery T Temple Bldg.
					2 September Final examinations and end of Four-Week Post Session	