



Dean Tschetter, NU student and member of the Summer Repertory company, finishes last-minute soldering on the galling gun he is building for one of the three plays being presented by the NU Theatre of Protest.

Plays' Difficulties Demand Ingenuity of Stage Designer

When is Howell Theatre similar to television's "Mission Impossible"?

When technical designer Jerry Lewis has to design a self-destructing boiler that must fall apart on cue.

When is Howell Theatre similar to a psychedelic light show?

When student photographer Claud Beery must develop a series of slides to be projected on screens on the theatre's stage during performances of the summer repertory.

When is Howell Theatre similar to a munitions firm?

When stage technician Dean Tschetter must construct a galling gun for one of three plays to be given this summer.

Part of the difficulty of presenting a play is designing a stage upon which the action unfolds. The difficulty is compounded when repertory theatre is presented.

At Nebraska's Howell Theatre, the summer repertory company will present three contemporary plays of protest beginning July 2, with the English play "Eh?" Designer Lewis faces the task of planning three distinct stages with separate themes, but constructing each in order that it fits together with the other two.

"Each play contains a central metaphor," Lewis said, "so we designed around that theme. As the set expands to the periphery of the stage, it dissolves into the scene for a different play."

Much of the scenery is designed on wheels or flies so that it can be moved easily, Lewis said. This is due partly to the plays and to Howell Theatre itself.

"The theatre is quite inflexible," he said, explaining that there is little behind-stage room for storage and that the stage is comparatively small.

"Money and space made centralization of these three sets a necessity," he continued. The technical budget for the three summer plays compares with the budget for the single production of "The Misanthrope," presented last fall.

Lewis calls himself a mediator among the three directors.

"Each director has his own ideas concerning his play," he explained, "and there is little discussion amongst them. So I have to incorporate each idea into a working plan and keep each director happy."

"The Hostage," which opens July 5, must operate on two levels, so the structure has to be solid enough to withstand weight but must be movable.

Also in "Hostage" will be incorporated a slide show, commenting on what is being shown on the stage. NU student Claud Beery is doing the photography.

Special screens are being built into the set, which will slide out from the sides. Robert Hall, director of the play, thought that some of the songs which comment on the Irish revolution were somewhat obscure. The slides will footnote what is being sung.

The boiler galling apart in "Eh?" is symbolic of what is happening to the characters in the play. The tricky part of its construction is making it realistic without actually destroying it. Gauges fall off, pipes squeak, steam spouts out, but it must happen for nine performances throughout July.

In "Sergeant Musgrave's Dance," a galling gun was needed for an important sequence in this play. No galling gun could be found. So Dean Tschetter, a member of the repertory company, and Mark Anderson, an NU art student, are constructing the gun.

"It was darn hard finding a picture of a galling gun," Tschetter said. "And the Army certainly was no help. So we researched the weapon and pieced together some plans for the gun with the help of a number of encyclopedias."

Since speech and dramatic art departments at NU had no place to do metal working, the Art Department agreed to let Tschetter and Anderson work in Woods Art Building's welding lab.

Lewis, who earned a master of fine arts in technical design from the University of Wisconsin, has been working on the repertory plays since the opening of "Marat-Sade," the last play of the NU spring season. His crew of six

regular stage technicians and ten students taking the basic stagecraft course offered by the drama department, average about eleven hours of work each day preparing for the opening of the plays.

"We work hard now, but we do get relieved after the plays start," Lewis said, "although our work continues to the last when we strike the set. We have to be sure that everything works."

Everything like:
—A self-destructing steam boiler.
—And a special effects slide show.

Nebraska Education Is Topic

Dr. Forrest Conner, executive secretary of the American Association of School Administrators, will address the annual summer conference of the Nebraska association on June 24.

Conner's topic is "Federal Legislation Which Affects Nebraska Schools."

The theme of the 1968 conference is "Nebraska Educational Legislation—Prologue and Prediction."

Dr. Scott Norton, professor of Education Administration at NU, said that the conference will also feature a number of Nebraska state senators who will look at the possible solutions to educational programs and problems in the state.

Senators on the program include: John Knight of Lincoln, Richard Marvel of Omaha, Lester Harsh, Jerome Twerner, George Syas and Callista Cooper Hughes of Humboldt. Their topics include the financing of education to teacher negotiation, from school reorganization to state support of public education.

Dr. Clayton Yueutter, administrative executive to Gov. Norbert Tiemann, will be the featured noon luncheon speaker.

About 200 persons are expected for the conference, to be held at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education on the NU East Campus.

"Interested persons are advised to contact the Nebraska Center for information concerning the conference," Norton said.

He said that all school administrators are encouraged to participate in the conference. Registration fee is five dollars, plus an additional \$1.75 for the noon meal.

Teachers Return to Meet Education's New Demands

Each summer hundreds of Nebraska teachers return to the campus to continue their studies.

Why do they come back? What do they think of University life while they are here?

Earl Swiggart is in the fifth year of a six-program in the University's department of educational administration. He is principal at Ashland high school.

Swiggart received his bachelor's and master's from NU.

"I believe one important aspect of returning to school in the summer is the association of others in the field of education," Swiggart said, adding that one keeps up with changes in educational methods by continuing school.

He will attend both sessions this summer since the course he is taking is a 12-hour "block course" in educational administration which carries over to the second session.

Sr. Mary Cecile, O.P. is a student at large this summer. She is taking three journalism courses because Island Catholic high school in the fall.

Sr. Cecile received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Creighton University in Omaha, and has taught in Nebraska, Illinois and Puerto Rico.

"This is the first time I have studied at the University," Sr. Cecile said. "It is too early to say what I feel about the school, but it has been marvelous so far."

Many teachers return to the

University to renew their teacher's certificate or to work on a higher degree.

Sixth Session

Mrs. Gilletta Krueger, Davenport, is attending the first session this summer, her sixth summer session.

"I just love it," Mrs. Krueger said when asked how she liked going to summer school.

"I have a chance to get acquainted with so many different people," she explained. "I come from a small town and the chance to meet new people is exciting."

Mrs. Krueger has noticed a change in Nebraska's summer school since the first time she enrolled during the summer:

"At first the students seemed to be mostly 'old ladies.' Then there seemed to be more gentlemen attending school. Now it seems at least half of the students are young people. The emphasis seems to have shifted to youth and I think this is just wonderful."

Mrs. Krueger teaches the fourth grade in Shickley, Neb. She doesn't think that school this summer is especially accelerated with the split sessions but "I may change my mind as school progresses," she added.

Another teacher is attending summer for the first time and is renewing her teaching certificate. She teaches kindergarten through the second grade in a small Nebraska elementary school.

"I don't find returning to school much harder now," she said, "but it was somewhat difficult getting oriented."

She is taking a children's literature course and an education course. She will not attend the second session.

George E. Rush of Lincoln is finishing work on his master's in education in art. He teaches art at Lincoln Northeast high school.

"If I had the time and energy I would go to summer school each year," Rush said. "Education is always changing and it is necessary to keep up with the movements."

Everett Schuler, secondary principal of Norris School District No. 160, agrees.

"Summer school keeps one up to date in many aspects of education," he said.

Schuler is a graduate of Midland College in Fremont, but received his master's at the University of Wyoming where that university was on a split-session summer school similar to the program NU has inaugurated this summer.

"I see no difference caused by the split-session, except that school is speeded up a bit," Schuler said.

He enjoys summer school because he can renew old acquaintances and make new ones and it "helps prepare me for the unusual situations that the increasing militancy of faculty and students alike have generated."



William Needles

Thomas' Works Viewed

An unusual evening in theatre is promised to those who attend "In Search of Dylan," sponsored by the Nebraska Union on Wed., June 19.

The presentation is a collage of words, screen and music, built around the life, work and letters of the Welsh poet, Dylan Thomas.

The program is presented by a many-talented company headed by distinguished actor William Needles, a charter member of the Stratford Shakespeare Festival Theatre. Needles is also director of the group.

Writer-producer is Kay Britten, internationally-known singer-guitarist, who plays Thomas' tempestuous wife Caitlin.

Two young actors are also featured. Cedric Smith, who with the Stratford Festival Theatre for two seasons and was featured on two tours, and Chuck Mitchell, also an actor. Both are singer-guitarists.

Dylan Thomas became a legend in his lifetime, and was finally trapped and destroyed by his own myth. His creative genius is regarded to have diminished in the glare of personal difficulties.

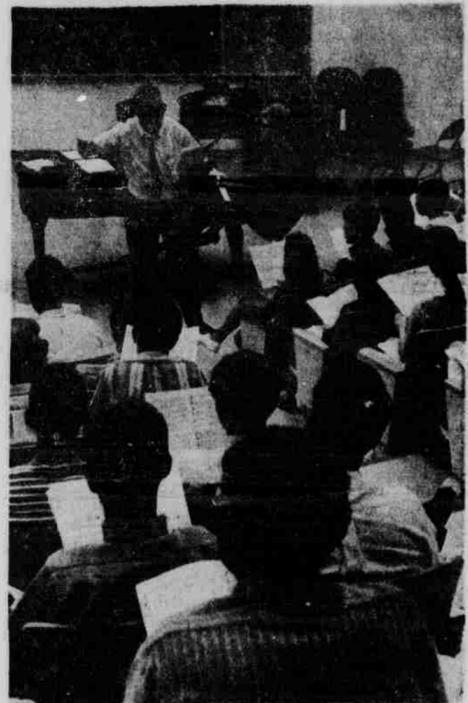
He made three tours in America during the fifties, the last resulting in his death in 1953. His legend continued to grow after-death, and the charisma of the poet-genius spread throughout the country.

The program took six months to prepare, according to Needles, searching Thomas' private letters plus his public works.

"I have attempted some degree of total theatre with the use of screen, music and audience involvement," Needles said, "so that hopefully, we may find the man Thomas for ourselves."

"My only ambition is that, as people leave the theatre, each may share the feeling of seeing something exciting," he concluded.

The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Union Ballroom. There is no admission price charged.



Dr. Raymond Miller, professor of voice at the NU School of Music, directs the 200-member All-State chorus as the group prepares for its final concert Sunday afternoon, June 23.

All-State's Innovations Challenge 376 Students

All-State is the annual migration of talented Nebraska high school students to the University of Nebraska campus for a three week myriad of experiences.

The student can participate in four different programs: art, music, journalism or speech. He lives in university dorms, in a room he shares with a person he never met before.

He has a grueling schedule — his classes last most of the morning, then he must participate in various activities which are planned by the All-State office, both cultural and recreational.

And, once the first week-and-a-half of the session has been completed, the All-Stater finds himself rushing around to get things done before time runs out — time which seemed like eternity on the All-State calendar.

This year's All-State realized a substantial gain in enrollment, according to John P. Moran, director of the program.

"There are exactly 50 more students than last year," Moran said. Total enrollment for 1968 is 376.

The breakdown by departments show that 243 are enrolled in the music program, 66 in speech, 36 in art and 31 in journalism.

A number of innovations have been introduced by the various departments, Moran said.

Instead of presenting a number of plays in entirety, the speech department is experimenting with

a historical documentation of the theatre, utilizing many scenes from many plays to get a broad view of the stage.

"This is a practical move," Moran said, "since more students will be able to participate in the production."

In the past, when an entire play was produced, only a select few would be able to have large parts, and most of the students were walk-ons.

Also, the speech department is emphasizing experience in applying make-up and designing costumes, two areas which many Nebraska high schools feel that students lack in knowledge.

The music department is offering an experimental course in the total humanities.

The course is designed to bring the many facts of the humanities together. The dance, art, music, and the theatre will be studied as they are related to each other.

"A course like this represents a trend in many high schools to tie the arts together," Moran said, "and we are anxious to see how the course develops."

The art department is emphasizing sculpture this year while the journalism segment stresses newspapering and year books.

Most people, though, associate All-State with music and concerts, and the 1968 edition has many scheduled.

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