

'Homecoming' Review . . . Play's strength lies in audience empathy

by Rodney Powell

Harold Pinter's "The Homecoming" is appalling—appalling funny. That profound insight came to me toward the end of Act I as Max, the father, punches his dumb son, whacks his brother with his cane and then asks his visiting son to "kiss and cuddle." Hilarious.

What makes it all the more appalling is that the audience cares about the characters; it isn't like watching cartoons—someone is getting hurt (in more ways than one).

To reveal the outcome (such as there is) would, it seems to me, spoil much of the pleasure of discovery. Therefore, I shall give a brief synopsis of the action.

MAX, THE quintessential dirty old man, lives (in a dilapidated house in London) with two of his sons—Lenny, a pimp, and Joey, a boxer—and his brother, Sam, a chauffeur. They hate each other in varying degrees, but somehow manage to tolerate being under the same roof.

Teddy, a Ph.D. in philosophy and Max's only "successful" son returns with his wife, Ruth, for a short visit. Teddy leaves under circumstances of which the watchful mothers of Nebraska would not approve. Max finds out something about old age and the power of women. End of play.

Pinter plays around with many themes, most of them quite common—mother love, the needs of fathers, the needs of sons, etc., etc., etc. What distinguishes the play is the dialogue. Brilliant fights by Max and Lenny are particularly effective, and the performances by Don Sobolik and Denis Calandra, respectively, are outstanding.

Sobolik remembers his youth (fondly), curses his current situation (obscenely) and searches for fulfillment (gleefully). Calandra is a pimp, wheedling, cowering or bluffing, but always a felt presence. Andy Backer, as Sam, and Chris Stasheff, as Teddy, are equally effective in less histrionic roles.

The main weakness of the play is Ruth. With four brilliant male characters, Pinter fails to create a believable female. She seems to be nothing but a walking symbol, enigmatic (of course) and emasculating (likewise).

Jean Calandra is adequate, but the part as written is just not convincing. John Hopkins as Joey suffers from the same problem—the character just seems to be filling a place in Pinter's design and does not live in the action.

Technically, the University Theatre's production is adequate. The one room set is appropriately dingy and the lighting appropriately naturalistic (although a bit out of synchronization on opening night).

Robert Hall's direction deserves commendation, for the production sustains interest even during the pauses and stop-and-go conversations for which Pinter is famous.

This is a play to see, not as a duty to "Art" but as a positive pleasure. It is entertainment in the best sense of the word.

Piester: youth is qualified to vote

Nebraskans should accept 19 and 20-year-olds as partners in democracy by voting for constitutional Amendment I to lower the voting age according to Dave Piester, chairman of Nebraskans for Young Adult Suffrage (NYFAS).

Piester told the Young Democrats Thursday night that "the time has come for Nebraska voters to realize that young people care and are qualified to do something about this nation."

THE 36,000 young people between the ages of 19 and 21 in Nebraska can handle responsibility and are well educated, he said. The 19-year-old has finished high school and the required civic courses and 65 per cent of those 19 and 20 are in the labor force.

"Let us put our education to work when interest and involvement are at their highest levels right after high school," he said. In Kentucky,

where the voting age has been lowered to 18, voter participation has increased in all age groups, he continued.

Nationally voter turnout is lowest in the 21-30 age group, Piester said, because by the time people are 21 they are so far removed from the educational and voting processes they are no longer interested in voting. Amendment I would enable young people to participate in government when they are most enthusiastic and knowledgeable about it.

IF YOUNG PEOPLE become frustrated because they can not participate in government, some will keep trying and pushing and end up farther from the middle of the road toward extremism, Piester warned.

Piester agreed that most young people will vote the same as their parents, but that in any age group, 70 per cent of the people vote as their parents do.

He urged the Young Democrats to vote and work "for" the nonpartisan amendment. The Young Democrats unanimously passed a resolution favoring Amendment I.

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What's happening . . .



And this Saturday's game should provide more tense moments for Joe Orduna and the other Cornhuskers as Nebraska faces the Missouri Tigers at Memorial Stadium.

... I just can't look

Executive says administration more progressive than senate

Continued from pg. 1

He said he was planning on arranging some sort of meeting between the Regents and the students so some dialogue could take place. "As it is, they seem to feel they are elected to run the university, but are not answerable to the people who make up the university."

However, he said that so far this year, the administration has come up with more progressive programs than the student senate. "I find it disappointing when I find more progressive people in the administration building than in the student senate."

Dreezen also has some outspoken thoughts on what a university education should be:

"The education we're getting is largely a waste of time," he said, explaining that the emphasis was too much on technical information in the natural and physical sciences, and even in the "liberal arts" courses.

The executive stated that even highly technical information could be presented in an imaginative and relevant way. "If you're in a physics class, you should be asked 'What if you're asked to

design a nuclear bomb?' If you're in engineering you should discuss the question, 'What if you're asked to build a highway through a ghetto?' This isn't a real world as it's being taught now . . . this is just an abstract game we're playing. All the classes can be made relevant to reality if we try."

HE SAID that the courses need to be re-evaluated. "They're too fragmented now, nothing follows anything else. We should be integrating and synthesizing all the different fields."

He said the Centennial College, which the Regents recently approved, "will be a good first step" in this direction.

Tickets good for NU-MU frosh tilt

Student and faculty-employee season football tickets will be honored for admission to Friday's 2:30 p.m. freshman football game between Nebraska and Missouri, according to Jim Pittenger, athletic ticket manager.

Pittenger estimated that 6,000 to 7,000 persons would attend the Husker freshmen's lone appearance in Lincoln this season. He added that it was impossible to determine the number of students who would attend the match.

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"Students have a lot to say about education," he said in response to those who say the teacher knows best because he is the teacher. "We know what excites us and what we want to be taught and what's relevant to us now. The faculty ought to listen to the students and find out why we're not being turned on."

In his opinion, classrooms, grades and strict curriculum standards should be abolished. "I realize this would be hard, especially in the first year. But the potential good from such a move is so great that it seems to be justified."

Dreezen was asked what he thought the open housing march on city hall accomplished.

"I don't think the march did anything to change anyone's mind. I just hope it showed the people in the march what they have to do now. Before the march the real radicals on campus were saying the march wouldn't accomplish anything, and it seems ironical that afterwards Mayor Schwartzkopf said that the march didn't change a thing. At least they agree on that much."

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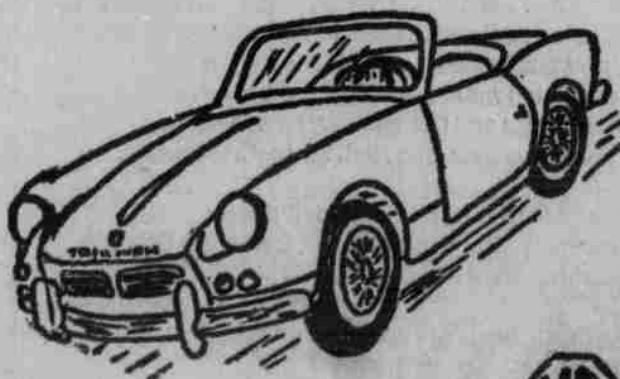
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The Hungry Id to open with Saturday forums for coffee-house fans

The Hungry Id, one of the first student "coffee-houses" serving the University, is hungry for people.

Starting its third year as a "forum" for students and faculty, the Id will be open every Saturday night from 8:30 p.m. to 12 p.m. It is located in the basement of the United Methodist Chapel, 604 N. 16th.

ACCORDING to Marlin Pals of the program committee, the group behind the coffee house is trying to "make it more relevant to the social problems."

Guests and speakers of the house have been congressional candidate Bruce Hamilton, Peace Corps representatives and interested faculty members.

This Saturday night the speaker will be Dr. Earl B. Barnwell, Director of the University's Institute of Cellular Research. He will be speaking on the topic of "Experience with White Backlash."

Dorm coeds plan discussion group to air complaints

A group of University coeds have begun scheduling discussion sessions on the "self-termination of dormitory residents" on dorm floors, according to Anna Robinson.

Miss Robinson, a member of the group of about 20 coeds, said they've scheduled the discussions "in response to a recent survey of dormitory women."

Miss Robinson, a freshman who lives in Selleck, said the coeds asked dorm residents to list their gripes and sign their names to the list. She said they gathered 400 signatures.

Times of the floor discussions will be announced on each floor, Miss Robinson said.

Often there are entertainers before and after the presentations; many times simply people from the audience who want to perform in front of others.

"Anyone who'd like to be in front of people with any talent they might have is welcome," said publicity chairman Loretta Pitch. "They wouldn't even have to let us know ahead of time."

The coffee house offers refreshment in the form of coffee, tea, warm and cold apple cider, donuts, peanuts and other assorted goodies.

"We want kids to come here before their dates, after their dates, or even for dates," said Loretta. "And anyone who wants to talk or perform is welcome to contact anyone connected with it."

Staple Singers to join Cosby

Comedian and actor Bill Cosby is scheduled to appear Friday evening at Pershing Auditorium at 8:15 p.m.

Cosby, who gave us such familiar personages as Fat Albert and Wierd Harold, as well as the Giant Chickenheart, will be on stage with the Negro gospel-singing family the Staple Singers.

The Staple Singers have appeared recently at several more or less pop rock concerts and have presented their vocal stylings which are a mixture of old-fashioned gospel as well as contemporary country blues.

The group includes Roebuck Staples, known as Pop, and his two daughters and a son. Pop accompanies the group on electric guitar. "Down Beat" magazine named them as the "New Star" vocal group of 1962.

The Nebraska Union Special Events Committee is presenting the program.

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