

Levin—Shakespeare reflects revolution

The revolution of the times depicted on television every night is also reflected in the works of William Shakespeare, Harry Levin, professor of comparative literature at Harvard University said Tuesday.

"Shakespeare initiates us into the mystery of evil, offers a retrospect of life" and a look at death, he told an audience at Sheldon Art Gallery.

Levin said that after four centuries, readers today have a closer access to Shakespeare's texts, because of editors and other interpreters.

People can read his works in the context of their own lives, interpret them through their own experience and get what they want out of them, he said.

"Shakespeare is for all times," he said. "Each generation has its own modes of apprehending him."

Shakespeare was working with both the time of the past and the time he wrote in, Levin said. In reading his plays one gets a sense of the vital interrelation between history and the contemporary, he added.

"We have been hardened by watching the revolution of the times on television," he said, and "we have witnessed more than our share of bloody instructions."

Many of Shakespeare's works use civil wars at home and imperial wars abroad as a backdrop, Levin said. His monarchs have a "sorry record of turbulence and treachery," he said.

Hate, lust and violence are the major values involved in their struggle for power, according to Levin.

The strong authoritarian emphasis on stability found in Shakespeare's works is expressing deep basic emotions of his time, Levin commented.

"Updating Shakespeare is a continual and inevitable process in the theater," Levin said. "There is a basic assumption that the best director is the one who can make the wildest variation of what Shakespeare gives him."

Directors will be forgotten and their updated plays will get old, he said, but "Shakespeare will remain to be reinterpreted by future generations," Levin said.



Evers backs Muskie for President

Urging students to go out and "be shakers and movers within the structure," Merlene Evers, widow of slain civil rights activist, Medgar Evers, endorsed U.S. Sen. Edmund Muskie as the "man who can achieve the goal for the Democratic Party—the White House."

Speaking to a small audience of students and newsmen in the Nebraska Union Tuesday afternoon, Evers emphasized that she "did not go into the Muskie campaign without much research... especially in civil rights."

Recently named head of the volunteer organization "People for Muskie," she found most convincing "Muskie's honesty and forthrightness in calling shots as he saw them."

Muskie recently labeled the climate of the country as not ready to elect a black vice president.

"I am still concerned that this type of climate be changed in America. We should not have to ask whether it is possible or not for a black to make the second slot, but for the first slot," she said.

On Shirley Chisholm, black congresswoman running for president, Evers said, "I support her! She's a mover; she's a shaker; she's a doer; she's challenging the whole system!"

"She's the best thing happening to the whole Democratic Party" she added, noting that Shirley Chisholm will bring people to the conventions and will produce important concessions that would not be brought about otherwise.

"But," she said, "Shirley Chisholm herself says that she doesn't have a ghost of a chance."

Evers said she sees the nation as going through the third stage of events in human rights.

The first "Phase," according to Evers, was a period in which people tried to solve problems through nonviolent means such as courts and passive marches. This period produced some progress, she acknowledged, but mainly produced frustration.

Out of this frustration was born Phase 2, the period of violence. Violence swept across the entire nation in a way in which, she interpreted no one could point a finger at one part of the country and say "there is our problem."

Evers said that the period of violence has given way to "a certain calm that took over high schools, campuses and streets."

"Under all the calm a policy of benign



Evers... "one more chance."

neglect has developed." The Nixon administration would, according to Evers, "rather sweep problems under the rug."

"The time has come," she insisted, "where Americans of all ages have a challenge never seen before. By acting, by getting involved, by being committed we will be giving ourselves and the system one more chance."

"Why give the system one more chance? I don't feel that Americans—young, old, black, brown, women—have done everything that they could do. We have been apathetic and have looked for simple ways out of things," she observed and then urged: "Let's see if we can't do it this time before we give it up completely."

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