

berNSTEIN on words

Primates not always apes

By Theodore M. Bernstein

Primate tease. Some good suggestions on word use were sent this way by T. Harry Thompson of Philadelphia, among them: "Say linked, not linked together," "Say gift, not free gift," "Say bonus, not extra bonus." Then he said: "Churchmen are primates (2 syllables); monkeys are primates (3 syllables)."

Both churchmen and monkeys are primates, though the churchmen may also be pronounced pry-mits. As to the three-syllable version, that seems to be heard on only in the scientific field.

Word positions. Two letters question the positioning of words. Both examples are technically—but only technically—improper, yet are idiomatic. The first letter cites this passage from a newspaper column: "And as for arthritis, it is apparent that many patients improve in warm climates. But all don't."

Logically and technically that second sentence could mean, as A. Riedel of Vine-land, N.J., points out, "Nobody does" or "everyone does not." Certainly it would be better to phrase it "but not all do."

Still there are more common and less objectionable phrases very much like that—

for example, "All children are not neat." Logically what it says is that not a child in the world is neat, but it would take a perverse stickler to read it that way.

The second letter points to a Tin Pan Alley slightly sour note: "I only have eyes for you." Technically it could be argued that the only belongs just ahead of you.

But it also could be argued that in this instance only is what is called a sentence adverb, which modifies the entire thought of the sentence rather than just the word you.

A more common illustration of only as sentence adverb is, "He only thought he was being helpful." The point of this discussion is not to encourage looseness of construction, but rather to discourage needless sticklerism.

Word oddities. There's an odd word for you: sticklerism. It is a coinage that came to mind when no other word came to mind that quite expressed the thought of fussiness, of insistence on trifling things, of stubbornness in sticking to rules, no matter what.

The suffix -ism is often attached to nouns to indicate, among other things, a practice or characteristic behavior.

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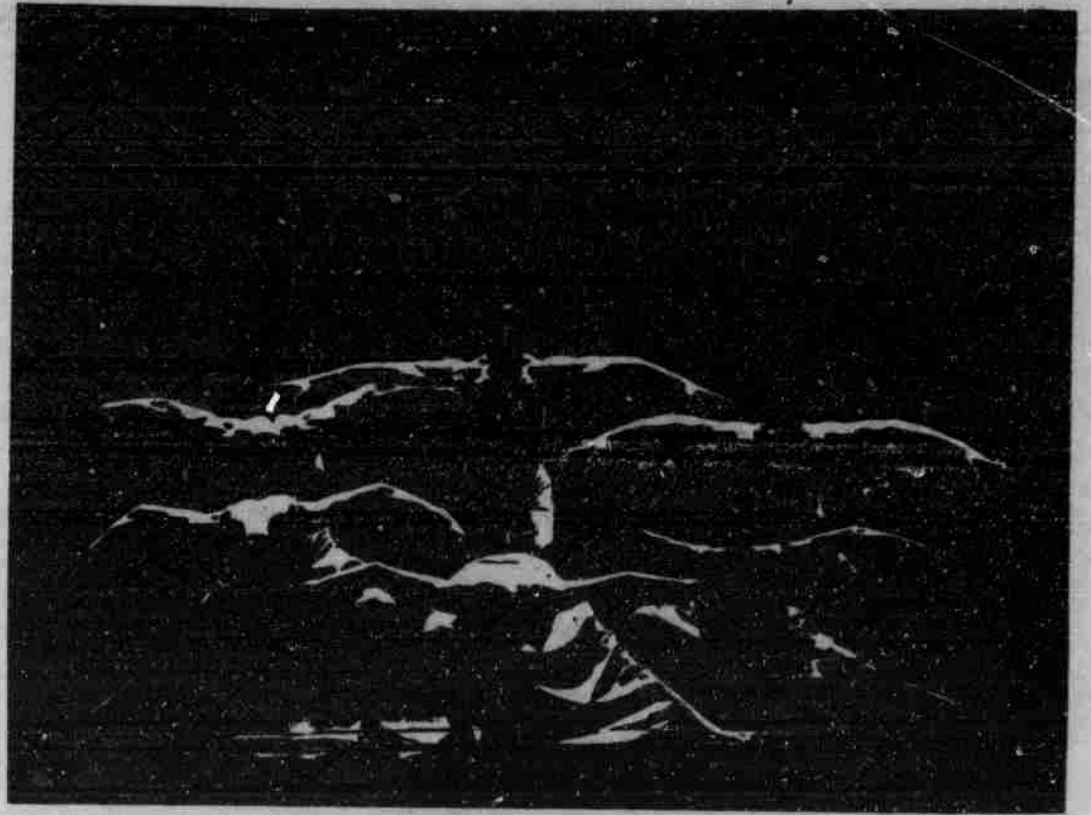


Photo by Jack Mitchell

"Revelations" by the Alvin Ailey Dance Theater

Unique dance marks group

The world-renowned Alvin Ailey City Center Dance Theater debuts at Kimball Recital Hall November 3 and 5.

The 16-member inter-racial troupe is widely acclaimed for its unique form of dance, described as a combination of modern, jazz and classical dance.

The Lincoln performance will depict the emotions of American Negro religious music, including blues, spirituals, gospels, melodies and song-sermons.

"Pilgrim of Sorrow" begins the suite, followed by "Take Me to the Water," "Move, Member, Move" and "Cry."

"Cry," performed by Judith Jamison, is the opening piece of Revelation". This Ailey-created favorite is heralded as "one of the world's greatest" by the *London Daily Telegraph*.

The troupe grew from an obscure beginning in a small New York concert hall to years of successful performances in ten

foreign countries, The Brooklyn Academy of Music, the New York City Center and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Ailey and his dancers also offer master classes and lecture demonstrations at colleges and universities.

During the past few years Ailey has choreographed eight new works for his own company and created ballets for other internationally-known troupes. The Joffrey Ballet, Harknew Ballet, the Metropolitan Opera as well as Leonard Bernstein's "Mass" have performed Ailey-created ballets.

A *New York Times* critic wrote, "There are two types of theatre goers to whom one would unhesitatingly recommend an Alvin Ailey company: those who love dance and those who think they don't. The doubters inevitably revise their opinion..."

Mexican celebration begins

Mexican pianist Viviano Valdez will open *Jornadas Mexicanas* with a concert Oct. 19 at 8 p.m. in the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery auditorium.

Jornadas Mexicanas, a celebration of Mexican achievement in the arts, is a contribution to the celebration of the United States Bicentennial.

Also opening Oct. 19 at Sheldon will be an exhibition of Mexican arts and crafts.

Dr. Manuel Alcala, Director-General of Mexican Libraries, will speak at 2:30 p.m. in the Nebraska Union on Oct. 21.

The assistant director of the Mexi-

can Institute of Anthropology and History, Fernando Camara-Barbachano, will speak in the Union at 10:30 a.m. Oct. 23.

Oct. 24 at 8 p.m. Los Folkloristas de Rene Villanueva will give a concert in Kimball Recital Hall.

Memorias de Un Mexicano, a documentary film on the 1910 Mexican Revolution will be shown at Sheldon Auditorium on Oct. 21 at 10:30 a.m. and Oct. 24 at 1 p.m.

All events are free and open to the public.

NOW SHOWING!

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Tuesday, October 21
3:30 p.m. Union Ballroom
7:30 p.m. Schramm Hall

★ Author of *The Peter Principle*