friday, december 12, .1975

Check these suggestions

What's Happening To Me? by Peter Mayle/ Lyle Stuart, Inc., Secaucus, New Jersey/ \$7.95

Peter Mayle's book about puberty is an ice-breaker, designed to open the topic for discussion. Directed to both sexes, it briefly explains hormones, masturbation, circumcision, breasts, erections, menstruation, pimples, wet dreams, voice changes and so forth. Among topics left out are venereal disease, homosexuality and birth control.

Willa Cather: A Pictorial Memoir, text by Bernice Slote/University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln/\$15

Bernice Slote, a UNL English professor, has prepared this critical appreciation of a great author with grace and sensitivity. Most of the photographs, taken by Lucia Woods, reinforce in the reader's mind the style and subjects of Cather's work.

The first part of Willa Cather: A Pictorial Memoir traces Cather's life from Virginia, her birthplace, 'o her childhood in Nebraska, through her cosmopolitan life after she achieved recognition. The second part, with photographs taken all over the country, makes the book a fine gift for people who are unaware of Cather, but who love the American countryside.

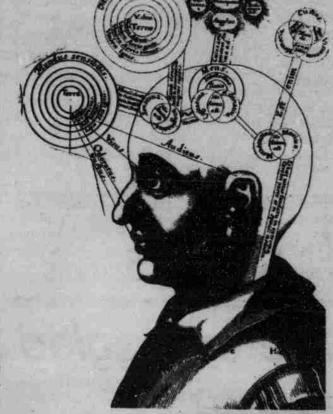
The Dead Father, by Donald Barthelme/ Farrar, Straus and Giroux, New York/ \$7.95

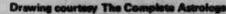
Donald Barthelme applies his wonderful talents to the matter of paternity in *The Dead Father*, his second novel. Barthelme's sly, frugal style, as always, is a treat.

"A son can never, in the fullest sense, become a father," explains the dead-but-stillwith-us father.

"A son may after honest endeavor produce what some people might call, technically, children. But he remains a son. In the fullest sense."

The story concerns 23 men and women dragging the Dead Father through the land of the Wends and other obstacles to his grave. Paternity is a large matter, and so is the Dead Father, with a length of 3,200 cubits. It's a clever but serious book, recommended for people who like words.









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