

letters to the editor

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The verse throughout the play is ringing and joyful, full of wonderful metaphors and similes, alliterations and assonance. Fry, as was James Joyce, is in love with the music of words, and it is up to the actors to make the words sing. This was done gloriously by Jennet Jourdemayne and Nicholas Devize. The Chaplain and Tupperroom were also perfectly cast.

Unfortunately, the other actors had problems (I use their stage names, as I don't have their real names at hand). The audience loved Skippis the Boneman, but he slurred his lines so badly that the only one of his hilarious malapropisms which was understandable was "Peace on earth and good tall women." Margaret Devise, although good at the end, was portrayed as very nearly lecherous at the beginning. Richard seemed to have stage fright at first, although his later performance was creditable. Alizon looked the part, but has a harsh, grating voice which would fit her better for the part of an old woman. The mayor seemed wooden, and his obviously contrived voice showed little understanding of the part he played.

Worst, sadly, was Thomas Mendip, the major character. His voice lacked the edge of cynicism which the part demands. Where his lines should have stung like a rapier, they had merely the noise of a rolled-up newspaper. Instead of transporting the audience with wit and beautiful language, he (literally in several cases) put them to sleep. The scenes with only Thomas and the Mayor on stage were particularly deadly. Still, with a few hours of coaching in the character's attitude toward life and tone of voice, Thomas could probably do a good job.

Considering the play's difficult language, the production of *The Lady's Not For Burning* was a marked success. Thanks for the chance to see a play not often performed, and for making a delightful evening of it.

Ed Christian
English Department

Draft has real implications

Carter's push for a rapid development force, i.e., a military wing capable of delivering massive invading forces into so-called "trouble spots" around the globe, has ominous implications for the 80s.

Like Vietnam, the next war, the one already on the planning boards in the Pentagon, will not be fought against hordes of barbarians streaming southward out of Canada or northward from Mexico. Clearly, in an age of intercontinental nuclear capabilities, the idea that a standing army will keep America safe for democracy is obnoxious nonsense, a myth that serves the vested interests of only a handful of corporate wheeler-dealers on Wall Street, who callously disguise their selfish hunger for oil profits under an American flag.

Draft registration is without actual patriotic benefit to this nation's territory and citizenry; what then, are its risks? First, once one registers, one increases by astronomical proportions the government's ability to nab one's body when the inevitable happens: the reinstatement of the draft. Registrants will then discover, when it's too late, that Uncle Sam's extended index finger on recruitment posters is all too quickly replaced by a middle finger pointing significantly upward. True, most draftees will survive the physical and mental abuse of basic training, and many will in fact avoid becoming numbered remains in body bags thousands of miles from home.

However, further, less obvious dangers threaten. Once the government lays claim on one's body and mind, one must surrender constitutional liberties and become an obedient and unquestioning instrument of destruction, a mere tool in the hands of an establishment that cares nothing about personal needs. Remember: What has the government done for the thousands of Vietnam vets psychologically maimed with war neurosis, or for those unfortunate G.I.s who were forcibly exposed to the cancerous radiation of nuclear test sites, and what is being done for vets and their families who today are suffering from the results of Agent Orange exposure? Zilch.

And one must not forget those V.A. hospitals with entire floors set aside as permanent residences for live-in paraplegics who gave up their limbs for a country that so easily forgets.

David G. Lanoue
Arts & Science Graduate Student



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