

Let's Take a Look

By

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(Special to The Highland Park Press)

This Is About "Call Me Mister"

or Sidney, You Let Us Down!

Well, folks, I thought I was going to write about the Navy fliers out at Glenview Naval Air Base this week.

But, I've changed my mind. That column is postponed for now. Instead, and with the kind permission of my editor, Mrs. Lester Olson, I'm going to write about one of the worst plays I've ever seen.

LETS US DOWN . . .

When I heard Chicago Daily News critic Sydney J. Harris speak recently, I was impressed by his sincerity and his clear analysis of why Chicago's theater should be buried. You'll recall I reported that in the column two weeks ago. I also reported that Harris said "Call Me Mister" was a "pleasant show."

Well, Sydney, you let us down! You told us we would like "Call Me Mister."

And so did the other critics. But despite what you said, I can't be a "Gallup Poll Critic," to quote you, and praise this play.

POOR PLAY . . .

To my guest, and to me, it was poor.

Extremely poor.

And here's why.

In the first place, the dialogue is about as clean as Chicago's streets.

When playwrights sprinkle plays with profanity and actors use the Lord's name in vain with gusto and smirking faces, I can't and I won't appreciate their work.

Nor do I appreciate dirty direct and indirect double meanings which were as apparent in "Call Me Mister" as dandelions in Grant park.

COSTUMES CHEAP . . .

My guest, a former model and an expert in costuming, says "Call Me Mister" costumes were not only poorly tailored and cheaply made, but they were soiled.

Almost as much as the play, I might add!

Direction?

Slipshod with cues missed, timing off, entrances clumsy.

Sets?

Fair. Northwestern's Waa-Mu Show, "Break the News," had far better sets, and they were original and beautifully done. "Call Me Mister's" are carelessly constructed, poorly painted.

WHAT A CHORUS! . . .

Chorus?

Poor. They look like alumni of Chicago's bawdiest night clubs, low down on Madison street. They are fat, sloppy, homely.

I don't know about the other ex-GI's in the audience that night but this ex-AAF sergeant resents "Call Me Mister's" idea of a World War II veteran:

A sex-starved, foul-speaking, terrifically vulgar, moronic booze hound!

N. S. AVC Onnooses

Blomstrand Bill

North Shore chapter, AVC, yesterday informed State Representative David I. Swanson that it wishes to go on record as being opposed to the passage of H. B. 171, creating an Illinois seditious activities investigation committee.

The bill, also known as the Blomstrand bill, would set up an Illinois version of the Un-American Activities committee of the U. S. House of Representatives.

"It is our considered opinion that the Blomstrand bill is of such loose and vague wording that it could be easily used as an adjunct to evil purposes from which we would all suffer," a spokesman for AVC said.

He concluded: "As veterans who fought against ideologies whose outstanding characteristic was the restriction of the individual's liberties, we protest this bill as being characteristic of the foundations on which the foreign regimes we have just fought and defeated were based."

VFW AUXILIARY TO MEET MONDAY NIGHT

There will be a regular monthly business meeting of the VFW auxiliary on Monday evening, June 2, at 8 pm in Witten hall. All new members are requested to attend.

Mrs. M. Hoagland, 5th district president, will be guest speaker.

DRAG IN RACE PROBLEM . . .

And, if all this vulgarity wasn't enough, "Call Me Mister" (slightly on the pink side, by the way) had to drag in the race problem.

Not subtly, either.

But bluntly, and in very poor taste, we thought. It was uncalled for and completely unnecessary.

Granted, the problem exists. Granted, it must be solved. But NOT on a stage of smut!

Music? The orchestra was good, the tunes fair, except for "Along With Me," a catchy ballad hummed by the audience as they left, and the well known "South America, Take It Away," badly overdone and cheapened at the Blackstone.

CHICAGO'S TASTE . . .

If "Call Me Mister" was considered the No. 1 Broadway musical for months, then I can't say much for the New York critics, or playgoers, who are directly responsible for poor theater.

We agree with Mr. Harris here. "Call Me Mister" is in line with Chicago's "Good Night - Ladies" taste. And I suppose the GI musical will have a long run in the Windy City.

Sad commentary, isn't it?

SHOULD ENTERTAIN . . .

Frankly, I go to the theater to be entertained, not insulted, not to wallow in obscenity, nor to hear profanity, not to see women cheapened, not to see men become animal-like in their actions.

I go to the theater to be enlightened; to watch and hear fine actors and actresses speak clever lines with feeling, depth; to hear good music; to watch talented dancers.

And, incidentally, it's no fun going to the theater and sitting by boozed-up playgoers who delight in breathing on those who sit in the next seats.

A word of thanks, however, to Miss A. McKeon, the likeable lady at Chicago's University Club, who always gets us second row center seats.

We appreciate the seats, Miss McKeon.

But the play . . . oh, it was bad!

VFW Poppy Day

The VFW extends its heart-felt thanks to the public for a very successful Poppy day. The people were more than generous and the results were most gratifying. As the oldest veterans' organization in the United States, having been organized at the end of the Spanish - American war, the VFW is constantly striving to fulfill its promise and obligation to the veterans and wives and orphans of veterans, and as Poppy day is one of the main sources of income which is sadly needed to carry out this work, the VFW is most grateful and appreciative of the public generosity.

Legion Auxiliary to Meet On June 5

The regular business meeting of the American Legion auxiliary will be held June 5 at 8 pm in the Legion hall. Special entertainment has been planned, to be followed by refreshments.

Members are urged to bring donations for the Legion carnival. Mrs. Edwin Gilroy, president, will be in charge.

NROT Candidates Selected for Training

Congressman Ralph E. Church has announced that he has just received from the Navy department, Bureau of Naval Personnel, Washington, D.C., the official list of candidates selected for the Naval Reserve Officers Training corps and the Naval Aviation college program for 1947.

The list of selectees from the 10th district contains the name of Page Watson Timothy Stodder, of 304 Central avenue, Highland Park.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Friday, May 30
 - 7:30 pm. Rifle and Pistol (pistol). Deerfield range.
- Monday, June 2
 - 10:00 am. Trinity guild. Parish house.
 - 12:15 pm. Rotary. Moraine hotel.
 - 1:00 pm. Presbyterian Woman's association. Parish house. Party-luncheon.
 - 1:30 pm. Mussart club. Homes.
 - Lincoln school picnic if no rain.
 - 6:30 pm. Kiwanis. Sunset Valley.
 - 7:30 pm. Rifle and Pistol (pistol). Deerfield range.
 - 7:30 pm. Rebekah lodge. Masonic temple.
 - 7:30 pm. Playground board. Community center.
 - 8:00 pm. City council. City hall.
- Tuesday, June 3
 - 1:00 pm. Arden Shore. Homes.
 - 8:00 pm. Elks. Elks hall.
 - 8:00 pm. Men's Garden club. Community center.
 - 8:00 pm. No. Suburban Philatelic. Community center.
 - 8:15 pm. Dunbar group. YWCA.
- Wednesday, June 4
 - 8:45 am Senior day assembly. High school. Marching and picnic.
 - 9:45 am. Girl Scout leaders. Community center.
 - 10:00 am. Sewing group. YWCA.
 - 7:30 pm. Eastern Star. Masonic temple.
 - 8:30 pm. Women of the Moose. Witten hall.
- Thursday, June 5
 - 12:15 pm. Lions club. Moraine hotel.
 - 1:00 pm. Northwestern Settlement. Homes.
 - 6:15 pm. Friendship club supper meeting. YWCA.
 - 7:30 pm. A. O. Fay lodge. Masonic temple.
 - 8:00 pm. American Legion auxiliary. Legion hall.
 - 8:00 pm. Elm Place graduation. School.

Lincoln School Plans Annual Picnic and Field Day, June 2

The annual Lincoln school picnic and field day will be held on Monday afternoon, June 2. Activities will begin at 4 o'clock. There will be races for all ages and grades followed by baseball for fathers and sons, mothers and daughters. Lincoln school parents are urged to get out the picnic baskets and join the group that will gather for the last time during the school year. According to Mrs. Charles Pollack, chairman of the committee on arrangements, refreshments, such as ice cream, cold drinks and coffee will be on sale. She also says that a blanket will come in very handy during the supper hour.

Committee members are Mrs. Carol Baker Summers, Mrs. Lester Ball, Mrs. Marvin Lawrentz, Mrs. Theo. Struve, Mrs. Harry Clarkson, Mrs. E. J. Dostalek, Mrs. F. O. Dicus, Mrs. F. Norden II, Mrs. D. Wanger, Mrs. R. Carey, Mrs. H. Ransom, Mrs. S. Nathan, Mrs. L. Nathan, Mrs. M. Granholm, Mrs. J. M. Watkins, Mrs. L. Ross and Mrs. Wm. Witten Jr.

Women Voters Name New Board Members

The new board of the League of Women Voters has now been completed and meetings are being held to make plans for the work to be undertaken next year, reports Mrs. R. J. Loewenthal, president of the league. Mrs. Loewenthal is beginning the second year of a two-year term.

The rest of the board are: Mrs. George Carr, 1st vice president. Mrs. Lee Supple, 2nd vice president. Mrs. Albert Elliott, recording secretary. Mrs. E. P. Barnes, corresponding secretary. Mrs. Gilbert K. Hardacre, treasurer.

Directors are Mrs. Wilson Kline, Mrs. Mason Smith, Mrs. Graydon Ellis, Mrs. Melvin Wolens, Mrs. Walter Rubens, Mrs. Clarence Goelzer, Mrs. Lester Ball, Mrs. Douglas Boyd, Mrs. Maurice Polak, Mrs. David Levinson, Mrs. Irving Goldberg, Mrs. Charles Hotchkiss, Mrs. Charles Puestow and Mrs. David Joseph.

The league has completed a most successful year, adding more than 100 new members and spreading enthusiasm for its work through a larger percentage of its membership.

The purpose of the league, to create awareness of the responsibilities of citizenship and to spur an informed citizenry to action, makes it an unique organization. It is the only organization which is political, yet non-partisan.

It is all-inclusive in its membership and invites any woman to join who wishes to inform herself on government issues, or who believes in what the league is trying to accomplish.

Scholarship Steps up Date of Graduation

A distinguished rating on the honor role at Purdue university will result in stepping up the graduation of James Edward Thomson, veteran of World War II, from June, 1948, to the preceding January. At this time Thomson will receive his master's degree and become a chemical engineer. He is the son of the James Thomsons of Pleasant avenue.

His wife, Betty, is also a student at Purdue.

New Officers Introduced At Joint Meeting of District No. 107

Friday evening, May 23, marked the annual joint meeting and election of PTA officers of the schools of district 107 at the Elm Place auditorium. After an interesting outline of plans was presented by the Board of Education of district 107, refreshments were served in the school lunchroom.

The following officers will start activities this fall:

Green Bay School
President — Chester A. Carlson; 1st vice president — Mrs. W. H. Aaron; 2nd vice president — Miss Ethel McBroom; secretary — Mrs. J. V. Houghtaling; treasurer — Mrs. Sidney Graman; activities chairmen — Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Julian; social chairmen — Mrs. R. M. Henderson and Mrs. J. W. Hilton; publicity chairmen — Mr. and Mrs. L. Kilian; membership chairman — Mrs. Newman Sheahan; revisions chairman — Mrs. Richard Drake; health and safety — Mrs. J. R. York.

Elm Place School
President — John R. Allen; 1st vice president — Mrs. George Bahr; 2nd vice president — C. L. Johnson; 3rd vice president — Mrs. Ferdinand Kramer; secretary — Mrs. Francis Weeks; treasurer — Milton J. Hardacre Jr.; social chairman — Mrs. V. Heins; activities chairmen — Mr. and Mrs. John Montgomery; publicity chairmen — Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nixon; program chairmen — Mr. and Mrs. G. Marks; revisions chairman — V. Peterson; health and safety chairman — Mrs. S. Graham; lunchroom chairman — Mrs. G. Chapman and Mrs. H. L. Hubertz; room mothers — primary, Mrs. R. Koretz; intermediate Mrs. E. Belmont; grammar, Mrs. N. LeVelly; book fair — Mrs. G. Brown; PTA — Mrs. R. Metzberg.

Green Bay School Picnic At Sunset Park June 3

The annual picnic of the Green Bay Road school will be held on Tuesday, June 3, at 5:30 in Sunset park. If it rains on Tuesday, the picnic will be postponed until Wednesday, June 4.

Races will be held before supper. Prizes will be awarded to the winning youngsters.

A dinner gong will then summon those attending to their picnic boxes. Ice cream and pop will be sold by the school PTA.

Games will be played after supper. Families of all Green Bay Road school children are invited to enjoy this outing.

YWCA Nursery School May Expand Program

Provided there is a sufficient demand, the nursery school at the YWCA may add an afternoon group to its present schedule, for next year.

The school, which was among the first to be established in Highland Park, is conducted by Mrs. Ellen Jane Floriani. Mrs. Floriani is a graduate of the Pestalozzi - Froebel teachers college, and has taught at Oak Terrace school.

The school is conducted according to the best nursery school standards, not attempting to do kindergarten work, but stressing creative and healthful play, self-reliance and getting along with others. It is well equipped with play facilities, including a well-protected and sunny playground with monkey bars, swings and teeter-totters.

The morning class for next year, beginning in September, is filling up rapidly. Those wishing to enroll should sign up at once.

Tea At Elm Place School For Mothers Of New Kindergarteners

The PTA at Elm Place school will give a tea on June 3 from 3:30 to 5 pm for mothers of children entering kindergarten in the fall.

The purpose of the tea is twofold; to register children for Elm Place kindergarten for the fall term and to enable mothers to meet the kindergarten teacher, Miss Jeanette Inabnit, talk over plans, and meet other mothers. Dr. C. O. Dahle will attend, and Mrs. Alden Harris will be chairman in charge of arrangements for the tea, assisted by Mesdames H. L. Hubertz, Ralph Trieschmann, Graham Marks, Eugene Adler and Ferdinand Kramer.

About 35 new children are expected to register, and if at all possible, the birth certificate should be presented at this time. Otherwise, delay in the fall may cause disappointment, as it is absolutely necessary to have a birth certificate to show the principal or teacher at the time the child is registered.

Other qualifications are: Child must be 5 years old before January, and must live in the Elm Place school area. It is not necessary to bring the children on June 3 in order to register them. If you live in this area and have a child qualifying for kindergarten you are most cordially invited to attend this tea.

Boundaries of Elm Place School Area

Boundaries of the school area are:

On the east, Lake Michigan; on the north — Walker street; on the south, Ravine drive; on the west, railroad tracks along St. Johns avenue.

YWCA Needs Your Help

Volunteer teachers are needed for our summer cooking and sewing classes for girls 9 to 12 years old.

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