

Writers Workshop

In this column are printed selected samples of the best from among the short essays produced by the students of Dr. Pacey's "Creative Writing" Class...

By R. Richards

"Hold still" mumbled his mother whose mouth was festooned with safety pins. Michael held as still as was possible under the barrage of the brush stroking the back of his pant legs...

"Sure", replied his father without taking his eyes off the snow-rubbed road. "Even Sheila Morin?" This question had immense significance. Sheila Morin was a Mongolian idiot who wore large ribbons at the age of fifteen and could not seem to keep her tongue entirely inside her mouth...

GOOD PRODUCTION POSSIBLE, VITALITY LACKING — PACEY

— An Evaluation of "The Taming of the Shrew" — By Desmond Pacey

The most important part of any play is its language. Shakespeare is a master playwright because he is a master of language. These simple propositions are so obvious as to be truisms, but they are often ignored.

My main criticism of the production is that too few of the actors spoke their lines loudly enough, emphatically enough, and clearly enough. Particularly during the early scenes, and to some extent throughout the play, the audience had to sit in strained attention in order to make out even the gist of the words being spoken.

There were, of course, some notable exceptions to these strictures. Harry Fairbairn, as Gremio, had a voice which carried well, and he spoke his lines with conviction and clarity.

The secondary means which the actor employs for communicating ideas and emotions to the audience are gestures and facial expressions. Here again this production fell short.

In conclusion, I should explain that I have been rather more severe than usual in this review not because the production was markedly inferior to others we have witnessed in previous years...

on. Gwen Dimock, as Kate, came closer to giving the impression of female fury by her bodily contortions, but she held herself in rather too much — there is nothing restrained about the shrew's fury — and she had a tendency to swallow her words and to speak with her back to the audience.

Again there were exceptions. The one triumphant exception was Coke as Grumio. If only the other players could have brought to their parts the energy, the imagination, the irrespressible high spirits which he brought to his, what a magnificent performance it would have been!

A few other bouquets deserve to be handed out. The costumes were excellent and Mary Needer is to be congratulated on her good taste and ingenuity in this department. Some of the make-up jobs were likewise first-rate — Baptista and Gremio, for example — but the old men in the play, especially the Pedant and Vincentio, looked much too young.

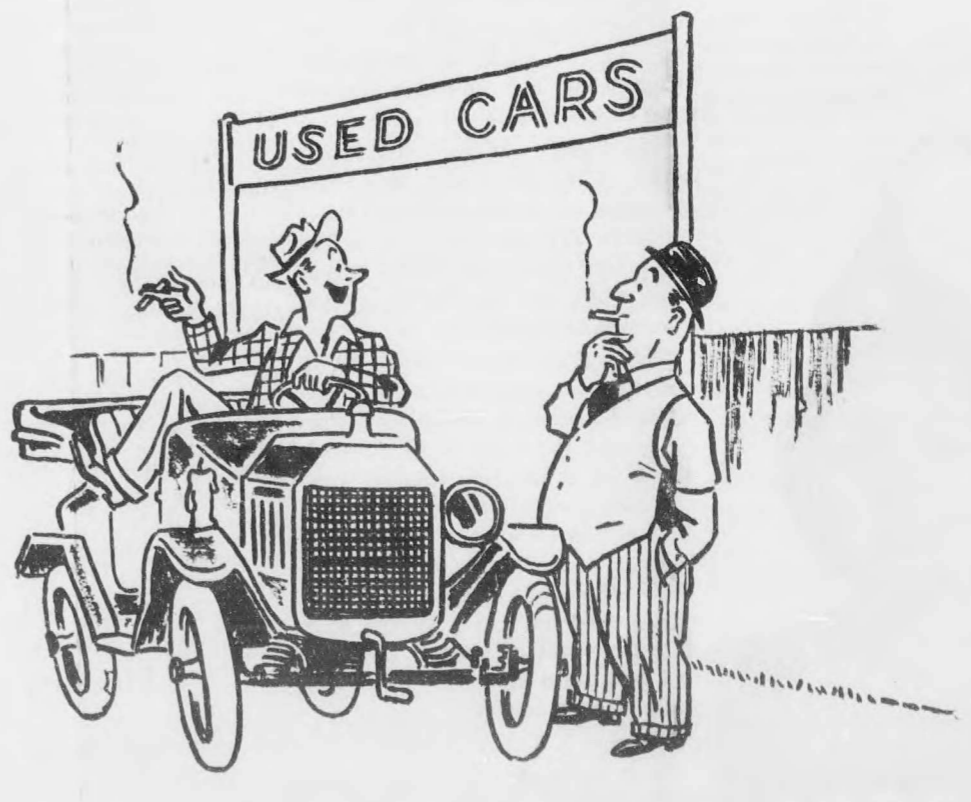
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Wednesday, Feb... Writers Workshop (Continued from cold than the car kins was hacking grumble of the org the pews were occu aged people. Ever avoid the shafts of and for the most p beneath the gloom cony. Michael sat mother and shoved into his pockets. 5 the gilt organ pip forty-one. The ching half heartedly bald wrinkled min squinting in the d choir sang the fi everyone except o stood up like stic mutely at their b Hawkins who onc best soprano in the ed from her pew c on every note ab going to be any Michael. Between hymns prayed Michael m gether then apart one floor board at the nasal voice th santly over his be thought that he c like God. How c and merciful if E torture yourself i if you were sinful Even he, Michae still and let anyo forever — say a years but not fo wanted to stay i and ever and pr were afraid of wh your mother per ing down in hell? poignant. He fe his eyes and bit h them back. He d self-possession ur was taken. Ther riddly into his po dirty handkerchi shower of coppers away under the p He felt himself t bit his tongue s brought tears ba Mercifully, his fa extra dime on the Next came the mon. The minis and deliberately glasses when he dren. It remind way his father they talked "ma does he take th Michael he can without them. "Children"—be the minister, wh settled back i There were no dozen children Mr. Olgers talke were very man

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