

PERSONAL COMMENTARY

# Reality gives way to faulty images

by Grant Blank

Beware of times when reality gives way to images, and the images are irredeemably bad.

Last Friday, David Pence socialist, came to speak at Ramsey and, before he left, a considerable part of the school had been disrupted. I don't mean to imply that Pence did this all on his own. Pence himself is only one facet of the whole situation.

Pence's image of the administration was expressed in a statement printed in the last issue of "Blueprint." "A person with a socialist position is systematically kept out of school. That's the reason I'm not allowed. That position threatens the principal of the school." In other words, he saw himself as being unjustly repressed for his political views.

The whole situation requires that the actions of both sides and their reasons for action be taken into account.

As the basis for their actions, each side developed its own image of the opposing side, and these images, in effect, ruled the situation; they controlled the reactions and statements of both sides and, in the end, controlled the final solution.

The administrations' image of Pence is equally bad. He is seen as a clever person who is manipulating students for his own destructive purposes. In other words, he is pictured as a diabolical rabble-rouser.

Balancing these images was the self-image of each side. The two sides saw themselves as the epitome of virtue--they were defending the rights of young oppressed students or they were fighting for reason and scholarship against 'anarchy.'

My point is this: As the situation became more and more polarized, each side was convinced it was the virtuous side while the other side was out to get repress or destroy it.

The result was a lack of calmness and understanding that was evident on both sides. Both sides

quickly stereotyped their opposition and no one was able to understand the position of the other side.

The consequences of such an attitude are obvious: There was a lot of irate rage, anger and disruption before both sides realized, paradoxically, that if they spoke softer, they would be heard better.

What happened was that each side reacted against what it saw, as a threat to its power - the administration to the power of its authority in the school and Pence to the disruptive power of 'the students' (or at least some students).

Fortunately the conflict didn't escalate to the point where one side tried to use its power. The administration didn't call in the police and Pence didn't lead the students out to smash up the building.

Facing such a controversial, pressurized issue demands a detached insight and knowledge. It is only a slight oversimplification to say that both sides panicked when they found that they lacked necessary skills and discipline to operate under the pressure. And each ran to their own pressure group to try to get their story in first.



mcj

by Mark Johnson  
Blueprint Editorial Editor

## 'a guy named spiro'

Neil Simon's latest Broadway smash "Oh! Capitol Hill" opened last night much to the delight of this reviewer and our sophisticated New York theatre-goers.

Of course Mr. Simon had a lot of help in helping to make this fun-packed musical based on President Nixon's first State of the Union Address a rousing success.

The music by Burt Bacharach is flawless and the lyrics by Tennessee Williams skillfully capture all of the extravagance and the sheer zeal of the Nixon administration. Edyth Head's costumes are a work of inspiration and Jerome Robbins' dance numbers are brilliantly choreographed.

But the greatest thing about "Oh! Capitol Hill" is Elia Kazan's masterful direction. It most assuredly marks a triumphant return to Broadway for the skilled director. Kazan has once again proven himself a director of extraordinary talent and his latest production certainly compares favorably with his earlier "Streetcar Named Desire."

But the show's greatest asset is the cast. Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme are destined to be the toast of Broadway from their boisterous performances in the lead roles of Dick and Pat Nixon. Their songs "Asia on my Mind" and "Caucus with Me" are liting highlights of this season.

Red Buttons, as Spiro Agnew, turns in a solid and touching performance as a simple home-town boy who is cruelly and reluctantly thrust into the political forefront by forces he neither comprehends nor understands. He plays his role with great depth and with a sheer mastery of his art. He moves the audience from tears with his heart-rendering song, "A Guy Named Spiro," to uproarious laughter in his rollicking number, "You've Got to Belt a Hippie or Two."

However, the show-stealing honors go hands down to Kate Smith as Jackie Onassis in her big number, "What Would the World be Like Without Jackie?" She is ably assisted by Akim Tamiroff as Lyndon Johnson.

"Oh! Capitol Hill" is also enriched by a marvelous supporting cast. The Gabor Sisters are brilliant as the Chicago Seven. Doodles Weaver portrays Ronald Reagan with gusto and Shirley Temple breathes life into her simple walk-on as Mao Tse-Tung. The Three Stooges are excellently cast as the Joint Chiefs of Staff in their Broadway debut.

Nipsey Russel plays the Negro person.

Unfortunately, Robert Goulet seems slightly miscast in the role of Lester Maddox. He seems uncomfortable and his only song, "Great Day in Dixie," falls flat.

One cannot help but feel a tingle run up the spine in the smashing finale "ABM Bossa Nova." It is an unforgettable theatre experience to see Johnny Weissmuller as U-Thant and a topless U.N. General Assembly in a brilliantly choreographed closing.

All-in-all, "Oh! Capitol Hill" is a swinging evening in the theatre that leaves the audience breathless.

Meanwhile, this reviewer anxiously anticipates Simon and Kazan's next production "Hack!" It is a musical comedy based on the history of the cough drop and it promises to delight all those who thrilled to "Oh! Capitol Hill!"

## FORUM

### holman's conspiracy

I am a waitress in a local "family" restaurant and I fell that Holman's Heroes, "The Restaurant Conspiracy," in the March 13 Blueprint, deserves a word from the other side of the table.


Here are a few customer courtesies which would make waiting on a table more pleasant:


1. Sit at a table ready for customers. (Give the busboy a chance)
2. Read the menu before telling the waitress you are ready to order.
3. Make up your mind; don't change the order "a few times."
4. Answer the waitress' questions, ie. - "Would you enjoy coffee now sir? ... WOULD YOU ENJOY COFFEE NOW SIR?" ...
5. Consider the poor busboy; leave the table as decent as possible.

Remember most of all that waitresses are also human and a kind word or smile works wonders.

Mary Pat Damon  
senior

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