

The Sergeant

Dennis Murphy, 254 pp. New York. Viking Press. \$3.50.
Reviewed by DONALD A. YATES

Seldom does a novelist, especially a first novelist, produce a work of such controlled intensity as "The Sergeant." Dennis Murphy recounts in this novel an odd morality play in which the forces of darkness and light struggle for the soul of the protagonist. The principal figure is a 21-year-old soldier, Tom Swanson, a private first class in the U. S. European Army of occupation.

the verge of falling in love with Solange, a French girl from Bordeaux, when a new first sergeant, Sergeant Callan, is assigned to his company. In his first company formation Callan catches a glimpse of Swanson, and addresses him. Swanson doesn't know why.

EVEN AFTER Callan has the boy transferred from a field detail to permanent duty in the orderly room as company clerk under his eye, young Swanson does not comprehend what motivates the tactful sergeant's interest. But when Callan cuts off the boy's passes, separating him from Solange, the living nightmare which leads to the story's climax and the resolution of Swanson's conflict is begun.



The King Must Die

By Mary Renault. 332 pp. New York. Pantheon Books Inc. \$4.50.

Reviewed by FRED MALLENDER

I cut off your passes. I don't want to see you get all hands up—fiddling some woman, especially a frog dame you'd probably be ashamed to be seen with in the States. It happens all the time over here, it's an old story. I'm a few years (40) and I got a little experience behind me, and maybe I'm just trying to help you out."

"Somehow Swanson did not resent it. He was curious to hear more. . . . In prose as clean and precise as this, 23-year-old Dennis Murphy has written a first novel that marks him as one of the most promising members of the new generation of young writers now beginning to crack print.

The Affluent Society

By John Galbraith. 356 pp. New York. Houghton Mifflin Co. \$5.00.

Reviewed by HERB FISHER

John Galbraith begins his book with a quotation from the revered economist, Alfred Marshall: "The economist, like everyone else, must concern himself with the ultimate values of man." "The Affluent Society" does just that—it questions the very platform upon which rest our social and economic values and provides a radically fresh perspective.

The thesis of what Prof. Galbraith calls his "message" is this: "The obsession of contemporary economics with the sheer production of consumer goods, the need to produce more and more material goods is shrouded in the mystique that somehow production will solve all of our problems. The notion is a carry-over from the concepts of the 'classical economists'—Adam Smith, Ricardo, Malthus—when world production indeed meant life. But their world was one of mass poverty; the contemporary world is one of mass affluence."

According to Galbraith, production out of fear of depression is no longer our society's basic problem. The endemic problem is inflation.

BECAUSE OF the obsession with production rather than with inflation, we commit a multitude of sins which threaten to destroy the economic wants through advertising and through dangerous credit extensions to consume the output; total emphasis upon production of consumer goods, many of which carry low marginal urgency; the exclusion of social services—better schools, highways, police force, etc.—badly needed services which can be produced on a pay-as-you-go basis and are not dependent upon the fabrication of unstable consumer wants; compulsion to invest in material capital, tax imposed to human resources through better education; the jeopardy of national security—for it is not just the size of the productive machine that guarantees military power, but the proper harnessing of it.

Galbraith offers a solution, compounded of such factors as these: a general sales tax that would reduce income available for consumer goods and provide greater amounts for social services; limited wage control; a new formula for workers' unemployment compensation; much more support for technological training. As he summarizes the key problem of inflation: "Given full employment, wages and prices are subject to large discretionary movements. The only preventative is some public restraint on this discretion."

IN A BOOK so provocative, one can find many points of argument. Certainly the author credits advertising with too much influence; no amount of advertising can for long sustain the sales of useless or inferior products. He may be underestimating the effectiveness of a

King of Athens and the grandson of the King of Troien. He lived with his mother and grandfather until he was 17 years of age. At that time he was sold who his father was and was sent to Athens.

WHILE IN transit he slew the King of Eleusis and married the queen. He later went to Athens and after outwitting the witch, Medea, he was acknowledged by his father and proclaimed successor to the throne.

He voluntarily went as a part of the Athenian tribute to Crete, where he became a bull dancer. His prowess attracted Ariadne, the daughter of King Minos, and with her help Theseus slew the Minotaur, a creature depicted in the myth as half bull, half man. He left Crete with Ariadne, deserted her on the island of Naxos and returned to Athens.

This (very sketchy) abbreviation is only the first part of the Theseus myth, but this is the part which "The King Must Die" covers. All of the characters of the myth are present and all are depicted in terms understandable to this era.

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