

# He's a 'Possibilist,' Not a Pessimist

By DICK ZEMMIN  
Staff Writer

Dr. Max Lerner doesn't consider himself an optimist or a pessimist, but rather, a "possibilist."

Speaking on "American and World Politics" for the Birmingham Town Hall Thursday and Friday, Lerner labeled our times as the most exciting age in which to live.

"If I had a choice of living in any age, I would still choose this

one, the present. My only regret is that I wish I could be here longer to see what happens since there are greater life possibilities ahead than ever before," he said.

BEFORE THE crowded Birmingham Theater audience, Lerner said that he views history as possibilities, not as inevitabilities, and for the first time in history, it is possible to think of day not being ground down to labor.

The provocative speaker, a pro-

cessor of American civilization at Brandeis University, is presently on a year's leave of absence through a Ford Foundation grant awarded to him to conduct research in Europe on the "trends and directions of the new Europe that is now emerging."

DR. LERNER, in line with his "possibilist" viewpoint, first enumerated on certain facts that we, as a people, must face in order to act rationally. He then issued some

possibilities that might ease present world tensions, and, ultimately, bring world peace.

Many of Dr. Lerner's thoughts centered in the area of Western Europe, where he believes the fate of the world is at stake.

Lerner warned the audience that "we must act as men of thought and think as men of action" in our education and in the problems of daily life.

"WE MUST" supplement the

three R's with three Knows. We must know our world and culture, know our craft with precision and, most importantly, know ourselves. A nation that doesn't know itself won't act with maturity," Lerner said.

The speaker called today "an age of acceleration." He stated that every 10 or 15 years the total body of knowledge doubles.

He also called the present "an age of overkill." This term, which Lerner borrowed from the Pentagon for his book of the same name, refers to "the number of times over that a weapon can destroy its target."



MRS. ROBERT L. LIVESAY (right) receives a progress report on ticket sales from (from left) Mrs. Duncan Augustine and Mrs. John R. Phelps and Mrs. Roland E. King look on. Mrs. Livesay is chairman of the Birmingham Musicale's Nov. 30th "Opera in

Focus" benefit. Mrs. Phelps is co-chairman and Mrs. Augustine is ticket chairman. Mrs. King is president of the Birmingham Musicale. Proceeds from the opera program will go into the club's scholarship fund.

## What? Second Graders Learn French? Correct!

By EYRLINE OEN  
Arts Editor

A class of second graders at Westchester School astonished a small gathering of teachers from various parts of the state Friday morning with a demonstration of what they had learned in 15 minutes of French a day over a period of seven weeks.

The demonstration, lasting about 20 minutes, was part of a workshop sponsored by the Michigan Education Association State Committee of Foreign Languages, which drew more than 300 teachers of foreign languages from all over the state to Groves High School.

After being welcomed, the teachers broke up into smaller groups to see this and similar demonstrations.

words for articles of clothing "dressing" a paper doll, Caxline and for various kinds of food by watching their teachers draw colored pictures of the items into a large, but childlike sketch of a girl.

MISS KNE LATER explained to those who had witnessed the demonstration that this was her regular second grade class and that it was the only second grade class in the Birmingham school system which was receiving instruction in French.

Next fall, instruction in such languages will be instituted at the elementary level as a regular part of the school program, said Daniel Nesbitt, deputy superintendent, who also attended the demonstration and answered questions.

DURING THE demonstration with the second graders, the teacher, Miss Tina Kne, used no English. Neither did the students.

First, she asked several children individually, "Comment allez-vous?" (How are you?) to which they each responded with a different ailment, such as "J'ai mal a dent." (I have a toothache).

Next, making reference to a large calendar, she asked about the date ("vendredi, le huit de Novembre"); then, pointing to a clock, about the time.

Subsequent "lessons" were on names ("Comment s'appelle votre soeur?") and "Qui est absent?")

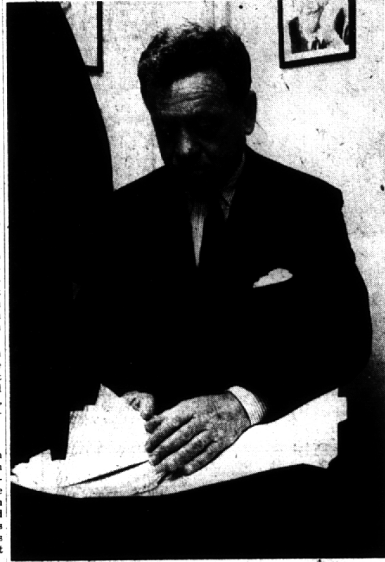
Then came physical exercises, with directions in French — and more numbers, counting "un, deux, trois..." while marching in place, and faster, while running.

HOWEVER, the program would probably begin on the sixth grade level and work down. Instruction for the second grade youngsters in the demonstration would not be provided or continued by the school system. (There is also a fourth grade class which is receiving instruction on a pilot basis.)

FOR GOOD, old-fashioned fun and entertainment there was a skit (with nametags to help the audience identify who was who), a conversation between two puppets (the children had to be able to take each puppet's "part") and singing.

The second graders learned the

WHAT ABOUT the teacher? Well, the prime requirement is that she have a good accent. Comprehend-vous? Repeattez a prez moi...



SHUFFLING THROUGH the pages, putting them in order, reviewing his notes before speaking at the Birmingham Town Hall last Thursday is teacher-writer Max Lerner. Dr. Lerner, a professor at Brandeis University, talked about "American and World Politics."

## Birmingham Women Painters Tend Toward the Abstract

Reviewed by  
ILONA ALTSHULER  
WEISSMAN

The members of the Birmingham Society of Women Painters are having an exhibit at the Bloomfield Art Association galleries.

The society was founded in 1944. Its purpose: "to operate and maintain a club consisting of members who are actively engaged in pursuit of the arts, including painting, drawing... to promote and conduct exhibitions of art and such other social activities."

Membership is by invitation and is limited to 40 active members from the Birmingham area. A candidate must be sponsored by two active members. The members attend art classes and study groups and list among their instructors, past and present, such names as

Francis de Erdley, Sarkis Sarkisian, Emil Weddige, Albert Muller and Jerome Kanrowski.

THIS PARTICULAR exhibition is a small one.

The ladies, with very few exceptions all seem to be working in the contemporary trend of abstractionism. Many of the paintings are non-objective splashes of color or individually redesigned forms and objects. Included are experimental drips, textured, "collaged," with nicks and dabs of various types of paint.

Eve Szilagyi has three excellent entries. Her "Peace Rose" is a brilliant oil of golden-hued roses. She also exhibits a "Portrait of Julie" and an excellent thick "Winter Landscape." These paintings show serious effort and discipline.

DOROTY SIDDALL'S "Lazarus" is an interesting oil collage composition of the dead man, Lazarus, wearing the traditional burial cloth wrappings which she has cut and applied in fabric.

Joyce Brown shows a vivid "Untitled" watercolor collage in shades of red, pink, yellow and orange.

Winifred Heizer's "Urban Renewal" is an oil of subtle color, geometrically designed.

Mariette Reid has a realistic approach in her gay little watercolor titled "Orange."

BETTY DONALDSON exhibits two striking oils; her "Sunset" is a vivid design arrangement of thick textured yellows, browns and oranges.

Helen Allison's "Untitled" is an ambitious composition of flowers, stems and roots but her focal flower, a large lily, is somewhat distracting.

A heavily textured study of a cool, dark, mist-shrouded mountain range is Kathleen Birch's entry, titled "Volcanic."

Robert Thom Talks To Education Ass'n

Robert Thom, Birmingham artist-illustrator who did the history of pharmacy series of oil paintings for Parke-Davis Co., will give a talk at dinner for the Southern Oakland County Branch of the Association for Childhood Education tonight.

The dinner will be held at Royal Oak Kumball High School at 6:30 p.m. Thom is currently working on a new "history" series, the History of Michigan.

instructor, Nicholas Buhalis, assistant director of the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts. The show, which opened Nov. 3, will remain up through Nov. 24. Hours are 2 to 5 p.m. daily, except Mondays.



Hanging the 19th annual exhibition of the Birmingham Society of Women Painters at the Bloomfield Art Center were show chairman Mrs. William Dennis, Washington Blvd., Birmingham, and the group's current

SALLY PARSON'S "Flora in Bloom" is an oil and collage of sunlit design.

Jeanne Gardner's well painted, small, "Untitled" oil has an explosive feeling.

Erin Tate's "Roadside" is a dark haunting scene. Lucille Ahren's oils include "Holy Land," a rooftop view.

"Sun God" by Ann Cutter is a rich design of shapes — colorful, but unfinished looking in certain areas.

Dorothy Denyes "Interior" is a structural arrangement.

Matie Robson has the most traditional approach in her work "Old Containers," a still life.

"Antiquity" by Eloise Green is an unusual rock-like piece reminiscent of a cave wall which makes the viewer want to touch it.

LILIAN HOPPIN'S large oil "Summer Sun" is colorful and well organized.

Ann Gulien shows a small abstract oil and Margaret Lyman's "The Cock" has much movement in it.

"Indian Summer" by Agnes Patterson has just that feeling.

This exhibit will be on view through Nov. 25. Hours are 2 to 5 p.m. daily except Monday.

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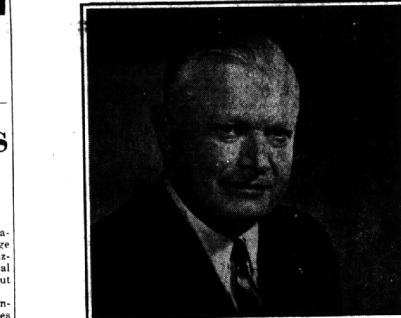
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