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Margaret Mead Looks at Ethics in U.S.

By EVELINE OEN
Arts Editor

Before she was through discussing "Ethics in American Life," Dr. Margaret Mead had touched upon the Cold War, commented upon "the crisis in sex morality," and made a few observations on the similarities and differences between Americans and Englishmen.

Miss Mead, who is probably the world's best known woman anthropologist, last Wednesday gave the opening lecture of a series entitled

"2nd Annual World Report" at Oakland University (formerly known as MSU).

Miss Mead is presently associate curator of ethnology, American Museum of Natural History, New York City, and adjunct professor of anthropology, Columbia University.

"WE KNOW of no human society which does not make distinctions between right and wrong," said Miss Mead, who spoke entirely without notes.

She felt that perhaps the best approach to understanding American ethics was to compare and contrast them with an extremely similar set—the British.

"We share with them a notion called 'fair play,'" she said. "It is like a handicap. You figure out how much better you are than the other chap and fix it so he can beat you. . . . The idea is that the stronger shouldn't abuse their strength," she said.

CONTRASTING the American with the English family, Miss Mead said that in England the father lays down the laws, the oldest son is backed up against the other children and the mother tells the children to listen to their father. Consequently, the father and oldest son play down their strength.

"In America," she said, "the mother tells the father to listen to the children and always backs the younger against the older children. ('Take junior with you')."

"The children all about 'Listen, listen, listen . . . and junior has to play down his strength as the English father does.'"

"THE ETHICAL position tends to be the weak position," she said, concisely summing up the American outlook.

"Everyone is in the minority," she said. "I have never met anyone who would admit he was part of the majority . . . except perhaps

for the middle-aged white Anglo-Saxon Protestant male—and he is not, in actuality."

Americans tend to suspect any group which is strong or any concentration of power, Miss Mead said.

ONE OF our current problems, she felt, is that although we came out of World War II as the strongest country in the world, we still look upon ourselves as a new, young, weak nation.

The Cold War has been necessary to the United States, Miss Mead said.

"Without the challenge of the Soviet Union we would have had no justification for being able to behave as we have—for being able to show our strength."

THE OBSERVATION tended to serve as an illustration of what might be her second principle of American ethics (the first being that the ethical position tends to be the minority position):

"We continually require our standards of ethics by doing what the other fellow does."

There is a continuing dependence upon the rivalry in American life, she noted.

"This tends to produce standardized behaviour," she said. "You're never supposed to be better than others in the group," she said, further noting that an athletic contest in which the scores are close is considered superior to one in which the outcome is lopsided.

MISS MEAD also noted that whenever you ask an American a question on an ethical matter, he almost surely will answer, "it depends upon the situation."

"We are moving into a world in which every act tends to be judged in its context," Miss Mead said.

"There is no ethical question that can be dealt with in absolute terms," she stated.

IN A LIVELY question and answer session following the talk, she almost surely will answer, "it depends upon the situation."

MISS MEAD also noted that whenever you ask an American a question on an ethical matter, he almost surely will answer, "it depends upon the situation."

position was close to Martin Luther's: It's better to marry than to burn," she said.

"In the 1920's this position began to shift. Instead of it being (See MEAD, 4-D)

To Give Talk On Graphics At Art Center

"Come and see our etchings" is the invitation of the Bloomfield Art Association.

In conjunction with the current exhibit of drawings and graphics at the Birmingham Art Center, the association has asked Laurence Barker, head of the graphics department at Cranbrook Academy of Art, to give a lecture-demonstration on graphic processes. In it he will explain the difference between wood cuts, etchings, engravings, lithographs and serigraphs.

The program will begin at 8:30 p.m. at the Birmingham Art Center, 1516 St. Cranbrook Road.

Kid's Art Show

Works of art by area youngsters from seven to 15 years old will be displayed this week in Jacobson's Children's Shop. Artists will be on hand this evening from 7 to 9 p.m. to discuss their works and explain their techniques.

Walker's "Abstraction #35F" has the swinging line of the signwriter. Bits of bright color seem part of letters but then are taken over by a black design and a subtly (See SHOW, 2-D)



PLEADING With Charleston (Weston Meyer, 671 N. Eton, Birmingham), who has retreated to a lighthouse in Lake Michigan where he has become involved in the "lives" of people who died in a 1849 shipwreck, is one of the persons created from the past. Dr. Stefan Kurtz (right), played by Jervis B. McMechan, 551 Pilgrim. Also pleading for him to "leave them in peace" are two others

(from left): Miss Kirby (Mary Jane Remington, 6383 Wing Lake Road) and Melanie (Mary Ellen Briggs, Puritan, Birmingham). The scene is from the St. Dunstan's Guild production of "Thunder Rock" which will be presented again Friday and Saturday night at the guild's playhouse on Lone Pine Road in Bloomfield Hills.

AT ST. DUNSTAN'S

'Thunder Rock' Is Vexing, Current

Reviewed by E. M. BRONER

If the purpose of theater is to entertain, to engage one's attention, must entertainment always mean amusement and diversion, or can it also mean to vex the mind? St. Dunstan's Guild, which diverted and amused us with "Wake Up, Darling" earlier in the season, now vexes us with its presentation of "Thunder Rock," which opened last Friday and will be repeated Friday and Saturday.

"THUNDER ROCK," by Robert Ardrey, is set in the war world of 1939, but agitates with contemporary questions about man's commitment to man, to time, to place, to value.

What makes the play more immediate to the St. Dunstan audience is its setting, a lighthouse on northern Lake Michigan. With the use of a large map of Lake Michigan we, too, become lighthouse keepers of the area, familiar with

its crew. The lighthouse is dedicated to the memory of a Charleston son finds he himself is dedicated to an imaginative conception

of the lives and purposes of these 49ers.

WITH EACH reading of the plaque by another character the play takes a different shape.

The initial reading of the plaque by Steeter is off-handed, but the second reading of the plaque, by Charleston himself, is a serious, deliberate one.

With the third reading, the resurrected passenger of the Land-O-Lakes are informed, of their horror, of their death, and the fourth reading, by a man sent to replace Charleston at the lighthouse, comes as an anti-climax.

The unreality of the present for Charleston becomes the reality of the past for him, so that, at the end of Act I, when Inspector Flanning of that area has been ignored and leaves, the appearance of the skipper of the doomed boat is startling but not altogether unexpected. (See GUILD, 7-D)



LOOKING AT the artist's work as the artist looks on is Mrs. S. A. Richard of East Lansing. With her is John Davies of Flint, whose intaglio print she is contemplating.

Show at BAC Includes Both Drawings, Graphics

Reviewed by ROBERT BRONER

The print and drawing show at the Birmingham Art Center, which will run through Mar. 3, is a large one in which 16 artists exhibit a total of 136 works. Most of the works are executed in one of the graphics techniques, but there are also a few significant drawings in the show.

The practice of exhibiting drawings with graphics as related media is an old one and perhaps an old-fashioned one. Today many graphics are related to painting in the broad manner of their execution and, to an extent, by the use of color.

While prints have grown in size so have oil paintings, so that graphics are still closer to drawing in scale. Although color is taking a larger role in contemporary printmaking the variety of colors is limited by the slowness of hand printing each color.

THE GENERAL growth in prints has been accompanied by a change in function. Prints have come out of the cabinets and portfolios and have become wall decoration. The occasional intimacy of looking at a fine print in one's lap has been exchanged for the more permanent spot on a living room wall.

As the printmaker's art has left

Films of Mexico To Be Shown at Community House

Color movie highlights of modern and historic Mexico will be presented in person by Clifford J. Kamen at the Community House, Bates at Townsend, Birmingham, on Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. Shows will be Mexico City by day and night, a visit to Chapultepec and the famed Floating Gardens of Xochimilco, Cortes' palace and other historic landmarks at Cuernavaca, the medieval "silver city" of Taxco and its noted cathedral, Vera Cruz, and Yucatan with its spectacular Mayan ruins. Tickets are available at the Community House on the night of the show.

As usual, the Community House will serve dinner from 6 to 8 p.m. on each night. Mexican cuisine will be featured, although American food is available too.

FOLLOWING Kamen in the series will be Gene Wiancko with "Holiday Lands of the Mediterranean" on Mar. 1 and 2. The show covers well-known summer and winter resorts of the Western Mediterranean, including the Italian, French and Spanish Riviera, and the holiday islands of Mallorca, St. Pety, Sardinia and Corsica.

Poet John Woods To Give Reading

Poet John Woods will present a program of readings at 8:15 p.m. Monday in the Oakland University student center. Woods, associate professor of English at Western Michigan University, has written for Saturday Review, The Chicago Review, Kenyon Review, and other well-known publications. The program is sponsored by the Oakland University Community Arts Council.

CHANCELLOR D. B. Varner tells Dr. Margaret Mead of upcoming plans for Oakland University (once known as MSU) before her talk there Feb. 6. Miss Mead gave the opening lecture of the Second Annual World Report series, speaking on "Ethics in American Life." The next "world report" will be Mar. 4 when a three-member panel will discuss automation and its effect on society.

GO WEST TO THE FAR EAST

A Visit to San Francisco Is Jump-off for World Tour

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first of a series of dispatches to The Eccentric from Donald Dennis and his wife, Margaret, as they make a seven-month trip around the world (on which they left Jan. 27). Dennis teaches at Bloomfield Hills High School; his wife is a visiting teacher in the same school system. The following letter was written by Dennis en route to Hawaii from San Francisco by plane.

After much planning, packing and partying—farewell parties

one of those bonuses for temporarily taking leave of friends—we picked up our "drive away" car and headed for the West Coast. . . . Two round-the-world air tickets, a letter of credit and a nice car were all the encouragement we needed to fire our imaginations.

TRAVELING ALONG Route 66 was a unique experience in the idiosyncrasies of Mother Nature. Going through St. Louis we learned by the radio that a record cold of 17 degrees below zero had been established that day. Two days later, while passing through Al-

buquerque, we learned they had had a record high of 88 degrees. To top it off, the day we arrived in San Francisco we drove through one of the most severe wind and rain storms of the season, and we were very happy to be informed that we had threaded our way between some even more severe storm fronts.

OUR THREE days in San Francisco prior to our departure for Honolulu were ones of relaxation in an informal manner as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Holm (the former Nanette Gardner, who was once a teacher in the Bloomfield Hills schools, and her husband).

On Friday, Nanette gave us a tour of the unique shops of Sausalito and Chinatown.

For a view of San Francisco we would like to recommend the "Crown Room" of the Fairmont Hotel. Here you can sit high over the streets watching the top-like cable cars and people below.

Saturday was Bob's day to take over, and he immediately tried to indoctrinate us with the finer points of sailing by taking us out into the bay in his 21-foot sailboat. We set a course that took us close to and around Alcatraz Island . . .

THE REST of the day was also Bob's, and as a native San Franciscan he did an excellent job. Starting out at the San Francisco Yacht Club, we went to a place with gas light atmosphere called "The Glad Hand" for dinner and ended up at "Sally Stanfords" in Sausalito before calling it an evening.

The Palace of the Legion of Honor" afforded us the best view of San Francisco today. We spent a casual morning strolling through its galleries prior to our departure this afternoon for Hawaii.

UNFORTUNATELY, as we moved into the airport, fog moved in too, and our flight was delayed for five hours.

Rather than sit in the air terminal, the two of us went into the "city" and spent our time window shopping and listening to the oratory in Union Square.

This afforded us an interesting afternoon of entertainment as we sat with the pigeons and people and listened to religion, politics and philosophy being shouted from the soap box.

