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A High Quality of Ambiguity

tion of Erskine Caldwell's "Tobacco Road" is a study in the effects of depression-era poverty on a Georgia sharecropper family, I attended the Aggie Players' opening night performance of the play with visions of last year's study in poverty and misery, The Lower Depths, also directed by C. K. Esten, doing anything but dancing in my head. But I was pleasantly surprised by the high quality of the production, though a little puzzled by its emotional ambiguity.

The world of the Lester "family" is a disintegrating one in which family ties are meaningless (the play's essential conflict revolves around Ada Lester's desire to free her love-child, Pearl, from this hopeless situation and Jeeter Lester's will to sell her into it so that he can remain on "his" land) a world in which the will of God becomes no more than a projection of human vanity - Ada's wish to have "a stylish dress to be buried in," the woman preacherBessie's need for a man to "mate" with — a world in which food on the table makes a man "powerful rich" and Jeeter's son Dude is willing to sell his body (he has no soul) to Bessie for a new car.

Although the play has moments of humor - Duke's ineptness at handling the car, for example, is funny, until he in-

Since Jack Kirkland's adapta- and kills her; and Jeeter's ably into the role. Lucy Gravvoyeurism is funny, until one sees it as just one more empty spot in his total lack of character - it is surely no comedy.

> For some reason, however, whether the play is just dated enough to seem more a caricature of life than a slice of it or whether the Aggie Players simply lack the maturity to carry all of the play's emotional load, the production did not convey the drama's full impack, in spite of a fine overall performance.

> The roles of Jeeter and Ada Lester, two scraps of decaying white trash caught in an eddy of economic change, are credibly filled by Cliff Purcell and Barbara Versoy. That these two young people can appear old before their time and delineate the poverty-bred stupidity and hopeless ignorance of the couple is a tribute to their talent and Mr. Esten's directing ability.

> They are somewhat overshadowed, though, by Roger Ritchey's accurately insolent, vacuous Dude; his was the most powerful performance of the evening. Ruth Reeves, as Sister Bessie Rice, does well as the poor South's version of the Wife of Bath, and Joanne Witte plays the childish harelip Ellie May, believeably, though her screaming fits have a certain sameness.

As Lov Bensey, Pearl's husband, Pat Castle comes on as an advertantly runs over his mother Aggie, but soon settles comfort-

ett as an appropriately invisible Grandma Lester, and Virginia Link is adequate as the frightened Pearl.

Larry Ludwig fills the part of Captain Tim, former owner of the Jeeter "place," and Dennis Turner plays the foreclosing banker, Payne. Unfortunately both of these gentlemen mar otherwise good performances with obviously fake "Southern draws." Randy Durham, after getting over initial nervousness, turns out a fair version of excitable neighbor farmer Henry Peabody.

With the exception of one anachronism (a motorcycle wheel, supposedly from a Model A) and some distracting noise from the sound system, the technical side of the production was excellent.

The costumes and a fine set by Robert Wenck contributed to the play's realism. Incidentally, there is a display of set designs in the lobby at Guion Hall, so the audience can get some idea of the behind-the-scenes craft that goes into an Aggie Players production.

The 8 p.m. performance of "Tobacco Road" will continue through Saturday of this week. One dollar is a small price to pay for a worthwhile, and thoughtprovoking, evening's entertain-

'Fish Culture' THE BATTALION In Livestock

Fish culture, America's newest livestock industry, presents a new and refreshing development in agriculture, says Wallace G. Klussmann, Extension wildlife specialist.

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Klussmann said that fish farming also serves as a conservation measure by helping to retain water in farming areas, helping to control erosion, and utilizes land considered too wet for arable crops.

The spectacular increase in fish farming has been brought about by several major factors, he said: (1) studies done by state, federal, and university researchers on spawning and rearing of channel catfish; (2) a good market outlook and a rather high profit potential, and (3) initiative of fish producers and their business as-

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THE GRADUATE COLLEGE

THE GRADUATE COLLEGE
Examination for the Doctoral Degree

on the stage as part of the ceremony. Candidates for the Master's Degree will wear the cap and gown; all civilian students who are candidates for the Bachelor's Degree will wear the cap and gown; ROTC studnets who are candidates for the Bachelor's Degree will wear the appropriate uniform. All military personnel who are candidates for the degrees, graduate or undergraduate, wil wear the uniform only. Rental of cap, gown, and hood for the Ph.D. candidate should be arranged with the Exchange Store between 8:00 a. m., Mriday, December 19. Only Doctor's caps, gowns, and hoods will be available on a rental basis. The Master's and Bachelor's caps and gowns may be purchased at The Exchange Store after January 5, 1970. Rental fees and sale prices are as follows: Doctor's Cap and Gown (rental) \$7.54 Doctor's Cap and Gown (sale) 87.54 Master's Cap and Gown (sale) 6.34 All prices include sales tax. Payment is required at the time of placing the order. C. W. Landiss, Chairman Convocation Committee 48t12

Convocation Committee 4812

Registration Procedures for the Department of Wildlife Science
All students with less than 60 hours will report to their freshman advisor (exceptions are transfers from another school or from another department). Students with more than 60 hours or transfers from another school or another department will consult either Dr. Strawn (Fisheries Option) or Dr. Arnold (Wildlife Option). Graduate students will consult their appropriate advisor. ALL FINAL CLASS REQUESTS MUST BE SIGNED BY EITHER DR. STRAWN OR DR. ARNOLD. Appointments for Dr. Arnold may be made at the desk of the Departmental Secretary (Mrs. Karen Thorn).

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS be eligible to purchase the Texas A&M versity ring, an undergraduate stutust have at least one academic year esidence and credit for ninety-five (95) ester hours. The hours passed at the liminary grade report period on Nober 10, 1969 may be used in satisfy this ninety-five hour requirement. Stuts qualifying under this regulation may leave their names with the ring clerk, on Seven, Richard Coke Building. She, turn, will check all records to determine geligibility.

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Remote Sensing Depicts Environmental Problems

Researchers are using remote studies. sensing techniques to illustrate environmental management problems but nobody-including government agencies — are doing

anything about the problems. That theme was echoed many times Tuesday and Wednesday by guest speakers at Texas A&M's first annual Remote Sensing Conference for Recreation and Resource Administrators.

One study that is currently providing important information on Everglades National Park was explained Wednesday afternoon by Dr. Milton Kolipinski, aquatic biologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, Miami.

Dr. Kolipinski's study includes use of multi-spectral data combined with computer analysis to chart plant and animal life in the Everglades.

He explained the remote sensing study has given the U.S. Geological Survey data which could not be gathered without remote sensing equipment.

Other speakers emphasized use of remote sensing for population and urban studies, pollution studies and natural resources

Dr. J. W. Rouse Jr., director of A&M's Remote Sensing Center, reported the conference attracted 92 participants from federal, state and city agencies and university research centers. More than 800 illustrations were pre-

A highlight of the two-day Leo F. Childs, chief, Special Proj- and data.

ects Office, Earth Resources Division, Manned Spacecraft Center. Houston.

ATTENTION JANUARY GRADUATES!
January Graduates may pick up invitations
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Graduation Announcements will go on sale
Friday, Dec. 12, 1969, at 8:00 a. m. in
the TV Room, MSC. They will be sold on
first come first serve basis. Childs showed films of the Apollo 11 moon mission and illustrations of pollution problems in Texas and California.

Rouse noted A&M plans similar conferences in the near future on agriculture and oceanography meeting was a presentation by use of remote sensing equipment

Libertarians Leave Texas YAF

Houston (AP) — Several Texas Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) have announced their resignation from the group and the formation of a new liber-

tarian organization. Beverly Dee, public relations director for the University of Houston YAF chapter said Tuesday, the new group, the Texas Libertarian Alliance, will seek to preserve in purity the philosophy on which the national YAF was founded.

The YAF was founded on the intervene in the affairs of the erty.

people as little as possible and a belief in laisez-faire capitalism, said Miss Dee.

She said the Texas Libertarian Alliance will not be apportioned into local chapters, like the YAF, which will continue to function in the state.

The state-wide splinter group will operate out of a central clearing house here, where literature will be dispensed and activities planned, Miss Dee said. The Texas Libertarian Alliance will be affiliated with the Naprinciple that government should tional Society for Individual Lib-

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egree: Ph.D. in Chemistry
issertation: THE SYNTHESIS OF SOME
DI-n-ALKYLARSINIC ACIDS AND THT
INVESTIGATION OF SOME THERMAL
AND STRUCTURAL PROPERTIES OF
DI-n-ALKYLARSINIC AND n-ALKYLARSONIC ACIDS.
ime: December 18, 1969 at 3:30 p. m.
lace: Room 357 in the Chemistry Bldg.
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Commencement Exercise
All students who are candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy or Doctor of Education are required to order hoods as well as the Doctor's caps and gowns. The hoods are to be left at the University Exchange Store for delivery by a representative of the Exchange Store to the Registrar's Office no later than 1:00 p. m., Tuesday, January 13. The Ph.D. or D.Ed. hoods will not be worn in the procession since all such candidates will be hooded on the stage as part of the ceremony. Candidates for the Master's Degree will wear the cap and gown; all civilian stu-

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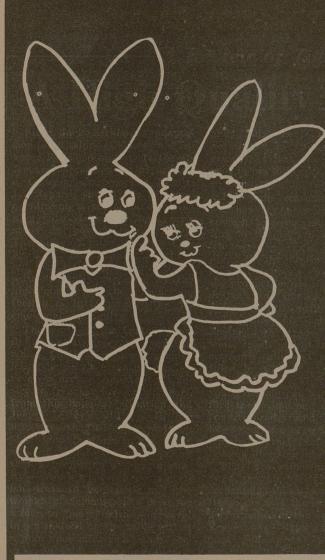
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