

'Male Animal' Holds Audience In Laughter

By LeJEUNE GRIFFITH

Thurber and Nugent's zany comedy of college life lived up to its advance publicity when "The Male Animal" opened on the Guild stage last night. Under the direction of Gilbert Williams, the play kept the audience laughing from start to finish.

The comic situations and hilarious dialogue didn't obscure the real point of the story—the question of whether a university is a place of ideas or merely a training school, the question of whether any group in the university has the right to impose censorship on ideas.

Red Scares

The trouble started when Professor Turner (William Tassock) announced to his class that he was going to read a letter by the anarchist Vanzetti to his English composition class. The announcement followed a "Red" scare on the campus which had ended in the "purging" of certain professors who were considered by the trustees as having views incompatible with those of the board, and particularly Ed Keller.

Mixed in with this tangle of freedom of ideas was the story of brain versus brawn, as exemplified in the older generation by Professor Turner and "Whirling Joe" Ferguson, and in the younger by Michael Barnes and football star Wally Myers.

Tassock Scores

William Tassock scored a hit as the bewildered Thurbian professor. His wife, Ellen, was ably played by Pat Laxton, and Charles Boice as Joe Ferguson kept the play rolling at a good pace. LaVorn Taylor, as the hero-worshipping football star, rates top honors for playing every scene to its fullest. Richard Monnie as Dean Damon and Gordon Ericksen as Ed Keller were excellent choices for the parts. Stan Smith, Pat White, and Carolyn Parker gave able support.

There were several dead spots in the first act which could have used a little enthusiastic improvising by the cast, as following the "Happy Birthday" song, and more audible chatting from the dining room when the guests were getting their food would have helped.

Drunk Scene

The "drunk" scene between the professor and Michael, which contained some of the best lines in the play, was funny but mechanical at times, especially some of Michael's speeches.

The setting was pleasant, although the combination of drapes and covering for the couch would have been more effective if they had either matched or been entirely different. The couch cover, being made of a shiny material, reflected light into the audience's eyes, which tired the eyes after a while. The outside light cast an unnatural upward glow into the room each time the door was opened.

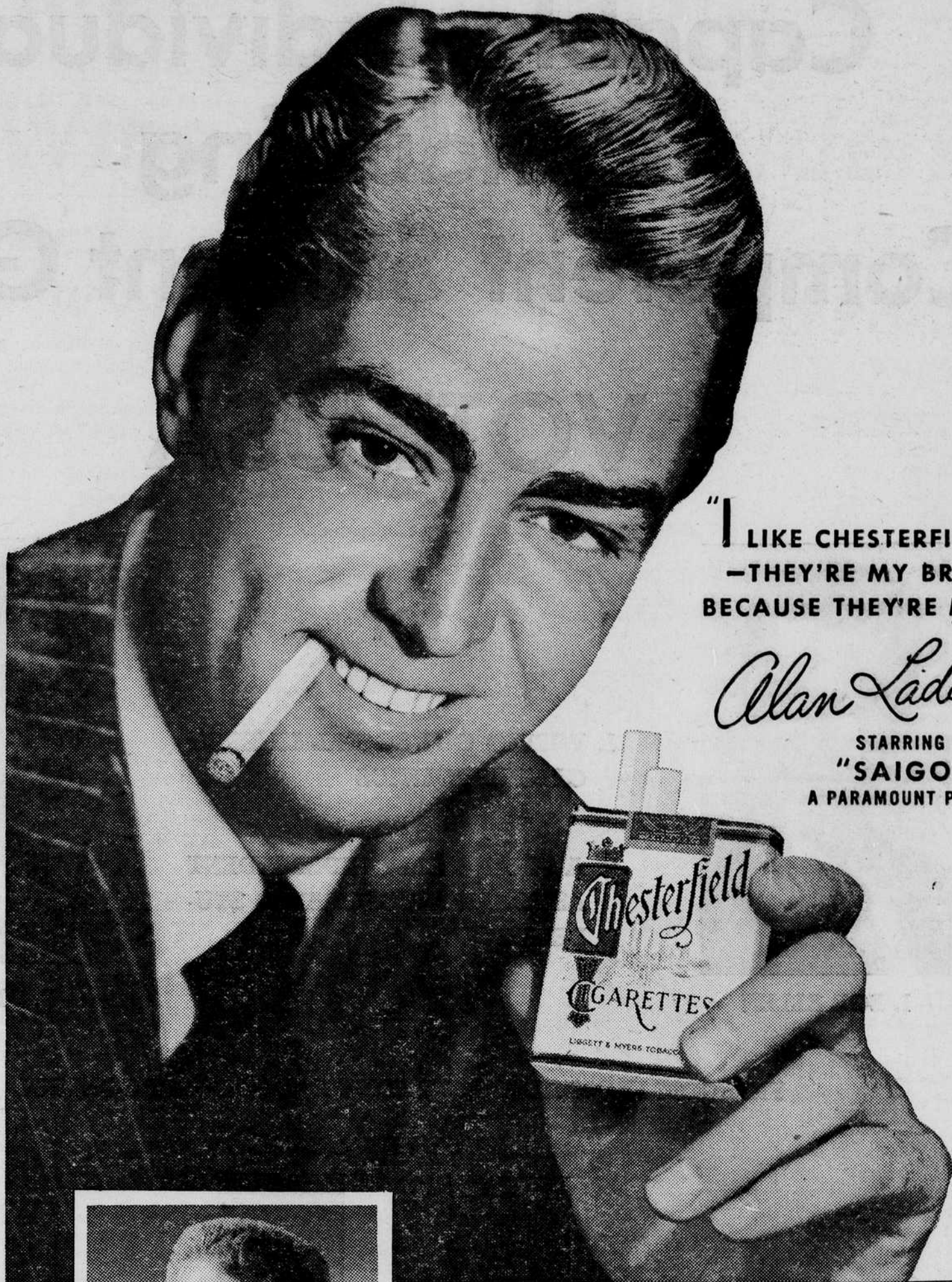
"The Male Animal" will be presented five more nights, May 22, and 26 through 29.

Picnic Petitions

Due Next Tuesday

Petitions for committee chairmen for the annual Oregon Jantzen Beach picnic should be turned in to Al Pietschman at the Delta Tau Delta house no later than Tuesday night.

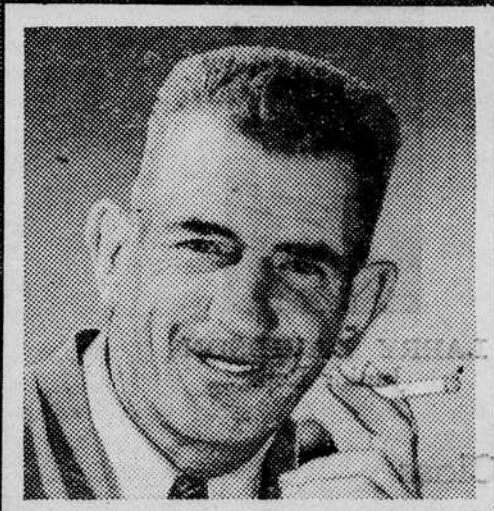
Committees for picnic are decorations, public relations, picnic arrangements, games, entertainment and ticket distribution. Anyone wanting to work is requested to contact Pietschman. Those working must be in Portland all summer, according to Pietschman.



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