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 **Performing, on stage**

Sensitivity softens conflict

The Carnival Theatre's production of Bill C. Davis' play "Mass Appeal" illustrates with humor and sensitivity the conflicts between idealists and ritualists that plague every social movement or institution.

The institution is the Catholic Church. The conflict is between a young seminarian, Mark, whose efforts to become a priest are blocked by a hierarchy too proud and secure in its corruption to consider any change in the status quo, and Father Tim Farley, a priest who prefers to paint a "Norman Rockwell" image of the Church.

Mark, played by Dennis Smith, whose play "Excursion Fare" premiered this spring on campus and will be presented by the University Theatre this fall, is placed under the tutelage of Father Farley, played by Tom Lasswell.

Lasswell portrays Father Farley, and his attempts to tame the young maverick Mark, with great ease. Whether he's preaching from the pulpit, high over the audience, or reeling around in his office drunk on wine, he maintains his very believable Catholic priest character.

As Father Farley tries to make Mark accept, or at least understand, the contradictions of the Church. These contradictions force Mark to make a choice, which Father Farley clearly outlines for him. "If you want to become a priest, you must lie."

After Mark's first preaching attempt, a miserable failure by the congregation's standards, Father Farley brings up the need for the Church's mass appeal.

"What is the Church without people? What is the Church without the tythe?"

Smith, in his portrayal of Mark, never loses his tense malaise, which at first seems a part of his character but later fails to disappear as his character evolves. His fits of rage, where he stiffly paces around Father Farley's office tugging at his hair, are particularly bothersome.

Yet, he brings to life a complex character burning with an inner power and frustrated by those who want him to entertain the masses when he wants to preach.

It is this inner power that those over him seem to fear.

Father Farley doesn't fear that power; he remembers it from somewhere in his distant past "And I know I haven't been as close to Christ since," he says to himself while practicing a sermon he will never preach. He has felt the power, but he has lost it. Lasswell shows us this lost man.

In the end it's Father Farley that one feels the most sympathy for. Mark will survive. That is obvious. He has youth and determination, but what does Father Farley have? What does this man, weakened by wine and his popularity, have left?

The play's major flaw is its lack of balance between the two acts. Unfortunately the second act doesn't have the content of the first. One returns from the intermission expecting much more than the few morsels delivered.

Still, "Mass Appeal" is a play well-worth seeing. Admission is \$5 with no reduced rate for students. Its last two showings are Wednesday and Thursday.

By Michael Clapp

Legislature

Continued from Page 3

work being done, he said.

"This is one of the few states that have so much media coverage of the Legislature... but that coverage is oversimplified," he said. Television coverage of the body often "borders on irresponsibility," Hansen added.

Several participants stressed the Legislature's inability to at-

tract the people who are most qualified to serve in it.

"We don't have a recruiting process to recruit good people," said political science Prof. Jim Klonoski. The weakness of Oregon's political parties makes recruiting difficult, he said. He recommended public financing to strengthen the parties.

Also, the "rigors of campaigning" and the demands of the public spotlight have dissuaded many qualified people from seeking public office, said Henny Willis, associate editor for The Register-Guard.

Willis predicted that annual legislative sessions are inevitable, but Rep. Wayne Fawbush, D-Hood River, said he did not think annual sessions are necessary, and that biennial sessions have their advantages.

"I like two year planning," he said. "That makes the state look ahead."

The solutions Oregon finds for its problems will be watched by other states, said Cindy Simon of the National Conference of State Legislatures.

"You're not struggling with issues unique to Oregon," she said. "But I don't think other states have the answers."

State Reps. Mary Burrows, Rick Bauman, and Hardy Myers and Senate Pres. Ed Fadeley also participated in the discussion, which touched on campaign financing, the effectiveness of legislative committees and the quality of leadership in both houses.

The conference was sponsored by the Central Lane County League of Women Voters; the University's Department of Planning, Public Policy and Management; and the Bureau of Governmental Research and Service.

A published summary of the conference will be available in the fall. Ken Tollenaar, director of the BGRS, said he hoped the conference would help focus attention on the problems faced by the Legislature.

"I'm impressed by the caliber of people who gave up a whole day to talk about this," he said after the conference.

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