

"Tech week" to iron out production bugs



Stage manager Ted Anderson is heart and soul of production.



Another bug to be worked out

Staff photos by Duffy Coffman

This Thursday the Theater Department opens its second production of the school year, "Play It Again Sam," by Woody Allen. The protagonist (Rod Ragsdale), is a movie reviewer who fantasizes being in famous scenes from his favorite movies.

In order to produce a play with any semblance of realism, it is necessary to have good sound and lighting technicians.

For example, in this play the audience has to believe that the main character is having a fantasy, that he is dreaming. The viewers have to be able to see into his mind and see what he sees. This is where the technicians ("techs") come in.

Since last Sunday, and on through today, all of the techs have been working with the actors and the director to smooth out the rough spots in the pro-

duction. It's called "Cue-to-Cue." Each technician has a set of plans, called light plots or set plans, that outlines every move the tech must make during the production.

Kermit Shafer, producer for the play, said, "It gives everyone four days to calm down and get used to what they are doing. If things are ready, the show goes smoother."

Shafer has some 43 years experience in stage production, and has done over 360 shows in his life. "Once I did 32 shows in 15 months. I was a wreck after that."

He says that being a producer means constantly supervising people because they don't have the skills to do many things themselves. But his students do learn the skills needed to put on a good show. "We have no prima donnas here. Everybody is willing to learn and they complain very little," he said.

Another area of producing a good show is in building sets. For this upcoming show, the tireless stagehands have put over 300 man hours of labor into the set. There are eight people who regularly work six to eight hours a week building sets for the Theater Department.

Shafer himself spent over 60 hours just designing the set and laying out the plans for the crew to work from. Still, he has a mellow way of controlling all that goes on. For example, while this interview was taking place, people came to him for

advice and help no less than 15 times in a one-hour period.

Never once did Shafer get upset or raise his voice. This is probably why there are no prima donnas in the Theater Department—they are treated like people, not stupid idiots or "screw ups." Shafer summed it up by saying, "We don't yell around here, we like to keep it nice and calm."

"The whole object of educational theater is to give them (the students) a feeling of achievement," says Shafer. He also has a neat way of letting them know when he doesn't like the way they have done something. It is the same as when he is praising them. Quietly and calmly, he explains what they have done, and either praises or razes them.

Proud of his stage crew, Shafer says of the stage manager, "I give him a list of things to do for the day, and he sees to it that things get done." The stage manager is responsible for everything that is going on behind the stage, and if the producer wants to correct somebody, he goes to the stage manager and tells him who he wants chewed out.



A techie gets under his work

One of world's best climbers slated

Outdoor Program Specialist Kelly Sullivan and Chuck Adams, veteran mountaineer, have gotten together to bring Jim Bridwell, 30, one of the five best mountain climbers in the world, to the College. He will be appearing in the Fireside Lounge on Friday from noon to 1:30 p.m., to

give a lecture and show a film.

Bridwell is an excellent speaker, and of course, an excellent climber, according to Sullivan. He has climbed most of the major mountains in the world, including Cerro Torre and the north pillar of Fitzroy, both in Argentina and the north face of the Eiger. He has the

most experience of any man in climbing Yosemite Valley, Calif. Bridwell developed the modern method of "freeclimbing" used by climbers everywhere.

To have such an expert outdoorsman as Jim Bridwell speak here is an opportunity that may not come again for a long, long time.

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Page 3

