

Manchester book makes superb summer reading

By R. W. Greene
Of The Print

The idea of taking a 1,300-page history book along to the river this summer may seem on a par for fun with weeding the lawn, but William Manchester's "The Glory and the Dream" makes short work of such apprehension.

In the first place, the book reads more like a novel than a history book. Manchester has taken a 40-year slice of America, between the years of 1932-1972, and turned it into a tale of addictive fascination. He describes in detail the political heights (and depths) of America, of course, but his personal portraits and sketches of middle class life of any period are equally, if not more, articulate and moving.

There was Huey Long, for instance, Governor of Louisiana in the '30s, a fascist racist of compelling proportions, a man who makes Jerry Falwell look like Abby Hoff-

man, but whom many saw as a redneck *par excellence*:

"At a Long Island party, he drank too much, sauntered into the restroom and ordered a tall young man standing at the urinal to 'step aside for the Kingfish of Louisiana.' When the youth wouldn't, Huey, unconventional as always, attempted to direct the trajectory of his stream between the other's legs. He missed and left the party with a black eye."

There is more to a country than drunk and/or unconventional politicians, and Manchester is also an excellent por-trayer of mood. Technological changes since the thirties are secondhand acknowledgement for most of us. But Manchester is terrific at bringing it home:

"There were no power mowers, clothes dryers, electric blankets, nylons, frozen foods, filter cigarettes, ball-point pens, Scotch tape, tape recorders..." This is about half the list. But filter cigarettes?

Politically, Manchester does a good job of being objective, although he does reserve his most reverent tones for

Franklin Roosevelt, understandable, since he worked on FDR's campaigns. It's far from a whitewash, however, for Manchester indicts Roosevelt with unsurprising congressional authority in the early forties in his efforts to help out England in the early days of WW II, acts which Manchester contends led indirectly to Lyndon Johnson's illegal and fraudulent Gulf of Tonkin Resolution of 1964. It seems that JFK was not the first president to have a mistress while in office.

Not to dwell too much on the sexual (ha!), the book's portrayal of the attitudes prevalent when the Kinsey Report came out makes for delicious or horri-fic reading, whichever you prefer. "One Kinsey investigator found 1,000 wives who were virgins and had no idea why their marriages were childless (Their husbands were equally perplexed)."

An old Chinese proverb has it that "Comparisons are odious." In the case of "The Glory and the Dream," it's one adage proven wrong.



Staff photo by Ramona Isackson

Felix Ungar (Dana Haynes) shows family pictures to British "Coo-coo" Pigeon sisters Cecily and Gwendolyn (Verlenda Proulx and Amy DeVour).

Play seeks merit of distinction

Crowded in a smoky Manhattan apartment, five would-be poker players bicker over the stifling summer heat, stale food and a turtle-paced dealer.

Oscar: If I win tonight, I'll buy a broom.

Roy: That's not what you need, what you need is a wife.

Oscar: How can I afford a wife, when I can't afford a broom?

Roy: Then don't play poker.

Oscar: Then don't come to my house and eat potato chips!

Oscar and Roy scramble for a sack of potato chips, the sack is ripped open and the entire contents is showered over the stage and its actors.

"The Odd Couple" is a fre-

quently staged production, but director Jenny Mahali feels the play has taken a different angle than most productions. Stated Mahali, "I feel that this production doesn't dwell on the stereotypes of the series and the original stage play. I directed the actors in such a way that each actor followed the character lines set by Neil Simon, but held his or her own merits of distinction."

Cast members include: Felix—J. Dana Haynes, Speed—Douglas Rhodes, Murray—Joe Schneck, Roy—Lin Morris, Vinnie—Randy Evans, Oscar Madison—James Nicodemus, Gwendolyn Pigeon—Amy DeVour, Cecily Pigeon—Verlenda Proulx. Dancing prop changes by Tina Riggs and Mike Clanton.

Destined for failure from the first moment, Oscar and Felix attempt being the "Odd Couple." Oscar is driven crazy by Felix's "I am Mister Clean" obsession. The pair argues over Oscar's sloppy housekeeping, or rather lack of it, Felix's picking up and gravy that won't "come with the meat."

Director Mahali is quite excited about the play, explained Mahali, "Because of the group of seasoned actors I was working with, I was able to ask a good deal of the actors in areas of characterization and line delivery. I think we have a very good comedy on our hands."

The play opens Thursday and runs Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and concludes Sunday with a matinee at 2:30 p.m.

DeWolfe to teach aviation film class

Space, the second to final frontier. Not outer space, or the space between your ears, but the atmospheric space. Man has almost always desired to conquer the air. The Wright Brothers performed the task first, but the true hero of modern aviation has been considered by many to be Charles Lindberg, especially after he flew the mighty Atlantic Ocean in his single engine craft.

Those dreams and realities of air travel are the subject of the next Humanities film series, "Film & Books: The airplane and adventure," which will be

taught summer term by Fred DeWolfe.

What this summer's film series will include is a mixed bag of documentaries and Hollywood prototypes such as "12 O'clock High" and "The Flight of the Phoenix," which makes television appearances often.

DeWolfe will open the class with an early documentary which focuses on the history of naval aviation in the two world wars titled, "Hooks Down-Wheels Down," and will end the course with Robert ("Twilights Last Gleaming" and

"The Longest Yard") Aldrich's stirring "The Flight of the Phoenix."

The film class includes:

June 22—"Hooks Down-Wheels Down," "The Red Baron"

June 29—"The Thunderbolt," "The Memphis Belle"

July 6—"12 O'Clock High"

July 13—"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo"

July 20—"Bridges of Toko Ri"

July 27—"Fighting Lady"

Aug. 3—"The Spirit of St. Louis"

Aug. 10—"The Flight of the Phoenix"

arts briefs

The second in a two-part Focus on Women Seminar, "Choosing Your Path: Options, Identity and Direction," will be conducted by College instructor Alison Johnson Thursday from 7-10 p.m. in Room CC 117. A \$2 fee is required. For more information, call Community Services at ext. 209.

"Cat Ballou," starring Jane Fonda and Lee Marvin, will play at noon in the Fireside Lounge on Friday. No charge to see the Academy Award-winning comedy.

Stanley Kubrick's "Dr. Strangelove" will be presented for the "Great Directors" film series Monday, May 18. The Peter Sellers/George C. Scott classic is to be projected in CC 117 at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The Music Department presents Jazz Night on Wednesday, May 20. All that jazz starts at 8 p.m. in the Community Center Lounge and \$1 admission is charged. For information, contact the Music Department at ext. 434.

"Assisting Families with Chronic Mental Illness" is the subject of the May 19 Focus on Women seminar composed and conducted by the College Nursing Chairperson Carolyn Taylor. The seminar begins at 7:00 p.m. and runs until 10 p.m. in Room CC 117. The fee is \$2. For information, contact Community Services at ext. 209.

The Warner Pacific College Band and Wind Ensemble, under the direction of Ronald Dieker and David Hamlin will present works by such composers as Jerry ("Star Trek") Goldsmith, Gustav Holst and William Hill, Sunday at 3 p.m. in Warner Pacific's McGuire Auditorium. The concert is free to the public. A free-will offering will be taken to underwrite future band activities.

The '50s hit musical, "Bye Bye, Birdie," is running every Thursday through Saturday until June 13, on the Portland Civic Theater Mainstage. Curtain rises at 8:30 p.m. Stephen Sondheim's "Company" opened May 7 at the Lake Oswego Community Theater and will run each Thursday, Friday, and Saturday through June 13. For tickets and information, call 635-3901.

