

PSU presents comedy hold U.S. companies concessions

"The Boys in the Band," Mart Crowley's unusual comedy dealing with the problems of the homosexual in American society, will open in its first Portland production at 8 p.m., Thursday, April 22, on stage in Old Main at Portland State University.

Considered a comedy in Edward Albee's "Virginia Wolfe" tradition, the play, according to The New York Times critic, Clive Barnes, "uses a cruel, excoriating wit in its concern with the breaking down of pretences, with acceptance of reality."

The PSU layers' production will be directed by Jack Featheringill, new assistant professor of theater arts and former New York theater professional for fifteen years who was living in New York at the time of the play's Off-Broadway opening in the spring of 1968.

Because Mart Crowley's "Boys" are human beings, who in this instance, have problems, the play is a comedy with serious and perhaps sympathetic undertones, Featheringill feels.

The play closed in New York just a few months ago after a successful two-year run. It also played in London for a year. Road productions toured with the comedy in this country for over a year. A film starring most of the original Off-Broadway cast was released in 1970, and just recently completed its second run in Portland.

The PSU cast includes: Douglas Soesbe, Roger Baron, Bill Dobson, Jim Betz, Jon Curtis, Ron Morrison, Martin Brother, Daniel Becker and Scott Parker.

The play will run for two weekends: April, 22, 23, 24, and April 29, 30 and May 1. Admission is \$1.50 for all students and PSU alumni and \$2.25 are available at the PSU box office located on the lower level of the Smith Memorial Center.

By Joachim Joesten
Translated from Die Weltwoche, Zurich.

Publications featuring issues" on oil consistently overlook one of the world's richest petroleum areas: Indonesia's offshore deposits. As it turns out, here has been a good reason for the omission, according to reporter Joachim Joesten, of Zurich's respected Die Weltwoche. In fact there is already so much intrigue attached to these oil deposits, that Joesten, for one, doesn't think it's going too far to include them as factors in the Indochina War.

Is the U.S. engagement in Southeast Asia strictly ideological? An answer to that question may be suggested by recent discoveries, purposely played down, of gigantic oil reserves in the waters of Indonesia. American scientists have come upon a lake of oil 4,000 miles long and 300 miles wide, stretching under the surface of the sea Indonesia all way down to the northern Australian coast.

The offshore deposits alone in this region are estimated by experts as totaling three times all other offshore deposits in the world. It should be noted in this context that since 1960 Indonesia has laid claim to a 12-mile-wide offshore area around its islands, enormous by comparison with the usual three-mile limit respected by many other countries. The then President Sukarno turned huge water surfaces, previously regarded as part of the high seas into Indonesian lakes by decree.

Actually, neither the concession-hungry prospectors nor the bordering nations—Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Cambodia, South Vietnam—care much of a hoot about how far, in terms of international law, the sampling and drilling extends out into the sea. Today the Gulf of Siam is tightly marked off

with grid of concessions divided among Amoco, Gulf, Conoco, the Union Oil Co., Tenneco, BP, and Esso.

Over 40 oil companies from nine countries, most of them either totally or predominantly controlled by U.S. capital, are involved in this tremendous prospecting project. Though pretty well hushed up so far, the reserves discovered to date may well not merely be sensational but phenomenal, to judge by some comments by oilmen which have appeared in the American press. "Compared to the Southeast Asian offshore deposits," said a top oil company official, "those of Louisiana are like a postage stamp on the back of an elephant." U.S. geologist James Gaunt, veteran of 15 years of searching the South China Sea, thinks that in five years the offshore oil fields of Thailand, Cambodia, Malaysia, South Vietnam, and Indonesia will be ready to produce 400 million barrels daily or more than is now produced in the entire Western world.

From this viewpoint the American effort in Indochina, so little understood in the world and even in the United States, begins to make more sense. Like his predecessor, Lyndon Johnson, President Nixon is closely tied to the oil business, not just as a politician but as a lawyer. One of his New York firm's best clients was the El Paso Natural Gas Company.



If hostile forces captured the Cambodian coast and pressed on from there to Thailand and Malaysia, the entire Gulf of Siam concession area would be endangered if not irrevocably lost. Floating drilling installations, undersea labs, research vessels, pipeline builders—all depend on safe and secure onshore support.

There is little danger at the moment to American and other concessions in the Indonesian coastal waters. Union Oil has acquired a large prospecting zone northwest of Sumatra and another between Borneo and the Celebes. Gulf is combing the sea bottom between Borneo and Sumatra. Isapco/Sinclair work two concessions in the Java Sea; it was one of the first companies in early 1969 to hit on a rich field about 75 miles northeast of Djakarta. Cities Services has the eastern part of the Sea

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