

# 'CUCKOO'S NEST' POSES A question of sanity

Henry David Thoreau wrote "If a man does not keep pace with his companions, perhaps it is because he hears a different drummer. Let him step to the music which he hears, however measured or far away."

by Sue Steinwall

Ken Kesey, in his "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," elaborates on this point.

The novel is set in an insane asylum and is told through the eyes of an "insane patient."

The gist of the book is the results of a confrontation between a patient and "Big Nurse." This upset eventually leads to the discharge of several patients because they feel they can now cope with reality, but it also leads to the destruction of the protagonist.

The point of view is the most interesting part of the book. Chief, at the opening of the novel, gives all his reasons for hiding in a broom closet,

He wants to escape the orderlies with his daily shave.

Chief's point of view oscillates between the reader's concept of reality and fantasy throughout the narrative.

At one point he says, "All those five thousand kids lived in those five thousand houses, owned by those guys that got off the train. The houses looked so much alike that, time and time again, the kids went home by mistake to different families nobody ever noticed. They ate and went to bed. The only one they noticed was the little kid at the end of the whip (referring here to children playing crack the whip). He'd always be so

scuffed and bruised that he'd show up out of place wherever he went."

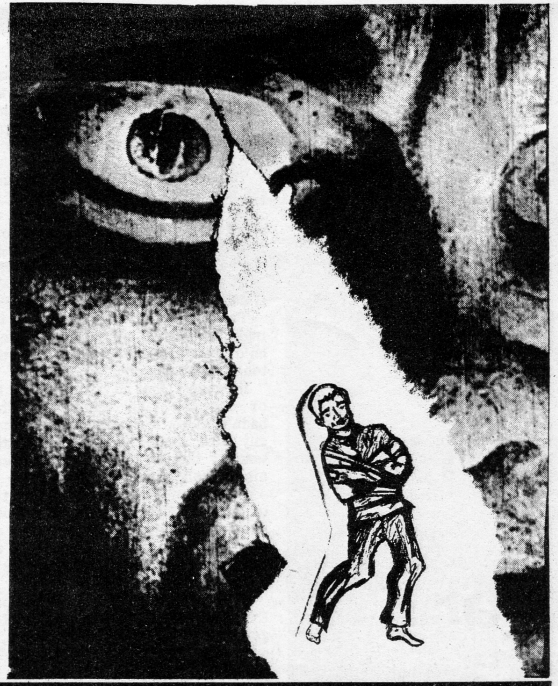
One can't help but wonder just what insanity is. The author may be asking how does one determine whether someone is insane?

Kesey, who is the subject of "The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test" by Tom Wolfe, leaves ample opportunity for interpretation of his work.

One may take it at face value as simply the treatment of the mentally and emotionally ill or one may draw parallels with dissent against "the establishment."

Judging someone insane may be just as much of an inequity as disclaiming someone's set of values.

In short, "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" can be described as simply interesting and thought provoking.



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## THE MOOG VOGUE 'Hey Jude' ala MOOG

by Craig Eckert

The LP "Switched on Rock" is one of the best examples of the popular electronic sound since man and machine crossed wires.

The men are Alan Foust, Kenny Ascher, and Norman Dolph, and the machine is the MOOG synthesizer.

The album is a cross between a classical adaptation of pop songs and something out of 1984 or Brave New World.

But, actually if you forget about the latter, listening to the music can be a totally enjoyable experience.

Possibly the only weakness the record has is its material since a couple of the tunes have been far overdone in the popular music world.

The songs include "Spinning Wheel", "The 59th Street Bridge Song (Feeling Groovy)", "Aquarius/Let the Sun Shine In," and the Beatles' great "Hey Jude."

The music is not cold computerized sounds but rather a very human sound really no different in concept than man making music through the piano.

Of course, the piano in comparison is much simpler to play than the MOOG.

The difficulty first is the fact that only one note at a time can be played on the instrument thus chords can only be reproduced with the help of another gadget called the Protrooter

which structures chords above the not being played.

The second is that even though the MOOG does great sound of about 150 different varieties, it must be retuned for every sound made.

To alleviate some of the time consuming problems involved in this process the makers of this recording actually recorded all ten of the LP's songs at the same time.

In the selections we hear such sound as the "Gworgan". The

Gworgan is a gwirped organ. Gwirping is the act of sweeping a filter with high regeneration setting (whatever that means) from top to bottom.

"It makes the sound "gwirp" with millions of variations depending of the rest of the brew. The inverse if the Pwee, sweeping from bottom to top.

But, its not whether you Gwirp or Pwee that counts, it's how you play the MOOG. And the makers of "Switched on Rock" play it well.

## WORKSHOP'S NEWEST REVIEW Riggs to wretches

by Mark Johnson

The title of Dudley Riggs' latest escapade if "The Feminist Movement is Alive and Well," While I suppose that title is an appropriate statement about the Women's Liberation Movement, unfortunately the same can't be said of the Brave New Workshop.

The Workshop is rapidly falling apart at the seams as vindicated by their latest atrocity and by their slumping attendance.

The Workshop's latest review opens on what must be considered an all-time low-note for Riggs' intrepid (and, considering the quality of the script, foolhardy)

players when the lights come up on an obese feminist performing a tassele-twirling strip tease, complete with bumps and grinds from the stage and nausea and groans from the audience.

The audience was "treated" to the 6 p. m. pollution report, a look at famous women through history and an intimate conversation between David and Julie (guess who?) about the first time they did "IT!" We also see a feminist enlisting in the Marines, an entirely predictable sketch about TV soap operas and equally predictable sketch about a homosexual astronaut on a deep space mission.

However, without a doubt, the most tasteless and least funny sketch in the show was a monologue in which Billy Graham advises youth to "get high on God" by using the pages of the Bible for marijuana papers.

When all of the lack of humor and tastelessness of the show is added to the overall indifference of the cast and directors, the review doesn't even wind up as being offensive; it's simply a repetitious and mundane waste of time and money.

Although the show does have a couple of excellent sketches on kiddies; TV programs (ala "Sesame Street?") and the educational network's literary programs, the laughs are strained and separated by liberal doses of boredom. Dudley Riggs' "The Feminist Movement is Alive and Well" is the dullest of his current catastrophes and should appeal to only those whose I. Q. is less than their chest expansion.

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