



GRANDMA GOES INTO one of her lengthy reprimands; words which fall dead on the insensitive ears of Mommy and Daddy in the North

Peace Secondary Drama Club's presentation of "The American Dream."

The American Dream

The North Peace Secondary Drama Club's presentation of Edward Albee's "The American Dream" was preceded by excellent musical talent and variety from Dr Kearney School, last Saturday evening.

A stage band of grade nine and ten students provided "blues" sounds under the direction of their instructor, Sandy Cameron. Glen Pomeroy provided piano music, accompanying the stage band with their presentation which concluded with a lively instrumental, "Little Brown Jug."

Four young female vocalists from Dr Kearney School, called "Paper Wood", treated the audience to a variety of numbers such as "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" and "Bad, Bad, Leroy Brown." Monica Milne, Cheryl Bartell, Doris Ancil and Heidi Roeters, accompanied by the guitar, proved that excellent local talent certainly prevails in the community.

Edward Albee's satirical portrayal of human nature in the family situation came alive with the North Peace Secondary Drama Club's presentation of "The American Dream", Saturday evening.

Edward Albee, well known for "Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf" and "The Sandbox", takes a realistic, somewhat sardonic look at the characters and family situation he has created in "The American Dream." The plot involving "Mommy", (Cathy Poulis), "Daddy", (John Gentles), and "Grandma", (Marlea Haugen), in a

family circle is as farcical as the manner in which they treat their visitor from the adoption agency, "Mrs Barker" (Karen Fedun). The plot provides a modernistic medium through which the dramatic message of human insensitivity to family is presented.

"Would you like a drink, a cigaret, would you like to cross your legs?" Mommy asks Mrs Barker who eventually takes off her dress to be more comfortable. No one, but the audience, bats an eye.

Mommy and Daddy talk about nonsensical, trivial items, never listening to each other and ignoring the frustrated ramblings of Grandma. Grandma's ramblings provide the real meaningful impact of the drama: words that fall dead on the insensitive ears of Mommy, Daddy and Mrs Barker.

It is a constrained madhouse, an extremely negative attitude toward the effect of human insensitivity in the family situation.

The introduction of the "young man", (Kevin Bush), is symbolic of the spirit of the adopted child which Mommy and Daddy had previously annihilated with their disregard for love or feeling. The Young Man is totally incapable of feeling or generating the power of love. He is immediately adopted into the prevailing sickness of such a family situation.

As the play draws to a conclusion, Grandma appears side stage to throw a further pessimistic shadow over what

will surely come of the decadent display . . . if it could be more doomed that is evident.

On the whole, "The American Dream" is depressing and perhaps, too realistic to be taken seriously. The cast of the production were more than capable in their portrayals for Saturday evening's meagre audience. The handful of people present at the presentation did little to indicate the hard work with which the drama club and the Dr Kearney music group had backed their presentation.