

It is certainly not because "no one dares to speak out against the avant-garde" that no criticism has been levelled against this specific department on previous occasions. We have expectantly attended production after production, only to be flailed with the contortive attempts of a wishful avantgardism that cannot even claim the dubious distinction of being unique. It does seem a little like a rationalization-mechanism to attribute the loss of a complete audience during the course of a performance to the audience's unpreparedness for such a "new and unprecedented venture." We do not aspire to professional theatre criticism, but it is certain that not all of us are so steeped in the Broadway tradition as to be unable to recognize validity in an experimental situation.

Unfortunately, this galley-series is exactly the kind of controversy that this type of megalomania feeds upon; it would like nothing so well as the thought that everywhere in our small sphere, individuals were debating its views. Such, however, is not the case. We are appalled by its lack of considered aesthetic judgement, and even more so by its sudden about-face in respect to previous ensemble ideals. If a liberal-arts college can adequately nourish and develop a drama department, that department must always consider the training of individual students, at the expence of its own pride in production and performance.

Signed: Greta Gribble