



"IT'S A LIE!" wails Nancy Moffatt (Nancy Lee Faulkner) over an insult dealt by the District Attorney (Bruce Kennedy), shown above trying to restrain her outburst in court in Farmington

High School's production of "The Night of January 16th," set for Nov. 18-19 at 8 p.m. in the FHS auditorium. (Fran Evert Photo)

# 'Night Of January 16' Being Offered Nov. 18

FARMINGTON The highly-charged, emotional courtroom drama, "Night of January 16th," referred to as a "sense-of-life" play by its director, John Roscoe, is this year's presentation of the Farmington Senior High drama department.

Performances will be on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 18, 19 at 8 p.m. in the FHS auditorium. Tickets will sell for \$1 in advance and \$1.50 at the door.

THE MOST celebrated and distinctive feature of the play was and still is the method of choosing the jury from the audience and allowing them to decide the verdict.

Patrons submit their names as they purchase their tickets and the jury is chosen by lot. Jurists will have the price of their tickets refunded.

This uncommon practice of audience participation has

had some interesting highlights. One performance in particular was specifically a test of the actors' ability. This showing was a benefit for the blind and the 12 members of the jury were sightless, meaning that the only basis for their decision was the verbal testimony.

A famous newscaster, Graham McNamee, acted when needed as a narrator to describe visual evidence. The foreman of the jury, Helen Keller, delivered the verdict of "Guilty."

"Night of January 16th" opened on Broadway in September, 1955. It ran for six months, and road companies were launched from Chicago, Los Angeles, and London. The play is written by Ayn Rand, author of "Atlas Shrugged" and "The Fountainhead."

MISS RAND'S contribution to the stage is partially based on the March 12, 1932, suicide of Ivan Kreuger, Swedish match king and financial juggler.

After the revelation of the complicated failure of his international financial interests, it was rumored that he had only faked his death and, in reality, had departed to South America to live inognito and in luxury on a fortune he had established there.

However, Roscoe comments: "The events of the show are not to be taken literally—they dramatize certain fundamental psychological characteristics, deliberately isolated and emphasized in order to convey a single abstraction: the characters' attitudes toward life. You can call it a sense-of-life play."

"As every work of fiction (or of art, for that matter) is the product and expression of its author's sense of life, a sense of life is an emotional, subconsciously integrated appraisal of man's relationship to existence."

THE CAST of "Night of January 16th" is composed of students of varied experience. For many, this is their first taste of working on stage. But everyone is working hard at

presenting the best show possible. Practices are sometimes long and tiresome, for many of the witnesses must wait until the second or third act for their first appearance. Yet, there is a minimal amount of "goofing-off" which can be credited to the no-nonsense but patient approach of Roscoe and his assistant director, FHS junior Patti Deering.

Miss Deering, in particular, is in a difficult position being in authority over the other students. But she is accepted and respected by the cast, and Roscoe states: "She's just as important as I am in this production."

Now that the cast has progressed beyond the basic learning of their parts, they are working more and more on characterization. Roscoe constantly questions "Why?" of the cast in an attempt to make them justify their actions on stage. Even the smallest movement must have a reason behind it.

One cast member observed: "With each practice, the cast is getting better, mainly because they are starting to delve into their 'characters' and getting to know them—how they think, how they would react in certain situations."

THE COURTROOM setting of the play has posed some problems for some of the crews, who are for the most part, composed of students from Roscoe's stagecraft classes.

The costume crew is having trouble finding enough suit coats for all the male members of the cast while the students working on the set had a few difficulties at first in making the judge's bench for the courtroom.

They finally figured it out but there is still a lot of work to be done. These problems will be worked out in time, after completing an 8,000 mile trip around the world and will working with the hope of aboard the SS Ormsay. He works for Glyn Travel, Inc.,

The cast of "Night of January 16th" consists of: field, Gail Nymshack (Karen An-

dre); Nancy Moffatt (Nancy Lee Faulkner); Claudia Karbon (Magda Svensson); Marcia Cline (Mrs. Hult); Jan Ingram (Miss Chandler); Mary Schwartz (Roberta); and Al Vasilakos (Judge William Heath). Also: Bruce Kennedy (Flinn, district attorney); Craig Gugel (Stevens, defense attorney); Tim Jamison (Homer Van Fleet); Clay Tintam (Sweeney); Don Coleman (Dr. Kirkland); Tom Williams (Jungquist); Rusty Griffin (Whitfield); Greg Steele (Larry Regan); Jim and Charlie Audette (policemen); Jim Fetherston (bailiff); Beth Soddard (clerk); and Diane Hamilton (stenographer).

## Prisoners Covered

FARMINGTON Prisoners performing work on weekends for Farmington Township have been covered by the township workman's compensation insurance.

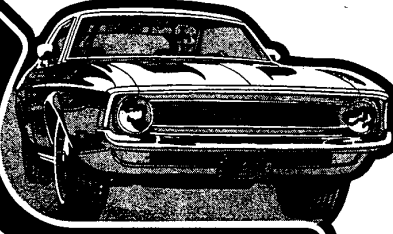
That finding has been relayed to Supervisor Earl Teepley by the township's insurance agent, Farmington Insurance Agency.

"It will be necessary, however," says agent John Clappison, "to keep track of the amount of money involved in these fines and reported to the auditor as payroll."

"This, of course, would necessitate a premium being paid on this amount, the same as it is on other payroll of the township."

## Alvey Returns

FARMINGTON Roland Alvey of Farmington has returned home after completing an 8,000 mile trip around the world and will be leaving soon in March 1972 aboard the SS Ormsay. He works for Glyn Travel, Inc., at the Tel-Twelve Mall, South-



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