

Feb. 28, 1958

# The CARBON

## Ed. Note.

S.G.B. in his lengthy letter to the editor which appears in this issue disagrees with an editorial that appeared in last week's issue. Mr. S.G.B. presents a very convincing argument, and if everything he says were true, he'd make the editors of this paper look pretty silly. S.G.B. sounds as though he knows a great deal about music. We, the editors, invite him to write for the Carbon as a music critic, since we don't claim to know a great deal about music. But we must write about it, along with every other subject that appears in the Carbon.

First of all, he criticizes the article for being unsigned. Since it was written by an editor we didn't feel that this was necessary.

Next he says that we students are expected to be above the average layman. Ideally, this is true. But let's face facts, S.G.B., do you honestly think that, in the field of art, we are?

He says that Miss Armocida didn't force us to listen. However, we were forced to attend, and we would look pretty silly holding our ears.

Then he says "An artist should not be compelled to come down from his level."

If playing Tchaikovsky and Grieg is coming down, then Rubinstein and Gilels, two of the world's greatest pianists, are pretty low, because such selections are in their standard repetoire.

S.G.B. says that there are only a few concertos by the composers mentioned, but he did not say how many have been written by these "other popular composers" that were mentioned. He tops it all off by saying that Miss Armocida couldn't possibly play a concerto since "there was no orchestra available at the moment." This is an unforgivable error for one who knows music. If S.G.B. will call the Gladys Alwes Music Shoppe he will find out that concerto music is written for piano only, and many pianists play it that way.

SIGNED,

B.D., co-editor

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Anybody willing to give a ride - one mile north from campus on Friday afternoons. Phan Chan, from Viet Nam needs a ride home on that day. Although he's looking for a ride north, he's really from South Viet Nan, so he's o.k. Contact Phan or Fr. Courtney if you have the room, the direction and the charity.

The editors of the Carbon will protest the tow truck which is said will be brought here soon to remove cars parked in unauthorized areas!

## DEDICATED TO LAUGHTER

- Miss Haugh: "Think carefully, and state the number of tons of copper exported from the United States in any given year." She wore her stockings inside out All through the summer heat. She said it cooled her off to turn The hose upon her feet.
- Al Miller: "The year 1492 - none."

In the last edition of the CARBON there appeared an unsigned article under the title of "DID YOU ENJOY THURSDAY'S ASSEMBLY?" It criticized the appropriateness of Miss Armocida's chosen music for her last Thursday's recital. Our amateur critic and poll-taker said that "most students felt that her repertoire was far above the average layman" and that "you cannot FORCE calculus on a third grader, likewise Sonatas by Scarlatti and Beethoven are just too deep for the beginner."

This whole argument is weak and purely arbitrary. Students of a Liberal Arts College like Marian are expected to be above the average layman and consequently Miss Armocida's program was rightly directed to the college level. Besides, Miss Armocida was not "forcing" her selected repertoire upon the audience; it was a matter of either-or: you take it or leave it. An artist cannot be compelled to come down from his level; either we try to meet his standards or else we would have only mediocre artists with a mediocre unreceptive audience. As Stravinsky has pointed out, "in music, more than in any other branch of art, understanding is given only to those who make an active effort. Passive receptivity is not enough." The Sonatas of Scarlatti and Beethoven are not too deep for the beginner nor are they as simple as The Third Man theme either. If these sonatas were too deep, why is it that they are among the first compositions to be learned by the beginning piano student? If we are to agree with our young critic, we would have to conclude, then, that the method used in teaching music is altogether wrong.

Our amateur critic suggests that Miss Armocida should have given a concerto instead of a recital for he says: "There is a store of concertos by Tschalkovsky, Grieg, Rachmaninoff and other popular composers that have great audience appeal." This last statement is ridiculous. First, Miss Armocida, for all her abilities, could have never been able to play a concerto for there was not any orchestra available at the moment! A Minor Piano Concerto. And of the four piano concertos written by Tschalkovsky, and of the three written by Rachmaninoff only the B Flat Minor of the former and the Second Piano concerto of the latter enjoy "popular appeal", the sine qua non of our amateur critic for judging the quality of a musical composition!

TO BE CONTINUED. (next issue)

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Next Friday, March 7, in coordination with NFOCS, CU RA (College and University Relief Association) is sponsoring a fund raising campaign. The primary purpose of CURA is to provide financial assistance for Catholic students abroad who are not nearly as fortunate as we are here in the U.S.

We hope that every student will cooperate with this program by contributing the small sum of 25¢ to this worthy cause. Lent is a good time for you to show your generosity to our fellow Catholic students in other countries.

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When you hear the lyrics "Catch a falling star and put it in your pocket", do you ever think of the hole that it would burn. -- I took to heart the song "A Rose and a Baby Ruth". I put them in a box and sent them to my girl. Pretty romantic, you say? The devil it was! The Baby Ruth melted on the rose and it was one big mess! -- The flip side of Elvis' "Don't" is "Why Not"; -- New movie coming out "Mother Stop the Bread Slicer, I'm Coming through the Rye". "Mutual Admiration Society" will be played in a concert by the Democratic Party, under the baton of John Foster Dulles. -- New recording of "The Last Time I Saw Paris", recorded by Adolf Hitler and his Fascist five. -- "Sail Along Silvery Moon" has been re-recorded by Von Braun.

R. M.