

THEATRE ANNUAL

now published under the auspices of the

Center for Theatre Services

of the

State University of New York at Albany

Solicits Articles

of

Information and Research

in the

Arts and History of the Theatre

Guthrie and Lineberger

The Editors:

As a fledgling playwright I read Mr. Lineberger's essay [T31] with much sympathy. That it becomes progressively impossible for new works to be tested is highly regrettable, absolutely true and in no need of elaboration here. However, I find Mr. Lineberger's view of his experiences nonobjective and myopic. Theatre people are for theatre; I have a faint suspicion that Mr. Lineberger is for himself.

For years aficionados have cried and gnashed their teeth for something that even vaguely resembled an established repertory company. Tyrone Guthrie and the MTC have been universally applauded, even in

ventures which have not proved universally successful, for their genuine effort to bring such a theatre to our soil.

Such a theatre, says Harold Clurman, takes *at least* ten years to be fully developed. Is there any wonder, then, that the MTC may be having internal problems? Also, is there any reason why the MTC should concern itself with Mr. Lineberger's troubles when it is struggling to keep itself healthy? One may not agree with Guthrie's belief that new plays find a way of getting done, but to my thinking the MTC is no place for experimental theatre at this time. It should assiduously strive to cement what Mr. Lineberger calls its narrow goals, not alter them.

Donald M. Colucci
Lincoln, Nebraska