

BELLE OF BATON ROUGE: Wirt Williams was a political journalist in Louisiana before taking to novel writing; and having contemplated the recent farcically melancholy events in that state, he appears to have set himself to figure out what new dismalness might possibly be in store for its luckless inhabitants. The result of this speculation is "*Ada Dallas*" (McGraw-Hill, \$4.75), the tale of a part-time call girl who becomes Governor of Louisiana, c.1963-67. But once he has thought of the possibility of disguising Huey Long as Eva Perón, Mr. Williams's inspiration flags, and we are left with a moderately entertaining but strictly formula working-out of her destiny, right up to the obligatory bloody finale in the capitol tower at Baton Rouge. We are presented with the journalist who loves her and who feels dimly responsible for her going wrong; a stormtrooper State Police commandant who falls fatally (for a number of people) under her spell; a political mastermind, first her mentor, then her adversary; and other predictable people and situations.

There is no reason why even such elements have to result in an unsuccessful book, but that's the way it emerges. "*Ada Dallas*" is meant as a thoughtful novel, to judge by its manner and the publisher's copy ("... serious, philosophical fiction. . ."); but you cannot take seriously a novel about politics that is written on the "personal" level of a soap opera. People do, indeed, go into politics for motives as base as *Ada's* (revenge against snobbish New Orleans society) and, so motivated, do achieve eminence; but the motives are never so unmixed, the concern with self and the ignorance of the problems and mechanics of governing never so complete as here. What might have been an interesting fantasy winds up as a humorless study of another modern Messalina of the kind long popular on the lending-library shelves.

Since Mr. Williams has written one very good book, "*The Enemy*," and one fairly good one, "*Love in a Windy Space*," we may hope that "*Ada Dallas*" is only a rough spot in an otherwise distinguished career.

—D. R. BENSEN.

CAMPUS CAPER: Allan Hazard, the hero of Douglas Angus's novel, "*The Ivy Trap*" (Bobbs-Merrill, \$3.95), is an associate professor of English at a large American university. At forty-seven, he is still a handsome man. He is peacefully married to Margaret, much younger than he, and a warm, witty, understanding wife. They have two intelligent, loving children. Professor Hazard is a front-line contender for the full professorship in the English Department and is currently the talk of the campus

because his newest book has made the front page of the *Sunday Times* book-review section. What more could a man ask for?

Yet Allan Hazard is a man possessed. He is trapped by his own incurable romanticism. He finds youth intoxicating because its unknown loveliness is "... unfulfilled, a promise ... forbidden." This fatal attraction leads him away from Margaret and to his own destruction.

One of Hazard's most promising writing students, Laurel Browne, is an exquisite blonde, who finds him as compelling as he finds her breathtaking; the result: a campus love affair. Though many of the descriptive details of a campus affair are clichés (the meetings in the library stacks, the clandestine rendezvous at a tiny restaurant with the inevitable red-checked tablecloths), the author describes their love with freshness and poignance. Allan realizes from the beginning that nothing but unhappiness can result from their relationship, yet he is drawn on by his own overwhelming fascination for a youthful lover. Like a man pursued by morality's furies, he is, in rapid succession, discovered, abandoned by his wife and children, forced to resign his recently acquired full professorship, and made to sit in on a committee meeting that reviews the complete emotional breakdown and moral degradation of Laurel.

Mr. Angus writes of the campus and its denizens with precision, perspective, and wit. His faculty-club discussions are laced with highly literate dialogue and his gentle spoofing of an academic cocktail party, complete with husband-and-wife poetry reading, is amiably satiric.

While most of the characters are portrayed with insight and understanding, it is Allan Hazard who misses the mark. Why the fatal weakness, the drive for self-destruction? Except for a brief reference to an unrequited high-school love, there are only veiled hints of lost youth and romance. Surely, these are not grounds for a learned professor, happy and prospering, to plunge into an affair that he knows will destroy him. Because Allan Hazard is incompletely realized, he never evokes our deep feelings. Instead, we watch his decline and fall with an aloof fascination.

—MARY SULLIVAN SIMONS.

Criminal Record

THE SAPPHIRE CONFERENCE. By Peter Graaf. Washburn. \$2.95. Faculty of English university takes quite a beating when killer goes into action; Superintendent Hebden (old grad) and Yank Peeper Joe Dust ("guesses" extensively) team effectively. Unlikely but likable.

BLIND MAN'S MARK. By Bruce Palmer. Simon & Schuster. \$3.50. Young French student, infatuated with too-willing English girl, grows morbidly jealous, inflicts final punishment; psychological novel shows seamier side of Riviera life. Conversation overabundant.

THE PIPE DREAM. By Julian Symons. Harper. \$2.95. Ex-jailbird in pickle when London television show backfires; amorous socialite provides balm; defenestration adds jarring note; population huge. Not his best.

—SERGEANT CUFF.



Your Literary I. Q.

Conducted by John T. Winterich

BY JOVE

Listed on the left are a dozen of the many sons and daughters of Jupiter. Fannie Gross of Asheville, North Carolina, asks you to match them with their mixed-up mothers on the right. The hand that rocked each mythological cradle is discovered on page 46.

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|-----------------|---------------|
| 1. Bacchus | () Alcmena |
| 2. Diana | () Ceres |
| 3. Euphrosyne | () Danaë |
| 4. Hercules | () Dione |
| 5. Mercury | () Europa |
| 6. Perseus | () Eurynome |
| 7. Pollux | () Juno |
| 8. Proserpine | () Latona |
| 9. Rhadamanthus | () Leda |
| 10. Thalia | () Maia |
| 11. Venus | () Mnemosyne |
| 12. Vulcan | () Semele |

Telescoping Our Next Ten Years

"The Coming Political Breakthrough," by Chester Bowles (Harper, 209 pp. \$3.75), tackles both domestic and foreign policy in terms of a shrinking world. The director of the Washington Bureau of Newsweek, Ernest K. Lindley has been a writer on national and international political affairs for more than thirty-five years. He has covered every national campaign since 1924.

By Ernest K. Lindley

THIS is an American course of action for the 1960s, charted by one of the most thoughtful and expressive men in our national public life, Chester Bowles. It is practical political discussion and advocacy of the highest order: comprehensive and coordinated, inspirational yet concrete, no more than mildly partisan, stimulating through-

out. One must share Adlai Stevenson's probably vain hope "that the depth and scope of our political dialogue in 1960 will measure up to the standards . . . which this book suggests are now clearly essential."

As always, at least since his experience as Ambassador to India, Mr. Bowles thinks within the framework of a shrinking world and the epochal changes sweeping over it: the emergence from colonialism of the peoples of Asia and Africa, the rise of the Soviet Union as a great power, the Communist organization of China, the invention of catastrophic superweapons. These, he believes, are compelling us to move into a fourth period of "political creativeness," leading to a fourth "national consensus." (The first, as he sees it, began with Jefferson, the second with Lincoln, the third with Franklin D. Roosevelt.) When Mr. Bowles advanced this theme in 1956 in "American Politics in a Revolutionary World," he sketched the approaching consen-

sus chiefly in terms of foreign policy and, I thought, hazily, wishfully, and without a clear eye for the actualities of American politics. Now, he sets forth a program that is definite, in the main politically realistic, and he comes to grips with domestic as well as foreign policy.

Mr. Bowles thoroughly disagrees with what he calls the "restrictive" economic policies of the Eisenhower Administration. He holds that it is feasible, and essential, to expand our gross national product by at least 5 per cent annually, and to sustain such growth without periodic recessions and inflation. He does not completely explain how this is to be accomplished, although he obviously relies partly on increased Federal expenditures. This and his talk of a "rollback" of prices will alarm the orthodox. But even they may find comfort in his emphatic rejection of the argument that, if we are to have full employment, a little inflation is inevitable and not very harmful. He rejects also the thesis, adopted by some Democratic liberals since Kenneth Galbraith's "The Affluent Society," that American quantitative needs have been largely satisfied. He sees these needs as still vast, although he agrees that more attention should be paid also to qualitative improvements in American life.

His partial catalogue of urgently necessary improvements include education, cultural facilities, urban renewal, housing, transportation, medical care, and social welfare. He would promote all with Federal funds. He does not overlook the farm problem. Among his proposals is the allocation of up to one-half of our surplus grains to "food banks" located in areas of the world in which people are living close to the hunger line. His treatment of labor problems is brief and rather tender toward the unions—which is not uncommon among Northern urban Democrats. But he is against wage increases in excess of increased productivity and points to the need for public representation in important wage negotiations.

Mr. Bowles's proposals for dealing with the Soviet Union correspond closely with what the Eisenhower Administration is now doing. However, like Dean Acheson, he thinks we should expand our conventional armaments while maintaining our thermonuclear deterrent until we can get controlled disarmament with adequate inspection. He is critical of our policy, past and present, toward Red China but does not forthrightly set forth an alternative. He is clear and eloquent about economic and technical aid to the underdeveloped nations of the world, but not quite so emphatic about the other essential to their survival and progress



—Wide World.

Ambassador Bowles takes part in road-building ceremonies north of Delhi in 1952—thinks within the framework of a shrinking world and epochal changes sweeping over it.