If a visitor wanders down to the lower level of the Fine Arts Building, he might mistakenly believe himself to be on the set of a talk show, just waiting for Oprah or Phil to occupy the empty seats. Only neither one will appear, for the set is in the Kent Stark television studio, and the guests that are interviewed are business executives returning from sojourns in foreign lands.

Susan K. Markovich, television technician, is in charge of filming 45-minute segments of business executives who relate their experiences of conducting business in foreign countries for the Kent Stark International Business Resource Center.

"We are in the process of building a resource library that will be available for small and medium-sized businesses in need of developing special skills to help them enter and compete successfully in the international business environment," stated Gregg L. Andrews, Director of Special Programs & Continuing Studies.

"We try to establish a professional atmosphere for the executives who are interviewed as well as for those who will view the tapes."

In addition to the International Business Resource Center, Markovich tapes various classes, speeches, and theatre performances for Kent Stark.

"We are continuing to update our equipment with funding from House Bill 810," Dr. Bittle explained. "Our most recent addition includes a complete audio system which will enhance our recording capabilities, enabling us to do voice overs and add music in the studio instead of relying on outside facilities."

Kent Stark recently connected a cable system between all the campus buildings so that any room with a television hook up can view one of three channels receiving signals from either the satellite dish, PBS T.V. Channels 25 and 45/49, or the Cable News Network.

This system works two ways in that it can receive signals, but a class or lecture can also be taped in one room and sent to the studio for editing and later viewing.

"The installation of this system will not only link all the campus buildings and provide the campus with its own news and information channel, but it will facilitate the delivery of teleconferences to different sites on campus," Dr. Bittle recounted.

The cable system will also enable the campus to continuously broadcast a daily 'calendar' featuring upcoming Artist/Lecture and sports events, Theatre presentations, or general information of use to Kent Stark students, faculty, and staff throughout the campus.

"Ms. Markovich has been a critical factor in our expansion of our television facilities. Her knowledge, professionalism, and creativity have enabled us to come a long way in a very short time," Dr. Bittle stated.

The Nobles Pond excavation videotape is progressing nicely, according to television technician Susan Markovich. The tape, begun last summer, is unique in that archaeological digs are rarely recorded in this manner. The actual excavation through artifact analysis is being recorded for a videotape that will be available through the KSU Library for distribution nationwide. Local high schools will be provided with a copy of this videotape, and public T.V. Channels 45/49 have also expressed an interest in acquiring the tape for broadcast.

"There will be several different versions of the video, with different time lengths depending upon the expected audience," Markovich said. "The final version will not be completed for another 6 - 8 months, however."
Flashy razors, flying blood, and murderous razors are the attributes of Kent Stark Theatre's presentation of Sweeney Todd. Based on a 19th century "penny-dreadful" melodrama, Sweeney Todd relates the story of Sweeney, a barber unjustly imprisoned by a lecherous judge covetous of his wife, and his thirst for revenge in London at the time of the Industrial Revolution.

"This is one of the most difficult productions we've ever attempted here at Kent Stark," Theatre Director Philip L. Robb related. "The music is extremely complex and challenging; it is actually more like an opera than a musical."

Kent Stark Voice Instructor Kenneth Kramer as Sweeney and Mary "Toots" Carmola as the diabolical Mrs. Lovett head up the talented 32 member cast. "My role as Sweeney requires a delicate balance to maintain the intensity of a man on the brink of insanity throughout the length of the production without wearing myself out," Kramer affirmed. "It has been one of the most exciting and challenging roles I've ever attempted."

The set, constructed by Technical Director Richard K. Hess, has also presented its share of problems. It is formidable in size, utilizing the entire stage and bridging a 20 foot area with an overhead walkway.

"The set for Sweeney Todd on Broadway cost $3 million and was comprised of a four-story steel structure," Robb explained. "Obviously we couldn't duplicate that here, but the requirements of the play entailed creating the most ambitious set designed here to date."

A winner of 8 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, Sweeney Todd is a macabre melodrama, a musical with dark humor that nonetheless entices the audience into a fascination with madness and death.

Sweeney Todd is written in such a way that although it is very dark and sinister, the audience ends up participating to the extent that the atrocities of murder and cannibalism become acceptable to them," Robb revealed. "The barber's chair sets up a fascination with the audience, who get caught up in the mechanics of the murders. The shaving sequences are especially fun, as is the musical number Have a Little Priest which details Mrs. Lovett's secret 'recipe' for her meat pies."

The production is especially demanding for the chorus, who not only have to sing but must act as well, often performing as a Greek Chorus, commenting on the action on stage, Robb added. The music is provided by local professional musicians as the score demands the highest caliber of performing ability.

"We're very excited to be able to bring a musical of the size and complexity of Sweeney Todd to the Canton area," Robb stated. "We can absolutely guarantee that Sweeney Todd will be talked about for a long, long time."

Sweeney Todd will run Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays through April 23. For reservations, contact the Kent Stark Box Office at 499-9604.

**THE KENT STARK FACULTY**

54 Members Strong

*100% with Master's degree
*50% with Ph.D.'s

Since 1984, faculty members have:

*Published 17 Books
*Published 31 Articles in Professional Journals
*Given 65 Presentations at Conferences and Convocations in 3 countries and 12 states
*Accepted 9 professional assignments in 6 countries

Ken Kramer as Sweeney Todd, and Mary "Toots" Carmola as Mrs. Lovett
While the rest of the population may just dismiss them as a homely nuisance, to Biology Professor George Klee the inauspicious harvestman arachnid (more commonly known as 'daddy long-legs' spiders) is a fascinating specimen for study – especially when the studying is done in Leipzig, Germany.

Dr. Klee recently returned from two semesters of teaching and research at Karl Marx University in Leipzig, East Germany, where he studied the European cousins of the Harvestman spider.

"The Harvestmen produce a secretion that repells ants, their primary predators," Dr. Klee explained. "My research revolves around determining what comprises the secretion so that it can be applied to other uses, specifically in insect repellents." Dr. Klee spent 10 months in East Germany and an additional month in Delemont, Switzerland, where he was involved in research with the British Biological Control Bureau.

In addition to being a center of academics, Leipzig is also internationally known as an important city for music and the arts. "I found Leipzig to be a fascinating city culturally, historically, and academically," Dr. Klee asserted. "The composer Johann Sebastian Bach spent the last 25 years of his life in Leipzig, where they have a world class symphony orchestra. Music is extremely important to the citizens of Leipzig."

There were several things Dr. Klee claimed to miss during his stay overseas. One was the lack of a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables that are usually available in the U.S., and ice cream, which was next to impossible to find in East Germany. Still another he found lacking was American friendliness.

"In general, I found the East German academic atmosphere to be very cold and restrictive," Dr. Klee stated. "It was a very unfriendly scientific environment, and in general the people were not very cooperative with foreigners." He stated that Europeans in general are not as open and friendly as are Americans, and the East Germans are even more reticent.

Kent State University Stark Campus Sociology Professor Devinder Trivedi, Ph.D., recently returned from a four month trip to New Delhi, India, where he conducted research on the ideology of work and social stratification with special emphasis on the Harijans, formerly known as the "Untouchables."

"The name Harijan was coined by Mahatma Ghandi and means sons and daughters of God," Trivedi stated. Although it is against the law to shun the Harijans in India, their abject poverty prevents them from moving from their government sponsored settlements, Trivedi explained.

"Even though it is not legal, prejudice against the Harijans is extremely widespread," Trivedi asserted. Dr. Trivedi worked closely with the Harijan Sewak Sangh, a country wide human rights organization which concentrates on respect for human rights and is specifically devoted to the Harijan cause.

"I am at the preliminary stages of study on the Harijan situation, and I plan to pursue it in the years to come. I intend to conduct a study of a very large scope, focusing on different parts of India," Trivedi said.

While Dr. Trivedi was in India, he received affiliation with the University of Delhi and the University of Jwarhrlal Nehru, two national universities governed by the Indian Parliament. This affiliation permitted Dr. Trivedi to participate in all lectures, seminars, symposiums, and other academic exercises. He also led a seminar on The Pauperization of India in General which sought to explain how domestic and international economic policies served to impoverish India over the years.

A native of India, Dr. Trivedi received his master's degree from the University of Delhi, and his Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University. Prior to teaching at KSU, Dr. Trivedi worked with the United Nations, conducted research for UNESCO (United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization), and was the Director of Research in collaboration with the National Institute of Rural Development. Before coming to the U.S., Dr. Trivedi taught at the University of Udaipur in India.

In August of 1989, Dr. Trivedi will travel to the University of Warsaw in Poland where he will assume the post of Exchange Professor and teach Sociology.
The Man Behind The Curtain

Theatre Director Phil Robb

Medicine's loss is the Kent Stark Theatre's gain in the case of Theatre Director Phillip Robb.

"I found I really enjoyed the theatre when I was in high school and decided that it was what I wanted to do with my life," stated Robb. "Prior to this I had actually had my heart set on a career in medicine."

Robb was born in Chicago, Illinois, and subsequently traveled with his parents, who were officers in the Salvation Army, to various cities in the midwest, including Des Moines, Milwaukee, Peoria, Kansas City, and many others.

"My parents ran a settlement house in the worst slum in Chicago until I was six years old, so I grew up knowing a lot of very interesting characters," Robb stated. "Needless to say, I think my early exposure to such diverse aspects of life has influenced my acting career."

Robb began his career at the College of Artesia in New Mexico, a small, private, liberal arts college where he alternated positions with the technical director. The war in Vietnam interfered with his plans to travel to New York to pursue his professional acting career when he was drafted in 1968. After returning from his tour of duty, he completed his master's degree in theatre from Kent State University.

"My perspective changed after I returned from Vietnam," Robb stated. "I decided I wanted to be a teacher instead of a full time professional actor."

When Robb arrived at Kent Stark in 1971, the Kent Stark Theatre was in what is now a maintenance barn, and it was called the Cedar Chest Theatre because of its rough hewn appearance. The new theatre was built in 1973, and the first play to be performed there was Roar of the Greasepaint, Smell of the Crowd, a musical comedy.

"It was really interesting," Robb laughed. "We were to open on a Friday, and the light board was installed on that Wednesday. We had no carpeting and no overhead rigging, but we managed."

Robb says he has lost count of the number of plays he has put on at Kent Stark, but estimates them to be well over 50. "We've always tried to present the best production possible with the people involved," Robb remarked. "Utilizing students is our first priority. We like to stress the fact that it is an extension of classroom work, that it is co-curricular."

Robb attributes the phenomenal success of the Theatre to good people and an excellent working relationship with everyone at Kent Stark. "Dr. Bittle expresses a definite interest in the Arts program here and has a firm administrative commitment to the program," Robb declared. "Dr. Bittle has gone out of his way to make the theatre one we can all be proud of."

The Kent Stark Theatre also has more latitude in choosing the plays that are produced than many other theatres do because the Theatre is not obligated to make a profit, just to break even on production costs throughout the year.

"We want to expand the audience's awareness of the literature and plays that are available," Robb stated. "We were very pleased to be the first production company in the area to do Elephant Man and Conference of the Birds, both considered to be 'risky' plays at the time."

Upon reflection, Robb names Godspell, Fiddler on the Roof, Elephant Man, Hot L Baltimore, Good, and Evita as the most memorable of the productions he has directed at Kent Stark, although he notes that musicals are what people tend to remember the most.

In addition to his busy schedule as director and instructor of Theatre classes, Robb still finds time to act in an occasional play himself. Recently, Robb starred in the one-man show Vincent, a story of the artist Vincent Van Gogh, at the Kent Stark Theatre. Robb received special permission from actor Leonard Nimoy who created the one-man show, to be the first person other than Nimoy to perform it. Robb has also appeared as the Ghost of Christmas Present for six years in the Canton Players Guild production of A Christmas Carol, as Daddy Warbucks in the Guild's production of Annie, and as Pizzaro in The Royal Hunt of the Sun, also at the Guild.

"I try to do at least one play a year, but my work at Kent Stark takes priority," Robb stated.

Credit Enrollment

Fall Semester

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