

# 'Good' illustrates Nazi's lifestyle

Eastern's production of C.P. Taylor's "Good" is just that.

The play follows John Halder, a German novelist and university professor, as he contemplates his life and the Nazi party.

The audience experiences different facets of Halder's life, which culminate when he becomes a Nazi.

Halder, played by senior Jeff Bennett, is suffering from an identity crisis. He is getting older and is unhappy with his wife and home.

Becoming a Nazi is an escape for Halder. However, Halder's moral beliefs keep him from making a quick decision.

"I'm not 100 percent sure about Hitler," Halder said at the beginning of the play. However, he believes he can change any wrongdoings. Halder believes he can "push the Nazis toward humanity."

As the story progresses, Halder talks himself into joining the Nazis. One of his first duties is to organize a book burning. The act goes against Halder's intellectual principles but he rationalizes why the ceremony is justified.

Halder reasons a "defect of university life is learning from books and not reality" and goes through with the book burning.

While Halder is serving the Nazi regime he tells himself he is "fun-

## Review:

Carl Pugliese

damentally happy" with his life. In actuality, he doubts if he made the right decision by joining the Nazis.

"I'm not diluting myself, am I?" he ponders. "Maybe it is the Jews' fault?"

Halder suspected the Nazi purpose was not well-intentioned. He was a victim of a false sense of righteousness—both within himself and his country.

The script illustrated that false sense of consciousness that probably prevailed during the Hitler regime. That was a time when people were taken in.

However, the script's biggest downfall was act one's abrupt jumps from reality to dreams. The erratic jumping back and forth was confusing and made it difficult for the audience to follow the storyline.

However, the director and ensemble of actors handled the scene transitions as smoothly as possible.

With a few exceptions, the actors interpreted their parts well and with credibility. Characters had a fairly good grasp of mime techniques.

Senior Nancy Slusser portrayed

Anne, Halder's mistress, convincingly. Slusser showed how Anne blinded herself from reality.

Anne completely shut herself off from the horrors happening around her. "No matter what happens around us..." Anne said, "I know we're good people."

Bennett handled his role well and was very believable. He portrayed Halder's anxieties with disturbing realism. Senior Karen Vogt was especially pathetic and believable as Halder's wife, Helen.

The set was interestingly simple. The brown wood folding chairs upon the dark multi-levelled platforms allowed actors to sit behind the players performing center stage.

The music was by far one of the most appealing aspects of "Good." The musicians' ear-pleasing accompaniment added a German flavor to every scene.

Costuming was also a strong aspect of "Good." Characters in Nazi uniforms looked authentic. The lighting complemented the sometimes sullen and other times cheerful scenes.

"Good," directed by E.G. Gabbard, is Eastern's seventh entry in the American College Theater Festival. With the exception of the sometimes confusing script, this play's chances of receiving top honors is real good.