

Forum at LSU Backs Probe Of JFK Death

(Special to the States-Item)

BATON ROUGE — New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison's Kennedy death probe has received a lopsided vote of confidence from a forum of Louisiana State University students. The vote was 335 to 116.

The students, who packed the Student Union Ballroom, debated the question, "Resolved, That the Garrison Investigation Has Become an Embarrassing Farce."

SPEAKING IN support of the resolution, John M. Norwood, a pre-law student from Franklin, accused the New Orleans DA of parading unreliable witnesses before the public in his probe. "Garrison has used dubious witnesses, made fantastic and unsubstantiated claims and has thoroughly angered everyone concerned," Norwood said.

The law student said he was not questioning so much the need for the investigation but the tactics that have supposedly been used by the DA's investigators.

Defending the probe, Fred Kroenke, a Baton Rouge pre-law student, called for an end of public maligning of the district attorney. "The public in general and the press should allow Garrison to let his case stand or fall in a court of law and stop trying it by word of mouth," he said.

ONE STUDENT in the audience, amid boos and catcalls, attacked Garrison for using publicity in a national magazine and on network television, saying the DA had allowed his investigation "with such high implications, to become nothing more than a street corner argument."

The student forums are a monthly feature on the Baton Rouge campus, held to debate the pros and cons of topics of current interest. Previous gatherings have given similar lopsided majorities to support for

'MacBird!' Lacks Subtlety, Polish and Sophistication

By BETTYE ANDING

"MacBird!" a much-debated adaptation of "MacBeth" by Barbara Garson that is now playing off-Broadway in New York, opened here last night at the Players Theater of Le Petit Theatre Du Vieux Carre.

Slated to run through Nov. 19, the offering was warmly received by a capacity opening night audience.

The humor contained in "MacBird!" is not subtle and the play is kind to no one.

THE STORY IS that MacBird, assisted by his ambitious wife, Lady MacBird, plotted the death of the "king" of the country, John Ken O'Dunc, in order to gain his throne. In retaliation, the late king's brother, Robert Ken O'Dunc, engineers the downfall of MacBird.

"MacBird!" is, on the whole, a clever idea for a satirical play.

But at times throughout the performance, one wondered if perhaps the idea somehow failed to materialize with the brilliance that might have been achieved.

One could not decide; "MacBird!" certainly was funny enough in spots, but did not achieve the polish and sophistication anticipated.

Miss Garson cleverly parodies Shakespeare lines—from a number of his writings — throughout her script. And the manner in which "Macbeth" lends itself to the humorous adaption is startling throughout the show.

SHIRL CIEUTAT, as Lady MacBird, displays most of the acting skill seen on the small Players Theater stage.

Also turning in skillful performances were Jeremy Ward as the Earl of Warren; Al Monlezun Jr., as Wayne of Morse; Mary Margaret McCrea as the White Witch; Bill Garrison as the Black Witch; Curt Cook as the Red Witch; and Art Tetreau in a short appearance as the Egg of Head.

While William Elder Sr., as MacBird, and B. Wesley Abbott Jr., as Robert Ken O'Dunc, were adequate in their roles, one felt that they threw away many lines which would have carried more meaning had they received a more proper emphasis.

Most important, many lines, which were written in Shakespearean style, were recited as though by meter and not by meaning.

In addition, regional accents were so heavily used by the actors portraying the MacBirds, that one wonders why they were not employed by those cast as the Ken O'Duncs. It might have added humor to the performance.

While this reviewer fails to see anything especially controversial about "MacBird," (again, it's unkind to everybody), it does appear to be an offering that defies categorizing.