

# Gide and Mann Discussed on TV

Plagued by irrelevant camera work and insipid music, Dr. Lester Mansfield of the French department and Dr. Herbert Lehnert of the German department discussed similarities and differences between Mann and Gide on the Rice TV program last Sunday. The focal point of comparisons seemed to be the consideration of how these writers treat ambiguity, or contrasting aspects, of one personality. Mann is ironic; he presents two sides at once. With a playful ambivalence, he emphasizes two opposing characters equally. In his novels, he continually presents two sides of his own character.

Gide presents more than two

sides of himself in his novels, where he is playing with possibility rather than self-reality. He tries to provoke, to shock the reader, and presents the idea that men should allow all his personalities free play. He is always ambiguous, but does not present two sides at once. He abandons the esthetic distance between self and object considered implicit

in Mann's irony.

An interesting point in the discussion was a comparison of their views on the Devil. Lehnert cited Mann's *Dr. Faustus*, in which the Devil is a shadowy figure, and it is not clear whether he is a dream or real. Mansfield cited Gide's remark that when you deny the Devil exists, then you believe in him. —C. PLUNGUAN