'Carnival' Gave Value For Small Admission Charge

By JOEL HOCHMAN

The production of Jean Anouilh's "Thieves' Carnival" November 3 and 4 by the Rice Players accomplished two hours of very light entertainment. The play offered a number of laughs and a few solid guffaws in remuneration for the small cost of admission.

Because of the light nature of Anouilh's work, the only fair criterion would be that of entertainment; on this basis the following items might be considered.

AS A COMEDY the "Carnival" evidenced the fine staging knowledge of its director Mr. James Bernhard. His sense of timing, coupled with a large collection of imaginative sight devices, gave the dialogue occasional, much-needed effectiveness. These moments intervened in what was otherwise a wearisome evening.

Relatedly, this reviewer found involved in these moments the refreshing talent of Mr. Guy Conner. He proved up to the transformation from participant to persona, a process commonly called acting. The rest of the cast, speaking in polite generalities, exhibited sincerity, inexperience, and themselves, in various combinations thereof.

REFLECTING FROM "Thieves' Carnival" to the remainder of the Players season, it is hoped that the abilities of Mr. Bernhard will again be called on. It is also hoped that Mr. Conner's talent will prove infectious; perhaps generating in the future some new participants and/or personae.