experimental films... Stan Brakhage: artistic courage

By Bic Kino

Stan Brakhage showed his major experimental films Nov. 29 at the Odd Fellows Hall in Cambridge. The first six were his Yosemite films, two of which had sound, and three of which were in color. The first movie was ‘Fires of Water.’ The entire movie is a series of beams of light in a black background and illumination of a house by lightning. At the end of the movie, the scene was shown in daylight, accompanied by the sound of a dog barking which Mr. Brakhage later informed me was the speeded up sound of a woman’s distress during labor. The second movie was ‘Tight by Tight Triangular,’ which had as its theme the beauty and innocence of youth. Between whirring flashes of colors resembling stale on a color TV, the birth of a baby was shown. The camera caught both the pain and the joy of the mother as she gave birth to a son. ‘Blue Moses’ came next to having a pilot. It is a movie of visual parodies in which the actor, Robert Preston, follows a track of dirt road which is supplied by an actor who is not on the film. The movie was impressive in its double exposures and the usual shots of the actor phoning in and out in various disguises. Still, the film made no real point.

In ‘Dog Starman,’ Brakhage again showed the terrible sequence of youth in some very nice sequences of a baby intertwined with shots of a dog共产红 品的 it. The last two movies were ‘Midnight,’ and ‘Pact.’ In the former, two shapes flickered and twisted for several minutes (intended to represent something Brakhage told me in private) and then it faded away. The latter was the first film Brakhage showed; it featured long sequences of a red blob. The total effect of the films was generally that of innocence. The audience was given no general lack of respect for the audience. The flickering and the TV static effect of bright colors only served to obscure whatever theme was trying to be shown and added a dreamlike effect.

After the experimental film, an 8mm film, ‘15 Songs, Truths,’ which is a series of film portraits of Brakhage shown. They were filmed because of what Brakhage called ‘a death wish. I care about.’ The scenes were filmed with a fine sensitivity. The two scenes that were part of their children, including a scene where Brakhage is sitting with his young boy, emphasized the film-maker’s feelings for the purity of love and the experience of being a parent. The long scene of his children playing and the sound of the voices of the children twirling and the TV static effect of bright colors only served to obscure whatever theme was trying to be shown and added a dreamlike effect.

Future employer demands a 5.0; no social life for 90% of Techmen

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In the United States, MIT is a place of great stress, particularly during the week-day, including weekends. The nights I spent biting my nails! But I made it. My thesis topic was the development of a system of simultaneous (sequential) cooling. I think of myself as an engineer, but at MIT one knows not where the scientific content and the engineering content meets.

"MIT’s environment is exceptional. Among the 150 professors and 364 instructors can be found extraordinary personalists, some of the bands of giants laboratories. As 18-year-old freshmen have the privilege of working closely on original research, the shadow of a man who bureaucratizes the institution is non-existent. If I take an idea, it is my idea.

"MIT was my life. Intellectually he is quick, practical, impudent, and a bit boastful. He has had a generally wretched surrounding, and doesn’t even real-"