

# Percy at USL

9/2/50

Lafayette

With regard to the article, "Walker Percy's cosmic search," by John R. Kemp (Aug. 7), I am naturally pleased by the interest Mr. Kemp has shown in Dr. Percy's brilliant lecture, "How to Be a Novelist in Spite of Being Southern and Catholic." But I am equally displeased that he referred to the lecture as "a forum" at Southwestern Louisiana University.

Actually, Dr. Percy was delivering the annual Flora Levy Lecture in the Humanities. Miss Levy, the last living descendant of one of the oldest Jewish families in Louisiana, established this lectureship so that a distinguished writer, artist or thinker might, in her own words, "share with the university and the community at large his most original thoughts as of the moment."

If our students at the University of Southwestern Louisiana were "saucer-eyed," as Mr. Kemp suggests, and our faculty possessed of an enthusiasm overflowing into a phenomenon which he describes as "literary flagellation," it is because we, here in the provinces, know a genius when we see one and think he should be accorded the honor and interest that are frequently misplaced on Mardi Gras queens, football players and jazz musicians. I do not think our enthusiasm for Dr. Percy was such a reprehensible thing.

Maurice duQuesnay,  
Chairman,

Flora Levy Lectureship Committee