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Editorial Page

The weekend report . . .

The Hamlet didn't fail—Houston did

● The Hamlet, Houston's only cabaret theatre, has closed. To the many who would never have gone to it, the news brings a yawn. To the few who did, regret. But the real losers are those who might have gone.

For the theatre only happens when you are there. It cannot be piped into a living room; put into print; shipped in reels around the world. The Hamlet at its best (as it was just before it closed) came to its audiences in close, personal terms. The last play—Edward Albee's taut, shocking "Zoo Story"—could bring like or dislike from a spectator, but none could ignore it.

Yet this community ignored the Hamlet, and thus closed it. It needed the Hamlet but didn't know it. We're grateful to Ned Bobkoff, and the talented people he gathered to make a theatre. The Hamlet didn't fail. Houston did.