

RADIO

On playing God

Through research into DNA, scientists will soon be able to change life forms, which, added to all the nuclear technologies and other scientific know-how, will make playing God a very real concept. On Sunday, Sept. 25, at 10:05 adt, Concern looks at the current debate raging over the issue of recombinant DNA. Is it scientist versus humanist, or every bacteria for itself? This fascinating program was prepared in Halifax by John Coutanche.

Ella feels alive!

Ella Fitzgerald can't read music. But can she make it live!

When she sang at the Stratford Festival in July, CBC Radio was right there, capturing every nuance of her infinite variety for Special Occasion. Ella Fitzgerald in Concert will be heard on CBC Radio Sunday, Sept. 25, at 2:05 adt. Host: Alan Maitland. Executive producer: Michael Snook.

Ella Fitzgerald likes to feel close to her audience. That's why radio does this great lady more justice than any other entertainment medium. Her discipline is formidable. Those limpid sounds she makes, those gravelly, gutsy blues, her cheeky scat, are painstakingly evolved with the precise technique of a classical artist. She never stops learning and experimenting, and never repeats an interpretation, even

her own, so her show is always fresh. She is years away from coasting on nostalgia.

She has won four Grammys. Downbeat magazine named her Best Female Singer for 18 consecutive years, and for 13 consecutive years she was Playboy's All-Time Favorite Jazz Vocalist. Not long ago the University of Maryland named its school of performing arts after her.

Among those who fell under her spell at the Stratford concert was Pamela Cornell, staff reporter for the Stratford Beacon Herald, who wrote: "The lady's taste is impeccable. Never does she allow the emotion of a song to become cloying. When she sang Love For Sale, it was touching but unsentimental, more defiant than wistful. Her interpretation of My Man, from Funny Girl, made Barbara Streisand's seem almost insipid. Even that schmaltzy popular piece, Feelings, shed its mindless quality as Ella shaped it into something reflective yet forceful. The best moments, though, were when she really cut loose. Her up-tempo numbers were more invigorating than vitamin pills. Listeners could scarcely sit motionless through the infectious rhythms of The Wiz and Mack the Knife, which have practically become her trademarks."

Miss Fitzgerald is backed by a trio of musical wizards: pianist Tommy Flanagan, bassist Keeter Betts, and drummer Bobby Durham.

work with understanding and objectivity, using the famous portrait of Lady Howe as a focal point. The setting of the film is of special interest: the paintings are seen, as they were intended to be, in a luxurious English mansion, Kenwood House, Hampstead. There is no admission charge for this series.

BOOKS

Deciphering the Dionnes

THE DIONNE YEARS: A THIRTIES MELODRAMA by Pierre Berton McClelland and Stewart.

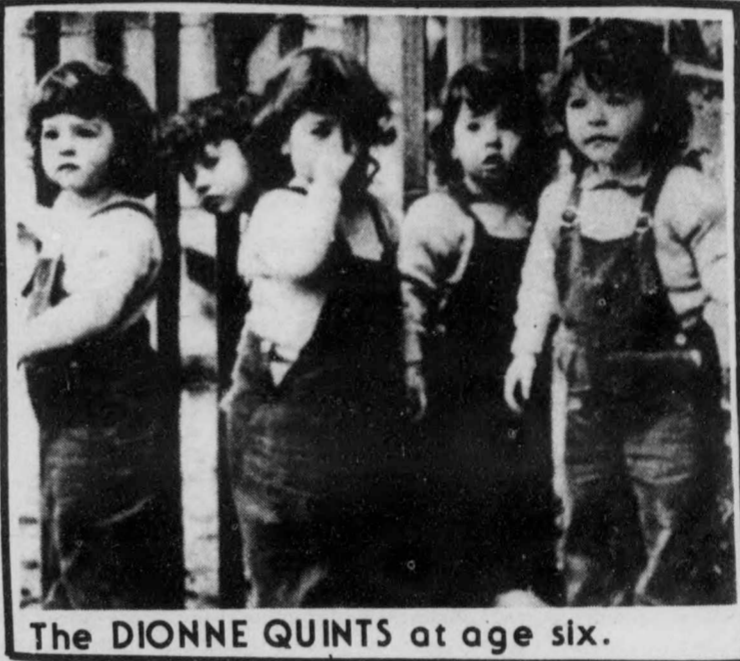
"There was so much more money than love in our existence. It took a long time to realize the effect it had on all of us..." The quintuplets

Almost all of us are familiar with the famous Dionne quintuplets; the simple mention of their names conjures up images of five smiling, apparently happy, young girls. These five, though they were not aware of it, had an influence unparalleled on a decade of advertising and family life.

At the birth of the quints there was little initial excitement, most concern being for the life of the failing mother and her new born children. Nobody at that time realized the shock wave these births would cause. Even the doctor, Allan Roy Dafeo would leave the Dionne home after the deliveries and remark in a matter-of-fact tone that he had seen something no one else had ever seen, and is further accounted to have referred to them as "five little French frogs".

Berton chronicles this story and sheds new light on the subject from his research into unpublished sources, eyewitness accounts and newspaper accounts. He expertly reveals the 'truths' about the struggle between the quint's family and the doctor, and the hustlers who were more commonly thought of as doing the best thing for the girls.

At times the story is unnecessarily interrupted to introduce some of the trivia Berton dug up during his investigation so that it almost appears that Berton is flaunting



The DIONNE QUINTS at age six.

his new-found knowledge. Although this certainly isn't Berton's best, the "Front Page News" characters of the 30's are well handled and provides a refreshing account of the Dionne story from the beginning to the present satisfying the public's curiosity (where are they now?) by devoting the final chapter to a look at the three surviving quintuplets as they are and by accounting for the other two who were lost in the shuffle of the 40's.

(Siobhan)

Arts Atlantica

Alpha, the fine arts magazine of Atlantic Canada, was founded in fall 1976, as a literary journal. The original purpose was to provide an outlet for aspiring writers in the Atlantic region and especially in the Acadia University/Wolfville community. In terms of variety of submissions, however, Alpha grew phenomenally over the first year of publication - within a month after the first issue came out, submissions were received from British Columbia and California.

Alpha has managed to keep its Atlantic focus, however, and this fall is expanding the purposes of the magazine by turning it into a fine arts magazine of the Atlantic region. A number of new features have been introduced each one focusing on a specific area of the arts or offering a particular type of information or dialogue. Many more new features are being planned.

In the creative writing area, Alpha welcomes submissions from absolutely anyone in two major areas - short stories and poetry. They are also very interested in humorous work, artwork, photography, and cartoons. Articles on various areas within the general field of creative arts are welcomed with open arms, but a query should be sent first before submitting the article itself.

Short story and poem submissions, as well as other submissions other than articles and artwork/photography, are reviewed by the Editorial Board, a group made up of students, faculty members and people from the community at large who are writers or interested in writing. The Editor-in-Chief makes the final selection of material based on the Editorial Board's opinions.

The opinions and comments of the Board are summarized for the writers in a letter written by one of the two associate editors and returned with the submissions whether they are published or not. Alpha does not at present pay its contributors. However, plans are now under way to set some sort of award system for the best pieces we publish each year. More will be known about this in a few weeks.

For further information about Alpha, please write: Either/Or Publications, Acadia Students' Union, Box 1269, Wolfville, N.S.

To go on living one has to be occasionally silly.

— Han Suyin

TV claimed better

It isn't necessarily bad for the average Canadian to watch one and a half hours of television a day and spend only 35 minutes reading a book, a communications specialist says.

Fred Rainsberry, professor of curriculum and communication theory at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, said in a recent interview that the implication seems to be that if people are reading they're doing something good, but if they're watching TV they're doing something bad.

"We're wedded to literacy as a means of achieving status in society," Rainsberry said. "The question we should be asking is, what did they read and what did they watch?"

Reading Habits in Canada, a study published by Statistics Canada recently, says Canadians over 14 years of age spend an average of 90 minutes watching TV every day and 35 minutes reading a book.

Yvon Ferland, author of the study, based his findings on a survey in 1975 of 30,000 Canadians over 13.

Rainsberry said tremendous artistic endeavour goes into the making of films and TV programs, but most people couldn't tell if a program is good or bad.

"We worry about the three Rs but we don't worry about critical analysis of TV and films" according to Rainsberry.

Don Rutledge, superintendent of curriculum and program for the Toronto Board of Education, said "People take a high moral tone about the loss of time involved in watching TV, but they feel very positive about time spent reading. I have to wonder if what they're reading is substantially better than what they're watching."

Gallery presents films

Commencing next Thursday, Sept. 29, the Beaverbrook Art Gallery is presenting a series of noon hour film programmes. Entitled the "Canvas Series", each film begins at 12:30 p.m. every Thursday and lasts less than 30 minutes.

Next week the showing will be "Gainsborough" (col., 20 mins.). William Thompson, Canadian artist; discusses Gainsborough's

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