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BETHUNE DINING HALL
8:30 p.m. - 1:00 a.m.


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on October 18th, 1977

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NOTICE OF BY-ELECTION

FOUNDERS COLLEGE
STUDENT COUNCIL

WED., OCT. 19

for the following positions

PRESIDENT
TREASURER
SOCIAL AFFAIRS
FEMALE ATHLETIC REP.
1 GENERAL COUNCILLOR
2 FIRST YEAR REPS.

Nominations Forms Available Rm. 121 Founders College
to be submitted by Fri. Oct. 14 at 4:00 p.m.

'Absurd Person Singular'

By Laura Brown

Firehall Theatre's production of Alan Ayckbourn's *Absurd Person Singular* is a blatantly amateur attempt at well-crafted drama. The play is set during three successive Christmases and follows the rise to success of a shrewd London storekeeper and the decline of the people he uses in that rise.

The first act is largely farcical. It is Christmas, and Sidney Hopcroft (Eric Kosky) and his wife Jane (Danda Humphreys) entertain an influential banker, an accomplished architect, and their neurotic wives.

Jane's antics are amusing as she tries to impress her visitors. She is a compulsive cleaner and is obsessed by her wish to be the perfect hostess. The compulsion gives her actions a bizarre quality, but Humphreys develops a superficial character rather than a believable one. Humphreys' exaggerated comic gestures overshadow the dramatic aspects of the play. Caricature is substituted for character, so the rest of the play suffers.

The second act begins with a dramatic confrontation between the architect, Geoff Jackson (Peter Higginson) and his wife, Eva (Barbara Collier). The seriousness of this scene is lost upon the audience as the comedy of the first act spills into it.

The confrontation causes the melancholic Eva to make numerous suicide attempts. The Brewster-Wrights and the Hopcrofts extend neighbourly helping hands which prevents her from doing so. Their courtesies make a farcical scene, for they are blind to Eva's intended self-destruction. While her kitchen is being cleaned by her friends, Eva devises plans to kill herself.

The seriousness of Eva's depression as well as her con-

frontation with Geoff fails to capture the audience's attention. Consequently, the third act suffers.

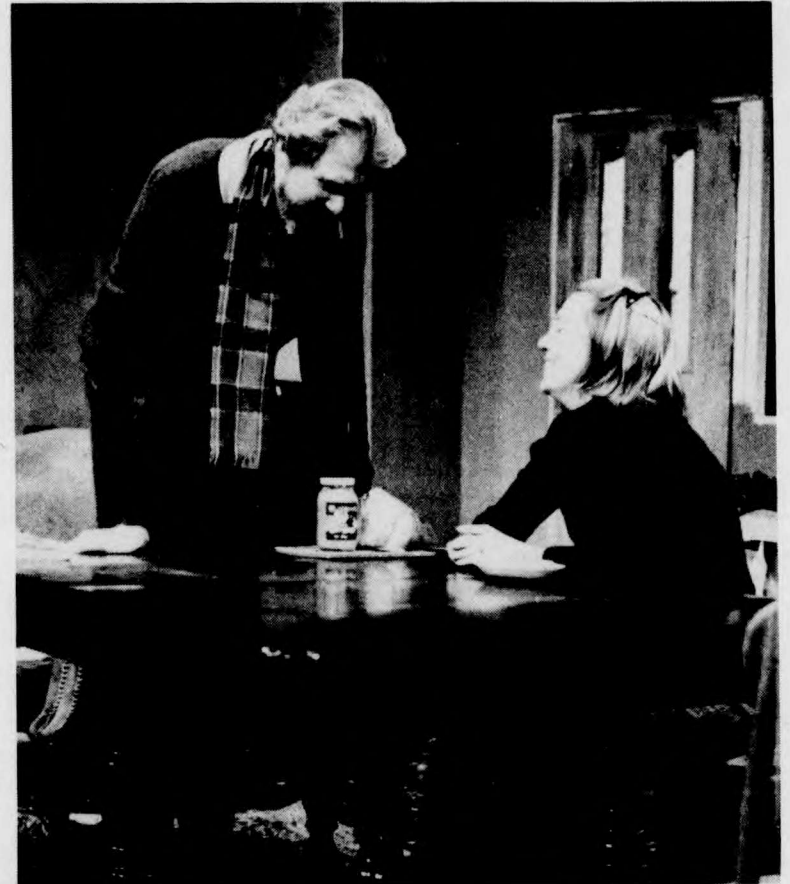
In the third act all comic elements have ended. The scene reveals that Hopcroft is now a successful businessman whereas the formerly powerful Brewster-Wright and Jackson have suffered financial and social decline.

Ayckbourn's best scene is the final one where Hopcroft forces the Brewster-Wrights and Jacksons to play a degrading game of 'musical

forfeits'. Hopcroft asserts his newfound power by demanding that they "Dance...Dance...Dance".

Ayckbourn's play is a difficult one to execute. The company fails to successfully carry out the transition from comedy to drama. The emphasis is on the comedy and the audience make their own laughs, even during serious parts.

Firehall Theatre's *Absurd Person Singular* is a bad production of a very good play.



Ronald (John Illingsworth) reminisces with Eva (Barbara Collier) in Firehall Theatre's "blatantly amateur" production of *Absurd Person Singular*

Student dining: health without wealth



This week's recipe is Chinese stir-fried chicken.

I hope that everyone's stir-fried vegetables turned out satisfactorily; at least I haven't received any complaints yet.

This week's recipe is good for students hit by numerous cut-backs as you can buy packages of chicken breasts for fairly reasonable prices.

You will need much the same ingredients as last week's recipe, with a few minor additions.

1 chicken breast
2 slices fresh ginger root
1 scallion stalk
1 tbsp. cornstarch
1 tbsp. sherry
2 tbsp. water

½ tsp. salt
1 lb. veggies
1 ½ tbsp. oil (twoce)
1 tbsp. soy sauce
pinch of sugar
½ c. stock

Skin and bone the chicken and then slice it very thin. Mince the ginger root and scallion, then combine with cornstarch, sherry, water and salt. Add to the chicken and toss it to coat.

Let it stand for 15 minutes, turning occasionally. While this is going on slice up whatever vegetables you have around, don't worry if you don't have a whole pound of them.

Heat the oil and add the chicken, stir-frying it until it begins to brown, about two to three minutes, then remove from the pan.

Heat the remaining oil and add the vegetables and stir-fry to coat with oil, about one to two minutes. Sprinkle with soy sauce and sugar. Stir in the stock and heat quickly, then simmer, covered until the vegetables are nearly done.

Return the chicken, stir in to reheat and blend the flavours, about a minute. Serve this at once with rice or noodles. This recipe will serve about four people.

You can always vary it by adding a crushed garlic clove or changing the vegetable combination.

Great for turkey left-overs, and I suspect that there are quite a few of those around this week.



Across the desk

Across the Desk is a weekly preview of interesting tidbits that get sent in to the Entertainment Editor

Now Playing at A Space: *The Bible, as told to Karen Ann Quinlan* is a mixed media presentation (video, live theatre and songs) that will be presented on various days from Oct. 7 to 23. The Hummer Talent Cartel is performing it. It looks like a tasteless satire a la *The Tubes* or *SNL*. Could be very good or pitiful. Banita Tyrant? *The Ironic Woman*?

You Scratch My Back Dept: I am deluged with requests for "just a teeny bit of space". Here are a few: *The Native Festival of Native Arts*. Oct. 13-28. See Posters for details. Today from 12-3 and 6-8, the Faculty of Fine Arts will have a jazz

Missable

Entirely missable is *A Piece of The Action*, with Sidney Poitier and Bill Cosby. Combining the genres of the social commentary and the crime thriller, the clumsy film evokes neither. Laden with dumb jokes, psychological gas, and moronic TV-style drama, the feature is redeemed only by Cosby's energetic performance.

quintet accompanying their exhibition of NFB Photographs. Both look (sound?) good. (Mac Hall).

There are 6 Galleries at York and Glendon. How about going to them? They're FREE, oh poverty-stricken student.

Listen. *Waves* is a good literary magazine. Buy it.

AGO (Art Gallery of Ontario) always has neat exhibitions.

Harbourfront is free. (Sorry Olga).

The 519 Church Street Community Centre has a lot of free and cheap programs. *Fingerboard Coffee House*, *Yuk Yuk's* and *Fred's Films* are winners. Phone 923-2778 for information.

The colleges here are always running things. Why don't you go?