

Red 'n' Black

WE GOT TALENT, but . . .

by L. E. Rozovsky

A full-scale variety show presents some of the greatest difficulties to the director. It must be unified and yet diverse. Its moods must change, yet they must flow into one. Our annual variety show, the Red 'n' Black, has partly won and partly lost. The cast had to work under poor stage conditions, hampered by drab, sloppy scenery and backdrops, and poor sound amplification. All in all, the show was choppy and lacking in flowing vitality.

It is only when we examine individual acts that we discover that U.N.B. has some topnotch variety performers. The oscar for the most original and best performed comedy routine (if you like that type of humour) goes to "Ambrosia." Every aspect of this satire on TV commercials was tops, including some very impressive tap-dancing by Don Hatfield.

The other top routine was "Hilda" with Judy Murray, Marg Wood and Beth Watters. A slick ingenious act indeed, achieving a fine burlesque atmosphere.

The stars of the numerous singing groups were David Wilson and Elizabeth Paterson. This reviewer does not bravo very often, but we did for this exciting couple who captured the mood of their selections and their audience like no other performers did.

Slapstick was in great abundance this year and the laurels go to Doug McKinley and Pete Snowball for their little "lovechat" skit, "Delicious", which might have been quite boring, but wasn't. The other slapstick act which these two clowns did with Teda Tracy was also a howling success—a spoof on "Sleeping Beauty."

The large-scale production numbers failed to reach the same height of showmanship. The choreography for both kickline numbers was unoriginal and trite. The "Another Opening" number proved to be fairly fresh, despite this, while the "Roaring 20's" was poor on all counts. Those lovely legs certainly deserved a better showing. The majorettes failed in the same manner and we wondered how many of these shapely co-eds had actually seen a baton before Red 'n' Black came along.

It is difficult to pick outstanding individuals; however, we found Dave Tilson proved to be a fine vaudeville performer, with control over his voice, his actions, and his audience. What a shame it was that his material was not comparable to his talents. Ross Webster and George McCullagh are to be praised for some delightfully cruel, though not ingenious, impersonations.

Additional applause goes to Teda Tracy and Don Hatfield again for an exciting dance routine, even though it lacked sharpness of movement; to Jones House for an amusing and well-planned satire; and to the girls of "Julian Huxley", a fine skit with ingenious lyrics which unfortunately lacked the punch, it should have had, partly due to staging.

The major fault of Red 'n' Black '62 was that it was not produced as a unit, thus making difficult any co-ordination between acts, sets, and moods. However, we do have some top talent at U.N.B. and it is this which made Red 'n' Black and gave us an evening of worthwhile entertainment.

COSMOPOLITAN

by STEVAN D. KARON

On the Republic of Katanga

Most of us by now have heard of the mess in the former territory of the Belgian Congo and about Katanga's wish to be independent. Unfortunately all that we have heard is really one side of the issue, upheld by the Afro-Asian nations and therefore the UN.

The Union Miniere du Haut Katanga, long before the 1960 crisis, has been in Katanga taping the natural wealth there. And the friendly relation between white Belgians and Negro Katangans outlived the reckless paths that the other five former Belgian Congo "provinces" took to gain independence.

For this friendship to exist at that time was not odd as the former Belgian Congo was divided into six groups each having its own policies. Not only that, Katanga had no cultural or historical bond with the others. Even the other five had little in common. But Katanga due to her natural resources and to sensible leadership was able to elevate itself and to attain one of

the highest standards of living in Africa. This was partly due also to the peaceful and politically favourable climate which attracted investors to Katanga.

In this more advanced area the Katangans were able to achieve a greater autonomy over their affairs. This came into conflict in 1960 when Belgium officially gave its former territory its independence, leaving behind a plan for these six former "provinces" to unite. This plan was especially feasible to the politicians in Leopoldville who eyed Katanga's wealth jealously.

Moise Tshombe, the popular leader of Katanga agreed to the plan as long as it remained a loose federal union. This clashed with Lumumba who wanted a central government which would be able to control Katanga's wealth. But their differences enlarged as Leopoldville's policies were completely opposite to that of Katanga's. So much so that with Leopoldville's policies Katanga's future would be ruined if they were put into action.

Matters came to a head in 1960 due to the fact that Katanga was not given appropriate rights in the Republic of Congo. So that there was no alternative but to secede as it was the only way to preserve Katanga's rights. For after all, why should Katanga hand over her wealth and have very little control over it. As after all they had really nothing in common with the others, actually Katanga has more in common with the Rhodesias

than, say, the Leopoldville group.

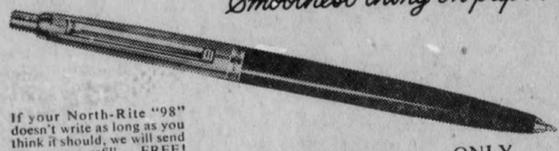
Katanga was not alone in her wish to secede. For Kivu and Kasai at different stages wished to secede. This was temporarily halted by P. Lumumba's eloquent speeches which gained him the support of Russia and some Afro-Asian countries who were able to swing the U.N. to Lumumba's side. This was unfortunately a mistake for the U.N. For a little while later Belgium moved out of its trust territory of Ruanda-Urundi creating a similar problem. This area of 20,540 sq. miles is inhabited by two different tribes. Seeing that these two small tribes would not be able to live together, the U.N. created two new states. But in the Congo where a similar situation occurred not between two factions but by six different factions. Yet the U.N. decided to back a central government by force.

This is illogical as Belgium administered the Congo prior to 1960 in the similar manner as the French ruled the former French West Africa territory. Now this French area is divided into small states. If on the other hand all six former Belgium "provinces" of the Congo could agree to a Union, fine. But the basic rights of the Katangans should be accepted. And as the present Leopoldville government does not, there is no reason why Katanga should be part of the Congo Republic.

And as soon as the U.N. troops evacuate from Katanga there is no doubt that a new nation will be created—the Republic of Katanga.

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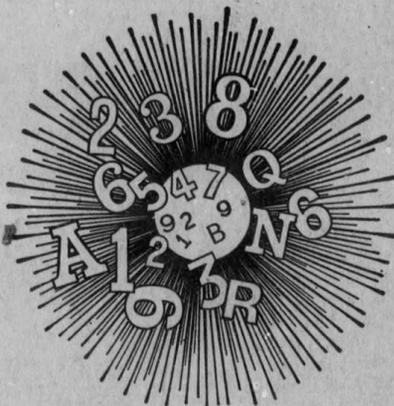
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