

THE CAULDRON *by Jim Goring*

The heat is on! Very soon some will be graduating and looking forward to permanent positions, while others will be hard-pressed seeking temporary summer employment, thereby helping to alleviate some of the financial burden of their next college year. The Canadian University Post, a federal publication informs us that outlook on the part of British students these days is not as bright as in days of yore. Lack of opportunities, little hope—and little chance of glory, as well as the present high taxation rate, are driving young Britons from the shores of their native land, to seek greener pastures. Some of these same have decided to invest their future in "the boom country of the Empire"—Canada. Canada is apparently by far the top choice amongst the undergrads, for 40% of those wishing to emigrate destined to come to Canada. The United States stacks up very poorly, drawing only 8% of these hopeful immigrants. They too are seeking positions filled by engineering and science graduates, and they expect to find them in great quantity. Even Arts-men are on this way out, bidding for recognition in our economy.

In the Xaverian, from St. Francis Xavier University, the appointment of next year's Co-Op Board has been confirmed. At St. F.X., to get around the aggravating problem of student book and canteen service, the Students Co-Operative Society has set up Student Co-Operative Enterprises which pays the predominant part in catering to the students. In that the students are the management, it is seen to that the service is of top quality, and that efficiency, the by-word, brings in the greatest returns possible to the very customers that it serves.

At the University of British Columbia, at the beginning of March, a fashion parade—the fabulous "Fashion Flair" was held, giving the fairer set on the UBC campus an insight into the latest word on attire befitting this year's Easter parade. In co-operation with the fashion editors from both the Vancouver Sun and the Vancouver Province, the UBC Women's Undergraduate Society presented to the Public the latest in the afternoon and early evening display of 'top-rated campus wear with a smattering of date time fashions—all geared to score later on the office-career front.

Mixed Choruses have ended the year of with a flourish.

University of Alberta - - - (Gateway) - - - University of Alberta's Mixed Chorus performed for the Varsity Guest Weekend guests. Both the Symphony and the Mixed Chorus have recently performed for audiences in most of the major towns in Alberta. Very good University publicity! The University of Toronto - - - (Varsity) - - - March 14, saw the final University of Toronto Chorus and Orchestra concert. Held in Convocation Hall, the concert featured an original, written especially for the Chorus by Talivaldis Kenins of the Music Faculty Staff.

Ryerson Institute - - - (The Ryersonian) - - - The Ryerson band won the competition for brass and reed bands in the open class of the Kiwanis Music Festival held in the Eaton Auditorium, Toronto. A. H. Britton, their conductor is to be congratulated on the outstanding performance turned in by the 36-piece band.

And from the Ryersonian, we observe that the students of Ryerson Institute are backing the Toronto Telegram in the bitter controversy over Sunday publications. Brought to task for publishing the news on Sunday, not only the Tely, but other news channels, having been confronted with The Lord's Day Act, have been hailed into court by the United Church of Canada, Toronto. Perhaps, The United Church in Toronto is not preaching the Gospel—the good news any more. To say nothing of the Anglican Church, for that matter either! Proclaiming GOOD news, POLITICAL news - - - and it does not end there!

Turning to sport - - -

From the Sheaf, The University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon pictures several of the marksmen in the annual intramural riflery competition as it draws to a successful close for another year.

Honors are in order, this year for the college champions that we have at Canadian Universities; to the now-famous "eight" from the University of British Columbia, who rowed their way to victory in the 1956 Olympics, winning for Canada a gold medal; to Barb Wagner, former cheerleader at Ryerson Institute in Toronto, for her splendid performance at the Memorial coliseum in Rochester, New York, where she and Torontonian Bob Paul won the North American Pairs Skating Championship; and last but not least to our little miler at McMaster University who is fast approaching the four-minute mile.

To end off this week, something with which I was confronted several days ago. On asking our new President Fraser, one of the valiant hearts at the pie-in-the-eye contest on Munro Day, if indeed things had not reached a sad and sorry state, that the President of our Student Body should exhibit himself plastered while on duty before the public - - - And I got this reply. "Loved every moment of it You know, it's the only time I'll ever be able to get officially pie-eyed!"

Connolly Shield Adjudication

There have been few years, if any, in which the senior officials of the Glee Club have shown so much indifference to the responsibilities and opportunities of the Connolly Shield Competition. Under some executives, it has brought out the best dramatic work of the season; usually, it has served its primary purpose of discovering and developing new talent. The mediocre quality of most acting in this year's major productions suggests that the need for a training school is already being felt, and will soon be greater. To those who can compare "Pirates" and "The Man Who Came to Dinner" with the same productions of less than a decade ago, the falling-off was as obvious as it is disappointing. The difference can not be set down in its entirety to lack of maturity and professional experience in actors and directors. Lloyd Soper, who starred in both and who played a large part in the success of Newfoundland in its first appearance at the Dominion Drama Festival, was an active supporter of competitions, junior festivals and workshops and brought beginners on. If the Glee Club wishes to regain its reputation it must look to its recruiting.

The three groups that responded to passive if not active discouragement and hap-hazard organization were able by their own interest and determination and the support of a few devoted volunteers to provide a small but surprisingly good and varied bill of fare. All suffered from lack of preparation, which was partly their own fault, and from lack of stage-rehearsal and back-stage facilities for which they were not to blame. One was a last-minute almost impromptu extravaganza, hardly more than a skit, which showed talent and imagination worthy of a better offering, but effective and enjoyable in its place. It should have been an unconsidered trifle, as curtain-raiser or interlude; but it was necessary, and just sufficient, to round out the program, and the small audience was delighted to have it. It revealed humor, understanding, and native ability that were missing from important parts in recent full-length plays.

"Helen of Troy" by Alpha Gamma Delta helped the adjudicator to crystallize a long-sought formula for the disputed problem of choice-of-play: the best play is the one that presents a particular cast with a challenge that it can answer by an effective presentation. This was a small group, of girls only, not assembled through the desire or the specific ability to act. It is not likely that there is another play that they could have done so well, or that there is another group on this campus by which this play could have bene so well cast, staged, and interpreted. Instead of a worthy but dreary attempt at a modernized classic, it became effective drama and theatre, with pattern, suspense and fulfilment. Contrary to the expectation of the judge, and possibly of an earnest but inexperienced cast, it won the shield.

It is of more than academic interest that Dalhousie presented two plays from the Greek on two consecutive evenings, and achieved success with both. For a number of



reasons, apart from the relative merits of Sophocles and Mr. T. B. Morris, the sorority stand-by, the better of the two was "King Oedipus." The one particular point to make here is that it provided the best acting that Dalhousie has shown in some time, and that it differed from other recent productions in that every major part was taken by an actor with experience in Connolly shield, "workshop," "little theatre," and similar training-school productions. A general and very significant fact, not to bear too long on it now, is that the great dramatists give a University cast, or presumably intelligent amateurs, something to work upon and some assistance in their work. Light entertainment makes heavy demands on the talent and skill of experienced professionals; and however much college amateurs may see themselves as reflecting the popular successes of stage, screen, and picture-tube, they simply don't have what it takes. With a play of

substance, on the other hand, they can meet the mind of the dramatist and accept his aid in overcoming their lack of professional techniques.

To return to our two-and-a-half plays: King's, on its reputation, its resources, and its choice of a solid but not unmanageable play, seemed to offer a safe prediction as the winner. For some reason—whether lack of preparation or imperfect sympathy for a cruelly adult play—it did not quite come off. The mismatched pair who carried the burden were able to dominate the stage and divide the honors; they had to play parts far beyond their age and experience and each had the ability to step out of character that is necessary for good acting. Although one overshot the mark and the other went wide they provided the best serious acting of the evening; but neither they nor the supporting cast quite conveyed the insidiously

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