

entertainment

Folk, sort of

By Hugh Westrup

A weave of musical strands from the Canadian mosaic.

That might best describe the music of the Whilom Stringband scheduled to drop in to Burton Auditorium for one performance next Thursday.

It's not a group that is easy to label. After seven years the four band members still have difficulty categorizing their sound.

"Folk, sort of," they say. "Eclectic Canadian. Songs with a sense of place."

Says Bob Bossin, founder, leader, singer, songwriter, and player of guitar, banjo and English concertina, "We represent a musical expression of what it's like to live in Canada."

Criss-crossing the country, the band has picked up on a range of musical styles; jigs, reels, chansons du Quebec and subjects; working the tugboats on the Straight of Georgia, old age on the prairies, growing up in Toronto. Imported jazz and classical influences are recognizable too.

You may have heard the Whilom Stringband recently. Come mail strike season, their song, "Mail Sorting Man", an update on "John Henry" gets a lot of radio play.

But most of the time, the band isn't given much air time.

Programmers at mainstream radio stations tend to favour Canadian acts that conform to the demands of the American market.

Bossin says the band has more of a cult following than a broad popular one. Nevertheless it tours regularly and has sold 30,000 albums.

Does he notice a difference in audience reactions as he crosses the country?

"In the west, people are enthusiastic," he replies. "They dance, they like to thump it up. Here in the east, people are more reserved, more sophisticated. They're more likely to get the subtleties of our satirical songs like "Maple Leaf Dog". "Dog" is a whimsical history of courageous Canadian canines who have saved their famous masters, originally written for a CBC series on national unity.

The Whilom Stringband is Bob Bossin; singer Nancy Ahern; bassist Alan Soberman; and Terry King, fiddler, mandolin player, singer and humourist.

Tickets for their November 2 concert are \$4 for the general public and \$3 for students. For ticket information call 667-2370.



Holmes (David Renton) on a lead.

Sherlock lives on

By Colin Smith

Toronto Arts Productions' current running of *The Incredible Murder Of Cardinal Tosca* qualifies as a flawed, if engaging, piece of nonsense.

Based on an undeveloped remark in A. Conan Doyle's *The Adventure Of Black Peter*, this nugget of Sherlock Holmesania is the work of Maritimers Alden Nowlan and Walter Learning. The uneven script, in its best moments, captures the English flavour and delicate self-parody of the Doyle stories, but often has trouble keeping its tone consistent, too often lapsing into broad caricature.

Factors that buoy the play into the brackets of acceptable entertainment are the sets and the

acting.

The elaborate sets, whether providing the drawing-room atmosphere of Sherlock's lair, or evoking the foggy gloom of a London prison, add the perfect amount of atmosphere.

The cast is highly dependable throughout; standouts are David Renton for his supralogical, drily humorous Holmes, and Gillie Fenwick for his creepily courteous Moriarty. Purists may find exception with Dan MacDonald's portrayal of Watson, written and played with broad humour and less stodginess than usual.

Director Ted Follows also deserves much credit for keeping the convolutions of plot and flagrant loose ends from getting in the way of the flow of the play.

Finnegan's Mystique

By Judith Lynn

Today at 4:00 p.m. in the Stong Theatre (Room 112), Stong College, in association with the English Department and the James Joyce Society will present *The Feminine Mystique in Finnegan's Wake*. The theatrical production will star Lisa Creighton and will be directed by Harry J. Pollock. Professor Janet Lewis, a Stong fellow, will be present to provide an introduction to the performance.

James Joyce activities at York have been considerably frequent since Harry Pollock founded the James Joyce Society of Canada in 1964. A Joyce scholar, Pollock has been the chief force responsible for the creation of innumerable presentations of Joyce's works. Since the establishment of the Society, he has yet to cease discovering new ways to present the works of James Joyce. His endeavors have included Joyce seminars, films, talks, evenings of music, readings, as well as several theatrical presentations. Professor Pollock has also written and adapted several plays based on the letters, short stories and episodes of Joyce. In 1970, the first Canadian James Joyce Seminar was held at York University, entirely programmed and arranged by Mr. Pollock. *The Feminine Mystique in Finnegan's Wake* is yet another indication of his ceaseless contribution to the study of James Joyce. There is no admission charge to the performance.

The Stong Theatre is planning many more interesting activities for the upcoming year. Next on the program is an International Poetry Reading scheduled for November 9th at 4:00 p.m., featuring numerous York Professors. Beckett material is presently under consideration for a theatrical performance, as well as plans for an Indian Dance Drama, "Sitawayamura".

Automotive Radiator-Service Co. Ltd.

40 Eddystone Ave.
Downsview, Ont.
Tel. 742-1091

Single or Double \$299
or \$10.70 per month

Queen Size \$349
or \$12.40 per month

King Size \$399
or \$14.70 per month

6 drawer pedestal extra.

36 mths. @ 16.5% annual interest on approved credit. No down payment.



waterbed world ltd
2077 Yonge Street,
Toronto, Ontario
(416) 481-3040



The Stevens Waterbed Complete with Kuss lap-seam mattress (5 year guarantee), liner, Safeway heater (4 year guarantee), risers and decking. Solid pine frame and headboard available in 8 lacquered finishes.

Division of HOUSE OF COMFORT
Open Daily 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thurs. & Fri. until 9 p.m.
Saturday until 5 p.m.

Also: 383 Talbot Street,
London, Ontario,
(519) 672-9920

CHARGE
VISA



Ahhh right.



Isn't it the best beer you've ever tasted?