

Goodwill, Groups, Spuds And Sports—This Is Theatre?



STORES—Over potato sacks into the costume cupboard, being careful not to trip over the pop cases. Other costumes are stored on the third floor of the Arts Building.

By George

By Peter Kirchmeir
The right down-stage archway fell down. A thoughtful actor went on stage, picked it up and carried the archway off stage into the corridor. This event happened during one performance of Studio Theatre's latest production, "The Merchant of Venice".

Only the goodwill of the education faculty allows the drama division the use of the stage. But this stage does not have adequate facilities to back up a full-scale major production.

There are no special classrooms, laboratory space or stage for drama students. When the auditorium is being used by another group, rehearsals have to

be conducted in a spare classroom. Other Universities, though not offering a BA in drama, as the University of Alberta does, have adequate dramatic facilities; for example Queen's University, and the University of Toronto.

ALBERTA LAGGING

Professor Peacock, head of the drama division, said the following: "The most original contribution of America to the theatre has been the development of drama study and production in the colleges and Universities. The majority of provincial Universities, which recognize the truth of this, offer theatre programs in adequate facilities, or are planning for these in the immediate future. The University of Alberta has the largest enrolment and the most active season of production in Canada."

Reputed to be Canada's leading educational theatre, Studio Theatre has some of the worst facilities of any theatre. Lighting equipment, cables dangling from the balcony, have to be hung in full view of patrons, because of the almost non-existent fly-gallery. Loud speakers grace the sides of the proscenium arch for lack of wing space.

The primary problem is the complete lack of wing area, complicated by doorways and walls which inter-

fere with backstage traffic", said Don Pimm, guest director at Studio Theater.

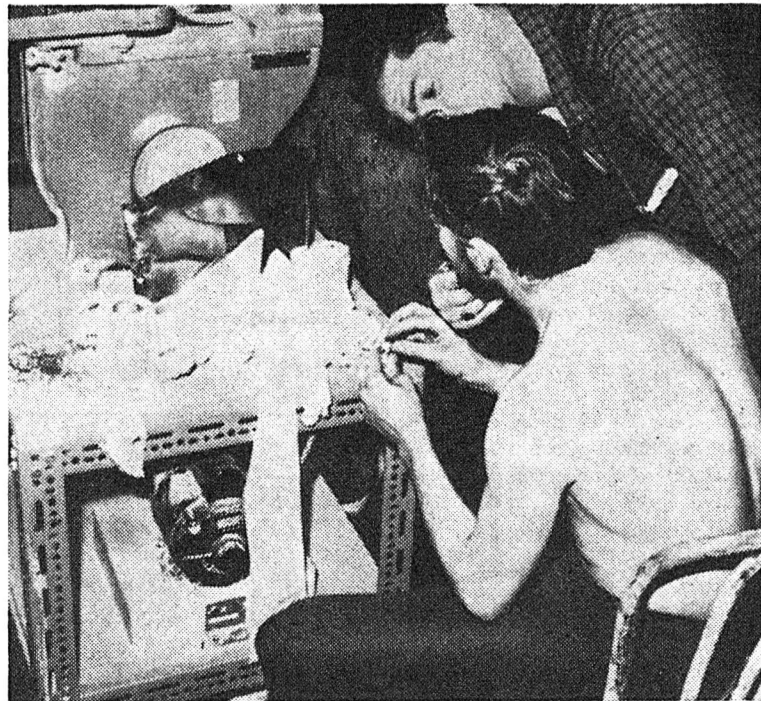
UNIQUE CONDITIONS

The enlarged apron stage has only three feet of wing space around it, thus making entrances from the opposite side a noisy affair. Creaking stairs leading up to the stage do not help prepare the actors or the audience for surprise entrances.

There are only two fifty square foot rooms to accommodate over thirty actors for costumes, make-up, and quick changes. In one of these rooms the education cafeteria stores empty pop bottles and potatoes. The actors can go into the adjoining gymnasium locker rooms and rub shoulders with basketball, volleyball and badminton players, an unethical proceeding.

A play usually takes six weeks of rehearsal, plus a full coordination of light, sound, properties, and sets. All this goes on behind the curtain line. Though hampered by the lack of space, the drama students have been giving fine performances.

The University of Alberta was the first Canadian University to offer a BA in drama. Next year is the possibility of a Bachelor of Fine Arts in drama being offered, also the first in Canada. However, this University still does not have a Fine Arts Building.



MOTORS AND MAKE-UP—The work shop doubles as make-up and costume room. Machinery has to be rearranged for every production, and then moved back to start work on the sets for the next play.

Photo by George



PRIM PIPES—The women's dressing room is cluttered with pipes, a staircase, and a hole in one wall. The hole is sometimes filled with peering faces of men, but never once with bricks.

Photo by George

LORD KNOWS -- WE TRIED!

We Swam . . .

Yes:
"But I am sick at the thought of a House Ec Building. Sick, sick, sick. That a secondary school for the encouragement of better and younger marriages for unmarried females should be considered for its own building is an insult to professional faculties . . ."—(Scrabble, Nov. 11)

"Now that the government has indicated there is no money for residences, and the University is convinced of residence need, the University of Alberta should get its residences itself; it should get residences that have University of Alberta, not Province of Alberta, stamped on everything from blueprints to the bathroom drains."—(Nov. 18)

"This exchange program brings to the student level the challenges and opportunities normally reserved for governments and international agencies. By extending hospitality and friendship to next week's Russian visitors we can perhaps contribute to that essential understanding between nations."—(Nov. 18)

"For a University which prides itself on its sporting arena this is truly a sad mark. Surely in a situation where a young man's life is at stake, some provision should be made to insure the safety and well-being of that young man . . . I saw that student lying on the ice and it is a sobering and disgusting thought to realize he could have easily died there. Something must be done to insure there is not a repeat of this event."—(Marshall's Beat, "A Stitch in Time", Jan. 27)

"Only last year the Students' Union Building got a sign that said to the campus stranger, "This is the Students' Union." In the fall, signs of a similar nature appeared on the Administration building and the Ag building, too late, incidentally, for the elucidation of the incoming masses of freshmen students.

What about signs on other major campus buildings—Arts, the Rutherford Library? Where are the signs on the Med building and on the big blank South wall of the new Chem building. Where are the signs that say this is the Engineering building and the Education building?"—(Oct. 28, 1960)

. . . And We Sank

No:
"When are people going to realize that students are not little old men looking forward to getting that pension so they can retire to the greenhouse or something equally revolting? When are people going to realize that some students, at least, are going to do zany things just for the principle?"—(Scrabble, Mar. 3)

"Candidates—I don't mind you asking me to vote for you, but you needn't beat me over the head with it. Thirty-three posters for one candidate, in one lecture room, is an attempt to beat me over the head. I prefer not to see you everywhere I turn; I took a good long look the first time around."—(Reflections, Mar. 3)

"By his (Yacowar) firing a lesson early learned by most student journalists is crystallized. It is a lesson concerning responsibility. No paper can have significant power, no editor enjoy prestige, if the freedom granted to his press is abused."—Feb. 24, 1961

"It is clear, of course, that most of the faults of Alberta's education sys-

tem are due to the booming growth of this province. They were unavoidable. They are part of the price we pay for forcing a civilization onto wilderness. But we can't afford to let the faults continue; by attempting to transplant frontier ideals into our present day culture, we pervert them. And we run the risk of perverting our culture also."—(VGW edition, Feb. 23, 1961)

"Our University is not yet a "graduate school" nor is it particularly a mecca attracting good minds. Rather, it is still in large, a vocationally oriented training ground stressing the practicalities necessary to land a job in industry. Only when the physical facilities and, more important, the attitude of the public as to why the University of Alberta was founded, have become biased toward a graduate program, can the motto, "Whatever things are true," become a reality."—(VGW edition, Feb. 23, 1961)

"Unless the point system as it now stands is drastically changed and improved, the system will find its way in the wastebasket along with the other artificial awards machinery that has been set up periodically over the years. A point system even used with discretion lacks flexibility, an important factor when human beings are being judged."—(Feb. 17)

"Giving blood is an important service to the community, but is it necessary to have social coercion incorporated into the bleeding. The sponsors of the contests and competitions may claim that the ends justify the means . . . But do they?"—("Of Petty Minds I Speak", Feb. 17)

"Ironically, only a few of the students at this University who truly deserve honors heaped upon them will attend Color Night. Most of them will be somewhere pounding

their books. We refer, of course, to the students who apply their brilliance to their studies—the men and women who pull down the top marks."—(Jan. 20, 1961)

"Until the time comes when the Students' Union can find isolated rooms for these two pianos, at least one of them should be moved out of SUB and placed somewhere on campus where one person, perhaps in the company of friends can sit down and use the piano for what it is intended—to be played."—(Dec. 3, 1960)

"Fraternities will be free of Administration interference only so long as they prove they are capable of governing themselves maturely. Such an incident as this is all that is necessary to show the Administration that IFC is either unwilling or unable to handle its duties, that it serves no useful purpose other than co-ordinating fraternity functions and exchanging ideas on how to circumvent the Alberta Liquor Act."—(Dec. 6, 1960)

"However, it would be stooping to their level (the Nazi party) to use physical force against them. Instead, Canadians should refuse to have

economic or social relations with these individuals. Membership in this organization must be made such a liability, that its growth will not only be hampered, but arrested."—(Nov. 22, 1960)

"The administration has seen fit to relegate the Christmas break to the ashcan by scheduling the Christmas examinations for Jan. 3 to 9 this term. Gone are the days of respite, when one could collapse and catch up on lost sleep after the frantic study and examination weeks of December. Gone are the gay Christmas time tension-easing parties. The student will have two choices: stay home and plug away at a time when everyone else has a holiday—or go out and try to have a good time attempting to forget your guilty conscience."—(Oct. 24, 1960)

"The new swimming pool is beautiful. They tell us that it's the best indoor pool in any Canadian University. It has everything—including underwater observation windows. It's Olympic-size. It's internally illuminated. It's housed in a \$2,500,000 building.

Too bad it leaks!"—(Sept. 23, 1960)