

CANADA CAMPUS REPORT

Dal sees exciting theatre for first time

By LINDA GILLINGWATER

The "road not taken" last Tuesday night was the one that might have led to an interesting evening of theatre. Instead we, like sugarheaded bread-and-butter flies, drank weak tea with cream in it. Neptune's production of *The Four Hands* never rose above the level of mere competence.

Each of the actors took care of the sounds; Dr. Whittier managed the sense. Both forgot that the Duchesse's proverbial sayings mean nothing. Neither did the evening. No attempt was made to explore the theatrical possibilities of the zany world of Alice, the Cheshire cat, or the walrus. Instead the play limited itself to an intellectual dalliance with riddles. Dr. Whittier eliminated the actor in favor of a vocal chord. An actor is more than a voice and theatre should appeal to all the senses, not merely to one's mind.

Modernization of classical stories can be funny. *Pyrramus* and *Thysbe* was not. Dave Renton has

an intuitive comic sense; his abilities were wasted on poor material. Not only is there something that does not love a wall; something there is also that does not love poetry readings masquerading as

theatre. The lucky students throughout Nova Scotia who are going to be treated to this performance would do better to go to a movie instead.

On Friday night King's dramatic rocking-horse fly dropped 'sap and sawdust'.

Early Frost froze over midway through the first line. The group chose a bad play and made it worse. The play was unimaginatively blocked and poorly acted. For some obscure reason the actresses whispered their parts. A fortunate few in the first row heard two or three lines. In her youth aunt Hannah locked a little girl in a trunk. Now she shivers and shakes when a newly little girl plays in the attic. In what was supposedly a tense moment she re-enacts her former crime and tries to kill Alice. The wrestling scene is just short of ludicrous. I wish that Aunt Hannah had managed to navigate Alice into the box, had dumped her sister in as well and climbed in after her. She doesn't and the play continues; instead of the patter of "ghostly feet" that the program promised we saw unmotivated movement and stereotyped reactions to a trite situation.

Waiting is tiresome and a bore but a theatrical treatment of that theme need be neither. The *Waiting Room* was. The fault lies partly with the playwright. The young man's final speech slips into sentimental mish mash and loses much of the pathos that it might have had because of the whiny "he didn't do nothing for me" complaint. Also the symbolism is forced in places. It is a bit obvious to call one's famous poem "The Waking Sleep".

The main problem arose with the casting. The young man never quite managed to be at home in his blasphemous. His artificial goddammit neutralized to some extent the obvious contempt that we were meant to feel for the slogan-slinging self-righteous virgin. The young man says that he is tired; we never feel it. Nor are we convinced that this particular devil is the one who "first broke the eternal unity". Lighting, both in this production and in *Early Frost* had no particular relevance to the action. Both directors seemed unsure about blocking; there never appeared to be any particular reason why anyone moved into the positions that they occupied. Changes were similarly unmotivated. The *Waiting Room* offered many interesting possibilities most of which were not explored.

At least it was a pleasant diversion; the *Deathwatch* was more; it was theatre. Professor Merritt's production was the first time that Dal has seen the possibilities of theatre in the last three years. The performance was immediate, intense and exciting.

Choreography was brilliant. The constantly changing relations between the prisoners was reflected

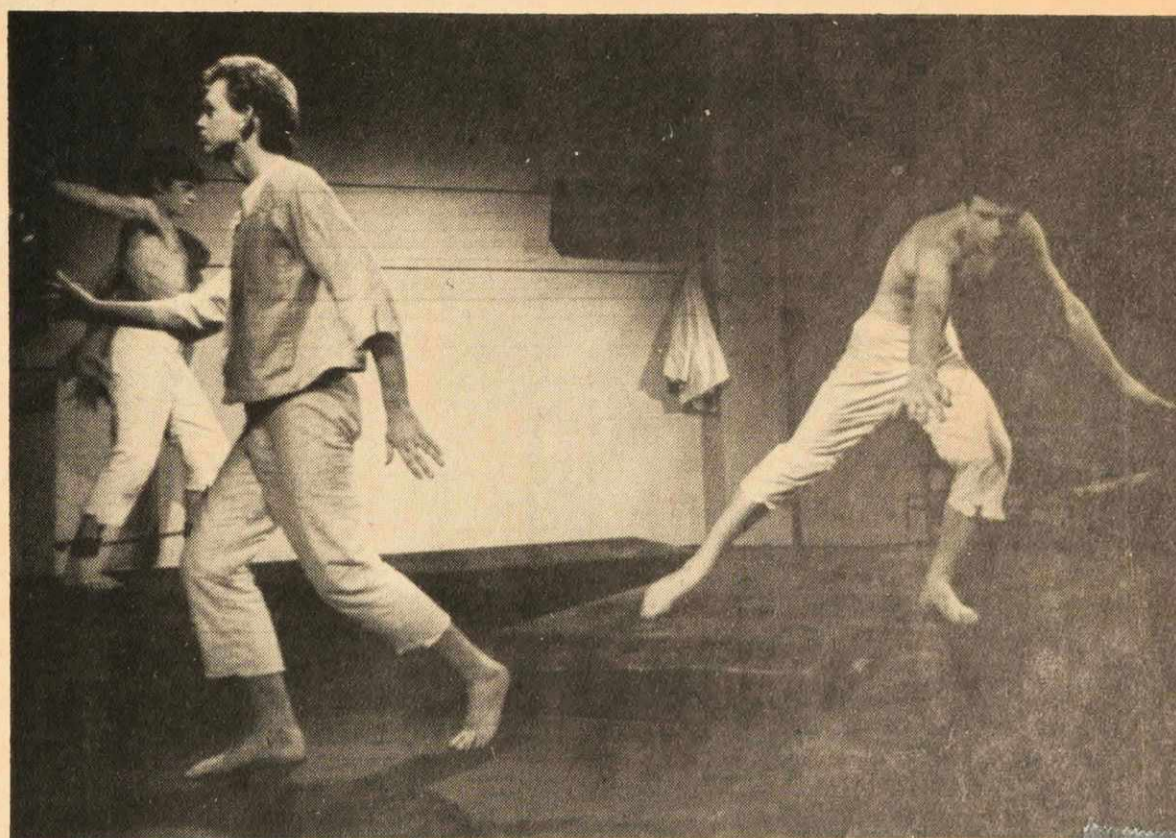


Photo by Steve Archibald

in their ceremonial movements. Green Eyes agonizing attempt to enter into his past was pinpointed in his ritualistic dance. Every gesture had been clearly thought out and was singularly appropriate. The stage space was used for its maximum effect, and the music crystallized meaning.

Unfortunately Merritt was working with students. They were not able to sustain the brilliance of the director's conception of the play. Green Eyes tells LeFranc that perhaps someday he will understand what a guard is: "but you'll have to pay a price". A similar admission fee is charged those who would like to enter into Genet's world. Green

Eyes (Nick Field) nearly did. The position of Maurice and LeFranc and their interrelationships are less evident and the subtleties of shifting power sometimes escaped Bill Pell and Michael Ardenne. Occasionally the appropriate gesture was made but the content of their speech was unconvincing. For the most part however all three gave excellent performances in very difficult roles. The guard didn't. Artaud praised the Oriental theatre because it had, he felt, "developed all its physical and poetic effects on every level of consciousness and in all the senses". *Deathwatch*, with certain qualifications, did too.

TROUBLE AT U of T

Council against Dow recruiting

TORONTO (CUP)—In a 2 1/2 hour debate last week University of Toronto student council voted 24-14 in favor of a move prohibiting Dow and other weapons manufacturers from recruiting on campus. There were two abstentions.

The motion urged an Advisory Board for Employment Services, a body representing students, faculty, administration and alumni, be convened immediately to authorize the use of university facilities to companies for recruiting employees.

The second section of the motion reads:

"And that SAC (student council) representatives on this board be specifically instructed to oppose requests from companies supplying materials to parties for use directly in military action in Viet Nam."

One observer said the debate on the issue was "probably the best in the history of SAC." Chandler Davis, a professor who sat in on the Dow recruiter Tuesday, and Paul Fromm, a spokesman from the right wing Edmund Burke Society on campus, both addressed the council.

A Dow recruiter and university vice-president Robin Ross were held captive for several hours Tuesday by demonstrators who opposed Dow Canada's supplying ingredients for the manufacture of Napalm by the parent Dow Chemicals firm in the United States.

Council president may resign

TORONTO (CUP)—A group of University of Toronto students are after student council president Tom Faulkner's job.

The students have circulated a petition asking for his resignation over council's Wednesday recommendation that the university prohibit Dow and other recruiters involved in war materials production from recruiting on campus.

Council's action followed two days of protest against a Dow Chemical Co. recruiter on campus. An ad hoc group of engineering students maintain Faulkner—the only council member elected on a campus-wide election—should resign and run again on the council decision issue.

The petition reads: "We the undersigned, believing that Mr. Thomas Faulkner, president of the Students' Administrative Council, no longer represents the interests of the students of this university, request the Student Administrative Council to call for Mr. Faulkner's immediate resignation."

A group spokesman said the council move was an attempt to legislate individual morality.

Students Tuesday protested Dow Canada's complicity in the manufacture of napalm by the parent Dow company in the U.S.

MONEY — SPENT AND NOT RECEIVED

B. C. students want more gov't. money

VANCOUVER (CUP)—One thousand University of British Columbia students rallied Wednesday (Nov. 22) to tick off an education program sponsored by the B.C. assembly of students.

To the rally, one of several to come in the province, to force the government to increase its university spending.

"The B.C. government is keeping money from education for political reasons although the money is vitally needed," said liberal MLA Dr. Pat McGeer.

"I'm good and mad at the way the government has treated higher education," he told the rally. McGeer, an associate professor of psychiatry at UBC, said a \$110 million government surplus at the end of last year, and \$108 million from the Canada pension plan put into B.C. hydro bonds, should be used for education.

Don Munton, UBC student union vice-president said both the Ontario and Alberta governments pay more than \$1,000 more per university student per year than does the B.C. Government.

Herb Capozzi, social credit MLA for Vancouver Centre didn't sympathize with the students at all. "You are very lucky getting an education in a beautiful institution like this," he said.

"No student with the proper qualifications will ever be turned away from an institution of higher education in B.C.," Capozzi said. "I'll write that down for you if you like."

An unidentified student in the crowd wrote the statement down and asked Capozzi to sign it. He refused.

U of Manitoba council votes extra \$1,100 to CUS

WINNIPEG (CUP)—University of Manitoba student's council voted an extra \$1,100 volunteer levy to the Canadian Union of Students last week.

The motion passed 17-3 despite criticism from two faculty representatives, who felt the money could be spent on events such as student radio and drama.

Answering these criticisms, UMSU treasurer Peter Simmie said UMSU had a contingency fund of \$7,000 and an uncommitted surplus of \$2,126. "There is no question of the union not being able to afford it," he said.

He added the money was well spent. "CUS is doing the kind of work this union should be doing—research, conferences and the communication of ideas."

CUS asked for a similar volunteer levy last year and was refused by UMSU last year.

Simmie said he believed the change of attitude was due to a change in CUS.

"What they are doing is relevant to each individual campus, for example the work in education reform."

Simmie, as CUS finance commissioner, and UMSU president Chris Westdal, Manitoba representative, are both members of the CUS board of directors.



Photo by Steve Archibald

Ken Nedd: lonesome at Dal

By MAUREEN PHINNEY

"We're basically concerned with personal relationships," said Ken Nedd, Chairman of the Dal CUS committee.

"The main role of CUS is to prepare people for meaningful relationships in society. We want to get them involved right now while they're in university."

"I feel that student apathy—student indifference—springs from the fact that students are not involved as complete persons in the university. We must expose the whole personality in order to improve this situation."

Nedd proposes to spark interpersonal relations and student involvement at Dal by "Having one year promoting student awareness on certain issues—such as the barriers to good education, the values on which the foundations of the university are based, and the things that govern our life process."

"People's lives are being controlled by things like how many cars a company wants, and research in the plastic industry. But at the same time their personal freedom is being neglected."

"CUS wants to promote a new idea of education being a learning process in a community of students and older men in which all aspects of the individual's life should be involved."

"I believe in a union with specific purposes and programs, but, what is more important, we are trying to make people aware of things that REALLY affect them."

Nedd explained the local CUS organization. "There's an education program with committees on things like educational films, and universal accessibility; a Publicity Department outside of Dal, which widens the scope of student knowledge; the administration which handles old CUS business; and a re-orientation program to promote student involvement, by things like the Dal Student Forum and Dal Week.

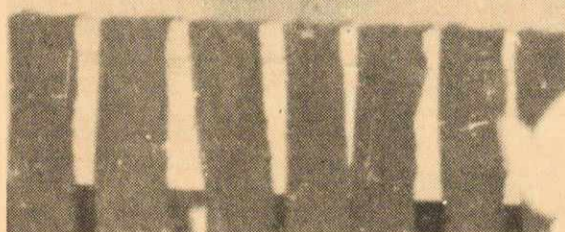
As a special anti-apathy agent for Dal Week, CUS is trying to bring Pierre Berton to Halifax.

Another useful re-orientation project will be a Dal CUS literary magazine. "It will stimulate a lot of interest and involvement," commented Nedd.

A series of CBC TV programs on Dal, and a Registration Committee "for personal contact between every Dal student" are also part of the re-orientation program.

Should Dal CUS have a representative on Student Council? "Being a feelie, I think that the bureaucracy serves only as a means of achievement. The Council this year is most co-operative so this change isn't necessary."

How does Nedd see CUS' national role? "The National CUS committee has several roles. It lobbies the federal government for an increase in insurance benefits, arranges travel to different countries, and investigates the Canadian schools to find out the reasons for the failure of higher education. It also is concerned with student mental health—for instance, why are so many kids on tranquilizers?"



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"CUS has not properly represented Canada on an international basis," said Nedd. "The leaders of CUS are not sufficiently aware of the political opinions of students in general. Nor do they have an awareness of the outside world sufficiently profound enough to be effective."

To overcome this, Nedd mentioned his proposal to Council that "At Dal, we should have a program of intense gathering. We should concentrate HARD for one year on getting students interested in the educational process. The following year, after we've cleaned up our own house, we should increase the international emphasis."

"Increasing the international emphasis" is, to Nedd, "having the people who want to help joining worthwhile organizations such as OXFAM, and taking a general look at other developed countries—such progressive things as the Swedish educational system."

But Nedd is deeply concerned with things at the interpersonal level. "Dal is usually a lonely place. People haven't even got the courage to say 'hi' to each other. We should definitely do something about creating a friendly atmosphere—friendship and learning are not necessarily at variance."

"Students learn more by just getting together and exposing their own emotional problems to other students." "We must learn to listen and solve the ordinary little problems—not just our own, but those of our fellow students."