

Archives

# Brunswickian

CANADA'S OLDEST OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION

VOL. 94 NO. 21

FREDERICTON, N. B., TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1961

The Voice of UNB

## "509 GIRLS" ALMOST A HIT

"Quite a delightful evening" seems to express the general feeling towards this Fall's play, "The Girls in 509". With a few casualties, minor mishaps and some atrocious acting by the bit actors, the play somehow evolved into an amusing little satire. But the humour was appreciated not because of the satire, which on the whole was lost on the UNB audience who were not familiar enough with the American political scene between 1932 and 1958, but rather because of the characterization. In particular, and indeed, almost entirely, the characters of Aunt Hettie, played by that versatile and vivacious blond, Janet Murray, and Professor Pusey, played by director Bob Ferguson, provided the laughs.

Aunt Hettie was on stage most of the time and we were thankful for it. She emoted beautifully although she lacked elderly gestures, and was a treat to the audience with her command of the zippy language.

Her role was a hard one to play in that her lines themselves would not have got a laugh had she not reached the audience with her sympathetic portrayal of this delightful lady's character. Miss Murray's handling of changes of emotion was excellent as she moved from one high pitch to another. She was at her best in the scene where she learned of the Republican victory in 1958.

Mr. Ferguson, rolling his eyes to perfection when gagged and bound, was like Miss Murray, a type character. He was the excitable, fuddy-duddy professor who hadn't done too well in journalism at university, mainly because he had never written a story. The story of the two ladies who had locked themselves up after the Republican defeat in 1932 was his first and probably last big scoop. He spoke well, with a slight tinge of an accent which fitted in with his odd character. Never overplaying, Mr. Ferguson presented the most outstanding performance of the evening.

Mimsy, Aunt Hettie's niece, started out well but seemed to tire slightly of the part and towards the end seemed somewhat overshadowed by her dynamic aunt. This was, it must be stated, primarily the fault of the play itself, for Mimsy in her naive eccentricity had fewer laugh lines

and less vigour, because of her runs off stage to "weld the radiator" or to "pack the bags." On the whole she gave a very competent performance, although at times overacting.

Old Jim, played by David Likely, was a favourite with the audience, and understood his character sympathetically. However, he was slightly unconvincing. For his age his gestures were too quick, and his lines often corny, although this was obviously not his fault. The resulting inconsistency in his character was partly due to his actions and partly to this poor dialogue.

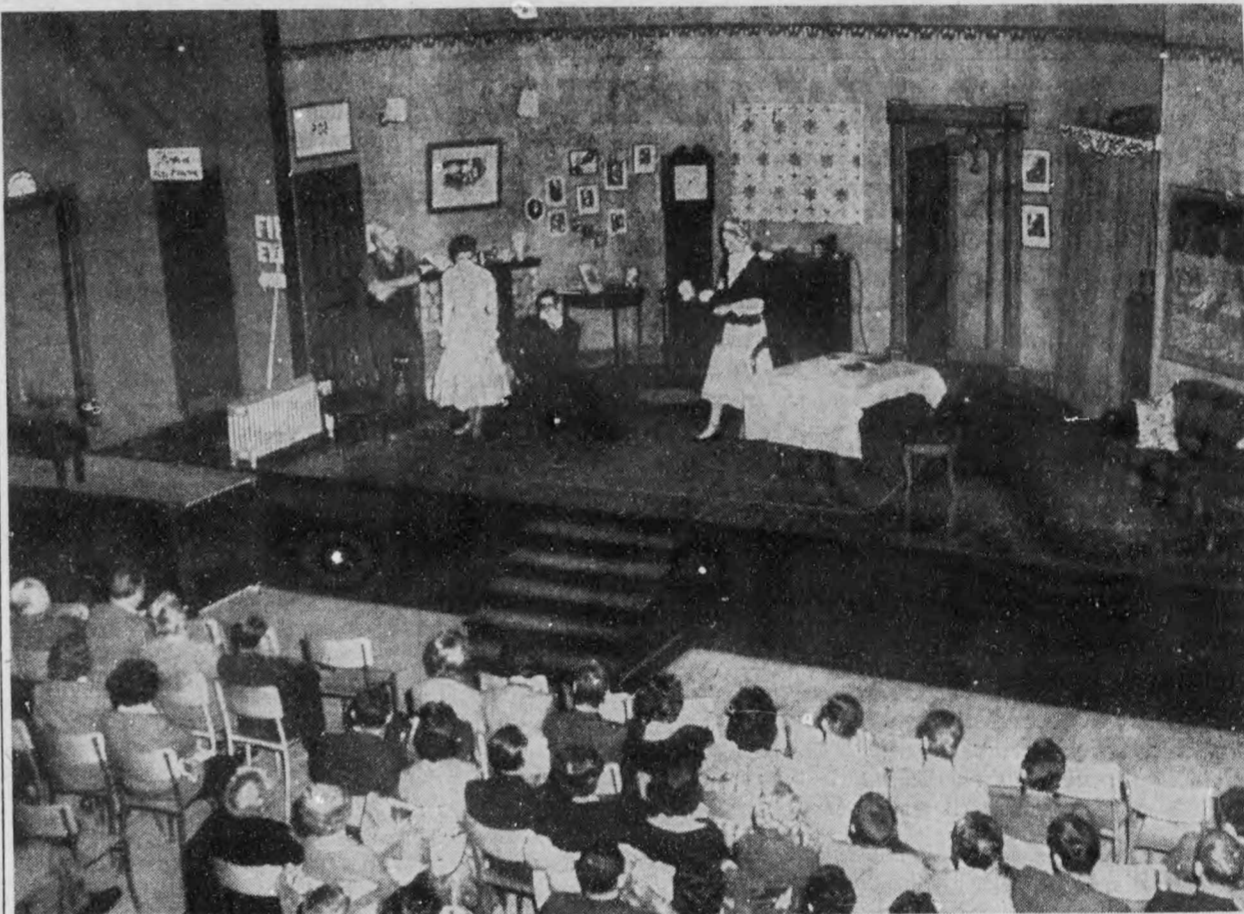
The reporters were totally unconvincing even in their feeble efforts at taking notes. They garbled words, and failed completely to create an effective scene of noise and excitement when Winthrop Allen, Tony Jessop, emerged from Room 509 with the big story.

Martha Saunders, in the part of Miss Freud was convincing and unnerving in her monotoned efficiency but appeared either unsure of her lines or slightly nervous. This caused her to be rather exaggerated even for a farcical part.

Lorne Rozovsky, in the part of Aubrey McKittredge was inclined to overplay his part. In one scene, his actions frontstage marred the laugh lines of Professor Pusey who was backstage.

Tony Jessop gave a fairly competent performance of a rather difficult part, but at times was inclined to overact.

The stage was adequate but failed to depict the result of twenty-six years of life in a single



room. A clever effect was produced with the windows and illuminated sky-scrapers in the background. The most ingenious effect was that of the elevator which provided for many effective exits. Once again attention was focused on the glaring need for curtains in Mem Hall, although house dismantelling was efficiently done.

The makeup was very poorly done, especially that of Aunt Hettie and Mimsy, who appeared to have beards. A disastrous effect was also created around Tony Jessop's eyes.

Many of the weaknesses of "The Girls in 509" lie in the play itself. Even if performed by professionals its satire could not be entirely successful. The three leading characters are a definite contrast to the weakness of the remaining parts, and this was even more marked by the performances given. The play does have some good slapstick and this was well done. The high point of the humour occurred when Mimsy finally got a man by catching Professor Pusey in a zebra trap.

In general, the Drama Society gave a good performance of a play which in itself had many flaws.

### Rumours . . . Rumours . . . Rumours

There are, or so it seems, several petitions circulating around the campus concerning the raise in the price of Carnival tickets. Other complaints are directed towards the Carnival policy of bringing in "name" entertainers from the U. S. rather than popular Canadian entertainers (Tommy Hunter?). The nature of this complaint seems to have arisen from a desire for a "warmer" and more informal Winter Carnival in which the guest entertainers will join in the Carnival activities with the students. One dissenting individual was heard to remark that last year's stars "graced us with their talents

## NFCUS National President Coming

On Wednesday and Thursday of this week, Walter F. McLean, national president of the National Federation of Canadian University Students (NFCUS) will be on campus to speak to the SRC about their part in the work of Canadian students as it is undertaken through the Federation.

Mr. McLean, whose home is in Victoria, B.C., received his B.A. and B.Ed. from UBC; a B.D. from Knox College, U. of T. and has done a year of post-graduate work at the University of Edinburgh. He has served as NFCUS Overseas Ambassador while in Edinburgh and has also been a representative to the World University Service National Assembly and to the International Assembly in Germany.

In a letter to NFCUS officials on campus Mr. McLean stated some of the topics he will be bringing before the SRC: "I expect to be touching on the subject of national student concerns as well as mentioning some of

the services we, as students, have through our corporate lobbying power. Canadian students have played a responsible part in overseas activities and we shall be discussing our commitments and concerns in the international field at some length."

The SRC meeting on Wednesday night will be open to all interested students, and NFCUS officials have expressed a hope that many will be present to hear Mr. McLean.



WALTER F. McLEAN

### A BIG BOO-BOO

The front page article last Tuesday referred to the "Scott Act of 1927": The Act of 1927 was the "Intoxicating Liquor Act" while the Scott Act was a Federal statute passed in 1878. The Scott Act was a Prohibition measure while Premier Baxter's (1927) legislation made provision for New Brunswick's first liquor stores.

### Carnival Announcement

The Winter Carnival Committee has announced that the price of Winter Carnival tickets will be \$4.50, due to the fact that the musical comedy "The Boy-friend" will not be put on because of lack of student support.

### Rod and Gun Club To Hear Biologist

Mr. Brian Carter, a biologist with the Fish and Wildlife Department will address the Rod and Gun Club in the Oak Room of the Student Centre, on Thursday, Dec. 7, at 7:30 p. m. The subject of Mr. Carter's talk, which will be illustrated, is last year's moose season, with emphasis on the limited season, and its effects on present moose population.

Also on the programme will be a film on survival steps in hunting. This will be followed by the awarding of the Rod and Gun Club Challenge Trophy — if anyone has entered a deer this season.

Everyone interested is welcome and members are especially urged to attend.

ball with the Red Bloomers. Sherry will wear the Phys. Ed. banner at this year's Winter Carnival.



MISS PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The highlight of Physical Education Week was the crowning of Miss Phys. Ed. 1962, Sherry Bickle of Bridgewater, N.S. at the dance on Friday night. A third year Phys. Ed'er Sherry is Vice-President of the Physical Education Society and is entering her third year of varsity basket-