

the Drama Society's "Loot"

The New Brunswick Regional Drama Festival was held last week in Saint John. Participating in the Festival were drama groups from St. Thomas University, Saint John High School, Université de Moncton, UNBSJ, and UNB Fredericton.

Saint John High School captured awards for best actor, best supporting actor and actress, and best director. Their production of *King Lear* was acknowledged as a fine production and indeed remarkable for high school students.

Tales of the Past, the Theatre St. Thomas entry, a ribald collection of morality tales, received awards for best visual production and best production. Adjudicator, Mme. Jeanine Beaubien, of Montreal, was most enthusiastic about the energy and teamwork the St. Thomas group exhibited. Mme. Beaubien emphasized that theatre is "working together", and those of us who were lucky enough to see *Tales of the Past* were treated to a "wonderful example of teamwork."

Joan McDaniel, who was Fay in the UNB Drama Society's production of *Loot*, was awarded the trophy for best actress. Mme. Beaubien said that "Fay was terrific... her timing marvelous... she was really acting." The adjudicator said *Loot* was "extraordinarily funny and well staged", however she was somewhat less complementary to other members of the cast. She felt that the other characters lacked consistency and the play needed a better pacing. With the exception of Joan, Mme. Beaubien felt that the cast has not worked on the split second timing necessary to make the play work to its full potential.

The UNB Drama Society would like to thank the UNB Alumni Association and the Creative Arts Committee for contributing the bulk of the funds necessary to permit the group to participate in the Festival.

CHAUCER'S

Professor Beryl Rowland of the Department of English of York University will present an address, "Chaucer's *Miller's Tale: Alison and the Angel*," in Carleton Hall, room 139, at 8 p.m. on Friday evening, March 23, 1973.

Prof. Rowland, who came to Canada from England twenty years ago, took her M.A. at the University of Alberta, and her Doctorate at the University of British Columbia.

Prof. Rowland, who came to Canada from England twenty years ago, took her M.A. at the University of Alberta, and her Doctorate at the University of British Columbia. She has taught at the University of British Columbia, University of Toronto, York University and at the University of California as Visiting Professor. Dr. Rowland has published articles in *American Literature*, *Anglia*, *Archiv*, *The Chaucer Review*, *The Journal of American Studies*, *Nineteenth-Century Fiction*, *The Shakespeare Quarterly*, *The University of Toronto Quarterly*, and other journals, mainly on Chaucer, but also on Melville, Shakespeare, Yeats, and language. She is the author of *Blind Beasts: Chaucer's Animal World*, published by Kent State University Press, 1971, and of *Animals With Human Faces: A Guide to Animal Symbolism*, to be published by the University of Tennessee Press, 1973. She is also the editor of the *Companion to Chaucer Studies*, published by Oxford University Press, 1968, and of *Chaucer and Middle English Studies in Honor of Rossell Hope Robbins*, to be published by Allen & Unwin, 1973. She is a member of ACUTE, the Medieval Academy of America, The International Association of University Professors of English, The English Association, The Renaissance Society, and the Modern Language Association of America, for which she is chairman of the Chaucer Section for 1974. She is one of the editors of *The Chaucer Variorum*, University of Oklahoma, and at present she is engaged in a study of gynecological treatises in Middle English.

Interview:

MARCH 16, 1973

By NANCY CARR

Fay

In the recent regional Dominion Drama Festival, UNB's production of *Loot* gleaned an award in the best actress category for Joan McDaniel. Although she says she was "surprised and complimented" by the selection, Mrs. McDaniel's experience in the competition has led her to question the purpose of such festivals.

"I can't say I was tremendously pleased," she said. "I've come to the conclusion that I really didn't believe in adjudication and competition in festivals."

Mrs. McDaniel, who was praised for good pace and her consistent characterization of a murderous nurse, said that she felt the festival was "not a learning experience." Because the five plays in the festival were all presented on different nights, the *Loot* troupe were not able financially to see the other plays.

"It just seemed that we went to hear the adjudications," she said. "People seemed to forget that the adjudicator was just one person and took her comments too much to heart."

She stressed that it was not the particular adjudicator, Mrs. Jeannine Beaubien, which caused her to feel this way, but the concept of adjudicators in general.

"I think the festivals should be non-competitive," she said. As an example, she said the Theatre Canada National Festival, held in Saskatoon last year, used a group of amateurs, who were "comparable to adjudicators, but did not adjudicate."

The amateurs, said Mrs. McDaniel, led discussions of the play with the audience after the performance, and talked to the performers the next day about their production. Scholarships were awarded to some performers.

She said that if adjudication must continue, there should be more than one adjudicator. Adjudications, she said, "are taken so seriously that one person's comments can crush you."

Mrs. McDaniel's award was the only one to go to UNB. St. John High School's production of *King Lear* brought the cast of that play four awards, for best actor, best supporting actor, best director, and best supporting actress.

Asked how she felt about a high school group walking off with so many awards, Mrs. McDaniel said, "It is embarrassing but it shouldn't be. They did a tremendous job."

Mrs. McDaniel also added that she wished to thank The Alumni and Creative Arts Committee for their support and consideration.

RUGS

All Fredericton rug-makers should visit the UNB Art Centre in March while the Peter Daghish Exhibition of Wall-hangings and Lithographs is on view. The ten wall-hangings are hooked rugs of fantastic brilliantly-coloured yarns and amusing pop designs.

Daghish's lithographs, both black and white and coloured, also use pop themes, including My ABC Colouring Book series of ten lithographs.

Peter Daghish, a British Columbian artist and professor, has studied and exhibited in Canada, Britain and the United States, and his work is represented in major public collections. Memorial University is circulating this exhibition in the Atlantic area.

In the Art Centre Studio is another exhibition of unusual work - twelve silk banners by Shirley Raphael and Robert Venor. The Banners, which vary in length from five to eight and a half feet, are abstract designs in bright colours. Both Montreal artists exhibited recently in the UNB Art Centre with Eight Canadian Printmakers. Confederation Centre is sponsoring this tour of the Atlantic region.

With the Banners is an exhibition of photography by Fernando Payatos of the UNB Romance Languages Department. The work includes a sequence of Spanish photographs and another with a Canadian theme.

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