

A Difficult Decision



DGDS Scores Hit With Mikado Production Operetta Marked by Uniform Excellence

Congratulations are in order to the Dalhousie Glee and Dramatic Society for their excellent performances of "The Mikado" last week.

Although not everyone will agree with me, I believe that the production of "The Mikado" has set a new high for future years to equal or surpass. In past years there have been good individual performances, but this year's production had a uniformity of excellence which will be difficult to match.

The backbone if any musical is the orchestra. Moulding twenty-five musicians into a smoothly functioning unit takes a great deal of time, patience and hard work on the part of all concerned. This year's orchestra seemed better co-ordinated than those of previous years, and showed flashes of brilliancy at times. The accompaniment of the plucked strings, during Pish-Tush's first act aria, was particularly effective.

No Gilbert and Sullivan operetta could be successful without a strong chorus. In this case, the choruses, both School Girls and Nobles, were very good. However, the movements of the School Girls were hampered by lack of space.

The outstanding feature of the production was probably the fan work. I feel that unless the fans had been properly handled, the sparkle of the performances would have been considerably dulled.

Like punctuation marks, the snap of opening fans had to occur at the proper moment in order to achieve an emphatic effect. Such timing is no small thing, and if you do not believe me try it for yourself, then multiply by eighty.

The costumes by Malaber were quite satisfactory with one major exception, the costume of Poo-Bah. That costume was in a disgraceful condition and, if time had permitted, should have been returned. Also, it strikes me that the nine principals should have been provided with distinctive fans. Economy is to be praised only when useful or necessary; in this case, it was neither.

Albert McMahon gave an extremely effective performance in the title role. In spite of the handicap of an uncertain singing voice, Mr. McMahon came through with a splendid interpretation of the part. It is the overall per-

formance that counts in the long run, as was plainly evidenced by the enthusiastic approval of the audience. This was Mr. McMahon's first appearance in a principal role. It is too bad that this success has come in his last year at Dal.

Nanki-Poo was ably portrayed by Brian Edwards, an old favourite of Gilbert and Sullivan fans here. This was probably his last appearance in a Dalhousie operetta, and a very fitting climax it was. The assurance of experience was shown in many ways. The "kissing song" in the first act was particularly effective and was much enjoyed by the audiences.

If any of the performances could be said to be outstanding, one of my candidates would be Ernest Semple in the role of Ko-Ko, the Lord High Executioner. Another newcomer, in so far as principle roles are concerned, Mr. Semple carried his part like a veteran. In both singing and acting he showed exceptional talent, and displayed a stage presence which is unusual for a beginner. The most sincere compliment we can pay is that we hope to see him in many more operettas.

It is indeed unusual for newcomers to turn in so many outstanding roles. Nevertheless, such credit also goes to Roy Kimball for his presentation of Poo-Bah. Once again, fine singing and acting were combined to produce a top performance. An accident to his costume, during the student performance on Saturday afternoon, only served to heighten the fun. We shall be very disappointed if Mr. Kimball does not have a prominent position in future presentations.

Bob Johnstone, another old hand at the game, did a very good

job as Pish-Tush. We are sorry that this was Mr. Johnstone's last appearance on the boards, this being his last year.

Audrey Powell, in the role of Yum-Yum, turned in a performance which will ensure her of a prominent place in future Dalhousie musicals. Not only did she do an excellent job, but she also fought off an attack of laryngitis to do it. Such devotion to duty should not be overlooked. Her aria, "The sun whose rays . . .", deserves particular praise.

Marian Johnstone and Joan Hills played the supporting roles of Pitti-Sing and Peep-Bo very well indeed, getting the most out of every scene.

Katisha was portrayed very adequately by Betty MacFarlane. Unfortunately, Miss MacFarlane's voice is too weak to be terrifying. However, Miss MacFarlane cannot be held accountable for a youthfulness which only time can change.

The Bulletin Board

Freshman Class Meeting—There will be a meeting of all first year students Thursday, March 8 in the Chem Theatre at 12 noon. Purpose is to elect class officers and next year's initiating committee.

Provincial Basketball Meet — The Provincial Girls Basketball Meet will take place March 9 and 10 in the Dal gym. Games are scheduled for the evening of the 9th with the semi-finals in the morning of the 10th and the finals in the evening. Admission is 10c for students on Friday, 25c for the finals.

Girls Hockey — The Dalhousie

Girls Basketball team will take the ice against Halifax All Stars at the Shirley Street Arena, Thursday, March 8, at 8.15 p.m.

Pre-Med Meeting — The final meeting of the Pre-Med Society this year will be held Wednesday, March 7, 7.30 p.m. in the Chemistry Theatre. Everybody out! Dr. F. A. Dunsworth will give a talk on Psychiatry.

Chem Institute of Canada — James S. Thompson, Dean of Divinity, McGill University, will give a lecture under the auspices of the Chemical Institute of Canada, Wednesday, March 7, at 8.15 p.m. in the Medical Science Building. The subject of his lecture will be "The Scientific Revolution". Student members of the Dalhousie Chapter of the Chemical Institute are especially invited.

Circle Francais—There will be a meeting of the Circle Francais under the chairmanship of the French Consul, Wednesday at 8.00 p.m. at King's College. There will be an interesting programme presented by the French chorus.

Delta Gamma—There will be a meeting of Delta Gamma, Thursday, March 7 in Room 3 of the Arts Building. All girls are asked to attend.

CORSAGES



426 BARRINGTON ST. - Halifax
A "Colonial" Corsage designed by ROSEDALE speaks eloquent volumes of tenderness and love.

Only flowers can express your proper sentiments.

The Med Chorus

The close of the year 1950-51 will mark for the Dalhousie Medical Chorus its second anniversary. Although the enrolment has not been large, under the capable direction of Professor Harold Hamer, it has been moulded into a finished, well-balanced group.

At present, plans include a performance on Munro Day and possibly a 30-minute broadcast on D-Day.

It is hoped that next year's Chorus' activities will be more extensive, and an invitation is extended to any new members who can meet together Wednesday's at 1.45. You'll find the boys in the auditorium of the V.G.

With the Dawn

The story or surrender
Is the story of a song
That works in accents tender
Its magic on the strong.
But the story of surrender
Is also one of shame—
And worse, it also is of man
In his search for peace through flame.
Yet the search is always futile
For the fire of lust betrays,
And the highest pinnacle we reach
Like the grey dawn sifts away.

S. T. T. S.

What Does it Mean??

The R.C.A.F. wants University Undergraduates for its SUMMER TECHNICAL TRAINING SCHEME

You will be trained in your summer months with the R.C.A.F. over a three year period, with formal and practical training for a maximum of twenty-two weeks for each summer.

Candidates accepted are appointed as Flight Cadets in the R.C.A.F. Supplementary reserve "Class F" special list, University Branch with basic pay of \$163.00 a month.

ELIGIBLE? Check the following qualifications

- (1) Citizenship—Canadian citizens or British subjects resident in Canada.
- (2) Medical—Must meet existing groundcrew medical standards laid down for the R.C.A.F. (Regular).
- (3) Age—Must have reached their eighteenth but not thirty-fifth birthday.
- (4) Applicants must be in their first year of a four year course or first or second of a five year course and produce evidence of a satisfactory academic standing.

- Medical — Medical Officer — Medical Associate.
- Technical — Aeronautical — Engineering
- Armament
- Construction — Engineering
- Telecommunications.

On graduation—Flight Cadets who completed three years Summer Training and are in good academic standing at their University are eligible for appointment as Pilot Officers of the R.C.A.F. Supplementary Reserve "Class F" or on graduation from University are eligible for promotion to Flying Officer. Pilot Officers in their academic year prior to graduation may apply for appointment to the appropriate officer list of the R.C.A.F. (Regular).

These Points Again

- (a) You get practical training in citizenship at a level commensurate with your academic attainments.
- (b) You get invaluable training in a Technical field and are being paid while you learn.
- (c) You are fitting yourself for a career in the R.C.A.F. if you so desire

or taking your place on the Reserve and helping Canada to do her part by doing your part.

For further information see the R.C.A.F. U.L.O., Mr. H. R. Theakston at Dalhousie University or write or phone the R.C.A.F. Recruiting Unit, Barrington and South Streets, in Halifax.

Telephone 3-6945 or 3-9171-22