



Red n' Black



BY Sarah Ingersoll

photos—tremblay



Well, what can I say about the 31st annual Red n' Black. And how can one possibly express enough gratitude to all members of the show (from performers to stage crew) for supplying all of us with such a fine display of entertainment.

It's obvious that all these people worked extremely hard on the show and should be highly commended.

The show, unlike other years, did not start off with the kickline, a disappointment to some. However the kickline did make an appearance at the end of the evening and was well worth waiting for. The dresses worn by

the girls this year were exceptionally stylish and complimented their performance beautifully. Coordinated by Rishna Singh, the kickline routine was well executed.

Skits this year were funny -- no -- hilarious. I would venture to say they were some of the best skits seen in a long time. Allan Patrick and J.J. Duplacey deserve a round of applause for a job very well done.

Favorite skits of the evening were:

Asylum Fashion Show - an original, side-splitting spoof on fashion shows, only with a twist. The models, inmates of an asylum,

displayed an absurd collection of styles for the insane, the highlight being Chris Moore's stylish outfit and the effect the audience had on him.

The Norwegian Fish Slapping Dance - starring Allan Patrick and J. J. Duplacey as Sven and Bjorn, of the Norwegian Ballet Company. Dialogue between the two was uproarious and the dance performed was unlike any seen before.

Bread & Butter - an act performed to the words and music of that famous (or infamous) song "Bread & Butter". The plot-man loves bread and butter; wife continually feeds him bread and butter; bread & butter lover

decides he doesn't love it as much as he thought; man strangles wife. Eric Semple as man, Alice Hamilton as wife and Greg Mulock, Mike Hughson and Mike Hubbard as singers, presented this skit in terrific form to the delight of the audience.

Bumblini - that grand magician who "touched our hearts" two years ago once again graced the stage with a command performance. Along with his two assistants, Gardania (Eric Semple) and Gargantus (Gary Wood) the great Bumblini (Paul Hanning) displayed his unbelievable magical talents; however, met a untimely end.

Registration "1988" - a particular favorite of the evening, showed what shape UNB will be like in the future. Jim Doherty plays the sole student registering at UNB. J.J. Duplacey stars as the University Librarian, Registrar, Dean of Science and Dean of Arts. The plot - problems still arise with registration, even with only one student. Dr. Anderson put in a surprise appearance, portraying himself and the university janitor. Excellent skit - very well done.

Other skits, each of which were enjoyed by everyone were:

Argument Clinic - a Monty Python skit, denoting the problems that arise when one person (Gary Wood) wants to have an argument. Other people in this skit were Janice Richard - Secretary; J.J. Duplacey - abuse; Andrew Jones - insults and Allan Patrick - arguments.

Bruce - a totally different and professionally executed story in song (or "fairy tale") done by Joanne Evans. Narrative to music about one of our great heroes "Poor Bruce".

Ventriloquist "Dan & Jim" with Mike Hughson as the "world's greatest ventriloquist" and Mike Irton as his dummy. Very well done and extremely original.

"Killer Trees" - plot of frees rebelling against society because of being "axed in the back" and "those damn dogs". Surprise guest - Jeff Irwin as Sheriff Beuford T. Justice. Quite good but a little weak in the end.

Two special guests at the show were "Groucho" - Jody Reich - short but sweet, and The Phantom of the Playhouse dressed as one of the little people from "Star Wars".

As always, the Jug Band were a highlight of the evening. (Have you ever heard "Oh Susannah" and "Bicycle Built for Two" played without its fifth note?) What would Red n' Black be without these boys, I ask you?

Individual singers this year were Karen Moore, Kieran Ferris and Judy Pelletier. Karen Moore, opened the show with "Moonlight

... Feels Right", "Carrie" and a Fleetwood Mac tune. Kieran Ferris, performed "Last Time I Saw Him" and two other songs. It wasn't Kieran's night though as her microphone fell apart in the middle of one of her numbers. But I must say, no professional could have handled it any better. Hats off to you, Kieran!

Everyone likes a bit of country rock and we were provided with excellent numbers by Dave Johnson and Bill McAvoy, accompaniment by Mark Lulham on harmonica; recorder and flute.

Of course, the highlight of the entire evening was the singing of

Judy Pelletier. That girl has, as far as I'm concerned, the most amazing voice I have heard in a long time. Many were disappointed, however, that she only performed two numbers. (But I have heard it through the grapevine that she will be on television (CBC) this Monday night. I don't know about you but I am watching it.)

What would any show be without commercials? Red n' Black did not escape the popular (?) phenomenon. Brought to you by the Industrial Safety Council, two commercials were witnessed by us that had to be the funniest, most absurd brand of humor I have seen

in years. Lucky thing you had your gloves in your pocket, eh Jim?

When it comes to professionalism no act could do better than the UNB Dance Theatre. This part of the show has become a tradition and hope they continue to appear in the future.

Emcees Robin Siegerman and John Hello managed to keep the show rolling, although a bit of nervousness seemed to show through.

All in all, this year's show was very good, the skits overpowering the music.

Each member deserves a pat on the back for a job well done. See ya next year!

