

A Christmas offering from Theatre New Brunswick

by Matt Roherty
Brunswickan Entertainment

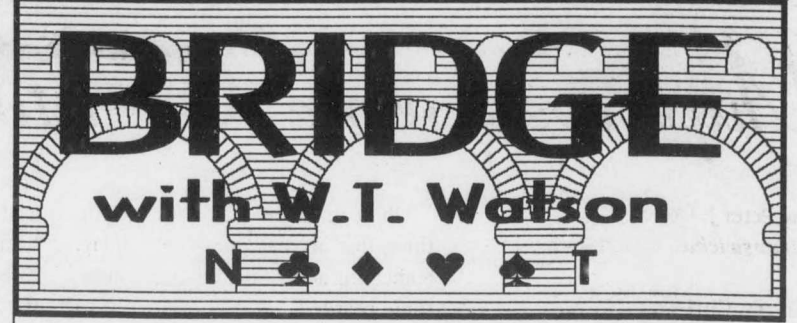
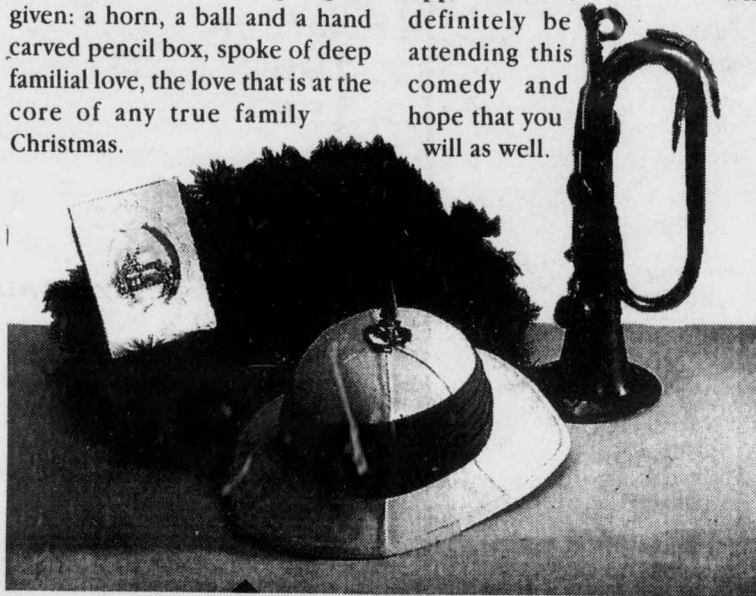
Last Friday I had the opportunity to view *A Gift To Last* presented by T.N.B. It is an adaptation from the television pilot by Gordon Pinsent and written by Walter Learning, and the late Alden Nowlan. *A Gift To Last* is a pleasant reminder of what Christmas is really about beneath all the plastic and shiny paper of our times.

A heart-warming tale set in the mid 1800's in the ancestral home of the Sturgess family, the story tells of a young boy, his emotionally conservative father, his loving, exuberant uncle and the rest of a loving family. The boy, Clement Sturgess, is played by Patrick Maubert. Clement desperately wants his fathers love, yet does his best to imitate the staunch conservative attitude of his father. Harrison Sturgess, Clements father was played by Hank Stinson. Harrison is the personification of conservatism. Dressed in a starched shirt he maintains a rigid posture, both mentally and physically. Underneath all this though, is a deep love for his son. Harrison wants desperately to reach out to him, but years of being the stiff authority figure make it

exceedingly difficult. The third character of major importance is Edgar Sturgess, Harrison's younger brother who was left nothing upon their fathers passing. Edgar, played by David Nairn, is Harrison's alter-ego. A soldier, Edgar is a man who loves openly. He is the quintessential joyous Christmas spirit who's presence on stage brings an audible sense of happiness to the set. Clement gets along exceptionally well with Edgar, who ultimately helps him to bond with his father. The exchange of gifts is not a transaction of chattel, but a symbol of one's affections. This is as true today as it was in days gone by. The simple gifts given: a horn, a ball and a hand carved pencil box, spoke of deep familial love, the love that is at the core of any true family Christmas.

Last year at this time T.N.B. presented *A Christmas Carol*. Though a less renowned story, *A Gift To Last* conveyed the holiday spirit more thoughtfully. Of particular appreciation was the choir, who between scenes, warmed the soul with the carols of the season.

I noticed, to my chagrin, that there were very few of my fellow students at the theatre. If you've never been, I recommend going to see *The Gin Game*, a T.N.B. production which will be at The Playhouse on January 19. Set on the porch of a retirement home two elderly people discuss the issues of life, history and lost opportunities. I will definitely be attending this comedy and hope that you will as well.



The answer to last week's bridge quiz is 3♠s by East and West. North and South would like the trump to be hearts but they probably will not bid at all because of their lack of high cards. In order to get the contract, North and South would have to bid 4♥s. This follows from the order of bids given in the last Bridge column and Spades being a higher ranking suit than hearts. North and South, as the cards lie, will go down four in 4♥s if the declarer plays well. Penalties and scoring will be discussed later.

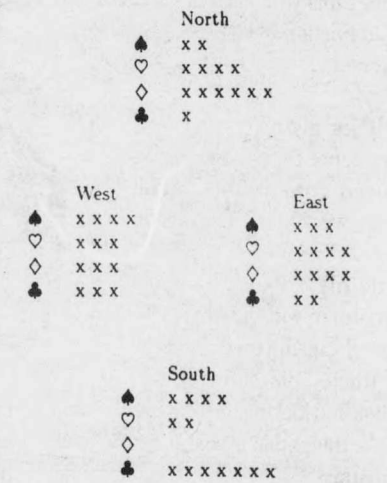
So why exactly do East and West want spades as trump? It is because they have more of the trump suit than the opponents. They have a fit since the number of cards both partners have in one suit is eight or more. The best fit is generally chosen as the trump suit. East and West chose spades as their contract because of the excellent nine card fit in spades.

The partnership will always have at least one suit with a total of seven or more cards. Although a trump contract is sometimes played with a 7 card fit, a No Trump contract is probably the best when there are no 8 card or better fits.

Consider the deal shown below. The type of the card is not shown since the question is only concerned with the

shape of the hand. The shape of the hand refers to the distribution of the cards in each suit in one hand. If a player has a 5-4-2-2 shape or distribution, he has 5♠s, 4♥s, 2♦s and 2♣s. From the shapes shown below, what is the best type of contract for East and West? And for North and South?

The answer will be in the next Bridge column which will be printed in the new year. Also in the new year, the UNBDBC (UNB Duplicate Bridge Club) will have its first meeting on Wednesday, January 10th in room 203 of the SUB at 8:00 pm. If you want to learn how to play Bridge or you just want to play, come out every Wednesday night in the new year.



AUDITIONS
FOR
ROMEO AND JULIET

We are looking to fill
15-20 parts with an equal
number of male and
female roles.

Dec. 5, 7-11 pm
Carleton 139

No experience needed
For More Info: 447-3078

A WILL ACT FOR FOOD / STAGE LEFT JOINT PRODUCTION

Remember, where your second
Medium is only \$5.00

**FREE
DELIVERY**

Peter Allison's
Pizza Hut

Good Luck on Exams

452-9988

Have a safe holiday
See you next year