

R & B a success but . . .

# Poor production detracts from talent

The 25th annual Red and Black Revue opened on Tuesday night in the SUB Ballroom. The Revue is usually held in the Playhouse downtown but due to renovations being carried on in that building, alternate facilities had to be found.

As in previous years there was certainly no lack of talent on the performers part and they performed well despite adversity. However, the production itself could have been better organized. The show was scheduled to be about two hours long but was actually much closer to three. This was mainly due to the fact that too much time was taken to change sets, etc., between each act.

A number of times after the stage hands had put the microphones out on stage for various singers, the performers

had to spend a few minutes readjusting the height of them. Also, the type of microphones used were such that they had to be DIRECTLY in front of the singers' mouths or the sound would just not get picked up. Now, how many singers just stand there and sing directly straight ahead without moving their head even slightly to one side?

The lighting was not nearly as good as it could have been. With the vast array of spotlights they had, the lighting crew should have been able to use them more effectively. Also, at times, the two men (sometimes only one) manning the two follow-spots did not seem to know when or where to shine their lights. The lighting pattern and colours did not seem to vary much at all. By using a number of colour

filters on some of the fixed spots, and the follow-spots, certain aspects of the show could have been improved somewhat.

The MC of the first half of the show was its Director, Jim Constable. He gave the audience the impression that he really didn't give a damn whether they stayed, went home, or if the entire cast suddenly came down with a severe case of the runs. He did next to nothing to tie the first half of the show together. If there was a long break between acts he just stood around in his "best" suit of romping-

in-the-woods clothes and waited patiently with the audience.

The Candidates for Carnival Queen were introduced near the end of the first part by Constable. He called out their names and they all came up onto the stage and stood in a line. After standing there for a few minutes feeling rather stupid, they were all told to go back to their seats. Couldn't they have been interviewed or something? That part of the show seemed to have a slight similarity with a White Slave Market, which was by no means the girls fault.

The MC for the second half

of the show was Peter Ashton, the Assistant Director of the Red and Black. He came out on stage dressed as a pink fairy with a very large wand. His fairyish antics were quite amusing at first but after awhile he seemed to run out of things to say and do between acts to keep the audience entertained.

It should be pointed out that the Sub Ballroom does not have the proper facilities to put on a show of this type. If the Playhouse had been available the technical aspects of the show would have been a lot better.



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Photo by Ken De Freitas

From left to right... Clarence Bacchus, Brian Ralph, Hubert George, Stanley Massiah, Cecil Ojah and Terrence Bostwick part of the very entertaining Carribean Circle, one of R&B's talented acts.

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### Snow removal

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worst problem and snow removal people face. "We are scared to death all the time," Smith said. "One slip with the three ton truck, and you can imagine what will happen to the car. Cars slow us up considerably."

Smith feels that the equipment he has now is sufficient, although he would like to have more, such as a grader to remove the ice. "We would love to have a grader," he said, "but they cost \$25,000, and are only used two or three months of the year. We can't afford such luxuries as that. Our snow-blower will last us another five to eight years before it has to be replaced. We still have the original tractor we bought in 1957. We take good care of the machines, and they are in good condition. What we

need is newer equipment, not more. We are doing well with what we have."

For next year they are planning to have a blade for the salt truck to make it more versatile, and to enable it to fill in when the other truck has a breakdown. Also, the snow removal people are looking for something to remove the snow from the sidewalks. "The next time we are trading vehicles, we will try to get some better type of something—we don't know what—to remove snow from the walks."

Although Smith says, "We are a long way from being perfect," his department must be commended for having done a good job in the past, and it is hoped that they will continue to provide such service in the future.

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