

MEDEA: A SUCCESS

The Classical Society's annual drama was presented March 3-5 in the Dalhousie Gymnasium to generally small though enthusiastic audiences. A fairly well rehearsed and very well directed cast lent an air of auspiciousness to the performance of a topic essentially tragic in content.

Euripides' *Medea*, the history of a woman fired with the passions of heart and soul, was quite suited to the circumstances of its presentation. Dynamic and full of a candid splendor of ancient Athens, it did not at any time pause long enough to permit the audience to begin to fight, jolting only in places where illness prevented one of the leading actors, **John Chambers**, from taking part.

Carol Clark, playing the role of *Medea*, seemed at first rather uncomfortable and appeared more concerned about speaking directly to the audience rather than to other actors then on stage. Emotions engendered occasionally throughout the play seemed several times too artificial to be completely convincing, through her management of the final two scenes, the scheming woman in the process of spinning her web, finally realizing her diabolical ends, was superb.

Jason, the husband attempting to rid himself of his wife *Medea*, was played by **Leon Cole**, an actor whose abilities would be more widely accepted where he performing on radio, not on stage. His speaking voice was on the whole excellent, well modulated and generally conveyed the impression both that he knew and was in sympathy with the character he portrayed. He also seemed uncomfortable at the beginning of the performance, and on two occasions his words were reduced to a tripping, almost unintelligible patter. During the course of the play his gestures tended to detract from the content of the text and the dramatic situation in which he was involved.

Penelope Stanbury, playing the nurse, was unfortunate in her choice of parts. At times she seemed to be overly dramatic, attempting to be too expressive, resulting in the loss of a great deal of the candour of her portrayal. During her long monologue at the beginning of the play, she appeared to be preaching a rather weighty sermon, her voice rising and falling in great cadences of sound and thought, rather than offering a well-tempered attack on the substance of the story.

John Acker as *Aegeus* was excellent. His voice had a full, resonating quality that carried well from the stage to the last row of seats. He spoke slowly and deliberately, impressing the audience with the veracity of his performance.

The brief appearance of **Andrew Betts** as the attendant was fairly well done, although both he and **Penelope Stanbury** had great difficulty in finding places to put their hands: their movements were generally quite awkward.

Certainly the most creditable and convincing performances of the play was **Bob Fowler** in the role of *Jason's messenger*. His style of acting was dramatic, conveying an aura of realism to both the audience and, in certain cases, to other actors then on stage.

Here were no wasted motions nor superfluous intonations of voice. His description of the death of *Jason's bride-to-be* was masterful and showed an appreciation both of the art of acting and of the play itself. He seemed to dominate the audience by an almost hypnotic quality.

Congratulations are to be extended both to the cast and to its director, **DR. M. A. USMINAI**, for a very enjoyable evening's entertainment.

ROGUE'S GALLERY

N.F.C.U.S. Chairman

Alan Fleming hails from New Glasgow and graduates this year in Arts, entering Law next year. He was News Editor on the *Gazette* and this year is an Associate Editor. He has been active in N.F.C.U.S. and is Freshman Representative on the Council this year.

Junior Girl

Bonnie Murray has taken part in many campus activities these last two years. In her first year she was active in volleyball and ground hockey and both years she has been on the Circulation Dept. of the *Gazette* staff. Bonnie has had parts in "Finian's Rainbow" and "Paint Your Wagon," and has been a cheerleader. She is a member of Pi Beta Phi fraternity and this year is chairman of FROS and secretary of NFCUS. She was also in the Greek play "Medea."

Junior Boy

Bill Dickson was president of the Freshman Class last year and took an active part in the various inter-fac sports. This year Bill is a member of NFCUS and treasurer of Arts and Science Society. Besides being house manager and in charge of the box office for DGDS, he has played Junior Varsity Football.

Sophomore Representative

Jim Hurley gained much experience on High School students' councils in Montreal. Jim has been active on the Dal campus this year, being President of the freshman class, treasurer of the 1959 Initiation Committee Conservative Cabinet Minister in the Model Parliament, biographer of **Pharos**, an active member of Le Circle Francais, a member of the chorus in "Paint Your Wagon," and a participant of Inter-fac Debating.

Commerce Representative

Les Karagianis hails from Victoria, British Columbia and graduates with his Bachelor of Commerce in 1960. Les was president of the Commerce company this past year and is on the Munro Day committee. He is the originator and organizer of the various train excursions to the other Maritime universities. He has been in the U.N.T.D.'s for the past three years and this year is the Mess President.

Law Representative

Gordie Sedgwick, from Kingston, Ontario, is in his first year law, having graduated from Queen's in '56. He has participated in Varsity football, interfac sports and political activities.

Engineering Representative

Bob Smith is a Halifaxian in third year engineering and this year is the president of the Engineering Society. He is a member of Sigma Chi fraternity.

Pharmacy Representative

Bill Wilson hails from Berwick and is in his second year pharmacy. Being musically inclined, he has been active in the Dal band for two years and has participated in *Paint Your Wagon* and *Finian's Rainbow*. He has also taken part in inter-fac hockey and volleyball.

Med Representatives

Carl Dubicki and **Nick Sinclair** are both second year med students. Carl is a member of Phi Chi fraternity and Nick a member of Phi Rho. Graduating in 1956, Nick was the winner of the Avery Award for the highest average in the graduating class among those not taking Honor courses.

NFCUS Discuss . . .

Elvis, Mozart, and Education

by STU MacKINNON

With the financial support of the Canada Council, the National Federation of Canadian University Students organized the first student National Seminar held at the University of Western Ontario in London from the 8th to the 12th of September 1958. The theme was "The Role of the University in National Development."

The most stimulating part of the seminar was the informal discussion. In the afternoons, which were mostly free, and after the sessions in the evening, groups of participants, quite often including professors, would gather to solve the problems of the nation and the world. These were the moments when thought was free and the best cross-fertilization of ideas took place. I remember one discussion in particular which carried over for several days, dealing with standards in the Arts, and particularly music in which **Elvis Presley** and **Mozart** were for a time caught in the heavy crossfire of argument.

Our fare was varied, for we heard talks given by leaders in the fields of the humanities, social sciences, fine arts, pure and applied sciences, university extension, labour unions, Canadian theatre, business and industry, and mass communications media.

Alan Jarvis, Director of the National Gallery gave a stimulating talk on the fine arts in Canada. He said that the volume of first class work was high for a nation of our size, and that Canada was beginning to take her place in the international art scene. When the question of a Canadian culture was raised, Mr. Jarvis answered that there are several strong regional

D.G.D.S. President

Don Aitken, a native of Hamilton, Ontario, graduated from the University of Toronto with his B.A. in 1956. While in Toronto he acted at the Hart House Theatre. In his three years at Dal, Don has acted in four DGDS productions: "The Admirable Crichton," "Finian's Rainbow," "The Hidden River," and "Paint Your Wagon." With this background, Don, who will be in fourth year Medicine next year, is well equipped for the position of DGDS president.

Dentistry Representative

Dave "Sid" Campbell is from Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island and in third year Dentistry.

cultures, but no one culture for Canada.

Touching for a moment on university architecture, Mr. Jarvis raised a point that Dalhousians might well ponder. He claimed that the idea of Uniform style is utter nonsense; that a good style will be good whether or not it matches the other buildings, and with the proper planning a sense of unity can be achieved without the actual sameness of design.

To attend the Stratford Festival is always an adventure, but to see a performance of *Henry IV* in the afternoon and then have Stratford Festival Director **Michael Langham** lead our discussion on Canadian theatre that very evening was an even more memorable experience.

To Mr. Langham the theatre is a representation of life in a heightened form. He believes that the actor should remain aloof from conventional society. The actor is a recorder of society and must maintain some objectivity about the society he records. Mr. Langham spoke of the theatre as a holy place where a dedicated person performs an act of communion with a live audience.

For me, the discussion led by Dr. E. W. R. Steacie was the most significant and relevant of all. Dr. Steacie struck the keynote of the seminar when he said that the university should not try consciously, to assist the national development in a physical sense. The university is concerned with education, and the less it strives to be useful, the more useful it will be. It must seek knowledge for its own sake and from this will come something practical.

One fact that came to focus very clearly at the Seminar was the lack of knowledge of the French language by the English-speaking students. A comparatively small number of those who spoke English were at all conversant with French, whereas all the French speaking participants had an adequate grasp of English and some were very fluent in it. I found myself embarrassed by my own inadequacy and attitude of English speaking students.

I welcomed the opportunity of learning something of the points of view of fellow students across the country, particularly in Quebec. This is one of the great contributions of a national seminar: that it enables students to have an appreciation of the ideas of others from the four corners of this vast country. In particular it facilitates the interchange of ideas between our two basic cultural groups, this interchange is needed if Canada is to develop fully into a strong mature nation.

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