

For the Health of It '89

by Sandy MacKay

The show starts. Our MC, Trish Pearson, announces that her co-MC, Sandra MacFadyen, is terrified. Sandra apparently doesn't want to do the show. Moments later, a person inside a pillowcase is carried through the auditorium and deposited on the stage. Sandra appears and demands to know just what is going on. She looks at the audience and turns to flee. Trish promptly snaps a set of handcuffs on her. The crowd goes wild, and the manic mood of the evening is set.

For the Health of It is a yearly competition held between the health profession colleges. Med and dentistry students do not take part, however — something I don't understand. Don't they consider themselves professional?

heads, to the music of "Walk Like an Egyptian."

The time machine spins yet again, and the hillbillies are in the "Neutron-Land of the Future." The hillbillies ask for music, and the head-neutron yells "Bring on the Pointed Sisters," and the dancers whirl in the black light to "The Neutron Dance."

One last spin of the time machine, and the hillbillies lead everyone in a foot-stompin' hoe-down, and the audience makes so much noise yelling and cheering, I couldn't tell what the song was.

The Physios exit to wild applause, and I was amazed at the calibre of the performance.

Next comes the 15-minute filler from the School of Health Administration. They do a short piece called "Send in the Clowns." They poke fun at their

dogs to the tune of "Beat It," and the cowardly Alex P. Kitty tries to act tough. The plot gets thick, but at the end, every cat has a mate of some sort, and dogs and cats all dance together to the song from *Grease* — "We Go Together," and sneak the names of the featured cats in there somehow. And off, to the noise of wild applause.

Next is a Rap Session by the School of Human Communication Disorders, and, in attempting to pronounce it, MC Trish proves herself ready for treatment by this group. Ten or so of them get up to perform a rap in which they announce their address at Fenwick, explain the horrors of the building they work out of, and end by inviting everyone by for a visit sometime. They shuffle off coolly to wild applause.

Intermission. I search wildly for Leslie, who I was supposed to

Ella to look after, but they are warned that the creature's time beneath the sea is limited.

Time passes. 15 years later, and all the fish are making bad puns, like "Cod, I hate school." There is role call, where we learn the creature's name is Tad Pole. The fish dance to a tuna (ha ha) that starts out, "I ain't goin' to school no more," and then the lobsters do a wild dance to "Rock Lobster."

Enter the slinky Neptune, who announces that Tad's time beneath the waves is over, and an Occupational Therapy Submarine is on its way to take it to the surface to help it adapt to its new life on land. Another pun, referring to Tad's apparent sickness. "I must have been sick with Sam 'n Ella." The whole watery world dances to Gabriel's "I Go Swimming." Then Tad is taken away by the O.T. Yellow Sub, but not before grabbing a lobster to take back to the surface for supper.

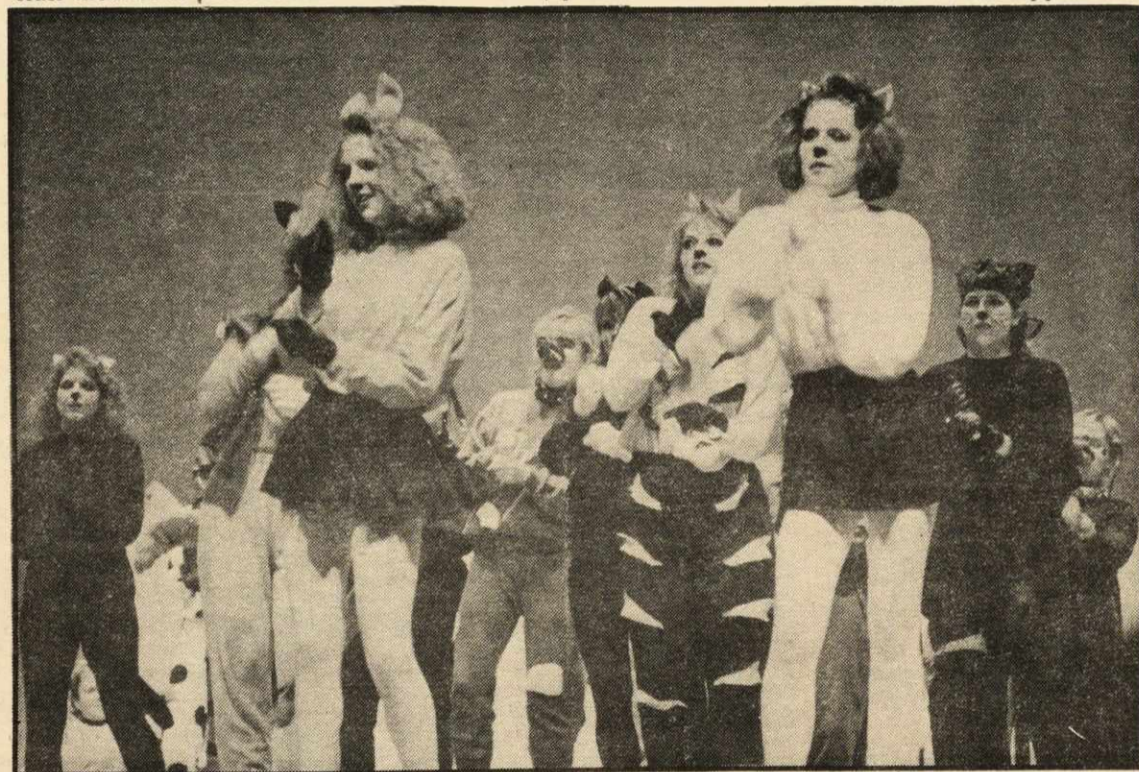
The last group to put on a skit is Pharmacy. Their presentation is "Fantasy Island," and you can



guess who some of the characters are. "Roarke" introduces the fantasizers to "Tattoo." The woman who arrives on the island looking for peace and quiet, without men, leads the Island women in "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun." The man who arrives on the island looking for the love of his life leads a group of men dressed in towels. They dance to "Simply Irresistible" and tear off the stage throwing their towels behind them to wild cheers. In a classic ending, the horny guy gets the shy woman when cupid sneaks on and shoots her. The entire ensemble dances to "I Had the Time of My Life" and they too exit the stage to wild applause.

The show is over, the judges are tabulating the scores and we are introduced to members of the organizing committee. The audience offers applause as the speakers explain the work that goes into these shows. Each performance took three months of preparation. Many of the per-

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The Nursing cat-astrophes strut their stuff

photo: Mare Jo Boyce

The Physiotherapists are the first to take the stage. The skit is called "Time of Our Lives," and features a young Physio student who is afraid he won't get his bursary when his advisor meets his family, a bunch of hillbillies. When they arrive, he hides them in a box that turns out to be a time machine!

The family first gets whisked back to the Stone Age. A cave woman is beating a caveman with a bone, telling him to take out the garbage and don't forget to walk the dinosaur. Physios dressed as stegosauruses and pterodactyls begin a wild interpretation of "Everybody Do the Dinosaur."

The time machine spins again, and the hillbillies land in Tut's Egypt. The Pharaoh invites them to a feast, but the Queen says "Wait a minute. These people don't look like Egyptians. They don't smell like Egyptians. They don't even walk like Egyptians." Into another number, with fancy footwork and bobbing Egyptian

own area of study, by comparing administrators to clowns, juggling budgets (one clown can't do it) and telling bad jokes. Wade Wore of the School of Health Administration said this was the first year the school was involved and they were very excited to be finally generating enough interest to get a show together. "Next year, we plan to get a full competitive act together, and we plan to take the whole show — first place!"


Next up was Nursing. Their skit is called "Cat-astrophe," and they kick it off with strange jokes like "You don't bring me mice any more." Their skit is the story of an alley-cat/house-cat love affair.

The house-cats, led by Rama-Lama-Ding-Dong, get lost in an alley, and dance to the tune of "Stray Cat Strut." Alas, here comes a bunch of nasty dogs, who chase them away to the tune of "Respect." The tough alley-cats, led by Shoo-Be-Do chase away the

meet hours earlier. No luck. Back into the Cohn for the rest of it. On my way back into the theatre, I notice that people in wheelchairs are at the back of the theatre. Interesting, that a performance put on by the Health Professions should lack accommodations for wheelchairs. Is there no wheelchair seating at the Cohn?

The Occupational Therapists are next, and they have been winners for the past three years. Their entry this year is called "For the Halibut."

At the start of the skit, a baby falls off a dory into the deep briny ocean. The next scene has the denizens of the underwater world grouping around the baby, wondering what they are going to do with this creature. It is obvious it will die soon, so they summon Neptuna, the Goddess of Gills. Neptuna, a sultry mermaid, resuscitates the baby to the tune of "Push It" with the help of jingling sea-horse-type creatures. The baby is given over to Sam and



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