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Your Editor Speaks . . .

This week saw the fall production of the Drama Society at Memorial Hall—*The Biggest Thief in Town*. To this untutored eye, at least, it was very enjoyably and competently executed. The members of the cast and the stage hands are to be congratulated. Miss Mansfield, the director did a fine job and UNB is lucky to be provided with such interested and professional advice.

To cast and successfully produce any play at the University of New Brunswick is, in itself, an enigma that constantly amazes me. It is difficult enough to stage a well acted play anywhere, but at UNB, where the atmosphere is one of negligent uninterest, is a plaudit in itself. This curious passive neglect of drama is something which is peculiar to this twentieth century. In addition, it is not restricted to UNB or the Maritime Provinces, although in an underpopulated region it tends to be more noticeable. It would be unfair, I think, to state that UNB students dislike drama. Rather, their upbringing and conditioning has not allowed for a healthy appreciation, which, I think, is natural. This void in our culture (if I may use that somewhat woolly term) might be traced to our illustrious ancestors who took a rather dim view of "the stage". However, we seem to have successfully discarded most of these ancient quirks—why not this one? On the other hand some upright young students will imply (not tell, mind you) that such aesthetic activity is sissified and thus, beneath their notice. No comment on this opinion is necessary.

This age of technological advancement suggests one reason; that is, that the trend toward excessive realism, as evidenced in the moving picture and television, tend to make us unappreciative of an art form that demands imagination and thought. The emphasis on entertainment has shifted radically in the last 50 years. Whereas formerly, a play was designed to be provocative—that is, cause the spectator to think—entertainment in this present age adopts, rather too successfully, the burden of providing all sensations, thus rendering thought unnecessary. I will admit, of course that in the more outstanding examples of moving pictures, a measure of what I am describing does succeed in bursting through. However, for the most part, and for the majority of people, a play is unattractive because it only partly satisfies this desire for absolute visual realism, with which we have been conditioned.

This whole hypothesis does rest on the definition of "art" or more particularly, what constitutes satisfactory stage entertainment. It might be argued that these values have changed (I would hesitate to use any phrase which denotes progress) with the modern era, and a play, or its cinematic equivalent must be approached with entirely different postulates. However, I would suggest that in reality, a substantial portion of what we term "art" has been lost, and replaced by material designed to appeal to the senses, to the almost complete exclusion of the mind.

Thus it can be seen that live drama, or what is still commonly known as "the stage" is confronted with considerable odds. Much more is the amateur stage confronted with this lamentable apathy, especially when its only audience consists of UNB students, who are well known for their adherence to conformity.

You are always welcome at the

Paradise Restaurants

SAINT JOHN — AND — FREDERICTON

Letters to the Editor

The Editor
The Brunswickan
U.N.B.
Dear Sir:

This article is being written in reply to the column "Caustic Comment" by the Disgruntled Co-Ed, who seems to feel that all is not well with the average male student Up the Hill. Let us take a look at the opposite sex for a moment. Typical example of co-ed consideration for the U.N.B. men is as follows. The author of **Caustic Comment** should realize that in order to be respected by male students, she should let her prospective date know whether she is coming or going before he hears that she is going with someone else. (No names mentioned but rather obvious, eh what?) There are several co-eds on this campus that seem to think that their main objective is to get as many males under their belts as possible. I am sure that the student taking one of these Co-eds out feels that she is only going out with him until she can find a better fish to fry. Economics — a science dealing with the behaviour of human beings in business affairs. If the co-eds would consider the problem of obtaining dates less of a business scheme and more of a social function, they might find that the said students would be more interested. As it is they feel on the average that they are fish baked. If the Co-eds can't pick out someone who dresses properly, and the majority of U.N.B. men do; it shows a lack of higher intelligence on the part of the Co-eds. Perhaps some of the conflicts between students will be straightened out with the proposed introduction of weekly dances on the Campus. If you are not satisfied with those who ask you out; don't accept, go stag; it is not as degrading as Co-eds might think. Going to these dances will give you an opportunity to get to know more U.N.B. men. I can only suggest to this disgruntled Co-ed that in the future if she has any criticisms to make, she might accompany them with at least one constructive idea. We know what VIRULENT means, do you? In summing up, scanning both the pro's and con's, it is my opinion that the authors or author of **Caustic Comment**, either are confused or frustrated.

Yours truly,
Sympathetic Onlooker

NAMES PLEASE . . .

Newspaper editors face a great many problems. Especially editors of university newspapers. Every year about this time we run into an old perennial: Letters to the Editor.

Our policy on this matter can be stated very simply: "Our readers, write or wrong." There are of course the inevitable conditions. Letters should be written on one side of a sheet of paper, typed or printed, not more than 150 words long, and they must be signed.

So far we haven't any trouble reading letters sent to us, and they have usually been short enough. They even get signed. And that's where we been having trouble.

"Signed" means with your full name, the one your parents gave you, and not one that you dreamed up all by yourself. You should also give your choice, and if you mail the letter to us, your telephone number.

Why all the rigamarole? To protect you. **The Varsity** cannot print letters from people we aren't even sure exist. If you very strongly object to seeing your name in print, it is possible for us to withhold your name, provided we know what name to withhold.

Recently we have received quite a few letters which we rather enjoyed. We think that you would enjoy them too. One of the letters castigated us in a most unreasonable fashion, but we can't even refute it, because we can't print it, because it is not signed properly.

It is interesting to note, with regard to this matter of letters,

that so many of you agree with us on the stand we take on things. We're glad to know that you think we have been correct in estimat-

The Editor,
The Brunswickan
Dear Sir:

Broad brimmed hats and sun glasses are the only protection against your incandescent front page account of a magnificent formal dance held on the campus last Friday night. I stand in humble awe and wonder.

One question my hearty crew and I would ask, effervescent sir, that in future we may prepare ourselves for the erotic beckoning of this pastel paradise. Where, prithee, was this temple of temptation this bewitching Bacchanalia?

Of our own modest celebration we know and in it we take much pride but we would abandon it in haste were we permitted to sport on the threshold of Elysium.

Sincerely,
Hazan Marr,
Chairman,
Lady Beaverbrook Residence
Social Committee

The Editor,
The Brunswickan,
UNB.

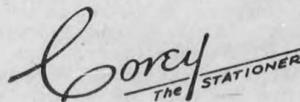
Dear Sir:
If you as a co-ed who presumes to represent a group, took the letter concerning a broom-fest seriously, it is very sad. Is it true that you actually felt that we go around and get (you used a very naughty word) "drunk". The article was directed at the students who feel that it is a valiant thing to get "drunk". We were trying to point out the
(Continued on Page 3)

ing the state of the student mind at the University.

Even though you do agree with us, we still invite your comments and opinions. But please, put your name at the bottom, so that we will be sure you are not of the lunatic fringe.

"The Varsity."

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