

Who or what is Albert Ross?

BY DAVID MAZEROLLE
Brunswickan Staff

In the English wing of Carleton Hall, there is a workroom known as the Albert Ross Memorial Room. Who, you may ask, was the dear departed Mr. Ross? The question is not who was, but what was Albert Ross.

Once, many years ago, Professor Theodore Colson of the English department assigned an essay on Coleridge's "Rime of the Ancient Mariner", the famous poem in which a seaman kills an albatross, considered a good-luck bird by sailors. The Mariner's shipmates tie the bird around his neck as punishment for this crime. The student's essay, however, discussed how the Ancient Mariner drew his crossbow and shot a fellow named Albert Ross. As Professor Robert Gibbs said, "A strange picture comes to mind of this seaman Albert Ross tied around the Mariner's neck".

Professor Colson, amused by the essay, in a "fit of frivolity" had a sign made for the English workroom, reading: "The Albert Ross Memorial Room".

There are some professors who think it's immoral, said Colson, "but immorality never bothered me." He added that it was intended as a "a private prank". Colson also bought a hard-covered scribbler and

asked for contributions of "Albert Ross-isms" from the other professors. The scribbler, called the Albert Ross Collection, now sits on the coffee table in the workroom.

Professor Bill Bauer prefers to define an Albert Ross-ism as "not a sign of stupidity, but of 'inventive stupidity'". Another meaning he gives is a "creative boner." He pointed out they were not intended to ridicule people's lack of sophistication, but to honor them for creating something that wasn't there before.

FROM THE ALBERT ROSS COLLECTION

"Once, I gave my students a vocabulary exam. They were to know the meanings of words they had read in the assigned story. In the exam they were to define the word and use it in a sentence. My favorite response was to 'copulate'. Thus: To sum-up briefly, as in "The professors are always copulating".

"Polonius is stabbed by Hamlet while hovering behind the arras."

"Bloom never allowed masturbation to get out of hand." (A comment on a Joyce seminar).

"David gets mad and wants to prove his virility, thus the affair with the pig." (On the Mountain and the Valley)

"Beowulf comes to a bad end in the poem mostly because he refused to accept Jesus Christ as his personal saviour." (Appraisal of Sonnet No. 2 from By Stubborn Stars):

"In writing this sonnet, Mr. Stubborn Stars uses many

harsh consonants." (To this, Prof. Gibbs wrote: "Wouldn't you too, if you had a name like that?")

"Alcoholism cannot be achieved overnight".

"Let us now discuss some methods used to raise the status of the cock."

"Gibbs is the Maritime poet I've read so far who writes about his role as poet and artist without being a bore."

Gilbert and Sullivan to present British Music Hall

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Fredericton is trying for a repeat of the phenomenal success of two years ago by presenting another British Music Hall at their Fall Cabaret.

However writer/director, Dr. Patrick Thompson has moved the show a few years forward in time from early in the century to the first years of World War 1.

He deliberately set the show in the year 1915 and endeavoured to recapture the mood of the time. When Britain went into the war with Germany in 1914, they were confident of victory and politicians assured the people that it would not take very long to beat the "Hun". However, by 1915 everyone had begun to realize that the war wasn't going to be as easy to win as they

had been led to believe and the popular 'artistes' of the day were encouraged to drum up patriotic fervour and revive lagging spirits by singing songs about the glory of doing your duty for King and country.

Music Hall being by far the most popular entertainment medium of the British working class, it fell upon the singers to do their part and such songs as "It's a Long Way to Tipperary" and "Keep the Home Fires Burning" became big hits.

But the war also changed drastically British family life as for the first time many women went out of the home to work, not only to take the place of the men who were at the 'front' but also to keep the busy munitions factories at full production. After working long and dreary hours in these factories the people demanded

cheerful and rousing entertainment on their Saturday night off so the music hall stars had to please the audience and send them home in a good mood or they were quickly booted off the stage.

So the Gilbert & Sullivan Society will try to recapture this era and transform Memorial Hall at UNB into the old "Palace of Varieties". Many of the old favourites from the previous music hall will be back including the worthy chairman, Sam Worthington. The chairman's role in the halls was an essential one, not only had he to keep up a lively patter while introducing each act but he had to keep the audience happy between acts and during scene changes. Audience participation is high on the list when it comes to making the music hall a really fun evening and many well known choruses have been incorporated into this years show so that the audience can sing along.

The show goes on November 25th to 28th and tickets are on sale now at UNB Bookstore and also from members of the society.

MONDAY NIGHT NOVEMBER 16 NEW WAVE NIGHT CLUB COSMO HEAR IT FIRST LOOK IT UP TO 10

student gets you in

NEW WAVE NIGHT CLUB COSMO HEAR IT FIRST LOOK IT UP TO 10

The Second Time AROUND

Resale Clothing Store invites you to come in and buy or just to browse

9:30-5:30 Mon-Fri
9:00-Noon Saturdays

Pamela MacDonald
562 Brunswick St.
455-2694