

HELP!

Ringo goes Oriental in clever, zany film

By PIER'S GRAY

Remember those old Elvis Presley movies; Elvis in Jail, Elvis in the Army, Elvis in the Civil War?

Most of us, except perhaps Elvis, would rather forget them. But the same statement could hardly apply to those pop idols of the 60's - the Beatles. For their new movie, Help, is as much a success as the now revered Hard Day's Night.

Gone is carefree spontaneity of their previous film, instead we now see carefully planned and on the whole, cleverly executed zaniness. There is not the insanity of the Marx brothers, they have not reached that plateau yet.

In this movie importance has been placed more on production, slickness of filming and acting than in A Hard Day's Night. This is director Richard Lester's second Beatle film and the similarity between these and the Cannes award, winning Knack are obvious. All are wild, completely happy and fortunately in the end non-didactic.

These qualities are the strength of Help, for it is Lester's vehicle for explorations into variations of style, camera work, and lighting.

The plot of the film then is practically non-existent and is, in fact, a means of serving up a series of ridiculous and engaging gags. They are too numerous to mention but they all add the sense of happiness so important to the film.

Somewhere along the story line, Ringo collects a mystical Eastern sacrificial ring, hence becoming the number one candidate for disposal by a group of bumbling yet aspiring Oriental assassins. The film thus dedicates itself vaguely to the capture of Ringo and his ring by the villain.

However, the acting and the pace of the film overcome this seeming weakness and even perhaps turn it into a strength. Leo McKern as the arch-villain, although always fighting a tendency to over-act is for the majority of the film extremely funny. He is counterbalanced by two fumbling "mad scientists" played by Victor Spinetti and Roy Kinnear; whose hopes to rule the world with the metal surrounding the elusive gem, drive them to attempted murder and continual Beatle hunts. Outstanding also is Patrick Carrigan as an incompetent and cowardly Scotland Yard inspector whose unfortunate task it is to defend the Beatles against these assorted maniacs.

The Beatles acquit themselves adequately throughout. They sing and act with zest, and often ability. More important they seem to be enjoying the film. (No doubt! With the salary they receive they have a lot to enjoy.)

Lester's direction is often impressive: sometimes it is pretentious but always it is lively and entertaining, moving his cameras everywhere, using lighting to its fullest extent; and employing colors to a limit which is unfortunately not often seen these days. Camera tricks are prevalent throughout, and although sometimes annoying, they often succeed amazingly. This is true when they somehow synchronize sight effects with the Beatle singing.

Perhaps the greatest asset of the film is its continual tickling of the sacred cow. Scotland Yard, the British army and British



BEVY OF LOVELIES AT FRESHETTE BALL.

From left to right: Anne Cameron, Marlene Webber, Betty MacLeod (chosen Queen), Val McClorg and Sharon Brookbank.

Demand public campus

QUEBEC - The first congress of the students' association at Laval University has called for the creation of a public, non-confessional corporation to run the school.

Demanding the abolition of Laval's royal and papal charters, the students have asked that a provincial charter be established. This would turn Laval into a provincial university similar in status to most universities in English Canada.

The congress submitted the proposal as part of a lengthy brief to Quebec Education Minister Paul Gerin-Lajoie last week. Under the suggested system, the board of directors of the university would be made up of representatives named by the professors, students, and the Quebec government. This would go a long way toward democratizing the university, according to the brief.

French Canada's universities, though theoretically private, depend heavily on public financing. The move, if adopted, would complete the long trend in Quebec toward the secular university. Mr. Gerin-Lajoie said he intends to study the proposal but did not comment on the suggestion.

CUS to probe WUSC

LENNOXVILLE (CUP) - The Canadian Union of Students has voted to investigate its relationship with World University Service of Canada.

At the recent CUS Congress at Bishop's University, delegates expressed concern that little factual knowledge was available about WUSC finances.

One Maritime delegate said "We know that we pay for it, but we know very little in addition. We have heard of Treasure Van, but not where its profits go."

Some delegates complained that when they had asked for budgetary information about WUSC in the past, they had been unable to obtain it.

DIEFENBAKER

- Continued from Page 3 -
in the campaign, Mr. Diefenbaker showed the CUS delegation a Liberal Party campaign booklet admitting as a weakness "a disenchantment of youth, especially in the universities."

Canadian Union of Students President Patrick Kenniff and Vice President Richard Good said they will also meet with Prime Minister Pearson later this week to discuss university financing.

winsbys
Show of distinction
Shop Daily 9 to 5:30
FRIDAY 9 to 9
All Day Saturday

fashions