

# Red 'n Black 'Infantile and Insipid'

by Dirk Visbach

The 21st Annual Red 'n' Black Revue, presented at the Playhouse Thursday, Friday and Saturday can best be described as a typical production, emphasizing the typical college pre-occupation with

booze and sex.

Some of the off-color humour was genuinely humorous, but a disappointingly large part of it was infantile and insipid. This also applies to many of

the skits, in particular to "The Winter Carnival Committee Presents" and to a large extent to "A Short Lecture on Marital Bliss", both of which completely missed the point. "The Professor and Company" however, though still somewhat beside the point, was redeemed by the beautiful idiocy of the Good doctor — both in words and actions.

The folk-singing was also very typical — entertaining and pleasant but not encompassing. Most numbers lacked polish, and in only a few instances did the harmony come off well. A common error made was in the choosing of popular songs, known to all in the audience, but presented without the abilities, vocal and instrumental qualities, or the originality and arrangement abilities to give the audience a completely new experience of the same song.

There was one number, however, that is worthy of high praise — "Crucifixion". The *Dangling Conversation Piece*, by a unique presentation through the effective use of light and creation of a mood, raised their performance to a high level. The *Oscar Less Kennedy Trio* also reached a high level of entertainment, through good musicianship, as did Art Gibson on the trumpet and his accompaniment.

Unfortunately, there were some skits — *Profile on Sport* which despite their originality and thought, were dragged down by their presentation (bronze statues do not move), or, in the case of *No Time* seemed incomplete.

The Kickline was, as usual, well done, but not exceptionally so. The girls were, no doubt, pretty, and looked happy, but occasionally they lacked precision and synchronization. "Singing In The Rain" was much better done, and was well choreographed. The choreography of the "Sopisticats" was much more complex and was carried off almost professionally, aided by the skillfull use of lighting.

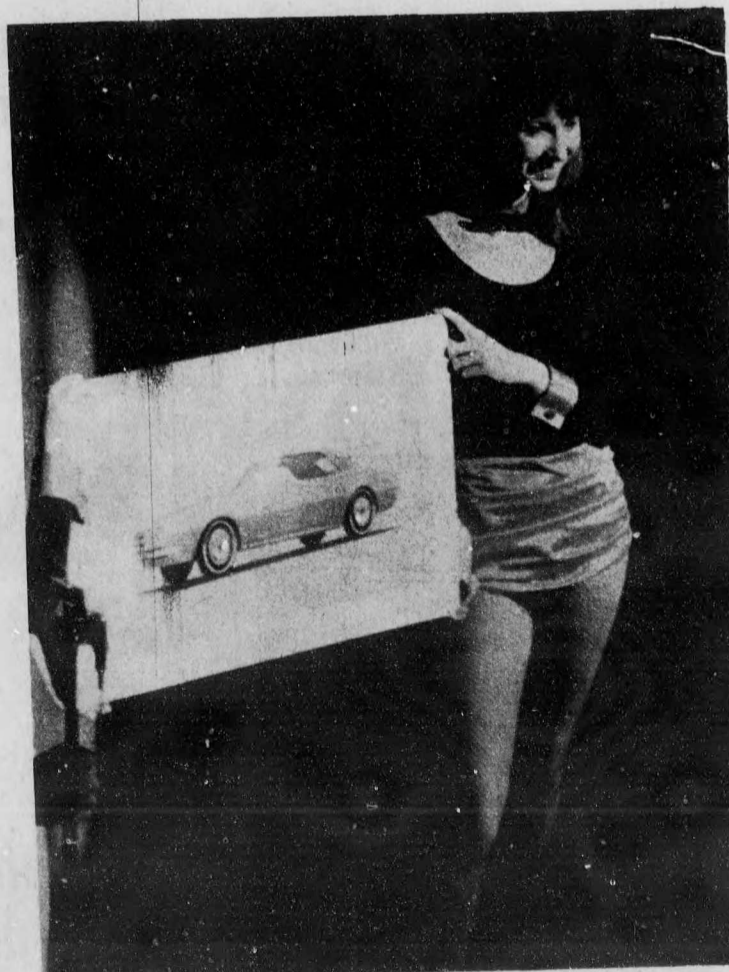
Amidst the mediocrity, and the occasional short-lived inspirations, there was one brilliant exception — Ted Gray's spell-binding flamenco guitar work. He was in complete control during his too-brief presence on stage; control of the mechanics and technique, the music itself, and the audience. It is unfortunate that the rest of the Revue could not be on a par



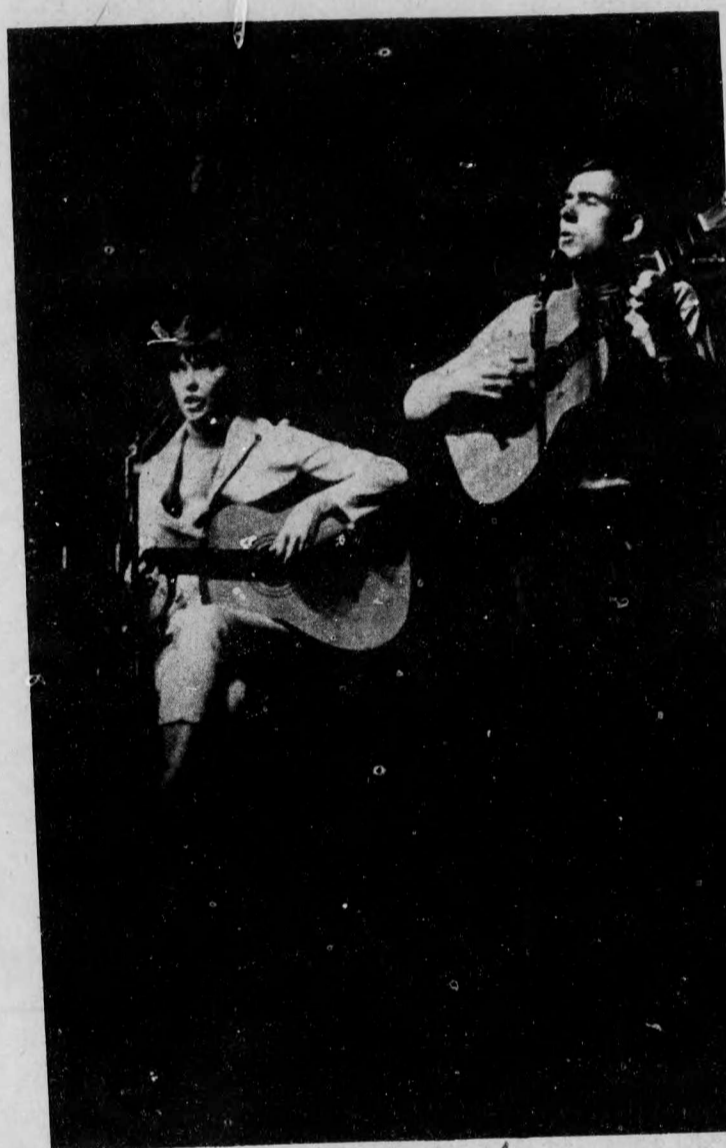
"a typical college production"



"... bronze statues do not move."



For Jimmy Fraser Red 'n' Black was great. He won the Camaro.



"... a unique presentation"



"... in complete control during his too-brief presence. ..." with Mr. Gray.