

POP TALK

By Jim Smith

The world's most successful pops conductor would not have been a musician at all had he followed his father's wishes. But Mantovani, to look at his career in retrospect, could never have been anything else. During his youth, the Venetian-born but English-bred genius was surrounded by such classical giants as Toscanini and Saint-Saens, for whom his father worked as a violinist. Having mastered the piano at an early age, he then concentrated on the violin, the instrument with which he is today so completely associated. By the time he reached his late teens, Mantovani had performed several difficult classical scores and was leading his own orchestra. At the age of twenty-one, Mantovani found himself employed by an English luxury hotel frequented by British royalty.

In forming the Tipica Orchestra during the Depression years, Mantovani concentrated on the pop scene and became nationally renowned. Not until 1951 did an international reputation develop, created by a recording of "Charmaine". Easy in this decade, Mantovani began his annual North American tours, constantly playing to packed houses. The 1969 edition takes him into fifty-four different cities, a punishing schedule for the sixty-four year-old Briton.

Pictures can be deceptive. The tuxedoed gentleman before me appeared rather less imposing and considerably more affable than portraits would suggest. Indeed, a comparison in carriage and manner to that of Victor Borge would not be unjustified. He chuckled when asked the etiquette of addressing a person with only one name and suggested three alternatives. "Maestro" would be suitable should one regard him as an Italian classical conductor. The English courtesy would be "Mr. Mantovani". His stage name, "Mantovani", also proves acceptable. The entourage evidently believed in the Italian reference while I retreated into "Sir".

After so many years in the music business, Mantovani completely understands his type of audience. "If you divide the audience into one hundred percent, there is roughly twenty-five percent wonderful classic people. At the other sphere there is twenty-five percent who are jazz fans and all that; and fifty percent are what I call popular and light music people—and they're the majority. That's my audience, I hope". The seats were filled by this time and apparently the popular and light-music people are virtually universally in the over-twenty-five age category. As was to be proven shortly, there should be no age barriers to this type of music.

In response to a query as to why a classically-trained musician should devote his life to the pop, he replied "I've found that, if you get hold of some of these light pieces and use your classical training on them you can produce some rather better arrangements and make these pieces sound quite nice, much better than they really are. So I'm utilizing my classical knowledge there."

Has he changed his music over the years? "Well, I have gone in a subtle way. You see, I made a name with a special sound on my strings. Well I still use that sound but I have changed the style of orchestration as modern ideas come. I utilize the guitar much more, all different effects, more rhythm, and things like that. I've gone with the times, I think. That's why I'm still here, perhaps." Asked to explain his continued success twenty years after large orchestras supposedly became economically unfeasible, he modestly replied, "I just happen to be fortunate enough that I can draw crowds large enough to pay for the musicians." Actually his problem seems to be that they just don't build concert halls big enough to accommodate all his admirers—if that can be considered a problem.

Comparisons between this generation of pop composers and the preceding are not justifiable, he says. "In our days, melody was our major feature. Today it's mainly rhythm and some sort of melody above it." He recognizes each work for what it is and arranges it to emphasize the salient features.

He excused himself for the performance. What they call "The Mantovani Magic" consists of mixing pops from the twenties to today and light classics. Of forty musicians, fully three-quarters are string men and of them two-thirds are violinists. Mantovani's statement about melody and rhythm evinces itself here—the rhythm section consists of one busy percussionist whose duties range from kettle drums to xylophone. And those violins come in waves, beautifully dry sonic waves.

Two points occur to me upon listening to such superb orchestration. First, despite our generation pride in modern composers, the evening's highlights were not written in the last decade, although there was generous representation from this period. Secondly, it becomes easier to understand the reluctance of those who did not spend their youth with rock to accept the medium now. Mantovani provides music for listening, not music for emoting.

The concert passed rapidly. Applause brought two encores, including the anticipated "Charmaine", then he was gone and the orchestra filed out. The applause continued full of respect. To this audience, Mantovani was clearly "Maestro".

Plan dances at St. Alban's

St. Alban's Youth Group met in the parish hall on Oct. 19 to arrange for the coming year's activity. The names of the elected officers are Sam Schonnop, president; Rosemary Bird, secretary; Mary Jane New, treasurer; and Bonnie Bristow communications officer.

They are arranging to get off to a flying start by having a Halloween dance on Sunday evening, October 26, at 7.30 p.m. at the parish hall with an entrance fee of either a costume plus face mask or 25c. There will be prizes for the best disguise and refreshments will be served. This group will be geared

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mainly to the high school age people and will be held on the second and fourth Sundays of the month this year between 7.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m.

The executive urges young people to "come and join us" and bring some ideas with you for the coming month's activities.

Krudwigs start classes at schools

Gymnasts Bernd and Annesmarie Krudwig, nationally known for their work in the sport, are starting classes for leaders in Georgetown high school on Tuesdays from 8.30 to 9.30 as well as ladies' keep fit classes at Acton district high school each Wednesday from 8 to 9 p.m.

The Krudwigs, who recently moved into a new home at R. R. 2, Acton, hope to acquire several more classes in the district for gymnastics, which they feel has been neglected in Canada.

They are well qualified to teach and have many awards from competitions in Canada and the United States.



ROBERT LITTLE SCHOOL student's council for this year took office yesterday following elections at the school Friday. Front row l. to r. John Ashley, Cathy Frost, treasurer; Susan Shoemaker president; Trevor Diggins secretary; David Williams. Back row l. to r.

Robert Little council

Susan Shoemaker, a grade 8 student at Robert Little School has been elected president of the student council for the 1969-70 school year. Grade 7 student Trevor Diggins was named secretary, and Cathy Frost a grade 6 student will serve as treasurer. A girl and boy representative from each of the Grade 6, 7 and 8 classes round out this year's council. Staff representatives are Mrs. Kathleen Hannah and Mr. Doug Copeland.

Students will be participating in a Y Men's sponsored walkathon in aid of UNICEF this Saturday.

Student council will be in charge of this year's Christmas card sale, which begins Friday. Proceeds of the sale will be used to finance bus trips later in the year.

The Council will also be responsible for school dances and graduation banquets.

Students, drug experts discuss abuses

By Mary Ann Freuler

Last Monday, the students of A.D.H.S. had five discussions, according to grades, concerning the use and abuse of drugs. Present were Dave Coleman from Addiction Services, Don Blair, a University of Waterloo student from Kitchener, Clinton Yardley, a writer from St. Catharines and Lieutenant George Moore of the Burlington Police Department.

Dave Coleman opened the discussion, telling the reasons for taking drugs. He felt that the main reason was that of recreation - something to do.

Don Blair continued by saying that the drug isn't a problem, it's the way it's used. Students voicing opinions gave the following reasons for drug abuse:

- poor relationships with parents and teachers;
- to see the reactions of other people;
- curiosity—just to see what it's like;
- an escape from problems;
- the fact that it is illegal gives the user a challenge to see whether or not he gets caught.

Clinton Yardley then showed a few photographs of drugs and an actual marijuana leaf. Samples of hashish and grass were also on display. He described "getting burned" as "buying stuff that really isn't stuff".

Clinton reported that the Addiction Research Foundation bought drugs on the street, marked down the chemicals and found that only 52.6 per cent of the samples obtained contained the pure drug they were sold as. He explained that the amphetamines usually cause bad trips and are extremely addictive. Users often suffer from strokes, heart attacks and the collapsing of blood veins. Marijuana is only mentally addictive, not physically addictive.

The legality of drugs was then discussed by Lieutenant George Moore. Under the Narcotic Drug Control Act, the possession of such drugs as heroin and opium results in a seven year jail term. The peddling of such drugs has a 14 year sentence. Marijuana, which is non-narcotic, is considered as a Summary Conviction. There is only a two year sentence for the possession of this drug.

Lieutenant Moore also explained the Food and Drug Act. Controlled drugs are those which cannot be bought directly at the store. It is an offence to have L.S.D. in your possession or to sell it. Up to two months ago this was not considered illegal but the drug was the cause of many deaths.

Dave Coleman then summed up the discussion and added an invitation to ask questions. The hour went fast and proved very educational and worth while to all the students.

Own TV shows for Sheridan

Sheridan College has its own TV broadcasting station, nearly. In a revolutionary new experiment that cuts across educational, community service and commercial worlds, Sheridan students and staff are producing TV programs that serve all three interests.

Sheridan Board of Governors approved a year's trial of the scheme which links the college production studio with Ted Rogers' Cable TV network in Brampton.

Sheridan's as yet unnamed studio is hooked directly to Rogers' Cable TV head, allowing programs which originate in the college's new TV studio to be seen by the community.

Jim Krupak, Heather Wilkinson, Joan Newman, Teresa Cunningham, Robert Weirde, Donna Drew, Sharon Crassey, David Marcoux.—(Staff Photo)

A.D.H.S. SPORTS REVIEW

By Mary Ann Freuler

The Physical Education Department has arranged a camping weekend for the grade 11 and 12 students. The trip will enable students to put to use the facts they have been taught in their Outdoor Education classes. This is the first year that this course has been taught in Acton and it has been quite successful.

The students have assembled tents, built various fires and had detailed descriptions concerning the handling of canoes and other camping activities. The weekend will begin this Friday night, October 24, with a hike to Rockwood Conservation Area. Camp sites will be set up by the students with the counselling of Mr. B. Andrews, Mrs. Tamblin, Mr. Rognvaldson, and a few other adults. Saturday's activities will include hiking and canoeing. Campers will break camp late Saturday afternoon.

The girls' volleyball team under the coaching of Willie Poot and Physical Education teacher, M. Tamblin, played the Ontario School for the Deaf in Acton on October 14. The visitors defeated our team 15-12 and 15-11, in the first two games. Acton played the last two games well, defeating O.S.D.

15-11 and 15-2. Members of the team are: Susan Clendenning, Sharon Ellerby, Bente Larson, Shirley Mitchell, Linda Perry, Debbie Slingerland, Evelyn Vanden Brink, Grace Bennema and Trina Vander Polder.

Junior and midjet teams competed at the CWOSSA cross country championships in Orangeville last Thursday. In the competition were schools from all of central western Ontario. Midgets, Steve Marshall, Glen McKenzie and Dave Tomlinson ran a 2 1/2 mile race. A 3 mile race was run by the junior team of Dave Bittorf, Randy Bould, Randy Coker, George McPhail, Pete Morrison, Carl Reed, Randy Weldon and Hank Wisenz. Of about 200 entries, George McPhail placed 18th. The senior team consisted of Mike Cooper, Bob Smith, Craig Weldon and Gord Williams.

The boys' soccer team defeated O.S.D. at Acton last Wednesday. The score was 2-0. Coach, Mr. Brears, has Paul Cooper, Mike Cooper, Sam Hubble, Mark Hurst, Mike Joe, Bob Krul, Mike Marcoux, Jim McNabb, John New, Steve Porty, Brian Sampson, Bill Severinski, Jim Slaven, Joe Tarr and Steve Van Fleet under his management.

NOTES FROM ACTON HIGH

By Mary Ann Freuler

Students Council to improve school activities.

Tuesday, October 14, a grade 11 geography class left the school at noon to tour Schneider's Meat Plant in Kitchener. Three retired workers of the factory acted as guides through the plant, showing the many different ways in which the meat is processed. After light refreshments the group returned home. Chaperone for the trip was Mr. Paul Martindale, head of the Geography Department.

Plans for this year's Winter Carnival are already in the making. It will be organized by the grade 12 Physical Education class in union with the Students Council. It will be basically the same as last year's carnival only with improvements. It is hoped that the town of Acton will be more involved in the activities. The beard growing contest is open to everyone. Everyone will start, clean shaven, near the beginning of November. Plans are being made which will enable the public school pupils to enter the ice sculpturing contest. The dates for all of these events are Feb. 9-14.

Last Friday, Students Council representatives passed out bags of Halloween candies to students wishing to sell them. The Council wishes for full student body participation. Persons selling the most bags will be rewarded with money prizes. Funds raised will be spent by

Grade 9, 10, 11 and 12 Agriculture classes, under the supervision of Mr. Brears, attended the ploughing match in Paris last Wednesday. The students saw displays of farm machinery, show animals and a parade consisting of tractors, steam engines, kids and a band from a Paris school. The three and one half hours went fast and all of the students enjoyed the trip.

The school yearbook "The Oracle" is sponsoring an art contest to be completed Nov. 15. The designs will be used for the cover and for divider pages. Entries may be given to anyone on the yearbook staff or to editor, Stephanie Merrin.

Grade 13 history students are leaving for Quebec City from Guelph bus depot, this Thursday. The trip includes a bus tour of the city and a tour through the citadel. Sunday morning they will attend church at the Cathedral and in the afternoon, say their last goodbyes to the city. The group is expected back Tuesday, Mr. H. Swallow is their chaperone.

The students are paying some of the money themselves, but a large stuffed dog was purchased and tickets were sold and drawn on him. The holder of the winning ticket was Mr. Ross Lambourn, English teacher.

TAKE NOTICE

The period of DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME for the Town of Acton WILL END ON

SUNDAY OCTOBER 26

AT 2 A.M. 1969

This is in conformity with the surrounding municipalities which revert to Standard Time at this time.

L. A. DUBY, Mayor



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