

THE BEAT

JIM SMITH

The smoke stings the eyes and hurts the lungs while the meagre illumination tires the eyes and, consequently, the body. All around, the bustle of the hustling tavern attendants intrudes into conversation. In the lobby there stands a long line of customers waiting their turn to linger in this picture from Dante. Such are the usual surroundings for any entertainer on the tavern circuit. Peter Mann and Victor Garber, half of the Toronto quartet called the Sugar Shoppe, often spend six nights a week in this atmosphere, although they neither drink nor smoke.

Having begun their career performing in clubs, two years earlier, they now feel at home working under such conditions. While enduring the periods between sets, the singing is what they live for and all that really matters is putting oneself across well. Peter offers "When you go up on stage and you know what you're doing is right, even if the response is not up to normal, you're still teaching someone in the audience." And, while Vic believes it is unrealistic for the entertainer to expect the audience always to give its undivided attention, he is also grateful that to date none of their engagements have been too raucous.

The love of entertaining causes the quartet to perform "Poor Papa", the only song which many older patrons come to hear, although the group now has at least a minor aversion to the number. "The material we're doing now is not really what you'd call club material. We started out just doing things that people would like. The only songs we ever really did deliberately were the songs from the Twenties because we knew we were working in bars and with these songs we were guaranteed good response. You go to a club where everyone is at least over twenty and they aren't really interested in hearing new material. They want to hear old songs." Thus, "You can't just do what you want to do all the time, although some groups are into that."

But their real interests now lie in more serious music. Their current record single, "Save The Country", leads them into message songs. "We've gone through changes both collectively and individually and feel very at home doing these types of songs", explained Peter; but Vic added "We're still varied. There are still some very light, whimsical numbers we do because we like them."

Realizing the great talent at their disposal, Peter and Vic are thinking very much beyond the confines of the bar circuit. They naturally would prefer working solely in concerts and are hoping that recent and approaching television dates will give them the necessary breaks. Behind them are appearances on both the Ed Sullivan and Johnny Carson shows. Dates on the Andy Williams show, Kraft Music Hall, and another Ed Sullivan show are still to come. In some respects they have solved the age-old chicken-egg problem now that the television exposure is building. "For a group to be successful today, they've got to have a hit record and in order to have a hit record they've got to have exposure on both radio and television. It's very, very hard to get this exposure on a national basis." In Canada, CBC has been generous with air time, Vic feels, but there is a limit to the number of times a single act can be employed on any show and Sugar Shoppe appears to have approached the saturation stage with the CBC. Furthermore, because of the vastly larger budgets of American television shows, Canadian shows tend to seem a little sterile in contrast. "It is difficult for a Canadian to come across well on a Canadian show."

The fellows are very serious in their intentions to produce an outstanding album for their next release. Recently, they changed labels because their former label, envisioning the quartet as a novelty group, failed to grant the freedom which most performers feel they need. This freedom has been largely forthcoming but studio time remains a precious commodity; if they had already achieved international fame, their studios would be constantly available but now, when they need it most, it is unavailable. However, they have ample material for several albums and will carefully select the best to ensure a single outstanding recording. Surprisingly, the repertoire currently employed in their night-club act will not provide any selections for their album, the performance being specifically designed for the tavern atmosphere, the recording for the privacy of one's home.

For now, though, the pace is not very hectic. There are occasional weeks when rehearsal is the only business. None of the group expects they will achieve stardom within the next year—but everyone accepts as a matter of fact that they will succeed. Then, Vic believes, there will come a time when Sugar Shoppe will be required to leave Canada for an extended period to reap the benefits of their budding international reputation.

Fame will come—only time is in question. And when fame does come, you can bet that Sugar Shoppe will not be singing "Poor Papa" anymore.

Young Generation elect officers

The general meeting of the Young Generation was held in the Parish Hall of St. Alban The Martyr, Acton, on October 15, 1969.

Election of officers for the year 1969-1970 were held under

the direction of Mr. John Last and the following were nominated and elected to office:

President Ricky Rocher, vice-president Beth McCutcheon, secretary Roberta Strange, treasurer Andrea Broostad,



"OTT POTTS A SHOT". Physical Education teacher Cathy Ott shows students and grads a perfect one hand set shot during Friday night's basketball game at the high school. Cheerleaders joined the "battle royale" for the last five minutes of the game, but their efforts were in vain as a team made up of students and teachers lost to the ADHS grads 50-48. Proceeds of the game went to aid the Blind.—(Staff Photo)



ADHS SENIOR CHEERLEADERS sported their sharp new uniforms for the first time at the Students-Teachers-Grads basketball game Friday night. Top row l. to r. Barb Browne, Sharon Froelick, Marie Holmes. Middle row l. to r. Marg Slaven, Nancy Abram, Dianne Frank, Debi Booth.—(Staff Photo)

Garry Wong wins award

At commencement exercises at John F. Ross collegiate, Guelph, last Friday, Garry Wong of Acton received one of two teachers' awards. These are presented by the staff to students graduating from the four year science and technical

trade course who are proceeding to further education. Garry is now at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute, taking electrical engineering.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Wong of the Royal Cafe.



A LAST SECOND SHOT by teacher Paul Martindale missed the target and left the student-teacher team two points short of tying the score in Friday night's basketball game between the ADHS Grads and a team made up of students and teachers. Final score Grads 50, Students-teachers 48.—(Staff Photo)

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NOTES FROM ACTON HIGH

By Mary Ann Freuler

The third session of the Family Life Education meetings was held last Wednesday evening. This was the second gathering concerning drugs. After a short welcome by Brian Skerrett, guidance counsellor, each of the eight panellists gave a statement.

First was Father LaBlanc of the Peel County Task Force. The purpose of the Task Force is to co-ordinate activities concerning drugs and to educate the total community. He feels that boredom and permissiveness are the main reasons why people are on drugs.

Bill Vundt of the Acton Pharmacy was then asked the question "How does a pharmacist look on the problem of drug abuse?" He found it difficult to see how it can act out of any community.

Next to speak was Dave Coleman, a youth counsellor from the Wellington Health Unit. Mr. Coleman was also present at the last discussion. He feels it unfair to say only "drugs and the youth" because drugs are also used by adults. Alcoholism is said to be far worse than drugs.

Lieutenant George Moore of the Burlington Police Force then took the floor. He had a board showing marijuana, hashish, speed, acid, and glue for glue sniffing, all which had been taken from young adults in Burlington. Lieutenant Moore found that the kids started on marijuana and then went on to the harder drugs.

Dr. Omelon was present, representing the Acton Medical Group. He has dealt with people who are taking drugs and hopes that we realize that there is certainly a problem.

Trinity United Church minister, Rev. Gord Turner is concerned about people being people, and about the poor examples parents are setting with their constant use of pills and alcohol.

Mrs. Helen Laughlin, Public Health Nurse explained why Halton County was slow in helping with this problem. Although they are understaffed

they now have the aid of Dr. Hunter. Bob Smith, Student Council treasurer feels that it takes a better student to say no to drugs and to go on to school.

After all of the panellists had spoken the floor was then open for questions. Ray Saitz, first asked Lieutenant Moore if he was in favor of relaxing the laws on marijuana. He replied that he was in favor of a suspended sentence on marijuana but not for heroin and narcotics.

Marijuana is always being compared to alcohol. With alcoholic beverages you are told to drink in certain places, not to drink until you are 21, and not to drive while under its influence. There are ways for testing a person for drunkenness. If marijuana is legalized, what age, if there is a set age, would be chosen? As there are no ways to tell if a person is under the influence of pot, how would such a law be enforced? It was later said, however, that a person high on marijuana knows what he is doing even if those who are watching do not understand.

The audience was then divided into four discussion groups, where teenagers and adults were both represented. Many opinions were viewed but no conclusions were drawn.

Individual student photos were distributed last Wednesday. The same day, the photographers took pictures of the various clubs and organizations within the school for the yearbook. For the first time, action shots giving an example of the various club activities were taken.

Last Tuesday the grade 12 chemistry class and the grade 13's visited the Centennial Science centre in Toronto. The building was filled with buttons giving various systems of pictures. The chance to sit in a life-like space capsule that give the impression of looking down at the earth was also one of the attractions. Chaperones were Mr. P. Martindale and Mr. B. Skerrett.

Sports Review

By Mary Ann Freuler

Last Friday evening was the date for the annual old timers basketball game at the High school. Grads, Bill Landsborough, Dan Arbic, Fred Flitnik, Bob Turkoz and Harry Oelrich played a hard game against their competitors. The opposing team consisted of teachers, Mr. Eastwood, Mr. Turnbull, Mr. Martindale, Mrs. Sale and Mrs. Ott, plus Diane Fisher, Nigel Scott, Ken Gray, Stephanie Merrin, Marie Timbers, Bob Smith, Mike Cooper and George McPhail representing the student body.

The senior cheerleaders donned their new uniforms and cheered through the entire game. Despite the constant meddling the final score was 50-48 in favor of the Grads. Evelyn VanderBrink and Debbie Slingerland were the referee.

A record hop was held after the game for the weary players and spectators. The \$70 profit from the night will be donated to the Blind.

This Friday night, there will be a repeat of last year's Las Vegas Nite. Persons having the most money left at the end of the program, will have a choice of a variety of prizes, many of which have been donated by stores in the community. Glass stemware, ladies wristwatch, two men's wristwatches, and an earring tree are only a few of the many prizes.

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