

# 'Mousetrap' Draws Record Crowd—Cast Excels

by Walter Blehn

Whodunit? Agatha Christie, we presume... with a generous assist from Georgetown theatre-goers.

The Little Theatre's production of "The Mousetrap" proved just as popular here as it has in London, England, where it has been playing for eighteen years.

It drew an overflow audience, not one, but two nights to Wrigglesworth auditorium, and an above-average Thursday opening crowd.

## CHRISTIE CLIMAX

And the 8 member cast did themselves proud. They were letter-perfect, sustained suspense from Linda Nicholls' impressive screams, end of Act 1, to the surprise denouement as the play reached a well-constructed Christie climax.

Linda, in her starring role, and real-life husband Des may become Georgetown's Lunt and Fontanne. They are a talented couple and handled their parts as proprietors of an ill-fated guest house with aplomb. Veteran Ron Hill did his usual masterful job as a police sergeant

who proved to be something else again. Miss Christie is not one to relegate any actor to a bit part. Every member of the cast had his day on stage. While Mary Goebel was killed off at the end of Act 1, she had plenty of feature scenes before her demise.

## FINGER POINTED

A newcomer to the Little Theatre stage, Jack Bellegher, did a particularly fine characterization of Christopher Wren, a disturbed young guest to whom the finger of suspicion pointed as the murderer. Ed

Arcuri was so good in what could have been a minor role as Mr. Paravicini that on Saturday he drew two ovations as he exited.

Derek Joyes departed from his gay bachelor role in last fall's "Girl in My Soup" to portray a somewhat stuffy army major, who, like so many of the Christie characters, really proved to be someone else. Helene Artuso as Miss Casewell, helped knit the plot together, and made the most of a part which, perhaps, had less meat to it than that of the others. Director Ron Hunt and producer Eric Ming beamed each

evening as they watched the crowds jam in. "We've arrived," said Mr. Hunt, as he told The Herald that the group now has reached the stage where there is more help backstage, more talents concerned, not only among those with acting skill, but in the important fields of set design, costumes, lighting and properties.

Already planning is taking place for The Gazebo a comedy-drama which was a Broadway success and later a movie.

## Was Approved Now Too Little Frontage

A five acre lot with only a 20 foot frontage on No. 15 Sideroad presented a problem for Esquesing council, when George Thomas asked for a building permit, Monday night.

Esquesing requires 125 foot frontage under a by-law passed after this land was separated. Thomas said the land was separated and registered in 1965.

## CONDITIONAL

Reeve Tom Hill pointed out that Planning Board had approved the separation in 1965, and felt it was up to the Committee of Adjustment, who took over the function then served by the Planning Board, to make a decision.

Thomas told council his offer of purchase was conditional on

obtaining a building permit. He pointed out that there was a well on the property, so the owner had intended to build 5 years ago.

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Thomas was told to apply to the Committee of Adjustment.

## Dr. P. A. MEAD

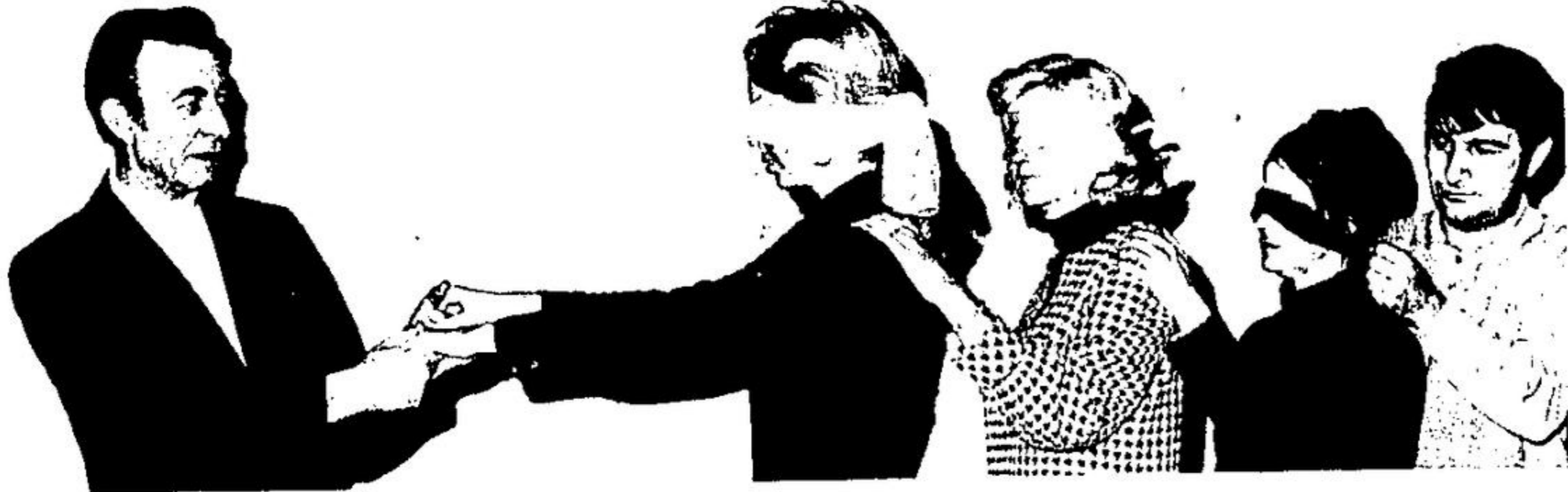
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Leading the three blindfolded "mice" in Georgetown Little Theatre's "Mousetrap" is Ron Hill as Sergeant Trotter. They are, from left, Linda Nicholls as Molly Ralston, Mary Goebel as Mrs. Boyle, and Helen Artuso as Miss Caswell. Tying the blindfold is Ed Arcuri as Mr. Paravicini.

## Contract Settlement Upped Caretaking Fees by 19.3%

Last year's contract settlement with Halton County Board of Education caretakers has been blamed by the board's finance committee as the reason for a 19.3 per cent increase in the 1971 budget estimates for plant operation.

The board's 1971 budget allotment for elementary and secondary school caretakers and cleaning women is \$1,665,643, an increase of \$191,000 over their present salaries of \$1,474,643. Finance committee member Bill Priestner said, "the increased floor area of Halton schools is 8.7 per cent."

"Subtract that from the 19.3 per cent increase and the balance is a 10 per cent increase in unit cost for the operation of schools."

### 1971 BUDGET

The plant operation allotment was contained in 1971 budget proposals submitted to a budget session of the Halton Board of Education last week.

A total increase of \$532,000 or 11.9 per cent over 1970 costs was contained in the 1971 budget proposals.

The finance committee's presentation concerned educational services such as library and guidance, attendance and health services, plant operation and plant maintenance.

The 1971 total budget proposal for educational services was \$862,834, a 5.8 per cent decrease from the 1970 figure of \$916,658.

### SHOW INCREASE

Individual items which showed cost increase under educational services included repairs

## ESQUESING COUNCIL BRIEFS

Esquesing council Monday, decided to progress no further on an Ontario Water Resources Commission suggestion, made last year, that Esquesing negotiate with Georgetown for a municipal water supply, for Glen Williams.

A letter from the County of Halton told Esquesing of a public meeting in County Council chamber Thursday night, to discuss plans for the reconstruction of 15 Sideroad.

Esquesing's share of the Credit Valley Conservation costs will be \$3,402. The authority's total operating budget is \$186,136.

Esquesing decided to advertise for tenders for a four ton heavy duty truck.

An additional Esquesing representative, Cr. Len Cox, was appointed to Esquesing Fire Area No. 1. The other two members are Deputy Reeve Russell Miller and Cr. Wilfrid Leslie.

A new flag will fly atop the pole at Esquesing municipal building. The action was in response to a letter from a ratepayer complaining of the tattered condition of the present flag.

It will be easier to phone Esquesing municipal building from now on, since council authorized the installation of another line. Up till now there was only one phone line into the building.

Building Inspector Tom McLean reported a total of \$123,300 in building permits issued in February. The only commercial permit was a warehouse addition to Nadalin Electric at Lot 1, Con. 2.

to audio-visual equipment which rose to \$12,000 from a 1970 budget total of \$3,500 for secondary schools.

A library for use of teachers in the central administration building cost \$7,585. Cost of educational services per student decreased to \$16 from the 1970 budgeted cost of \$19.50.

The 1971 proposed costs for attendance, health and food services decreased \$27,800 or 15 per cent from the 1970 cost of \$183,542 to \$155,725.

One reason for the decrease is that in several secondary school cafeterias in Halton, food services are now supplied by caterers instead of being run by the school.

The 1971 estimates for plant maintenance show an increase of \$90,000 or 14.9 per cent. Proposed cost is \$733,000, up from last year's cost of \$642,900.

### BROKEN WINDOWS

Broken windows in Halton elementary and secondary schools cost the board \$28,405

in 1970. This year the board budgeted for a cost of \$31,500. Of this, \$24,000 will replace elementary school broken windows. Reason for the higher cost over secondary schools is the greater number of buildings. Replacing floors at Blakelock and Nelson High Schools, built in 1957 (also in other schools) will cost an estimated \$25,000, up from last year's actual cost of \$337. Painting Halton schools will cost \$30,000 in 1971, up from 1970's actual cost of \$8,000.

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