



Rehearsing for King Edward VIII

Georgian College Theatre Workshop students rehearse Crown Matrimonial, a two-act play by Royce Ryton which deals with the abdication of King Edward VIII. It will be presented in the college theatre in Barrie on January 30-31 and February 1 at 8:30 p.m. David, King Edward VIII, played by John Baker of Flesherton, pleads his cause to a

firm Queen Mary (Bev Hanna) as Elizabeth (Kathy Somerville of Toronto) listens quietly. Miss Hanna, a second-year design arts student at the college, is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Hanna of 679 Dominion Ave., Midland. Mrs. Hanna is one of the founding members of the Huronia Players. Georgian College photo

Huronia Players to present "Night Watch"

Creating the illusion of opulence is posing a problem for the Huronia Players, as they prepare for their next production — Night Watch by Lucille Fletcher.

According to producer Val Macmenemy, the modern suspense drama takes place in the apartment of a wealthy heiress. "It's been very hard to get the set to look as if it belongs to a wealthy patron of the arts," she said.

One of the actresses in the production has obliged by

painting a "Picasso" and a "Matisse" to decorate the set, and sculpture, sailing trophies and pseudo-rare books all have been added as accoutrements to the life of the very rich.

The new setting for the plays, at Sacred Heart School, has demanded construction of new flats, and last Sunday, the Players held a "flat raising party".

The results of all the hard work will appear on February 7 and 8, and again on Feb. 14 and 15. A run

through on the evening of Feb. 3 will provide a special treat for Sacred Heart's grade 7 and 8 pupils, all of whom have been watching the progress of the production.

Night Watch begins when a wealthy heiress looks out her window and sees a couple of dead bodies in a building across the way. Author Lucille Fletcher also wrote "Sorry, Wrong Number", another suspenseful and highly successful play.

Helping the drama unfold in the Huronia Players' production will be Thora and Mark Badior, Emily Lloyd, Don MacNabb, Raymond

Knight, Mary Norwood, Bill Hanna, Mae Williams and Raymond Holt. Alan Macmenemy will direct the production. Tickets are available at Mac's Milk, Books Unlimited, Huronia Office Supplies, the Odd Copy Book Shop, Barber and Haskill and Jory's Drug Store.

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Dance marathon planned at St. Theresa's School

Groups from Barrie, Penetanguishene, Midland and Balm Beach will headline the 24 hour dance marathon at St. Theresa's Secondary School later this month, as the students raise money for social and athletic events at the school.

Starting at 8 p.m. on Friday, February 21, the annual dance-a-thon will offer three meals, 18 hours of live music, and six hours of tapes and records to those with the stamina to finish the ordeal.

Area students from grade 8, and secondary schools, will be eligible to participate — provided they have a minimum of \$2 per hour in pledges from parents, friends and relatives.

The top three fund raisers will receive prizes of \$100, \$50 and \$25 respectively, and

prizes for various dances will be awarded as the dance progresses. Every student who lasts 12 hours wins \$5, and those who struggle through to the end will see a \$10 pay day.

The dance-a-thon is being organized jointly by the student and athletic councils at St. Theresa's, and the students have managed to get the four bands for "good rates". Last year, only two groups performed live. This year, Blackwater from Barrie, the Cousins, Six Pack and the Barrel Works Five will be on hand, to provide a range of music including modern and fifties rock and roll.

Those wishing to enter can pick up sponsor sheets at their school offices, from some St. Theresa students, or at The Midland Times.

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"The Longest Yard" is entertaining

by Terry Dupuis

The movie which played at Midland's Odeon Theatre last week was a most unusual film. Was it a prison melodrama, a sports spectacular, or a comedy? The answer is it was a combination of elements from all three genres of filmmaking. The result, however, is not a disjointed hodge-podge, but a successful blending of these elements into a unified well-structured and most entertaining motion picture.

In The Longest Yard, Burt Reynolds stars as an ex-football hero who is serving a two-year prison term. The warden (Eddie Albert) is a near-psychotic who is ob-

essed with winning a national title for the semi-professional football team which he has composed from his staff of prison guards. Albert persuades Reynolds to quarterback a team of the convicts so that the guards will be able to have a tune-up game against them before playing against a professional team.

The idea begins to dawn on Reynolds and his team of convicts that this tune-up football game with the warden's team may be a splendid opportunity to get even with these hulking sadistic guards who have been abusing them.

The clash on the gridiron between the team of jailbirds

and the team of guards is the highlight of The Longest Yard and it occupies the final 45 minutes of the film. It's a bruising, violent and vicious game, and it's likely to be one of the most memorable sequences from any movie which will come out this year.

As for the performances, Burt Reynolds does the best screen work of his career so far; and Eddie Albert, one of the best character actors in movies, delivers a skilful and most memorable performance as the power-crazed football-obsessed warden.

The Longest Yard was produced for Paramount Pictures by Albert S. Ruddy, whose biggest and most successful production so far was The Godfather three years ago. The screenplay was written by Tracy Keenan Wynn, the son of character actor Keenan Wynn.

The director of The Longest Yard is Robert Aldrich, whose past films include The Dirty Dozen, Whatever Happened to Baby Jane? and Emperor of the North. It is interesting to note that one of Aldrich's best works was an underrated anti-war film called Attack, made in 1956, in which the role of a psychotic general was played by Eddie Albert, the psychotic warden of Aldrich's latest picture.

Mediocre performance

I was very disappointed with the mediocre performance that was put on at Midland Secondary School last Friday night by the well-known Toronto group, A Foot In Cold Water.

I have seen them on two occasions previously, and I have to say that they are on their way downhill as far as the output of tasteful music goes.

One would figure that when going to a dance, he would hear beats and rhythms pleasing to the ear and feet — i.e. danceable music that's enjoyable to listen to. With the exception of two numbers (both from older repertoire) the songs were heavy, loud, uncreative and impossible to dance to.

The most pleasing moment of the evening was a jazzy

sort of jam which featured the organist in a long solo of really funky B3 work. That organist, I thought, was a standout, and the guitar player threw in the odd nice riff.

This band seems to be joining the large group of bands which likes to leave 25 minutes before the contracted time is up. That seems to be very easy to do in this neck of the woods. Bands have been blacklisted for this sort of thing, but the rock band rip-off seems to happen around here frequently and nobody seems to want to do anything about it.

I would have liked to have included more about A Foot in Cold Water band members, but I didn't stay until the end.

My ears wouldn't let me.

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