

Perspective . . .

A column of news and comments from the point of view of today's youth by Ian McAlister

"THE MIKADO" — A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

To begin with, I certainly don't claim to be a drama critic, but I am what could possibly be summed up in the single word, "cheap". Consequently, when I part with a few of my hard-earned pennies, I like to feel I'm getting my money's worth. Last Saturday night was one of those rare occasions when I got even more than my shekels deserved. Bayview Secondary School's presentation of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Mikado" made for a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and added yet another outstanding success to the growing number of accomplishments of a relatively young school.

Mentioning names would be a futile effort as the programme alone contained well over one hundred individuals who put forth their time and effort to make the evening the success it was. At a small (and I use the word loosely) gathering afterwards, I did notice that one name kept cropping up in the students' conversations. I'm sure they would all want me to publicly pass on their words of praise and gratitude to Miss Elizabeth Mathews, conductor-director, who worked so hard and long with the students. I'd like to tell you a lot more about the play itself but I'm afraid I would only be spoiling it for all of you who are anxious to see it for yourselves when the Bayview students take to the stage once again April 7 and 8. Take my advice and be there.

As much as I enjoyed "The Mikado", I couldn't help but think what a shame it was that these students didn't have a proper auditorium in which to perform. I don't know how much active support a project of this nature has received in the past but I think it's an idea that could do with some serious thought. At the present, any dramatic or musical endeavours must take place in gymnasiums with a stage stuck in the wall at one end. The acoustics are poor, the seating is most unacceptable, and the general atmosphere is certainly not that of a theatre.

An auditorium would be a great asset to the entire community. I know that many peoples' arguments against such a building are based on the belief that there is not enough going on in our town to make it worthwhile but I'm not so sure this is a valid excuse. If there is a lack of "cultural" activities in Richmond Hill it is probably a direct result of the lack of proper facilities. Sure, it's something that costs a lot of money but it would be more than worthwhile.

Some people can only see the value of a project in the dollars and cents it returns. They seem to forget that there are some things more important than money and that developing one's mind in a cultural manner is quite often just as important. I think it's about time that we showed our appreciation to all the local artists of our area who work so hard to entertain us, and present them with a building worthy of their efforts.

(Ian McAlister is a secondary school student residing in Richmond Hill)

Police Accident Report

Boy Escapes Serious Injury, Badly Bruised When Pinned By Car

A six-year-old Richmond Hill boy miraculously escaped serious injury when he was pinned beneath the wheels of a car and dragged into a ditch in an accident March 16 on Maple Avenue.

According to police, Steven Rumble, Maple Avenue, ran out from behind a garbage truck making his collections and was hit by a south-bound car driven by Reuben Dosman, of 404 Alencourt Road.

The car then skidded into a ditch, taking the child with it. Police said a tow truck had to be called to lift the car up and pull the boy out.

Steven, who was treated at York Central Hospital for injuries, did not receive any broken bones. However, police said he was badly bruised.

Mrs. Joan Beaudet, Toronto, has been charged with failing to yield the right of way following the accident.

Livestock Lost In Mkhm. Twp. Fire

A fire of unknown origin in Markham Township Saturday evening destroyed a barn and numerous livestock, and resulted in an estimated loss of \$5,000.

The fire occurred at a farm owned by Theodore Smith, of Toronto, situated on Concession 3, half-a-mile north of Highway 7.

William Barrow, who rented the farm, was not home at the time of the blaze. Lost were 12 pigs, several hens, a tractor and a grinding mill.

Five fire engines from Vaughan and Markham Townships answered the call and were there for more than three hours, police said.

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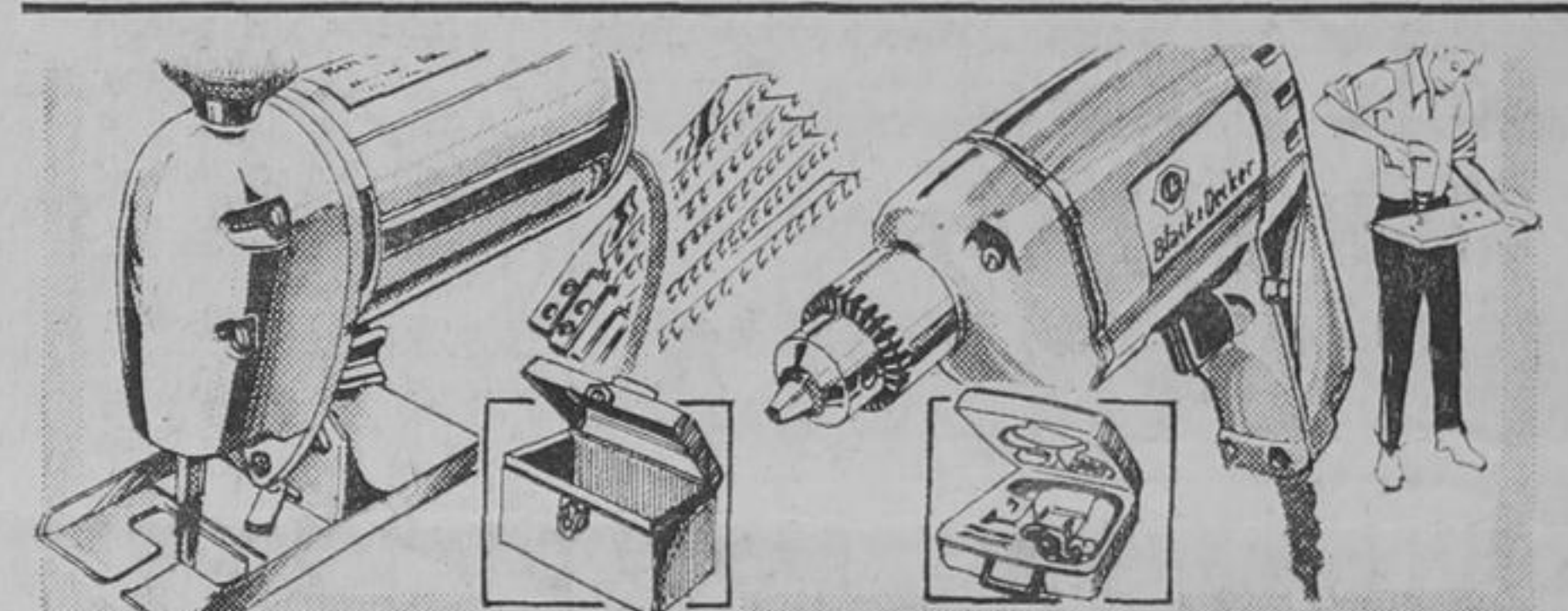
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