



Big Redd Ford

This is Big Redd Ford, one of the most respected Bluegrass bands around, scheduled to entertain at the 11th Annual Richmond Hill Winter Carnival on Sunday February 11. Some might recognize Richmond Hill resident Lou Moore (Back row, left) who plays guitar and sings vocals. Others in the group include bassist Mike Love, John Saunders who plays banjo and Randy Hill on mandolin. The group, which has one album released and television shows and concerts to its credit, will play between 2 and 4 p.m.

Five celebrities plan to appear for Big Brothers

Five celebrities have been lined up by Big Brothers of York for their upcoming bowlathon they call "Bowl for a Boy". Ron Ellis, star of the Toronto Maple Leafs and honorary chairman of Big Brothers; Dave Devall from television station CFTO; Canadian Equestrian team member Jim Elder; and two politicians, Bill Hodgson and Sinclair Stevens have already agreed to participate. Executive Director for Big Brothers of York, Laurie LeBlanc said he and other members are making efforts to get more celebrities and encourage anyone to get out and bowl a game in support of fatherless boys in York region.

The event will be held at The Newmarket Bowlerama, 81 Davis Drive, in Newmarket, from 1:30 to 5 p.m. February 17.

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"Major Barbara" should constitute polished theatre

By MELANIE BLAKEMAN
In the view of George Bernard Shaw, the author of the play "Major Barbara" that is currently in production at the Curtain Club, it is material deprivation or spiritual depravity that is at the root of social corruption.

Poverty "is the worst of all crimes".
"Food, clothing, firing, rent, taxes, respectability, and children" are "millstones (around) man's neck — the seven deadly sins" — that only money can alleviate.

Although Shaw deals with a different social milieu, England of the early nineteen hundreds, it is not difficult to feel sympathy with this idea, especially since he conveys it through characters that are unfailingly provocative and dynamic.

Undershaft, for example, (played by John Illingworth) is a Machiavellian individualist, who, through a singular twist of fate, comes from rags to riches.

"To be wealthy," says Undershaft, "is a point of honor for which I am prepared to kill at the risk of my own life."
(Shaw lets us know that this character would have got where he is, fate or no fate).

But regardless of whether Undershaft is responsible for any human death, and there is some question, he certainly obliterates some of the rigours of a traditional social order and decorum from his life in such a way that we might feel slightly wicked and somewhat liberated just watching him.

Undershaft saves souls with money, of course. Barbara, Undershaft's daughter, represents an antithesis. She is the spirited, idealistic Salvation Army major (Dilys Rubow) who is bent on saving souls with religion.

She shows us an army so full of enthusiasm and liveliness that at times we are not sure that we would not sacrifice Undershaft's millions for the army's drums and meals of bread and treacle.

Cuzins, Barbara's fiancé (played by Brian J. Moore), seems to share our ambivalent feelings, but the curiosity we feel about how he will resolve them is not to be satisfied until the end of the play.

The options this engaging professor of Greek finally takes will no doubt come as quite a surprise.
And then there is Lady Britomart, Barbara's mother and Undershaft's "Ex" (played by Cicely Thompson), whose life revolves solely around the decorum and etiquette of the times (her split with Undershaft is not at all difficult to comprehend).

Her staunch observance of what is "good form" sometimes borders on the absurd but because we understand that her

intentions are primarily good, we love her all the same.
Sarah, Stephen, and Lomax are advocates of propriety, too.

Stephen, son of Lady Britomart (Peter Kite) has the insipidness one generally associates with a personality who pompously considers his only function in life to be to "know right from wrong".

Sarah, Lady Britomart's other daughter (Kim Ruutberg) can be summed up in a word — compliant.
Lomax, Sarah's fiancé (Domenic Caruso) follows the more modern version of propriety — fads and trends.

He is imbecilic and mindless.
This is Shaw satirizing the upper middle class, and, though it may not be altogether charitable, it is entertaining.

He is a little kinder to the army's lost souls. Rummy (Elizabeth Davies; Snobby Price (Mark Saddler); Peter Shirley (Clive Ryland); and Bill Walker (Dennis Stainer) has a wit (granted a depraved wit) and a certain lust for living that make us believe that with a little opportunity in the form of money, they are surely redeemable.

The difficulty is that that kind of money is not to be found with the army, but that is not because of lack of effort by the two Salvationists, Mrs. Baines (Dorthea Painter) and Jenny (Mary Illman).

They even swallow their scruples and accept money from one of the very organizations that keep them in business, a manufacturer of rot-gut gin.

The climax of the play occurs when Undershaft presents his almost perfect armory and canon-works town — a land of plenty, populated by liberated and contented "saints".
But there are some disturbing incongruities. It might be difficult to decide to be convinced.

Patricia Carrol Brown is directing "Major Barbara" through the courtesy of the Canadian Actors' Equity Association.

Her services have been made possible (in part) through the Community Theatre Training Program of Theatre Ontario.

The technical people: Chris Steel (set design); Clay Warner (lights); Suzanne Stoner (costumes); Beryl Radke and Joan Ryland (producing), appear to have been particularly inspired and conscientious.

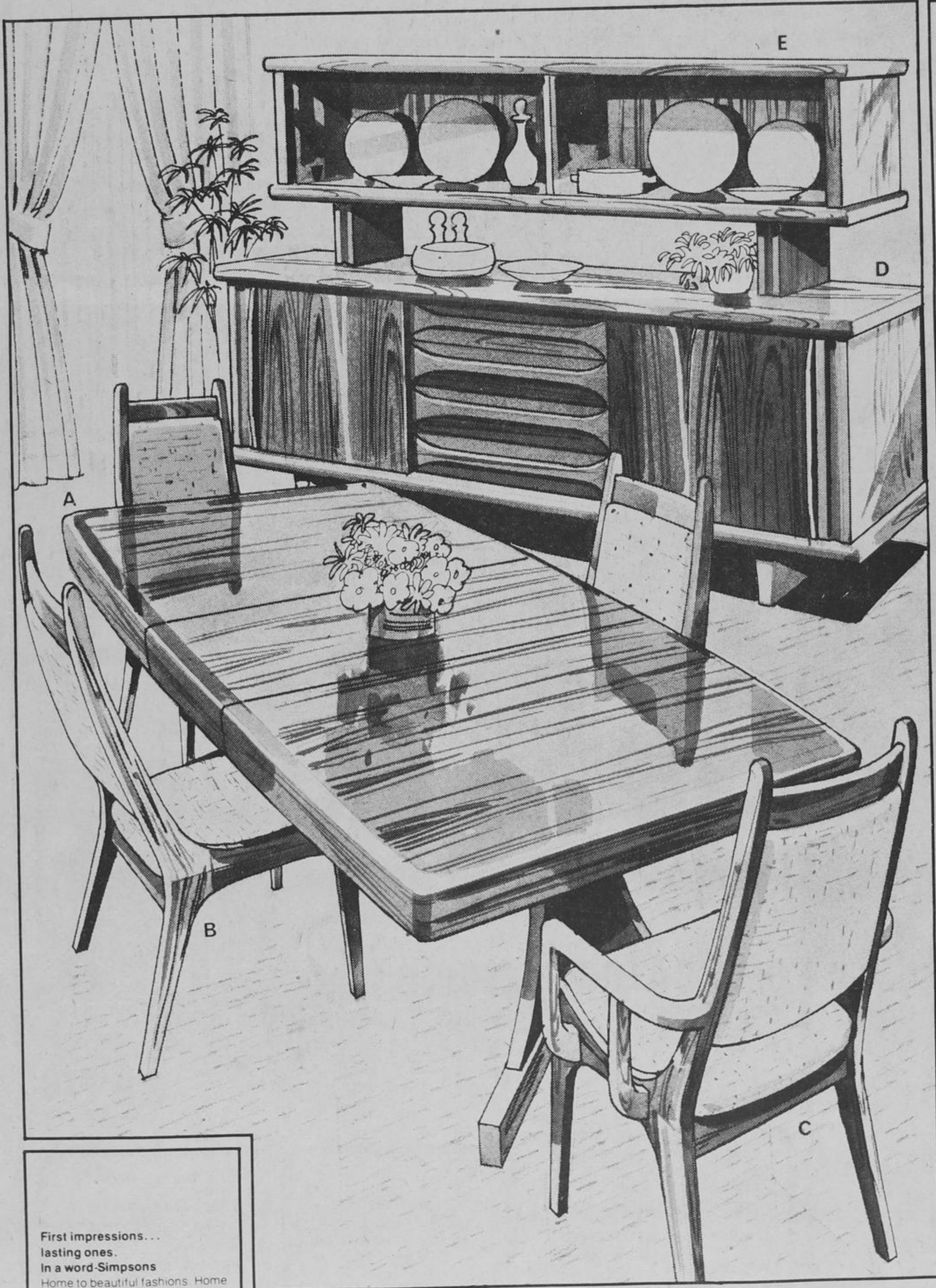
"Major Barbara" should constitute an evening of well-polished and stimulating theatre.

The show opens Friday, February 2, and runs through Saturday, February 17.

Curtain time is 8:30 p.m. For tickets, call Madge Nicholson at 884-3703.

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