Boston Pops live: typical but sparkling

By Paul Schindler

The Boston Pops has been plugged as "the largest in popular music ever since 1853," when it was begun as a "promenade" orchestra. The Pops has had 18 conductors, but only since 1930: Arthur Fiedler.

Last week, I sampled two concerts which I think are typical fare for the Pops, and I am happy to report that they are as sparkling live as they are on record, if not more so.

Before speaking directly of the music, I would mention the seating arrangements at Symphony Hall which are used for Pops concerts. If you have never attended one before, you might not realize that refreshments are served on the ground floor, and that the usual chairs are replaced with small tables for four and folding chairs.

Last Monday, for example, after a light classical warm-up, "Tubby the Tub" (narrated by Julia Child) was performed, to the delight of the audience. The concert, an exception to the general rule, did not really feature any serious orchestral work except Gershwin's "American in Paris." Arthur Fiedler conducted with gusto and vigor.

Thursday night, it was Harry Ellis Dixon (assistant conductor at the podium for a more standard bill of fare. The featured performance was Gershwin's "Piano Concerto in F," highlighted by the dynamic piano performance of Anthony Paratore. This selection showed how well the Pops can handle serious music, as might be expected from a group which is an extension of the world-famous Boston Symphony. The Pops managed to keep the audience in stitches too, with a solo performance on the typewriter stage front, during Anderson's "The Typewriter." After 40 years under Fiedler, there is almost no one left who doubts that the Boston Pops can put on an entertaining orchestral performance of almost any type. They have surely convinced me.

The Problem Pregnancy

The Problem Pregnancy is another MITpistol shooters honored

By R.B. Gibson

Dan Flint '71 and John Good '72 have been named to the ten-man 1971 All-American Pistol Team. They represent the seventh and eighth MIT marksmen to be named to the All-American squad in the six years since Coach Tom MacLennan has been at the instiute.

This is the second year in a row that Fiant has earned All-American honors. The three-time varsity letterman and MVP on last year's national champion team, was plagued in early season by mechanical trouble, but delivered a solid, consistent performance throughout the season to finish with a 280 (out of possible 300) average in both the Northeastern Collegiate and the Greater Boston Pistol Leagues. His performance was even more outstanding considering that he was able to practice only six times once or twice a week, compared to the five days that the varsity usually fires. Dan is from Kezar Falls, Maine, and is in electrical engineering.

A month after John Good joined the team as a sophomore last year, Coach MacLennan was saying, "He'll be a national champion before he leaves here." By the end of that season, Good, a math major from Rochester, N.Y., had become the highest scorer on the team and led the national championship effort. This fall, he began where he left off and has been getting better ever since. His 282.3/300 over-all in the NECPL was third in the league which includes most of the other All-Americans. He ended the college season by firing a 265.3/300 in the Seasonal over the tough international course to win the National Collegiate Individual Championship. Coach MacLennan's prophecy had come true.

In the Pan American Preliminary Trials, Good firmly established himself as the nation's number one collegiate pistol shooter, firing a phenomenal 540 out of 600 possible, setting a new national civilian record. He has been invited to try out for the US Pan American Games Team, May 17-22 in Phoenix, Arizona.

More groovy discs

(Continued from page 5)

Bring Me Home – Mother Earth (Rca)

Mother Earth is one of those solid but unspectacular bands that somehow get overlooked while either the really outstanding or incredibly bad groups garner the attention and the bread. Bring Me Home is another in a plethora of groups by the group and continues their tradition of country and rock influences. Tracy Nelson is, as usual, superb. Unfortunately, unless you're in New York City, you will probably pass into oblivion as has its equally illustrious predecessor.

By R.B. Gibson

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The TECH

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