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DOLLARS AGAINST A TECH HIPPODROME

ELEVENTH hour decisions are usually practicable and sometimes good, inasmuch as man's psychology ordains that he will often produce his best results when he is forced to the limit. There are some instances, however, when it would be to the distinct advantage of everyone concerned if he made his plans ahead of time and distributed his thinking over a longer period.

Perhaps the blame may be attributed to the last Institute Committee for failing to reach any definite agreement as to the nature of events at this year's Tech Night that the calendar of events was not composed until so very late. The men in charge of this year's events had no time to lose and they acted quickly. Their problem was to keep the crowd out of trouble in Boston and the most logical way seemed to invent some kind of attraction which would lure the students back to Technology's own grounds after the Show.

They succeeded in their purpose. But it is doubtful if the scheme could be employed again with similar success. The students are skeptical of a game where there is so much chance of outwitting the other fellow by tying one of the ropes onto an automobile or a steam shovel. And then when we compare the sudden firing of the judge's pistol to the excruciating accuracy with which a testing materials laboratory procedure must be enacted, at the same time keeping in mind the sums of the horizontal and vertical components, must equal zero for a balanced system of forces, it is quickly to be perceived that the tug will always be over in a few seconds.

It will be saving next year's committee much labor and energy if some definite scheme can be decided upon now while the reminiscences of Tech Night and possibly a few still heavy heads keep it from becoming a purely dead issue until another year has elapsed. This much is certain. Tech Night must not be as last year. Some means of drawing the students back to Cambridge which will be equally effective as time goes on must be devised, even if we have to erect our own theatre on our campus to make sure of it.

To encourage suggestions THE TECH reminds its readers that its Communications Column is open to all. To stir up further interest in the matter, we offer a prize of fifteen dollars to the student submitting the best and most original scheme for supplementing Tech Night in its present form with what will become a new tradition. Attempts are being made to secure several prominent persons for judges. And the Lounger has promised to help us examine these suggestions and will publish some of his own.

A SLOGAN

MYSTERY seems to enshroud the posters seen about the Institute bearing the words "All At Once, Once For All." Nothing else serves to identify this inspiring bit of phraseology, yet it is already beginning to be heard around the corridors. In fact, it is a slogan which is being "sold" to the students.

Next week the Combined Charity Drive will take place. Only a few weeks ago the idea was conceived of saving the student body the inconvenience and annoyance which attend the many and various canvassings held within our corridors. The method by which this could best be accomplished was decided upon in the form of one big drive for all charities concerned.

The Drive will be a success if the students will appreciate that it is being held for their convenience. Only one week of campaigning and they will not be troubled for the remainder of the year. For the Institute Committee has guaranteed to them that no other charity will be allowed to hold a drive at Technology for the rest of the present school year.

Yet the students must remember that they will be expected to give generously in this one drive, since it is the equivalent of three separate drives which have hitherto been run independent of each other. The Combined Drive will only be a success if every single man contributes a fair and reasonable sum. It must be remembered, furthermore, that the Drive is more or less of an experiment this year, and if it falls short of its goal the charities concerned will probably not agree to a similar drive next year and the old system of annoyances will be put into practice again.

So be prepared and put the drive over the top next week, before the end of the week if possible.

NEW IDEAS FEATURE

"MARY JANE McKANE"

"Something different, something new." Such is the supposed cry of the "tired business man" at the theater. The result is problematical.

"Mary Jane" at the Shubert is one of the better attempts at something new. At the rising of the curtain there is no line of "Sweet young things" singing something that no one understands and that does not really make any difference.

The opening was a set of three pictures produced with good color effects which was immediately followed by a scene in the subway. The ending was also quite different for the chorus did not appear in the last two scenes and the last scene was a very beautiful pantomime.

The story is consistent and is not interrupted by the too prevalent comedy skits, but kept moving through it all. The action centers around Mary Jane McKane, a girl from the country but is not the usual gag.

The theme song was "Toodle-oo" which is one of the kind that you can whistle on the way home and has a sentimental attachment to the play. There is a comedy skit "The Flannel Petticoat Gal" which is accompanied by a burlesque on old fashioned costumes which nearly stopped the show.

The acting of the leads was consistently good and the dancing was better than the usual run because of its pep, trick steps and synchronism.

THE DOUBLE LIFE OF MR. ALFRED BURTON

E. Philips Oppenheim's play, "The Double Life of Mr. Alfred Burton," is at the Copley this week played by the Jewett Repertory Company.

It is of the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde type reversed; that is the hero goes from worse to bad instead of from bad to worse.

A comedy of many laughs, it is played well but with a somewhat careless attention to details. Mr. Alfred Burton, played by E. E. Clive, eats a transplanted Assyrian Boston baked bean and from an auctioneer's clerk becomes a man of culture and refinement in exactly twenty-eight seconds which is most extraordinary but certainly amusing.

In his ordinary conversation, Mr. Burton in his altered condition, goes into flights of oratory which one would not expect from a cultured man and his facial expression is overdone at times.

The final curtain drops on a happily reunited couple which has been estranged due to the eating of a mouldy bean.

OPERA SEASON OPENS WITH "RIGOLETTO"

The San Carlo Opera Company has opened the season at the Boston Opera House. The large first night audience seemed very enthusiastic over the performance of "Rigoletto" in four acts by Verdi.

Indeed one can with surety say, no performance of "Rigoletto" at the Opera House has ever surpassed that of Monday night's in both brilliancy of singing and acting. The singing of "Caro nome" was flawless. During this number Miss Lucchese held her audience breathless, yes even coughless, and the spontaneous and lasting applause that followed gave evidence of the clarity, the bird-like effect of her voice. Her singing is effortless. Mr. Basiola's Rigoletto was inspiring. Upon discovering that his daughter Gilda has been seduced by the Duke, in whose very court Rigoletto was a jester, Mr. Basiola goes through a skilled piece of singing and acting that is to be admired.

Following the opera, the Ballet "Samson and Delilah" arranged by Pavley and Onkrainsky formally with Chicago Opera, was given as an added attraction. The San Carlo Opera Company is to remain here for three weeks.

Play Directory

BOSTON OPERA HOUSE: San Carlo Opera Company.

COLONIAL: "The Merchant of Venice." David Warfield.

HOLLIS: "The Awful Truth." Ina Claire in comedy of divorce and a western of millionaire.

MAJESTIC: "Caroline." Operetta of Civil War times.

PLYMOUTH: "The Cat and the Canary." Mysterious murders, etc.

SELWYN: "The Old Soak." Last week.

TREMONT: "Kiki." Lenore Ulric.

WILBUR: "Sally, Irene and Mary." Musical comedy with Eddie Dowling in the comedy part.

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Tech night has come and gone and everybody was happy as the Lounger prophesied. Even the Theatre managers were pleased. That was the final blow to the Lounger. He had expected repair charges amounting to the construction of a new Shubert only to learn that the field day marshalls were given free box seats to the Shubert Monday night in token of the managements appreciation of their police duty.

The Lounger is glad that the Marshalls received something in return for their work. Friday evening they showed the rare combination of firmness and tact. Nor could a scent of those illegal beverages be distinguished on any of them. That is more than the Lounger regrets could have been said last year.

The only persons that did not appreciate the performance were the performers. Can you imagine a squad of dough boys putting on a joyful performance in no-mans-land? True there were no shapen bombs present at the show, but the hand grenades seemed to be very much in evidence. The Lounger advances no criticisms on split milk but he rather wishes one of the leads had not carried away her impression of Technology men. "You Technology men are so funny," she said, "in Europe the students throw flowers on the stage, here beer bottles seem to be your symbol of appreciation."

And the tug-of-war after the show accomplished its purpose, even against the most pessimistic of predictions. But there is much dissatisfaction on the way it was managed. It seems impossible that another tug-of-war next year would be as successful. So a new method must be created. THE TECH is digging deep in its pockets and offering a fifteen dollar prize for the best solution to the problem. The Lounger has nothing to do with this offer. Fifteen dollars is a very un-relevant thing for his discussion. But he is sure somebody will find a very nice place to put those greenbacks.

BOSTON STOCK COMPANY PLAYING "NOT SO FAST"

"Not So Fast," running at the St. James Theater this week is a comedy, featuring the attempts of an easy going Kentuckian trying to forestall the grafting tendencies of his co-guardian of two girls and a Yale Freshman. The latter wants to invest some of the estate in some Mexican mining stock. The Gentleman from Kentucky doesn't favor Mexican mining stock, and objects. There is the customary love theme, with variations, which all come out beautifully in the end. Taken all together, it is a good play, with plenty of humor, but no slap-stick work.

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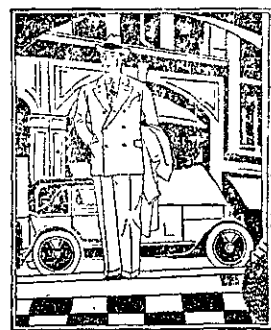
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