



RIDGE

RAMBLER

MRSS

CELEBRATES

CANADA'S

CENTENNIAL

(S)
The Ridge Rambler

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Many thanks go out to Mr. Warner's classes for their able and much appreciated assistance in typing and running off the Rambler.

Editorial - In My Opinion

Without trying to sound dissatisfied or disgusted with the many courses offered at Ridge, I would like to put forth a few suggestions for course improvements. The purpose of this editorial is aimed at gaining a greater variety of courses for the students on Arts Specialties. I realize that we cannot expect to have the students branch into specialized courses until the senior level, so I am chiefly concerned with subjects at the twelfth-grade level. Without trying to suggest that the Arts Students are being cheated, I am inclined to feel that there are fewer specific courses offered to Arts students than to students in other specialties.

There are a number of practical and creative courses which could be offered to the Arts students but are not. When the Science students are offered three special courses - Biology, Chemistry, and Physics the Art 12 classes have their course lumped into one. There is not Science 12 but there is an Art 12. Shouldn't Art also have its branches at a Senior level? For instance, a commercial art course or a cartoon-drawing course?

The clerical students are offered a variety of office courses while potential writers can only enroll in one special English course - Literature 12. Wouldn't creative courses in journalism, editing, or persuasive writing, offer more incentive to our budding writers?

We cater to seamstresses, cooks, businessmen and scientists while art students are only given a vague background in academic subjects. Your reply to this complaint will undoubtedly be that these students are channelled for University life where they will receive their specialized education. But do all these students reach the University level? They undeniably don't because their initiative and ambition has been stifled because of the lack of incentive reached in their dull Math and Physics classes. Some students are absolutely not cut out to be Mathematicians, yet they may become totally engrossed in a Civics class. Why not develop their talents and encourage their ambition. Ridge always cleans up on writing competitions yet we are still only offered one special English course in grade 12. Our student body is full of potential talents in the Arts field! Don't let it go to waste! Don't ignore us any longer!

The movie-going habits of MRSSers are rather confusing at times. Do you realize there are actually people in the school who haven't seen "Doctor Zhivago"? (or "Lawrence of Arabia" (Tsk! Tsk!)) For the unfortunate few, I propose to make this review a brief recommendation of the former (now in its second year in Vancouver). After all, some people have seen "Blow-Up", so you can see how profound my critical influence is. (??) (see last R. Rambler for details)

Actually, to begin, I could make quite a lengthy comparison between "Doctor Z." and "Lawrence", but this wouldn't be too fair. However, I personally think that "Lawrence" was superior in many respects. So much for that.

"Doctor Z." is an extremely well-photographed super-epic. The story follows the book very closely, with a bit more depth than the novel, at least in the relationship between Zhivago and his mistress, Lara.

People who enjoy picking out symbolism in movies will have a field day with "Doctor Z.". All sorts of beautiful but puzzling camera shots make this movie the "Blow-Up" of spectacles.

There is the usual cast of thousands, with several very good acting jobs turned in, notably by Julie Christie and Tom Courtenay.

The years fly by in "Doctor Z." and the viewer may find himself a bit puzzled if he steps out to the lobby for a moment and then returns. Sometimes the passage of time seems rather choppy, but this can be explained by the fact that Director David Lean left about twenty-eight hours of film on the cutting room floor.

In short, a good movie to see--very sad (brings lots of Kleenex), at times very noisy, but on the whole very artistically and convincingly presented.

(P.S. - a crash course in History is advised for those who want to easily follow the factual background of the story.)

Now that the "Sound of Music" is over, I think it is a good time for us to assess our position with regard to future dramatic productions.

Some thought has been given to production of another musical next year, possibly "South Pacific". During the last two years we have attempted to bring what some people consider nearly "professional" theatre to the community. However, these productions have been far from professional in several respects - in fact, they may have created a distorted image of theatre for the public. (Maple Ridge is not exactly notorious for its "culture". The community is gradually sinking to the status of a 3-B (Bingo, Bowling and Booze) community, where there is no culture per se, except in the eyes of a select hierarchy which considers itself "the cultured few".)

First, we have presented musicals for two years without any real consideration for the music. The piano-organ combination presently employed may be effective, but is not exactly innovational. Why do we continue to put on musical productions which become more and more ambitious, but without the proper musical facilities? (Has anyone ever heard of an orchestra?)

Secondly, there is the problem of scene changes which create extremely long breaks between scenes. (I must say I have no criticism of the scenery itself, which was superbly designed and executed). This problem could be eliminated by the use of "flats" and by putting in the short scenes which are designed to be done in front of the curtain during scene changes. (for some unknown reason these were eliminated from this year's production)..

Thirdly, there is the human element involved. There are some dramatically inclined students in the school and adults in this community who act in a manner which can be best described as immature, who make an inane amount of fuss and bother which leaves us wondering, exactly who is running the show. Presumably a great deal of this trouble arose from this year's double cast. Aside from the disadvantages this concept creates in regard to performances and audience reaction, a great deal of conflict arises and occasionally unfortunate comparisons are made. (We all know about "that" Gazette article.)

I think that we should be content to rest on the laurels achieved through this year's production of the "Sound of Music", and "lay low" on musicals for a time, at least until we have the right facilities and attitudes towards this type of production. Next year, we should try a straight dramatic production, which may help to form a genuine and respectable basis for drama in the community.

Michael Quigley

EXCHANGE

Lynn Lawrence

Compliments of the "Green and Gold".

"Chuckles":

Romance: the only sport in which the animal that gets caught has to buy the license!

"I agree," said the psychiatrist, "that he may have a spark of genius. But in my opinion, he also has ignition trouble."

Compliments of the "Highland Piper".

"The policy of the Piper this year will be to please everybody. Any mistakes, which are found, were placed there merely to satisfy those people who search for such things." (Now 'you' now why is there always mistakes in school newspapers!)

The Ridge Rambler Box Contest

Contributions for this contest were gratefully accepted, the winner this month is Marsha Gregory for her entry: "Picasso uses paint by number!" But a very close second was Michael Quigley for his entry: "Adolf Hitler is Alive and Living in Whonnock!". Congratulations goes out to both and many thanks goes out to those who entered. Some of the entries follow:

Centennial Tartan stolen from original Scotch tape label.

Old Dutch Potatoe Chips made in Japan.

Mr. V's office is really a phony front for--a candy store!

Mini Skirts found to be rejects from Aferican pygmy tribe!

Lady Bird originated political slogan "All the way with LBJ"

Linus Soaks his blanket in LSD

Superman arrested for indecent exposure in public telephone booth!

Flash! Little Orphan Annies Eyes Found!

Robert Goulet makes killing on American Senator's Singing Lessons!

Extra! Mary Mild Marries Mr. Clean

Witch Hazel Arrested for flying without.a Licence!

Greyhound Bus Line Goes to the Dogs!

Mr. Quigley plays a player piano!

English Fashion Model "Twiggy" earns Extra Money Posing for Care Posters!

Incorporation of Metric System Causes Sexsation! How about a 96 "C" girls?????

Twiggy Calls Jayne Mansefield a big "Boob"

THIS MONTH: The Ridge Rambler Box contest is catering to aspiring young cartoonists!! So here's your chance to exhibit your talents in the Art fields!! Submit your cartoon entry on a plain sheet of white paper, preferably outlined in India Ink or dark pencil, otherwise it cannot be copied. Don't forget to enter!!