

THE "CON"

"Backward turn backward
O time in thy flight."

And we see that the Con sprung into existence with a full fledged and academic maturity which would appeal little to us today. Fostered by the Literary and Debating Society he made his debut in a room of the Arts Building on Nov 8th, 1872. He wore horn rimmed spectacles and carried a mass of papers under his arms. But he was hailed with delight by the students, nevertheless, and lived up to his name which is more than he has managed to do of recent years.

Conversazione means for conversation and as such it was introduced by the society referred to. A program of 19 addresses, readings, essays and declamations was provided by the students at the original gathering and the meeting adjourned to sing "Auld Lang Syne" outside in the hall.

The old gymnasium was the scene were so assured of the popularity of the second Con. but four months after the first. The committee and advantages of the young institution that Fredericton friends and supporters of the University were invited to attend.

Thus Mar. 1st, 1873 saw the beginning of a great tradition which persisted until February 1931 and which is observed to a far lesser extent in the custom of providing bids for the use of friends of the students at the Cons. of today. Motion pictures had not made their appearance in 1873 and the students were entirely dependent on the townspeople for their entertainment. In return for kind invitations to home circles, private parties and church socials, the students were pleased to invite their friends up the hill to partake of refreshments, and to be entertained by essays and playlets.

Another tradition of sorts is associated with this eventful occasion. A raging gale was sweeping the City on that March night in '73 and hence, with recollections of subsequent storms on similar nights of gala importance we hear the saying today "there's always a storm the night of the Con!"

The years wore on and old man Con began to limber up his legs. The students introduced him to the intricacies of the old-fashioned waltz, the quadrilles and the lancers. The scene shifted to the roomy hall of the Arts Building and decorations began to appear. Meanwhile the conservativeness of the Old Alma Mater was being stirred

by rumors of co-education and of abolishment of Residency. At length in 1886 Miss Mary K. Tibbits entered the portals on college hill. The co-ed entered the scheme of things collegiate and a few years later she was destined to play her part in the history of the Con.

"Co-Con or no Con!" was the war cry of this later year. Even the event of the electric light up the hill failed to illuminate the scene. The male students resented the intrusion of the female element and would not permit the co-ed to assist in preparations for the Con. A faculty ruling brought the storm to a centre but failed to dissipate the clouds. "Co-Con or no Con" was the verdict—and no Con was held. College suffrage was in the bud, and the following year it bloomed.

This made two consecutive years during which no Con was held. The previous year, the function was called off at the last minute due to the death in the early evening of the wife of the President, Mrs. Thomas Harrison.

First indication of the splendor to be attained by later Cons were observed in 1896, when the function rapidly attained the distinction of being recognized as one of the leading social events of the province, burst out in a blaze of decorative glory. Flags and bunting, wreaths and flowers were tastefully displayed, and a '96 in electric lights greeted guests upon entering the Arts Hall. Acceptance numbered 450 and the names were published in the press, the custom being continued until the close of the 1920's.

Those present included the lieutenant-governor and party, members of the provincial legislature, friends from all parts of the province, students of Normal School and Fredericton High, ladies being predominant in the building and the chapel, now the art in numbers. The lower hall of French and German room, were used for dancing, other rooms were used for playing cards, sitting out and refreshments. Refreshments were all donated, even the ice cream was home made.

To illustrate the progress made by the Con from this time on, it is interesting to note in The Brunswickan that each Con was "the most successful one in the annals of old U. N. B." Novelty was introduced in 1903 when Dr. L. W. Bailey entertained those not wishing to dance with some "magnificent lantern slides." At this time there

were many who did not wish to dance and to whom dancing was obnoxious.

But another storm blew over, and the Con continued unaltered until the declaration of war in 1914 terminated the function till 1919. This year was featured by the "Victory Con" and khaki uniforms mingled with the black evening dress. The dance was held in honor of the class of '19 and red and black corded ribbons set off by the starched shirts distinguished the stately seniors from the undergraduates. This Con concluded suddenly at the 15th dance due to the sudden death of the porter, Alfred Ford.

The following years, up to 1931 were marked by elaborate schemes of decoration and extension of the invitation list, which was kept and revised from year to year, 1,000 or more bids being issued. A ban list was also at hand to eliminate undesirable. Each class had a definite section of the building to decorate and tried to surpass the other in novelty and design. The year 1920 saw a departure from strict formality in undergraduates attire, only the seniors wearing evening dress, and in 1928, the Con was held in Memorial Hall for the first time. The elaborate arbors of roses and evergreens, with a profusion of crepe hangings, colored lights and electric crests provided too great a fire hazard for the old building to remain in use, and the crowding, accepted as part of the excitement was becoming too great even for the comfort of the revelers.

The final turning point was reached in 1931, when it was decided to revert to the old Con as an entertainment for friends and supporters of the university. A reception was held, with an entertainment of playlets, readings and piano selections, followed by refreshments. The annual spring dance was held at a later date under the designation of Spring Formal. The old invitation lists were thrown away and students were allowed to entertain their personal friends only, at this dance.

This too lapsed and old Man Con changed completely to this modern garb and habits. His friends were merely the personal friends of the students and it cost the students dear even to provide him with these admirers. Cake is solicited no more, ice cream is bought by the gallon, and a discourse on the solidarity of the stars would be as much out of place as a coach in which to ride up the hill. Yet the conversazione still occupies a prominent place on the collegiate hearth. He chatters almost incessantly however, and has not been heard to utter a profound word for years.

RESIDENCE SNOOP

Beaverbrook has ears and eyes as big as big can be
To hear all the gossip and to see what it can see.
To live in the residence is surely first class proof
That you are behind the doors, and out on the roof
That you are snoopy snoop crawling all around
Digging in the dirt where you do abound.
Little notes by Butch pinned upon the door—
Mal's face blushing to the color of fresh gore—
Dare sees John, suspects him of such mush,
To his little black book madly takes a rush.
Stinky in the Goodie Shoppe—door with out a key
Snoop was on the dot—and what he

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COLLICH FUN

Dr. (to his daughter) —"Did you tell that young Pre-Med that I think he's no good?"

Daughter—"Yes, but he said it wasn't the first wrong diagnosis you had made."

Statisticians of a life insurance company have discovered that there are more inmates in insane asylums than there are college students—I'd still rather go to college.

If she goes up in the air ...

Condense.

If she becomes upset ...

Reverse.

Is she is hungry ...

Feeder.

If she sings faulty

Tuner.

If she gets cold ...

Heater.

A thing of beauty gets joy-rides forever.

"I'm going to quit dating engineers, they leave blue prints on my neck."

"Yeah—but lawyers are always contesting your will."

Then there was the Junior who thought that a mush room was a breakfast nook.

His campaign was a pleasant one, He only kissed the babies
Who were old enough to vote.

didn't see!

"Doubtful" is an adjective to fit a lot of guys—

Pity for the House phone that hears so many lies—

For some its only two but for Dare its really four,

The result is lots of trouble—but Snoop just asks for more.

There never is a party, a dance or jamboree,

Without a Residence boy in the highest glee—

Looking round at all the folks to see who's with what

Wondering why so-and-so came with such a mutt

Whispering together, then giving knowing looks

Jotting down the latest in their evil books.

So you fellows up the hill and you co-eds too

Watch your step carefully for "Snoop sees you!"

Jane Gregory

THRU THE KEYHOLE

That sign on Mary's door—"Snoop sees you Mal."

Those two young couples who were married in the Easter Vacation. Blessings go with you my children.

Tom's delightful trip to Mount A.

Edie and Dave getting stuck in the snow storm Thursday. They say 'he had to walk two miles in the blizzard—Poor dears.

Watch for Eric's triumphant entry "up the hill" in a new convertible coupe.

Things to Watch at the Con
That couple who will come dressed as Adam and Eve just to be different.

The dance team of "Rogers and MacLean" who will give us a tap-dance medley.

The same old pin in the same old place will be found in Dave Blair's same old suspenders.

Birch's new razz garters worn for the 1st time.

The engagement of Miss (Give me your handkerchief quick Dave) Thurrott to Mr. (Don't you dare show that to anyone) Dyer will be announced.

Stinky will wear a girdle made of beer bottles.

Miss Harmon will be dressed as a floating swan.

Doug Gunter will wear his pants worn inside out. Just to be different.

Miss Dorfy Reed will wear a head dress made of gum drops.

She She and Dick will arrive with wild oats springing from their golden locks.

Dag will wear the top of his py-jamas and he knows he will be more popular than ever.

Remember keep your eyes open and don't miss a thing.

We're going to give the bride a shower.

Count me in. I'll bring the soap. —Manitobian.

She: I wear this gown only to teas.
He: Whom? —Gateway.



Cleopatra, mistress of the Nile,

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