

Thought Of The Week

By Ted Ecclestone

Be wise today; tis madness to defer.



Edward Young
Night Thoughts (1742-1745).
Night 1, 1.390

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Understanding the play before the acting begins

By Constance Scrafield-Danby
Freelance Contributor

"If the actors in a play don't really understand their parts, then the audience won't either."

"How many of you have seen a Shakespearian play and you didn't understand all of it?" So David Nairn asked the seven young people about to begin rehearsal for their own, non-Shakespearian, play, A Christmas Story.

Four of them put their hands up. They had not understood all the language or the references.

"Yet the language is English," Mr. Nairn remarked. "Most of the words are words we use today, even if the language is a bit flowery. No, the real reason is because the actors themselves don't understand it. They haven't done their homework and learned about the history of the play." He offered this to make his point.

This analogy was by way of explaining to the youngsters, ages six to 13, why they needed to know who the Lone Ranger was; what sort of toys a 10-year-old would want for Christmas in 1955; what a flit gun was. These are references of the play, which is based on a boy's Christmas in the year 1955.

The characters in the play have different wants and needs from people now, obviously, with the vast difference being in what is and was available as toys and amusement. When Mr. Nairn asked each of them what would they would like if they could each only have one Christmas present, all but one mentioned a sophisticated electronic piece of equipment. One of the boys wanted an amazing sounding piece of equipment for his electric trains, although none of them wished for something to take outside to play.

Entrenched in their differences from the characters they will take on stage, Mr. Nairn wanted to impress upon each of them the need to work for the understanding.

Not all aspects of the young characters were unknown: young ladies

and young gentlemen still get crushes on their opposites. Girls still gossip and giggle; boys still conspire; bullies still terrify.

For this initial coming together of the young actors on Monday this week, they sat around a table, conference style,

munching on the snacks they had brought, for a meeting that began at 4:30, just after school, and went on until 7:00 p.m. This was one of two, with the second scheduled for the following day.

Their first real rehearsal with the full accompani-

ment of cast, that is to say with the adults in the play, is coming this Friday, when rehearsals begin in earnest. From then on, the schedule is six days a week, 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. During this time, they work at their rehearsal hall.

Then, just before opening night, there are four "10 out of 12" days, which run from noon to midnight in the theatre when they learn the technicalities of producing the play — costume changes, lighting, using the actual set.

There is much more to acting than just delivering lines, although that, in itself, can be quite a challenge.

However, at the start of it all, is the law. The law of David Nairn.

And the first law is about them taking care of themselves. There was a long list of sports in which they are not allowed to participate during the course of their involvement with the play. They, or their guardians, have signed contracts agreeing to the conditions under which they have been engaged to perform with Theatre Orangeville, for each of them is being paid for their participation. They will not engage in

dangerous sports — which include almost everything you can think of short of ping-pong — or chess. They have to wear appropriate outdoor clothing. They have to get permission to travel further afield than, say, Toronto.

"Thank goodness, we already went to Myrtle Beach!" exclaimed Christopher.

It was not long, though, until Mr. Nairn was getting into the business of creating. Within a few minutes, he had them put together the idea of being in a car: "how are we going to get a car on the stage?" "Well, maybe we could use those four chairs." "Yeah, if you move about on the chair as though you were really in a car, then the audience will believe that's where you were — see? We just invented a car."

"Cool."
"But people will still be able to see the rest of the

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THEATRE ORANGEVILLE Artistic Director David Nairn speaks with some of his young actors in preparation for the upcoming presentation of A Christmas Story. Contributed Photo

SPORTS



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ORANGEVILLE BANTAM AE Flyers were forced to settle for a tie in their recent contest against the Milton Winterhawks. Playing at home in the Tony Rose on Sunday evening, Orangeville battled back from an early deficit to take a one goal lead into the third period only to have Milton rally in the dying minutes of play to salvage a 3-3 tie. Photo/MIKE MALONEY

Muskies dump Crushers

By MIKE MALONEY
Sports Editor

Two points were the treat for the Shelburne Muskies when they made a Halloween road trip to Shallow Lake this past weekend.

It was the second game of the season for Shelburne after defeating Ripley 7-1 in their home opener at the CDRC on October 17th.

Kevin Tuckey got the ball rolling for Shelburne with his first of two goals, a power-play marker just over nine minutes into the opening frame with assists from Derek Smith and Zac Duerden.

Bill Boyes would add another off the draw eight seconds later with Tristin Fairbairn and Josh Duerden recording the helpers.

Tuckey was next

with his second of the night, followed by an unassisted shorthand goal by Matt Loughheed in the final seconds of the period to give Shelburne a 4-0 lead heading into the first intermission.

In the second, Shallow Lake continued trying to intimidate the Fish playing physical hockey which resulted in a steady procession to the penalty box. Chuck Mesley scored his first goal of the season, unassisted

to start the second but soon found himself watching from the sidelines after being ejected from the game after mixing it up with former team mate Ryan Freeman.

Sean Connor chipped in with a power-play goal at 9:01 before Luke Downey made it 7-0 for the Fish with help from Chris Greer and Derrick Robson.

The Crushers kicked off the third with their lone goal of the game scored by Ian Barnard

who slipped one past Mike Tardiff making his first appearance in goal for Shelburne.

Not wanting to allow the Crusher to build even the slightest bit of momentum, Shelburne came right back lead by Robson scoring a pair of third period goals with Connor, Smith and Zac Duerden also joining the scoring parade to give the Muskies a 12-1 decision at the final buzzer.

Heading into the

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GYMNASTATHON Members of the Twisters Gymnastic and Trampoline Club jumped, tumbled, rolled and bounced their way around the Alder Street facility on Saturday morning, participating in the club's annual Gymnastathon Fundraiser. Photo/MIKE MALONEY

'Focus' costs Orangeville Crushers

The Orangeville Crushers are finding out there are few breaks when you play at this level and it was a lesson learned the hard way this past week, dropping consecutive games to Whitby and St Michael's this past weekend.

Playing Thursday night on the road against the Fury, Orangeville may have underestimated their opposition heading into the game.

Crushers Beni Berisha would open the scoring at 4:40 of the first with assists going to Marc Lombardi and Daniel Percuklijevic, but they were unable to hold on to the lead.

In the second, back to

back goals were the reward for hard work and effort on the part of Whitby.

Behn Robertson was first with a shorthanded goal at 5:37 followed up by a single from Ian Wallwork to give the Fury a 2-1 lead at 12:33 of the second.

Mike Arnold would draw Orangeville even once again late in the frame on a power-play goal assisted by Kevin VanDyke and Nicholas Vassos.

Undeterred, Whitby fired right back less than two minutes later with Robertson scoring what would prove to be the game winner at 19:18.

In the third Chris Gentile added an insur-

ance marker midway through the frame while the Fury defence successfully neutralized any offensive punch by Orangeville to seal the 4-2 win.

Back home Friday to face St Michael's, things looked good for Orangeville heading into the second period holding a 3-0 lead.

Vassos opened the scoring just 27 seconds into the game picking off a clearing pass in the Buzzers zone and snapping it past St Michaels goalie Charles Williams.

Mike Arnold notched Orangeville's second at 8:36 assisted by Philip Teri before VanDyke and Vassos combined for the third goal at

18:07.

Costly mistakes were the Crushers downfall. Momentum in the game swung 180 degrees for the Buzzers when they managed a pair of shorthanded goals on the same penalty late in the second period. Outshooting Orangeville 20-6 through the mid-frame and 14-10 in the final frame of regulation time, the Buzzers evened the score up with 2:32 left on the clock to force overtime. In the extra time, neither team managed to score setting up a shootout which the Buzzers won 3-2 to take the win.

Speaking earlier this week, Crushers captain Nicholas Vassos admits

it was a rough couple of games, he says going into Whitby, the team as a whole was not as focused as they should have been, perhaps anticipating the Fury not to be as good as they proved to be. With the St Mike's game he said the ending was "a real heartbreak. We came out strong, got up 3-0 but we let up after that, got complacent and made some costly mistakes."

After dropping two games in a row, he also knows the importance of getting back on track and into the win column again. "We don't want to fall into a slump after losing the past two. We need to concentrate, •Continued pg B2

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