

**B.H.B.S. byline**

# A fine performance

On Saturday night past the Prince Edward Island Symphony Orchestra gave their first concert of the season. Although we must concede that the Berlin and New York Philharmonics have very little to fear in terms of musical composition, we also must say that for those who attended, a fine musical performance was given.

Under the musical direction of Czeslaw Gladyszewski, the evening began with C.M. Webee's Overture "Beherrscher der Geister". This early nineteenth century work gave the string and woodwind sections room to exhibit some fine playing. Fine solo work from the first chair flutist and clarinetist made up for some insecurity during a brass section chorale. Although the work is not an exciting piece, it was

played competently. The inability of Canadian Composer Barbara Portland's "Arioso and Rondo" to be fully realized perhaps lay in the conductor's choice of tempo. The Arioso seemed void of any rhythmic pulse, and the Rondo was dragging considerably. Sometimes it is very difficult for an audience to discern mistakes in a modern work. However, the conclusion of the competition left this reviewer wondering how many of the orchestra's players were scrambling to get the last note.

The featured soloist for the night was P.E.I.'s own Paul Bernard. The mastery of his guitar playing was overwhelming as he began with a selection of solo work. In particular his own transcription of an Albenez piano work was brilliant. It is not very often that one has a chance

to see an artist of such musical ability.

Rodrigu's "Fantasia Para un Gentilhombre" gave Mr. Bernard an opportunity to perform one of the standards in guitar literature. The composition was performed admirably and the orchestra at times sounded quite lush and warm, giving the guitarist ample support at all times. Again Mr. Bernard's brilliance was evident as he effortlessly tossed off the cadenzas, and securely brought the composition to a close.

The evening concluded with a "Night on Bald Mountain". This showpiece gave all sections room to shine. One wonders whether or not the brass section was glammering for the spot light. They sounded full and rich and deserved much credit for the work's success, although the tempo was somewhat slower than one

is accustomed to.

The only disappointment of the evening was the sparseness of the crowd. Only about 400 people chose to attend what was a fine evening of music. More support from the U.P.E.I. population would be quite welcome, as a number of players are U.P.E.I. professors, students and alumni. Come out and support probably the only winning team on campus.

## Chamber Music

The Brunswick String Quartet, resident musicians at UNB (Fredericton), are scheduled to perform their polished form of chamber music Sunday, Nov. 16 at 2:30 pm in Confederation Centre Art Gallery and Museum. Works by Haydn, Janacek, and Schubert will be featured. Concert is free of charge.

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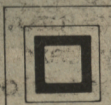
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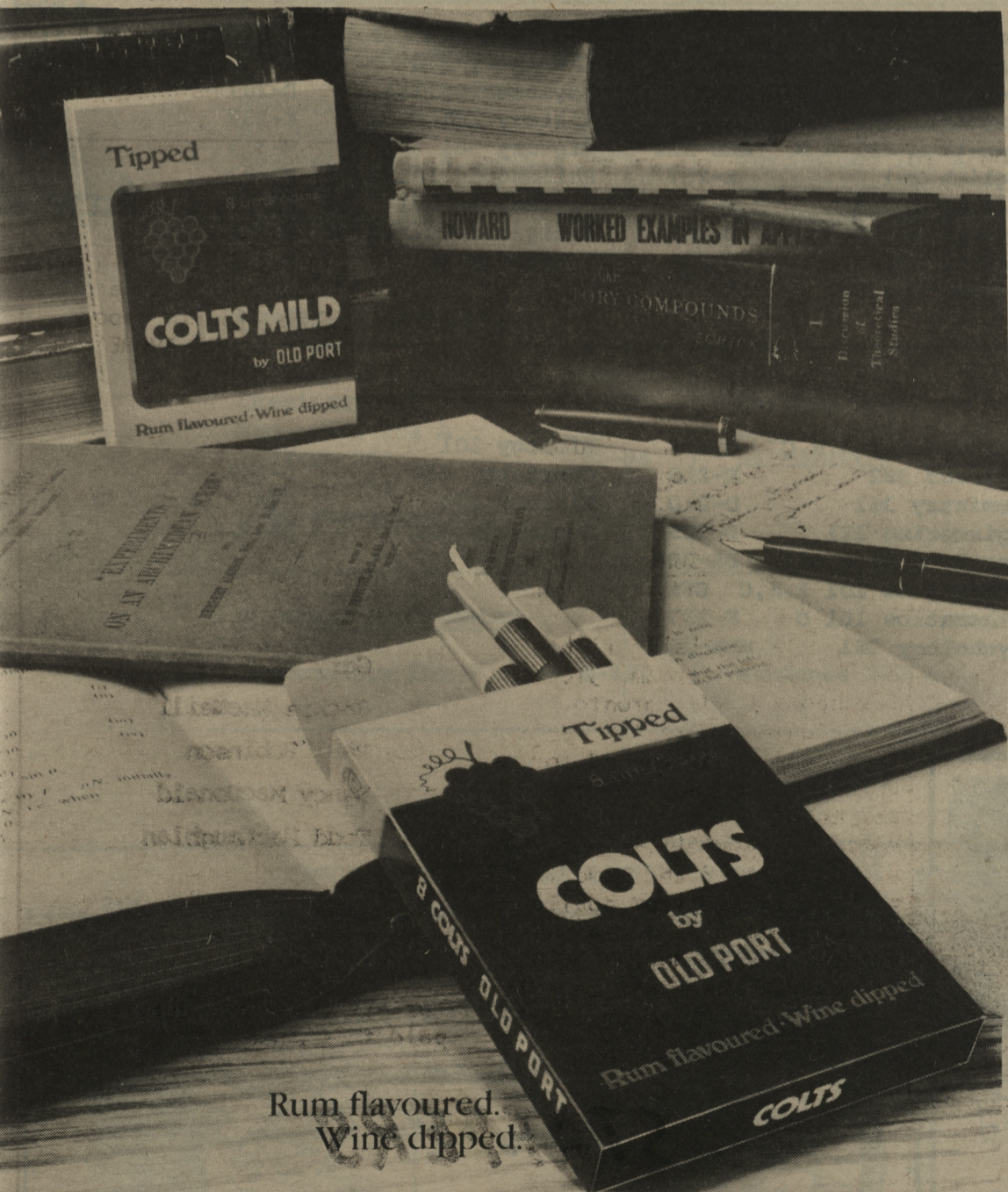
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