



JOCK TALK

by Mickey Place

As the University inter-collegiate sporting year has ended, at least as far as U.P.E.I. is concerned, we think a week's layoff might enable us to gain some perspective on the season just past and perhaps we might look ahead in a future issue, to next year's prospects. However, Editor Maria demands a "Jock Talk" so we think we will digress and switch to a report on our recent theatre trip to New York.

This year, probably because of the depressed value of the Canadian dollar in relation to its American counterpart and the consequent minimum of \$90.00 only 20 took advantage of the opportunity; less than half of last year's contingent. Of course this cost covered transportation, theatre tickets and hotel accommodation and was a real bargain to those who could scrape together the required funds.

We left on Saturday 24 Feb and, after a short stop in Montreal, arrived in New York's Kennedy Airport around 4:00 p.m. Unfortunately, low rain clouds obscured Manhattan's skyscrapers and we were not able to enjoy that unique view. We were worried about the best way to get to our hotel and, as we waited at the baggage claiming circle we went to the taxi dispatcher telling him we were 20 and asking if 5 could get in a cab and he replied that they could in the Checker Line. We passed this word around and arrangements were hastily made. Then the rain came down in torrents and "Murphy's Law" which says that if confusion can result in a situation... it will, held true and about 80 other travellers invaded our area clamouring for transportation and there were no Checkers available and the others held but four. We tried to adjust to this and finally had all en route as we entered

JOCK TALK GOES TO NEW YORK

the last taxi. We asked the driver if he had taken out bag and he assured us that all was well. However, upon arrival and after the driver had been paid we discovered that no bag with J.T.P. initials was in the trunk. The driver melted away like a bottle genie. Worried, we made sure everyone was settled and then set out by the only means we could find to reach Kennedy...it is not easy to get a taxi in N.Y. in a rainstorm and they prefer short hauls...so we took a subway. Actually it was simple. And there was the big red bag close to where we left it! That night some went to "Eubie" a revue with singing and music. The younger members of our group somehow found a "Disco" and reported they were very well entertained at reasonable cost. This continued all week with the older members going out for gourmet foods, the others to Greenwich Village or some such for entertainment. On Sunday some went to Saint Patrick's for High Mass and all met, at noon, at Lincoln Centre where we were given a 45 minute lecture explaining the action and history of the opera "Carmen" which we saw at 1.00 dollar. It was really a terrific show with Joy Davison singing the title role. The music will stay with us for a long time we are sure. That night, some went to Luchow's for dinner. It is an old restaurant renowned for its German food, beer and music. Expensive but worthwhile. On Monday most went on a tour of Wall Street and the Stock Exchange. The latter, from the lectures and movies which were presented to us, seems to be some sort of charitable institution! It was raining hard so we decided not to go on with sightseeing but most went shopping. We thought the prices were very close to those in Charlottetown but we did buy some GOOD coffee for \$3.25 per lb. and an A.M./F.M. radio for 36.00. Monday night we saw "Deathtrap" a long run thriller with exceptional acting which was a delightful

cross between comedy and horror. Tuesday we went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Science while spending a day in these magnificent surroundings only enables one to skim through it, it is a wonderful way to spend a few hours. Excellent prints and plaques are on sale at very reasonable prices (average 85¢ to 2.00) and our favourite (Renoir's "At the Seashore"), now adorns our wall. That night we saw "Annie" a long run musical which is based on the old comic "Little Orphan Annie". It afforded a nice change of pace and the audience really loved it. Wednesday morning we went to the Frick Museum, which is located in an old 5th Avenue mansion, some went to the Museum of Modern Art. On our travels we went into one of the expensive 5th Avenue stores and one of the very alert girls got a \$180.00 jacket marked down to \$45.00. On her it looked like \$180.00! Then to "Da" which Dr. O'Grady had reviewed for us at home. It is the story of a dramatist, back from London to Ireland for the funeral of his father, who is haunted by the stubborn, funny corpse who refuses to leave and promises to be with him for life. Sounds gruesome but it was amusing and engrossing. We have resolved to get the script and read it for there was a great deal of truth in the play and it was impossible to absorb it all. That night there was nothing scheduled so some went to Disco's (e.g. at nearby Sheraton Hotel there was no admission charge, drinks were @2.00 and we were told very enjoyable) some went to Madame Butterfly and we went to Best Little W.H. in Texas. We were told the latter was a little gross and very funny. We found it very gross and a little funny but the music and singing were very good. Thursday we went downtown and went to the top of the Trade Centre Building (104 stories) and some went from there to the Statue of Liberty, but we went to Fraunces Tavern where there are a lot of Revolutionary War artifacts (Washington

gave a farewell dinner to his top officers here at the end of the war) and we are sure we puzzled the very helpful guide as we left him with a parting comment "It was all a big mistake, wasn't it?" Dinner at Chinatown cost about \$6 and was excellent. Shopping there is also interesting.

That night we saw "Dracula" and the 500 year old Count from Transylvania was tongue-in-cheek treatment which made the chills run up and down our spine as we laughed. Knowing that the title role was played by Raul Julia, a Canadian, added to our enjoyment. Friday was an unscheduled day so we decided to top off the trip in first class fashion and went to the Lincoln Centre to hear the New York Philharmonic in the afternoon and to the same place at night for Lucia De Laramoor at night.

On Saturday we headed back for Charlottetown, all luggage came through without trouble and all arrived home tired and happy. New York is a great place to visit but for LIVING give us P.E.I. We might also observe that we left here as individuals...we returned as a group of friends.

We'd like to comment that the hotel, The Taft, was convenient and very satisfactory, food was available nearby, reasonable or expensive, depending on individual choice and we believe that everyone enjoyed the trip. For this we'd like to extend special and grateful thanks to Ian MacDonald and Carol Grovenstein who did all of the preliminary work and arrangements. Hope we can do it again in '80.

