

OSCAR AT UPEI

Oscar Wilde's verbal wit and bohemian life-style, delighted, yet unsettled his contemporaries in England at the turn of the Century. Maxim Mazumdar had a similar effect on his audience at the Steel Recital Hall, Friday evening.

About 30 people attended "Oscar Remembered;" a portrait of Wilde, conceived and portrayed by Mazumdar.

To win over a small audience that has been waiting 45 minutes for the curtain to rise, is demanding for any actor. Mazumdar did it single-handedly.

The one man show is a biographical account of the Irish Playwright and Poet, related by his lover: Lord Alfred Douglas.

The sexual overtones led to lapses of sensationalism, distracting, but necessary, because if Wilde created nothing else, he did create a sensation.

After a spectacular trial that outraged English society, and the resulting two year prison term, he wrote: "...I let myself be led into spells of senseless and sensual ease.... Tired of being at the heights, I deliberately went

to the depths in the search for new sensation."

To Experience Mazumdar's performance is to experience the heights and the depths of what, for Wilde turned out to be a tragic search.

The life of the flamboyant writer has as much drama as any of his plays. He was at the peak of a phenomenal career when accused of homosexuality by Lord Alfred's father: The Marquis of Queensbury.

Wilde rashly filed a counter suite, but --the accusations were true-- and he found himself in prison.

Lord Alfred remained loyal during the trial. Like the ghostly dancers in "The Harlot's House;" "They took each other by the hand/ And danced a stately saraband."

The trial was the scandal of the Century.

There is one problem with Mazumdar's version of the proceedings. We hear to much of Lord Alfred, and not enough of Wilde. We get only a small taste of the wit and confidence with which Wilde uneffectively defended himself.

Once in prison, Wilde rejects his intimate friend--who is shattered:

"Then suddenly the tune went false/ The dancers wearied of the waltz."

During the show, the details of this intimate relationship, developed dramatically, is effective; biased, but necessary, to convey to a modern audience the revulsion the English people had for the writer after the scandal.

Again, we see to much of Lord Alfred's torment and not enough of Wilde's.

Lord Alfred remained ever the blind lover. Even the disclosure that Wilde had been procuring the services of young boys did not alter his affections.

In spite of this concentration on Lord Alfred, a strong impression of Wilde is developed, which is striking, because he never really appears.

However, with so much time spent on Lord Alfred, the audience received only a taste of the man who championed an aesthetic movement, who championed the creed, "Art for art's sake," and died lonely and rejected.

The sexually explicit overtones of the production had impact, and "healthy" assertions of virility were heard after the show.

In the end, it would have been interesting to discover to a greater degree, what it was Wilde was hiding with his "jewelled" words.

Mazumdar, a Montreal actor and Playwright, returns to PEI, for another performance of the show March 2nd, at the MacKenzie Building, Charlottetown.



DEPTS. VIE FOR MEMORIAL

Mr. Clough didn't think that the Education Dept. had been informed that they were to be the potential tenants of Kelley Building a number of years ago. He remembered that the Modern Languages Dept. had presented a strong case at the time.

The Space Allocation Committee will be meeting shortly. They will make their decisions after talking to the deans, the various dept. people and so on. Consideration will be based on a) need b) Dept. size c) enrolment and d) joint use of space.

It appears as if Memorial Hall will be lying idle for a while. The Space Allocation Committee has to make their recommendations to the President who in turn takes it to the Buildings and Grounds Committee, which is a Board of Governors sub-committee and then the President has to take it before the Board of Governors for the final O.K.

Mr. Clough expressed

some concern over the fact that there is at present no space for the summer hostel. He said that this concern has been expressed to him before and the problem is being looked into.

It appears that some sort of clarification is needed for last week's lead story entitled "Education Faculty Shafted".

This reporter, in a meeting with Mr. Clough, UPEI comptroller, was able to find some of the answers raised in last week's article.

First of all, the Space Allocation Committee is a Presidential appointed committee, not a Senate sub-committee. The committee has recently changed. Mr. Clough stated that the new members are Gerry Arsenault (Education Faculty); Don Coles (Director of Physical Plant); Jim McDougal (Science); Ted Webster (Arts) and Frances Piercy (Student).

Mr. Clough went on to

say that the Administration are not dragging their feet. Instead, he said, it has been the fault of the various faculties for not submitting their proposals earlier.

To date there are four departments applying for space in Memorial. These

are: 1) Modern Languages 2) Math 3) English and 4) Education.

Mr. Clough applied to the MPHEC last Spring requesting funds for possible renovations. He applied for "a fairly substantial sum," a number of dollars per square foot.

HEALTH PLAN

Supplementing the notice recently printed from our private insurance plan (Zurich) we think the following, from the Provincial plan, may be of interest to students, resident of P.E.I., who go off the Island during the March break or during the summer.

Services Outside Prince Edward Island

The Prince Edward Island Health Services Plan may make payment toward the cost of medical services required by eligible persons while outside the Province on the following conditions:

- eligible persons requiring medical services

due to sudden illness or accident while travelling outside Prince Edward Island,

- eligible persons referred to doctors or hospitals outside the province with the approval of the Commission.

Payment for services outside the Province may be made to the individual who has incurred the expenses at the following rates:

- in provinces having medical care programs, at the tariff established by that province,

- outside Canada, at the tariff established by the Health Services Commission of Prince Edward Island.