1963

Faculty Round-Up

Western Michigan University

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Our platform is culture on the campus, and to present our platform we have prepared a special Reader's Theatre presentation.

ZACK: (EXCITED) The stools ... Where are the stools ... You can't have Reader's Theatre without stools.

RAD: (IRRITATED ... ASIDE TO ZACK ...) STAGE WHISPER OVER MIKE) There are no stools.

ZACK: (RESIGNED) Oh well ... the show must go on.

CHORUS: Winkin, Blinkin, and Nod (BOWEN NODS) one night ... sailed off in a wooden shoe.

BOWEN: Speaking of sailing ... 

CHORUS: Rub-a-dub-dub ... three men in a tub ... Went out for a sail one day ...

ZACK: Who were they?

DOT: Miller, Faunce, and Seibert ...

ZACK: Where were they going?
DOT:  (PUNCH) To Nigeria!

ZACK:  What happened?

AL:  The tub was wrecked . . . but do you know who was saved????

CHORUS:  (PUNCH) The Nigerians!!!

RAD:  (WAIT FOR LAUGHTER TO DIE) We pledge to encourage culture on the campus by updating the classics. When studying Hamlet, why should students read Juliet's love dialogue like this . . .

DOT:  (READS JULIET'S LOVE DIALOGUE)

RAD:  Why, indeed, when Shakespeare can be done . . . like this . . . Juliet sings!

DOT:  MUSIC: SICK SONGS

CHORUS:  (WAIT FOR APPLAUSE) I think that I shall never see . . . a poem lovely as a tree ..

ZACK:  Speaking of trees . . . I think that I shall never see . . . a man so crazy about a tree . . . as Western's leading campus resident . . Of course I mean our honored President.


ZACK: (CONT) our honored President.

CHORUS: (BLAST) We pledge support to Jimmy Miller

At planting, he's a killer-diller!

ZACK: Let's free him from his office chores...

So he can plant the whole outdoors...

DOT: In place of billboards 'cross the land...

Will bloom the trees he plants by hand.

BOWEN: He came to town, he saw a need...

A modern Johnny Appleseed...

CHORUS: He digs up rocks... (SOFTLY IN BACKGROUND) digs and plants... digs and plants... digs and plants

AL: (STRONG) Now isn't that quaint...

Just to see where the bones of Peter the Great... Ain't

RAD: We pledge to join the national trend toward evacuation of depressed areas
CHORUS: (SNAP NEXT FOUR LINES)

Old Mother Hubbard ... went to the cupboard ...

ZACK: What did she find there?

AL: She found a speech class meeting there..

CHORUS: And, (EMPHASIZE) BOY ... THAT'S DEPRESSING!!

RAD: Our platform will solve parking problems ... hitching problems ... inter-campus scheduling problems, curriculum problems ... building problems ...

DOT: (POINTS) UP IN THE SKY ... 

BOWEN: (POINTS) LOOK!!!!

ZACK: It's a bird ....

DOT: It's a plane ....

AL: It is a plane ... with an antenna.

ZACK: We shot John Glenn into Space, rocketry has reached its peak. Make the students airborne and leave the TV on the ground!

CHORUS: Winkin', Blinkin', and ... Sailed off in a wooden shoe

CHORUS: (SNAP NEXT FOUR LINES)
BOWEN: (NODS QUICKLY . . . BECKER TAKES A LONG LOOK)

ZACK: Speaking of shoes . . .

CHORUS: There was an old woman . . . who lived in a shoe . . . She had so many students . . . she didn't know what to do . . . She fed them, she housed them, . . . she gave them classroom space . . .

Until the old alums hardly knew the damned place . . .

Enrollment grew, and over-ran the old familiar haunts . . . (STATELY) BUILD THEE MORE STATELY MANSIONS . . .

AL: Run

CHORUS: Winkin, Blinkin, and . . .

BOWEN: (NODS QUICKLY . . . BECKER TAKES ANOTHER LONG LOOK, AND SAYS . . .)

AL: (POINTS) Who is that guy noddin'?

CHORUS: He's not noddin' . . . He's Bowen.
ZACK: (GESTURES MELODRAMATICALLY) I Can't "bear-it"!

CHORUS: Barrett! We Barrett.

DOT: (PATHOS) He's not even here tonight!

BOWEN: (A LA CLEM MCCARTHY) An' ... he's off and running . . .

RAD: (STERNLY) He is not running . . .

CHORUS: He is dancing.

ZACK: (THE LIGHT DAWNS) Oh ... they must be the new speech men ... John Barrett and Harry Bowen . . .

CHORUS: (JOYFULLY) They'll carry forward our platform . . . Hurray for Barrett and Bowen!!! . . .

(BOWEN TAKES PLACARD, AND LEADS GROUP OFF TO MARTIAL MUSIC . . . A LA "STARS AND STRIPES . . ." OR A 120 DRUM CADENCE.

FINIS