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.

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

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

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

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

Speaking of sailing ... 

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

Who were they?

Miller, Faunce, and Seibert ...

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-campi 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 Glen 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
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'? 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