

"A BANNED ITEM"

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A Curtain-raiser

by

RONALD L. MEEK.

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BANNED ITEM REHEARSALS

Thursday	28th	8 p.m.
Friday	29th	8 p.m.
Satdy	30th	7/30 p.m.
Sunday	1st	2/15 p.m.
Tuesday	3rd	8 p.m.
Thursday	5th	8 p.m.
Friday	6th	8 p.m.
Sunday	8th	D.R. 5p.m.

"A BANNED ITEM"

A curtain-raiser.

Designed and Perpetrated by  
RONALD L. MEEK  
Music composed by  
W.S. AUSTIN

CASTE (But not far enough)

Salamanca Lads  
Salamanca Lassies  
Patriarchal Parasites.

=====

Curtain rises on bare stage. First chorus is sung in front of tabs.

Enter, left, a chorus of male students, clad in grey slacks, sweaters, and sports coats. The students look very disconsolate; their hands are deep in their pockets, and they enter mournfully, very slowly but in perfect time. Enter right, a chorus of female students, dressed in ballet costumes and full make-up. Their hands are clasped behind them, and they appear very lugubrious. The male and female students line up in front of the stage.

Chorus

We ought to say "Good Evening"  
And gaily welcome you  
With bright romance  
And song and dance,  
As generally we do.

We ought to say "Good Evening".  
And sing our songs to you,  
Our art employ  
To fill with joy  
The coming hour or two.

We ought to say "Good Evening"  
But we are filled with woe -  
Unhappily  
The powers that be  
Have banned our Capping show!

(The music continues; the students recite the following dramatically à la Mr. Mountjoy's verse-speaking choir)

MEN STUDENTS

Our moral growth they must protect  
With measures wise and circumspect

WOMEN STUDENTS

They guard us with all loving care  
Employing a commissionaire.

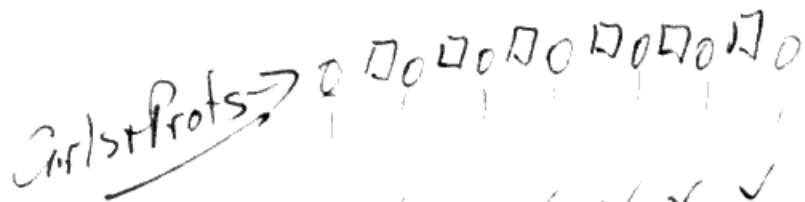
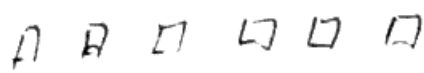
MEN STUDENTS

They realise the grave effects  
Which spring from talk of God and sex.

WOMEN STUDENTS

To check our moral retrogression  
They banned the Varsity Procession.

Chairs



For ballet



Men  
Kneeling

ALL But cursed be the Board which bans a  
'Varsity Extravaganza.

Chorus

We ought to say "Good Evening"  
But ~~we~~ think we ought to go  
And interview  
The people who  
Have banned our Capping show.

(The tabs part, and disclose several ancient Professors sitting round a large oak table. The scene represents a Council Room. The Professors all have long white beards, and little fat corporations.)

The Students approach the table circumspectly, the men on the left and the girls on the right. The Professors stand up solemnly facing the audience.

Chorus

Hopeless, useless, witless we -  
Intellects depress us!  
Pity our simplicity,  
Miserable Professors!

Each naughty joke  
And doubtful jest  
And risque verse  
Must be suppressed  
We must deter  
This moral rot;  
The times have changed  
But we have not!

Hopeless, useless, witless we -  
Intellects depress us!

**MALE STUDENTS: (Kneeling and raising their hands in supplication)**

We come to plead on bended knee  
That you'll revoke your stern decree

**(Professors take no notice - girls ogle them and take their arms shyly.)**

our claims demand investigation:

PROFESSORS (Studying girls' anatomy intently)  
I think they're right in their oration  
These do demand investigation!

FEMALE STUDENTS (Cuddling closer.)  
Come now, Professors dear, I know,  
You'll let us have our Capping show.

PROFESSORS (Kissing them)  
Well darlings, if you put it so,  
We'll let you have your Capping Show!

ALL Hurrah!

ALL But cursed be the Board which bans a  
'Varsity Extravaganza.

Chorus

We ought to say "Good Evening"  
But ~~we~~ think we ought to go  
And interview  
The people who  
Have banned our Capping show.

(The tabs part, and disclose several ancient Professors sitting round a large oak table. The scene represents a Council Room. The Professors all have long white beards, and little fat corporations.)

The Students approach the table circumspectly, the men on the left and the girls on the right. The Professors stand up solemnly facing the audience.

Chorus

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Intellects depress us!  
Pity our simplicity,  
Miserable Professors!

Each naughty joke  
And doubtful jest  
And risque verse  
Must be suppressed  
We must deter  
This moral rot;  
The times have changed  
But we have not!

Hopeless, useless, witless we -  
Intellects depress us!  
Pity our simplicity  
Miserable Professors!

(The Professors turn left together, inspect the male students disdainfully and turn away in disgust; they then turn right, and inspect the girls with great interest. They make a few tentative steps towards them, then stop, and giggle bashfully)

MALE STUDENTS

Oh! harken, ye of mighty station  
Our claims demand investigation!

PROFESSORS

(Studying girls' anatomy intently)  
I think they're right in their oration  
These do demand investigation!

FEMALE STUDENTS (Cuddling closer.)

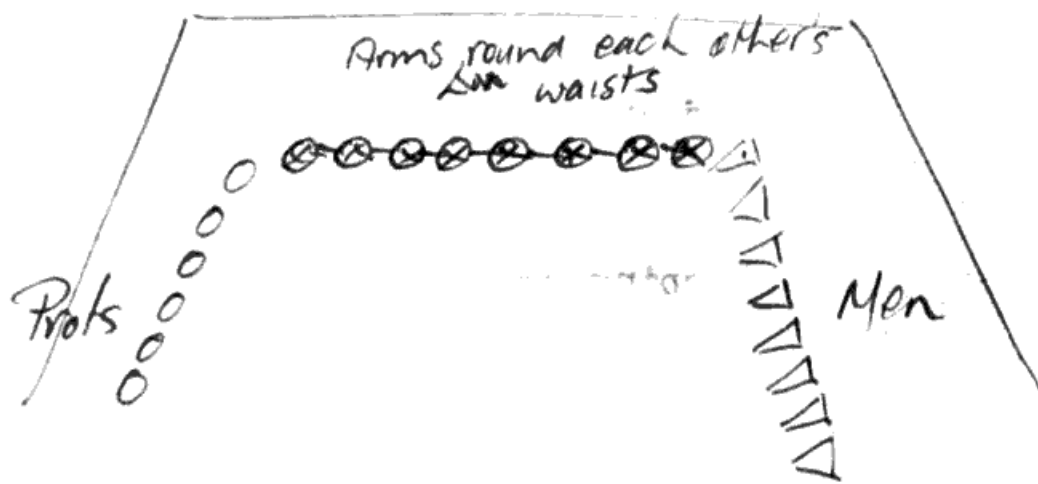
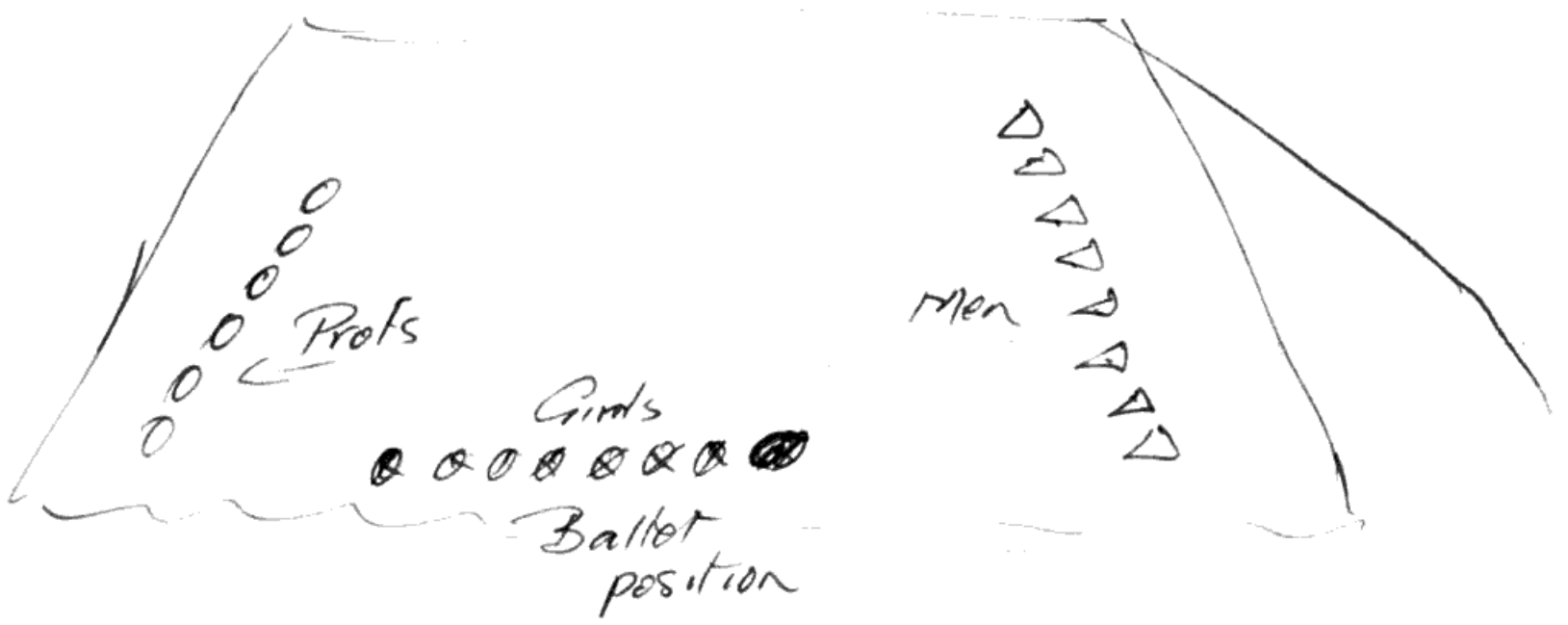
Come now, Professors dear, I know,  
You'll let us have our Capping show.

PROFESSORS

(Kissing them)  
Well darlings, if you put it so,  
We'll let you have your Capping Show!

ALL

Hurrah!



Final Chorus position

(The girls and Professors link arms alternatively and come to the front of the stage. The men students stand in a diagonal line at either side of the stage.)

While singing the following chorus, the girls perform a high-kicking ballet; and the Professors study them carefully, and attempt to imitate them.)

Chorus

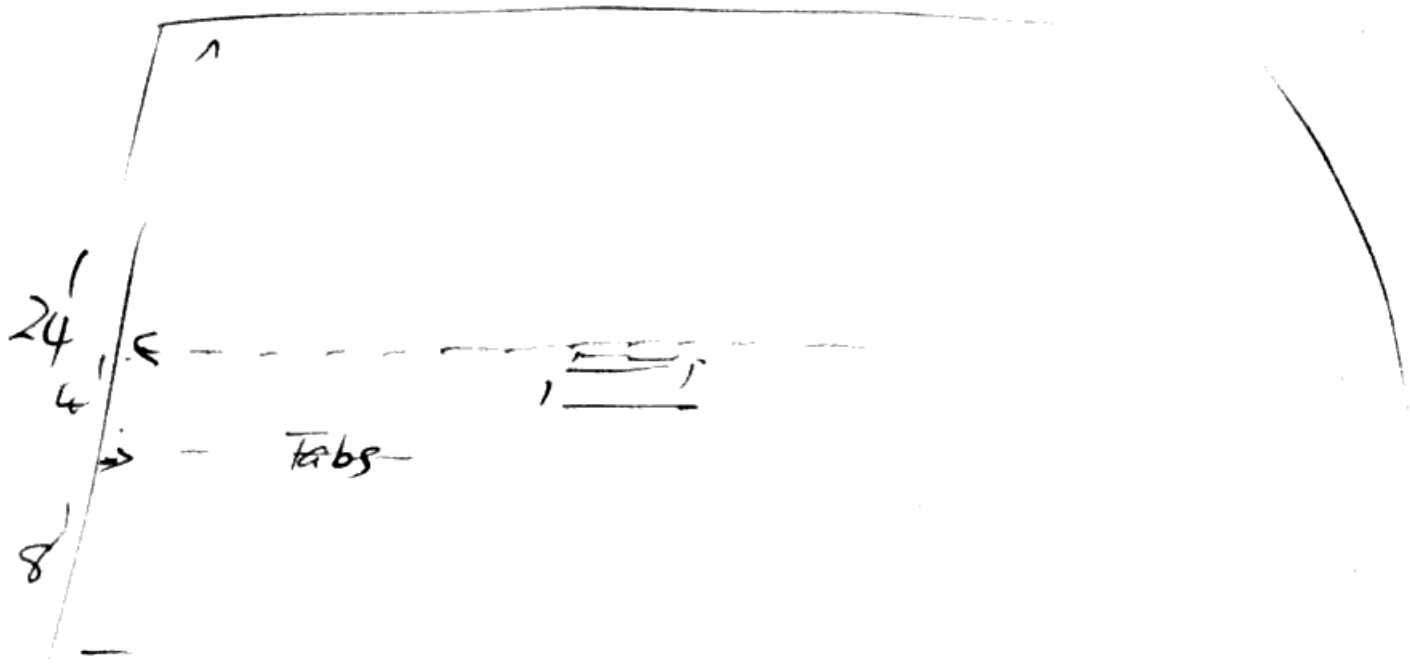
We want to say "Good Evening",  
And gaily welcome you  
With bright romance  
And song and dance  
As generally we do!

We want to say "Good Evening"  
And sing our songs to you -  
Our art employ  
To fill with joy  
The coming hour or two.

We want to say "Good Evening"  
With ecstasy we glow,  
For happily  
The powers that be  
Have blessed our Capping show!

QUICK CURTAIN.





Leaves Adams  
 Pasley  
 Gott  
 Davies  
 Combs  
 Chorlton

## Addresses.

			<u>Home</u>
<u>Ballet</u>	Alison Armour	Wellington College.	52.827
	Berys Ball	V.O.C.	27.199
	Tune Cummins	'Evening Post'	26.393
	Rosamona Drummond	<sup>Ngairo</sup> <del>Khandallah</del> (?) School	40.875
	Lila Marshall	Training College	50.936
	Margaret Merlet	Murikai School	40.875
	Kathleen Slater	Chandler & Co	63.943
	Betty Stubbs.	Training College	26.897
<u>Professors</u>	(Agar R.S.C.)	H.F. O'Leary K.C.	37.645
	Adams, J.S. ✓	Wilberfoss & Harding	45.012
	Barnett, G.	Barnett & Barnett	28.118
	Davies, G.T.	Meteorological Office	43.897
	x Hamilton, K.P.	Legal Div <sup>n</sup> P.W.D.	26.044
	Hott, J.U. ✓	Hott & Co	43.334
<u>Students</u>	Chorlton, R	Training College	16.4 <del>287</del>
	Combs, F.S	Training College	16.448
	Creed, O.J.	Records Div <sup>n</sup> G.P.O.	45.012
	Dixon, A	Clarke Menzies	26.127
	Dixon, K.	V.O.C.	26.127
	Eleming, J.	A.M.P.	—
	McLeod, W.	Magistrates' Court	45.012
	Pasley, P.G. ✓	Hunt, Turner & Heslop	26.283
	Robertson D.M.	B.N.S.W.	45-012
<u>Ballet</u>	Cora Duncan	Dominion Museum	50.364
<u>Costumes</u>	Kathleen Ross	Turnbull Library	—
<u>Music</u>	Bob Goldfinch	PAT Engineer's Dept.	26.438