

It is courteous to leave enough room for the person on the end of your "set" to stand on the stage; as long as no one falls off the stage, you did fine. Ending the dance so that the group is facing the judges is also a nice touch. But remember, no matter what happens, keep flashing your Pepsodent smile, pretending that you know what you're doing. At this late stage, darkness begins to overshadow everything and no one will know what you're doing. If the judges are still awake and do happen to notice that you have maybe danced twice in the same competition, and you are disqualified, don't be discouraged; it was a jolly good try.

To make the day even more interesting for yourself, enter every possible competition. Even if it's just to find out how long it takes to get from one end of the field to the other - running from the indoor stage where you played in a ceilidh band to the other end of the field for the dolo pipe competition - you will have accomplished something. Some speed demons have been known to make it back to the dancing platforms in time to do the competition after the third recall.

After you have collected all the junk you have left scattered around the Feis grounds - shoes, suitcases, clothes and the notebook that you were going to study from for your final exam the next day - it's about time to go home. Don't bother to change. You might comb your hair, so that the people on the subway won't think you're from another world, or that you just got off the boat and had stayed on the top deck all the way. Don't forget to smile!

Although nobody fails to give thanks that it's over, Feis Day is an enjoyable day for everyone. If nothing else is gained there is something to talk about for the next year. Or at least until the next Feis.

Ed. note - Directions "On Running a Feis" will appear in the next issue.