



Fred Astaire and Petula Clark provide the light-hearted song and dance in "Finian's Rainbow."

'Rainbow' Hits Prejudice

Catholic Press Features

Hollywood — What most people remember about "Finian's Rainbow," the 1947 Broadway musical, is that it had an awful lot of hit tunes. But people who go to see the film version expecting little more than an entertaining family-type film will be surprised to discover that "Finian's Rainbow" has, as a major theme, the stupidity of racial prejudice.

The racial theme of "Finian's Rainbow"—one of the all-time successful Broadway musicals, surpassed in number of sold-out performances only by "My Fair Lady"—has been suggested as one of the reasons why it never reached the screen until now. The action takes place in an integrated community of sharecroppers in "Missitucky" and much of the dramatic action involves a racist judge who changes his opinion about Negroes after he has been magically given black skin.

One indication that race is no longer a super-sensitive issue in Hollywood is that Warner Bros.-Seven Arts, distributor of "Finian's Rainbow," is making the film's racial theme one of four prime selling points for the film, the other three being the music ("How Are Things in Glocca Morra?," "That Old Devil Moon," "If This Isn't Love," "When I'm Not Near the Girl I Love," "Look to the Rainbow"), the cast — Fred Astaire, Petula Clark, Tommy Steele, Keenan Wynn — and the fact that it is a family entertainment film.

The film's entertainment values are a subject of debate: some critics say the main story line — about an Irishman who comes to America to bury a pot of gold near Ft. Knox so it'll grow — is a bit too simple for today's audi-

ences; others say the film version lacks the charm of the stage version; others say it's perfect screen escapism for the entire family.

But there is general agreement that the film's highlight is its satiric handling of racial prejudice. In fact, remarked the "Catholic Film Newsletter," "it is interesting to note that the racial humor stands up today in a way that the story itself does not."

"Back in 1947, when 'Finian's Rainbow' was the hot ticket on Broadway," wrote the "Saturday Review's" Arthur Knight, who liked the film version, "one of the charms of the show—quite

Further Goals Seen In Abortion Drive

Hartford, Conn.—(NC)—Advocates of more liberal abortion laws will next put on pressure for sterilization and euthanasia, a psychiatrist warned here.

Dr. Frank J. Ayd Jr. of Baltimore attacked efforts to relax restrictions on abortion in a talk here.

He said that proponents of abortion "will not be content with the passage of liberal abortion statutes. They will — in fact they have begun to—press for unrestricted voluntary sterilization and for euthanasia."

Dr. Ayd said that in most areas of the world "medical indications for abortion have become practically nonexistent. There is no doubt that social and economic reasons, often disguised as psychiatric indications, are now the prime justification for abortion."

"This suggests that society is undergoing a drastic alteration in ethics and mores leading to a new social policy which determines who shall live."

apart from its liting score and adroit lyrics—was the novelty of seeing a musical that seemed to be attacking racism head on. Its producers could also boast, quite properly, that theirs was the first Broadway production to employ a fully integrated chorus of singers and dancers."

James Arnold, film critic for a number of Catholic weekly papers, observed that "the younger generation may be surprised to learn that 'Finian,' which made its stage debut in 1947, is not only tuneful and funny, but a satire on white racism, corruption politicians and Establishment economics. It could have been written inside an occupied study hall at Columbia University—except that it was much braver to write it for the commercial theater in the 1940s."

Hey! Getcha stainless here.



A 303 PRODUCT

Number of Children Parents 'Decision' U.N. Unit Declares

United Nations, N.Y.—(NC)—The "exclusive right" of parents "to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children" was reaffirmed by the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee, which deals with social, humanitarian and human rights questions.

The committee is reviewing a Draft Declaration on Social Development, which was requested by the 1966 General Assembly.

The right of parents occurs in Article 10 of the principles, which states: "The family as a basic unit of society and the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members, particularly children and youth, should be assisted and protected so that it may fully assume its responsibilities within the community. Parents have the exclusive right to determine freely and responsibly the number and spacing of their children."

Fr. Finks Elected To Interracial Post

Father P. David Finks, vicar for urban ministry in the Rochester diocese, was elected recently to the board of directors of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice.

The Chicago-based conference works with Catholic interracial councils and other groups across the nation in the fields of fair employment, education, housing and health.

Elected to a three-year term, Father Finks is one of 12 new members of the 50-member board.

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

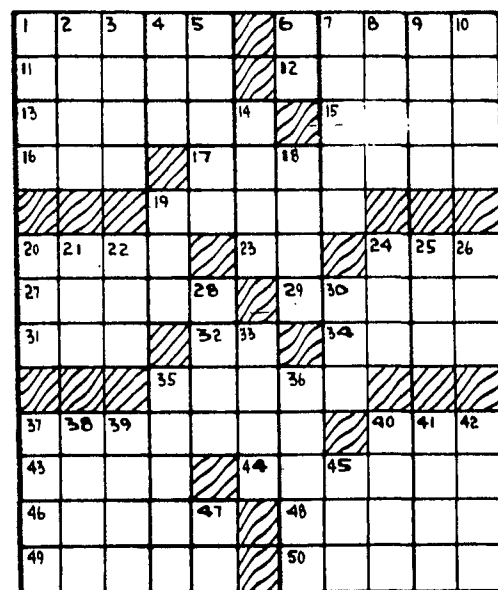
ACROSS

1. Sign of zodiac
2. Oil of rose petals
11. Tapestry
12. Variety
13. Gifts, as of land
15. Liberal
16. Polish river
17. Indisposition to action
19. Boasts
20. 2-year-old salmon
23. Pronoun
24. Perch
27. Complex
28. Stretch out
31. Cares, as a cat
32. Siberian gull
34. Am. statesman
35. An Ionian island
37. Apprentice
40. Genus of lizards
43. Scottish Gaelic
44. Bank employee
46. Flavoring for cookies
48. Famous band leader and composer
49. Demise
50. Throngs

DOWN

1. Dilly-dallies
2. Baby
3. Ground war god
4. Moved swiftly
5. Active
6. Jewish month
7. Signs of weeping
8. Pastry
9. Against prefix
10. Girl's name
14. Six-sided crystals
18. Lidded pitcher
19. Weep
20. Father
21. Arabian garment
22. Soak
24. Salt
25. So. Am. river
26. Ecclesiastical
28. Presently
30. Shield
33. Harle
35. Top of a wave
36. Noistale
37. Graphite
38. Seagull
39. Location of Ob river
40. Eskimo knives
41. Examination
42. Macaws
45. Card game
47. What?

Answer



Gregorian U. Names Protestant Prof.

Rome—(NC)—Rome's Gregorian University, largest Catholic institute of higher ecclesiastical studies in the world, has engaged an American Protestant scholar and ecumenist, Dr. J. Robert Nel-

son, as visiting professor this year.

He becomes the first Protestant professor in the Jesuit-run university's 400-year history.

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