

# Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around Rap Around

## Final Curtain Nearing For McQuaid Thespians

By JOAN M. SMITH

"All the world's a stage . . ." said William Shakespeare and those bitten by the thespian bug wholeheartedly agree.

Three such actors are long time denizens of the McQuaid stage; Mark Palermo, Mark Schwartzberg and R.B. Quinn. They will be graduating in June but will leave behind a theatrical tradition which spans five years.

All three have been acting since eighth grade, not only appearing in McQuaid productions but lending their talents to Mercy presentations as well. Their list of roles is endless. Palermo's acting credits alone include: Don't Drink the Water, Hello Dolly, LuLu, Detective Story, Wiley, West Side Story, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest, Front Page and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead. It was this latter play, a modernization of Hamlet, in which he had his first starring role.

Mark Schwartzberg's talents were discovered in grammar school when he had the lead in You're a Good Man Charlie Brown. Since then he has appeared in McQuaid's Wiley, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead, West Side Story, Front Page, One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest and in Mercy's production of St. Joan of Arc. The Lark, in which he played Prince Charles.



Above, Mark Schwartzberg, RB Quinn and Mark Palermo demonstrate the light side of their acting but are equally adept at projecting any of the emotions required for the stage.

Quinn's career has been just as full with one of his first leads as Zeus in Wiley. He was also Artful Dodger in Oliver and Hildy Johnson (played by Jack Lemmon in the movie) in Front Page.

This is just a smattering of their numerous stage endeavors. Currently, they are preparing for McQuaid's presentation of My Fair Lady.

Feb. 15-17, Mark Palermo will portray Professor Henry Higgins while co-actor Mark Schwartzberg plays Colonel Hugh Pickering and RB will portray Eliza's father, Alfred P. Doolittle.

With so much acting experience behind them, RapAround wondered if the young gentlemen are still susceptible to the jitters before a performance.

"It's not nerves anymore," explained RB, "It's being anxious about doing a good job."

Mark Schwartzberg agreed, "It's a sense of pride to get everything just right."

In Mark Palermo's case, he said he doesn't become nervous until he makes eye contact with his mother — "She makes faces at me," he laughed.

The actors are confident about their talents but emphasized their skills are a result of the capable production squad behind them. They agreed Father William O'Malley, drama director, "Is great!"

"He's astounding," declared Mark Schwartzberg. "He can take any part and do it."

Another person they deem responsible for their success is Father Wroblewski who besides being production and business manager, has become a very close friend to the actors. Also helping them through their years on stage is Sister Margaret Mary Ganley, music director, whom the boys thank for her "great patience".

Though they take their acting seriously, the boys have had fun participating in the plays. There have been situations, which, though laughed at now, at the time caused considerable anxiety — phones which didn't ring on cue and in a crucial point during Rosencrantz and

Guildenstern, a missing execution letter. Such situations taught the actors to cover such moments with ad libbing and innovative action.

It was the Hamlet characters, Guildenstern and Rosencrantz who gave both Marks their most difficult roles. For Mark Palermo because many of the lines didn't make sense and he has a habit of talking too fast. Mark Schwartzberg described it as a heavy play, entailing him to memorize 600 lines!

The most difficult role for RB was Hildy Johnson in Front Page because of the memorization. Most fun is Doolittle in the upcoming My Fair Lady and Oliver's Artful Dodger.

Mark Schwartzberg's most enjoyable role because "I could play him to the hilt," was Prince Charles in The Lark.

Mark Palermo's favorite portrayal was of Walter Burns in Front Page. He enjoyed doing the part which was played by his favorite actor, Walter Matthau, in the movie.

Come June these thespians will be going their separate ways — Mark Palermo to Colgate to study pre-law.

Mark Schwartzberg to Haverford in Pennsylvania for pre-med. At the moment RB is undecided but one thing they all acknowledged is that they intend to pursue their acting careers on the college stages.

## Speaking Out

By DAVID PODGORSKI  
Aquinas

The first two Strategic Arms Limitation Treaties have provided the



American people with a false sense of security. Intending to limit the production and proliferation of nuclear weapons by the United States and Soviet Union, the Administration has sought yet another such agreement with our long time rival. However, as far as Russia is concerned, the words of any treaty which would limit that country's power are meaningless.

To retain the facade of a peace-loving people, the Soviets try not to be conspicuous in ignoring

the terms of SALT II, and resort to other tactics to channel their expansionist ambitions. For example, they supply the Warsaw Pact nations with enough conventional weapons and troops to secure the collapse of Western Europe in case of a military conflict with the Iron Curtain. Advisers and arms are provided for Marxist regimes and guerillas in Africa and Viet-Nam. They continuously attempt to incite a war between Greece and Turkey, hoping to weaken the eastern flank of NATO and gain control of the Dardanelles.

The United States retains the most technologically advanced military system in the world. We compensate for numbers with quality. The problem is that in the near future there will be only a

limited group of people who will know how to operate the complicated machinery. The death of the draft opened the doors of our nation's defenses to many people, who only sought jobs after graduating from high school. In recent years even the number of these people has declined.

The armed services offer bonuses, adventure, and education as enticements in seeking recruits. The primary reason for enlisting should be love of country. The Soviets, on the other hand, maintain a strict draft. The number of troops in their well disciplined armed services outnumbered that of the United States. They are indoctrinated with nationalism and Communist ideology and live under conditions inferior to that of American troops.

Strategic advantage is quickly slipping away from the U.S. because people in this country are not wary of the Russians. Electronic devices do not compensate for morale and manpower. Reinstatement of the draft in the U.S. would be a step in the right direction.

The arms race and SALT would not be necessary if a threat did not exist. The danger to the United States is that the Soviets overexaggerate it. The Politburo repeatedly tells the citizenry that the primary goal of America is to subdue them through a surprise nuclear holocaust. An examination of the Soviet civil defense program clearly shows the Russians are prepared for war. All new apartment buildings must have fallout shelters for basements. Elaborate plans exist for burying factories and vital machinery to protect them from nuclear radiation. If a

war is imminent, all major Soviet cities could evacuate their populace to the countryside. SALT limitations are less important for the Soviets because they can fight a nuclear war with their present weapons, and bounce back quickly when it is over.

The civil defense program of the U.S. is in a shambles. Even American second strike capacity wouldn't do much good if only scattered groups of people were left to rebuild the U.S.

The mood I have tried to establish is one of caution and concern. All Americans must be involved in the defense and security of the U.S. and uphold the ideals which we have established as a people. We must take a tough stance as far as the Soviets are concerned and recognize the threat they pose to America.

JOAN M. SMITH, Editor