

COURIER-JOURNAL

SOUTHERN TIER-AUBURN GENEVA

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Plays Use Self-Recognition to Teach

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor

Apalachin — Ripples of possibly self-recognizing laughter went through the audience at the St. Margaret Mary Cabaret Nite as two members of the Covenant Players portrayed an argument between a husband and wife.

The introduction to the scene, which described the husband as reading the newspaper's sports section while his wife washed the dishes, itself caused a guffaw from the audience.

The more than 80 persons attending also reacted to the husband's statement that women were obviously not equal — to each other, much less to men. The discussion didn't change either of their minds, and even after several minutes, the

husband told their son he didn't really know what they had been talking about.

The short play was one of several performed by the four members of the "Second Samuel" unit of Covenant Players, an international Christian repertory theater company which has 350 members. Its performing units travel about the world presenting the plays which may cause their audiences to think about their faith and values.

One skit involved two persons sitting in the back pew of church, who each put less than a dollar into the collection. At the same time, they were discussing their new, expensive houses and cars, and noting that "you get what you pay for."

Another dealt with a poor woman, who, when given a

great deal of money, showed no interest in helping others like herself. She caused her benefactors to conclude that providing money was useless "without brotherly love in action."

After stating that he wouldn't be caught dead with people who go to church, another character found himself alone on the stage after his companion replied, "No, you probably won't."

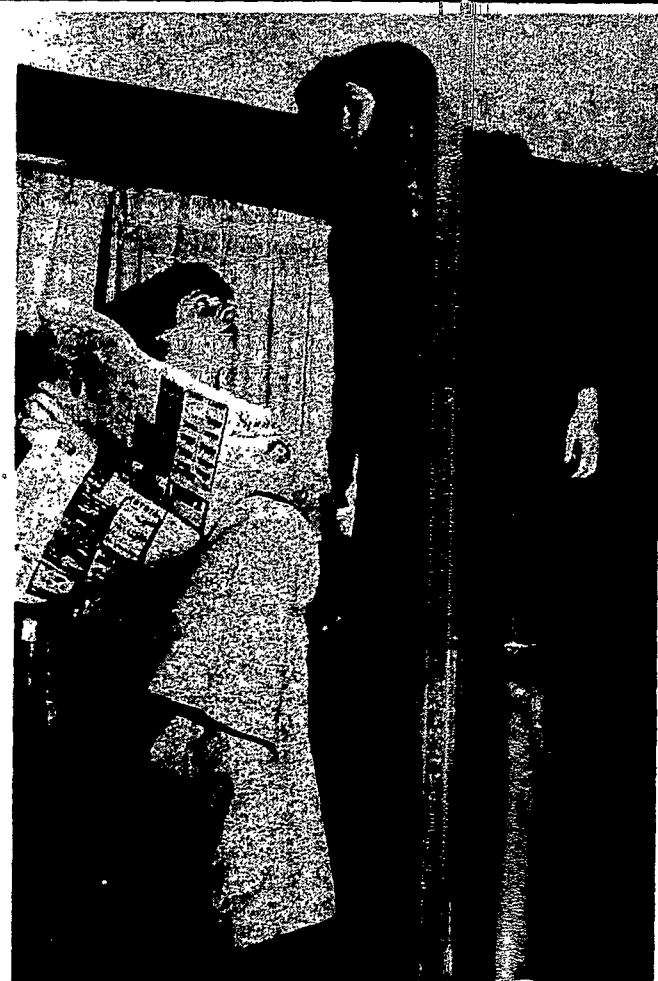
The prop-less and limited costume skits were done well, especially effective were the facial expressions which themselves often elicited responses from the audience.

The four performers, Terri Michaels and Don Michaels, who are married, and John Dibben and Marie Farage are currently on a

five-month tour of New York, performing for church groups and conducting training sessions on the use of drama. Michaels said that they tailor each performance to the host's wishes, selecting plays they will perform from among the 900 that have been written by the organization's founder. The plays presented in Apalachin varied in length from 2 to 15 minutes.

Mrs. Michaels responded to questions from the audience, explained the group's operations, and made an appeal for new volunteers for the group.

The program was presented in a "cabaret" atmosphere, with couples and a table-full of teenagers enjoying the plays and a social evening.



Terri Michaels glares at Don Michaels during one of the plays performed by the Covenant Players at St. Margaret Mary, Apalachin, Feb. 6. The Michaels, married when they are off the stage, are playing a married couple having a heated discussion.



Pupils at St. Patrick's School, Owego, pose for a class picture much as their parents and grandparents, all of whom attended St. Patrick's, may have during their school days. Sister Miriam Nugent, St. Patrick's principal, also wore the pre-1965 Sisters of Mercy habit for the day. The third-generation St. Patrick's pupils are, from left, front row, Jennifer Kaufman, Katherine Evans; second row, Becky Goodrich, Tom Franz, Sister Miriam, Lori Martin, Sarah Evans; third row, David Donnelly, Benny Goodrich, Jeff Martin, Darryl Donnelly and Christopher Ballard.

St. Patrick's Observes Catholic Schools Week

By Martin Toombs
 Southern Tier Editor

Owego — St. Patrick's School observed Catholic Schools Week Feb. 1-6, using the theme "Choosing a Tradition," and spent the week discussing family traditions and the history of Catholic education in Owego.

The students prepared projects on family traditions and presented them to their classmates as part of the week's events, which also included a parish supper and a day for parents and grandparents to visit the school.

And Wednesday, Feb. 4, the faculty and many of the pupils dressed the way their predecessors may have come to school in the years since the

school opened its doors in 1859.

Sister Miriam Nugent, principal, wore the pre-1965 Sisters of Mercy habit that day, and the teachers conducted class as it would have been years ago, using class recitation and not using dittos or audio-visual equipment.

Sister Miriam, who also teaches first grade, used questions from the Baltimore catechism to teach religion. She discovered that her pupils aren't very good at memorizing, she said.

During an afternoon assembly, Sister Miriam told the students about the school's history. Founded in 1859, the school was staffed by lay teachers for 10 years

before the Sisters of Mercy took over. Until 1949, classes were conducted in a building behind the church which no longer exists. The school then moved to the mansion along Front Street, now the old section of the school. The new classrooms were added in 1967.

Many of the pupils got into the spirit of the day; several girls wore long dresses and bonnets, and some boys wore knickers as their grandfathers may have.

Those grandfathers and grandmothers, in several cases, had attended St. Patrick's themselves. Eleven pupils were quickly gathered whose parents and grandparents had attended the school.

Bishop to Chair Hearing

Elmira — Bishop Matthew H. Clark will hear testimony concerning the need for an increase in the Basic Public Assistance Grant from 10 a.m. until noon, Monday, Feb. 23, at the Chemung County Health Department Assembly Room, Washington and John streets.

Welfare recipients, human service and social service agency personnel, clergy and religious from Chemung, Steuben, Tompkins, Tioga and Schuyler counties have been invited by Bishop Clark to testify regarding the

inadequacy of the present Public Assistance Grant.

The basic grant, which covers food, transportation, personal care items, utilities and education, has not been increased since 1974.

Information gathered at the hearing will be presented to state senators and assembly members from the Rochester diocese by Bishop Clark when he travels to Albany in March.

An increase in the basic grant is advocated by Bishop

Clark, who has stated: "The bishop of New York State have adopted this stance because they felt that it was important to speak on behalf of people who are hurting."

The public is invited to join Bishop Clark in listening to the testimony.

Deadline

The deadline for submitting news to the Courier-Journal is noon on Thursday preceding the following Wednesday's publication.

DCG Plans Discussion

Elmira — The Elmira Area Divorced, Separated and Widowed Group is sponsoring a discussion titled "Parent, Child Reaction to Divorce" at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 18, in St. Patrick's Christian Living Room. Dr. David McGeorge will lead the discussion.

The group also has planned a rap session at 7:30 p.m., Sunday, March 1, in the Christian Living Room, with the topic to be determined.

Seminar Looks At Employees

Elmira — A panel discussion on the troubled employee will take place at the next Alcoholism Seminar at 12:15 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19, in the Doctors Meeting Room of St. Joseph's Hospital.

Discussing "The Troubled Employee Assistance Program" will be panel members J. Frank Stark, STARS program coordinator;

Elmira Schools Make Registration Plans

Elmira — The Elmira Catholic schools have scheduled evening open houses and a daytime "walk through" for those parents considering enrolling their children in the schools.

The first open house will be at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 24, at St. Patrick's Junior High. The following evening, at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 25, informational programs

will be presented at St. Mary's and St. Casimir's. An informational meeting at Our Lady of Lourdes School has been scheduled for 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 26.

All four buildings will be open for "walk throughs" from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m., Monday, March 2. Registration will take place in all four schools from 7:30 to 9 p.m., Thursday, March 5.

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