

Ranaletta is Directing '81-82 School Follies

By Joan M. Smith

The magic of theater. There are the months of planning, rehearsing, and then the excitement of opening night. Whether the effort is for a Broadway show or a high school musical, for some it would mean a gigantic ulcer. To others, like Judith Ranaletta, it is balm for the ancient Greek thespians.

Ms. Ranaletta, who is a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy, is directing the Cardinal's Mooney Follies, scheduled for Nov. 13-15, 20-21. In talking with her recently, there was no doubting her enthusiasm for the theater and especially for the Mooney production. The Follies, "Guys and Gals on Broadway," has a cast of 50, including faculty, students, and parents, and directing such a large show can be

difficult. "There is never enough time," Ms. Ranaletta lamented, "and I'm wanted in ten different directions." There is also the challenge of making sure everyone is a vital part of the show. But the satisfaction comes from "working with people and seeing the joy they get out of it," she said.

This is her second year with the Follies and she brings to

the project extensive theater experience. Besides being choral and drama director at Greece Athena High School, Ms. Ranaletta has worked with most community area theater groups, including the Blackfriars, Community Playhouse, and the Downstairs Cabaret. She has an MA in opera from Ithaca College, did post-graduate work at the Eastman School of Music, and has done summer stock in Colorado.

She is able to visit the Big Apple every few months and has noted the trend change on Broadway. The traditional stage extravaganzas of the 40s and 50s have made a comeback with such productions as "42nd Street" and "Sophisticated Ladies." According to Ms. Ranaletta, the audiences love them.

enjoys teaching, and considers herself lucky that her vocation and avocation blend so well together.



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Alternative

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cozy atmosphere. NDC workers who staff the residence point to this fact as a big step in the ultimate goal of making the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled as independent as possible. "It has been found," stated Craig, "that the clients do better in small-group situations than in large groups."

The Palmyra residence is staffed by nine NDC professionals who work eight-hour shifts. The clients number 13, eight men and five women, between the ages of 20 and 62. A requirement for community living is that clients spend six hours a day in out-of-house projects. That doesn't pose a difficulty for the Palmyra residents. They are busy attending school, day-care and workshop programs, and working.

Their domestic responsibilities include the laundry, shopping, housekeeping chores, and cooking. In their spare time the clients enjoy picnics, going to movies, listening to music, and entertaining friends.

This residence has been well received in the neighborhood and although Craig sees a loosening up of resistance to such homes, he said he and his staff were "battled and scarred" from introducing such projects into areas.

He said that New York State, along with a few others, has been progressive in the community home concept. Yet there still persists an ignorance about the difference between the mentally ill and the mentally retarded and the



Residents Helen Bailey, left, and Marion Smith set their pastries out to cool.

developmentally disabled. Some hold the philosophy that all mental patients ought to be lumped together behind walls. Regarding the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled, Craig said, "There is only a small percentage that needs the intense care of an institution."

For those who have the basic skills and are educable, community placement "is a well thought out process," Craig explained. There is evaluation of the individual client's level of functioning, intense training for the program, and then assessment by family and professional staff workers in determining



the best possible placement to meet the client's needs.

Everyone has needs, and according to the NDC professionals, those of the mentally retarded and developmentally disabled are being met in the supervised home environment. It is there, they agreed, where they see their clients grow and advance.

Canon Law

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However, because such grounds were not included in the old code, conservative tribunals have been able to disregard such criteria in annulment cases.

The article governing annulments in such cases

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provides that a marriage can be dissolved if one or both parties was affected by a serious illness or psychological disturbance.

In Washington, Father Daniel F. Boye, associate general secretary of the NCCB, said acceptance of psychological grounds "would be an affirmation of what we've already said here in the United States ... and would be consistent with the jurisprudence practices in the highest courts of the Church."

Pope John Paul met with

the commission at its final sessions and said he looked forward to examining its work "with very special attention."

The work of incorporating changes voted by the commission here is expected to take four to six months, making the draft ready for the pope to promulgate in April.

If the pope follows the precedent set by Pope Benedict XV when he promulgated the old code, the new text will not become effective until one year after promulgation.

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