

ECHO ECHO ECHO

McQuaid production a 'Ringing' success

By J. Peter Huggins
McQuaid Jesuit High School

Well, it's that time of year again. In the springtime air floats the gentle breeze that brings the smell of spring. Ahh, and in the distance the sounds of bells ring through the air.

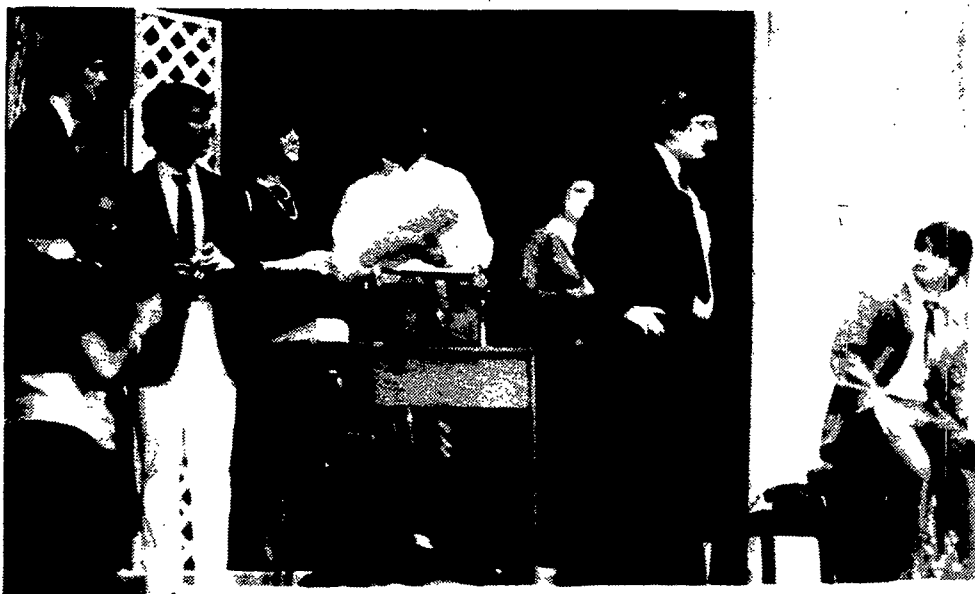
Bells? Bells, did you say? Yes, like the "Bells Are Ringing," the latest McQuaid dramatics production.

McQuaid presented the play, directed by Father William J. O'Malley, March 13-16. "Bells Are Ringing" is a musical comedy about a caring, although sometimes bumbling, young woman named Ella Peterson. Ella works for her cousin Sue at an answering service called Suesanswerphone.

Because of her very energetic and caring personality, Ella manages to touch the lives of all whom she encounters. She's either playing Santa Claus for one boy to make him eat his spinach or else she's acting as "mom" for one of her subscribers, Jeff Moss.

In comes Inspector Barnes, a police detective, and his sidekick Francis who are determined to close down Suesanswerphone. Inspector Barnes is big for a promotion for closing down a big ring of, well, just about anything he can find, so he's keeping a close watch on Ella and the customers.

On to the scene comes Sandor, a bookie from New York, who poses as a German record manager from Titanic Records. Actually, Titanic is a fraud — merely a front for Sandor's bookie operation. Sue, being the glib lady that she is, falls in love with



Cast members perform the "subway scene" during McQuaid's production of "Bells Are Ringing."

Sandor. Seizing the opportunity, Sandor, then moves his company to Suesanswerphone, which he uses as a front for his cover, Titanic Records.

Then Ella also falls in love with the voice of client Jeff Moss, played by Kevin Tefft. Jeff, a troubled playwright, was recently dumped by his writing partner and fears that he cannot write alone. Ella intervenes for Jeff in several instances, and at one point meets him face-to-face. Eventually, Ella convinces Jeff that he can write on his own, and the two begin to fall in love. Their relationship is complicated, however, because in order to conceal the fact that she's Jeff's answering service "mom," Ella is forced to take on the alias "Melisonde

Scott."

As the musical progresses Ella, played very well by Lisa Dotolo from Mercy, begins to run into other characters who are also subscribers to her answering service. Like Jeff, these others are helped anonymously by Ella. She affects the lives of all the people that she meets. Even as Jeff and Ella stand on the subway full of grumpy commuters on the way home from work, Ella affects the people around her. Merely by saying "hello" to one person, Ella stimulates all the people in the subway car into greeting each other and singing hello to each other. Her love seems to spread around the people and the subway car like magic.

Throughout all this time, Ella has been

followed during her exploits by Francis, Inspector Barnes' sidekick, played marvelously by Ed Mangano. Throughout Ella's adventures, Francis is taking pictures of her with the other people that she is aiding, collecting evidence about whatever is going on. Francis however, knowing that Ella is really just a nice girl, can not convince Inspector Barnes that she's just caring and that she's not the head of some "lonely hearts club" or a baby-snatching ring. And so the story goes on.

The climax of the play is set up by another of Ella's goodhearted endeavors. At the answering service, Ella takes a Titanic Records for Beethoven's Tenth Symphony. Realizing that Beethoven only wrote nine symphonies, she changes the order to Beethoven's Ninth. But the orders aren't really for records, they're coded horse-racing bets for Sandor's bookie ring. By changing the "order," Ella misplaces 5,600 bets. This poses a great problem for Sandor, who gets in trouble with the mob.

As the musical wraps up, Ella finally confronts Jeff, from whom she has been hiding her real identity. She had pretended to be Melisonde because she feared Jeff was only in love with who she was pretending to be. But Jeff, was truly in love with Ella, and in the tradition of the fine musical comedy, all ends well, except of course for Sandor and the mob. A very befuddled Inspector Barnes turns up at the last second to arrest Ella, and instead finds Sandor and the two mobsters. Ella then explains to the inspector who Sandor and the mobsters are. So even Inspector Barnes gets assistance from Ella.

The musical was supported by many fine performances by all members of the cast. Speaking as a member of the cast, I know that we all learned a lot more about ourselves and from Ella than we had expected.

Equal Time

Notre Dame of Elmira High School
Looking back on Live Aid, should we concentrate on needy people overseas or in the U.S.?

Heather McGrath
Sophomore

I think we need to make an emphasis on aiding the people in the countries that are less fortunate than we are. We have a unique government which gives aid to those in need. Programs such as welfare, food stamps and Social Security aren't found in most countries. Live-Aid was a new and unique way to raise money for those countries, and I think we should continue to help them in this way.



Dominic Sidari
Senior

In my opinion, we should help the Americans and the Africans. A starving person is a starving person, and we should help anyone we possibly can. With the aid of other countries, the U.S. will be able to support these suffering people.



Ann Snyder
Junior

I think it is a good idea there are efforts to help those in Ethiopia, but we need to realize our country needs help also. We can't ignore the fact that people are starving all over the world, but "charity begins at home." Farms have been in families for generations, and now are being foreclosed on, and very little is being done. Many people in inner cities are also homeless without food. We need to get to our country before we can apply a concentrated effort on the problems facing the Third World countries.



Monica Farby
Senior

I think it's great that so many people and organizations have reached out to others in need. However, it seems as though while we are reaching out to others, we are neglecting ourselves. It is possible that people don't realize how much in need our country really is. The people in Africa aren't the only ones starving. I feel it is the country's obligation to first take care of its citizens who are also in need. I'm not saying that we shouldn't help others, just that we're not helping ourselves enough.



Mercy Scholarship Fund

The administration of Our Lady of Mercy High School and the Alumnae Board have announced the establishment of an Alumnae Memorial Scholarship Fund to help young women who wish to attend Mercy High. The fund was established to receive gifts from graduates in memory of a loved one. Unlike

other memorial gestures, gifts to this fund will support many students in the future. The fund, established this month, has already received gifts from some of the school's 9,500 graduates. To contribute to the fund, call Mary Jo Ferr at (716)288-7120.

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| Aquinas | Mark Simonelli | DeSales | Matthew Carty |
| Bishop Kearney | Marilou Halstead | Mercy | Rebecca Boyle |
| | Deana Manuse | McQuaid | J. Peter Huggins |
| Cardinal Mooney | Jim Flynn | Nazareth | Debbie Cragg |
| | Jolie Pizzi | Notre Dame | Elena Cambio |
| | A.J. Rogers | | |

HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 9 correct entries identifying Tucson, Arizona as the birthplace of Linda Ronstadt



The winner was Mary Ann Ketchmere of Rochester

MUSIC TRIVIA

This weeks question:

Who was the youngest member of the Beatles?

A:

Name
Address
City
Zip Code
School

Rules:

Each week the Courier Journal in conjunction with the House of Guitars will feature a Music Trivia contest. All you have to do to enter is answer the question, fill in your name and address and the school you attend if applicable, cut out the coupon, and send it in to the Courier Journal. If more than one correct entry is received, a drawing will be held and one winning entry will be drawn.

If yours is the winning entry, you will be mailed a coupon for a free album or tape of your choice redeemable at the House of Guitars, 645 Titus Ave.

All entries must be received within seven days of this paper's issue date. Winning names and answers will be printed the week following each drawing.

The Courier-Journal
Music Trivia
114 S. Union St
Rochester, N.Y. 14607

INTERESTED IN THE PRIESTHOOD?

SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake, Michigan is hosting a **LIVE-IN WEEKEND** on April 18 - 20, 1986.

All prospective students will have the opportunity to discern and join our present students and faculty in a weekend of academic, spiritual, and social growth.

For further information, please write to the Admissions Office, SS. Cyril and Methodius Seminary, Orchard Lake, Michigan 48033 or telephone (313) 682-1885.

Please note: All men interested in the priesthood are urged to contact the Vocations Office in their diocese to discuss their formation plans.