

ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO



After nearly three-quarters of a century, Fatzinger Hall in Waterloo is now open for dramatic performances. The hall's last show was seen in 1911.

Waterloo restores historic gem

Community effort re-opens 19th-century playhouse

By Kathleen Morgan
DeSales High School

The re-opening of an old theater in Waterloo has created a great opportunity for music and acting groups in the Geneva area. Youth groups, community entertainers and high school performers will be able to stage events in a "re-created" theater that depicts an earlier time.

The theater is Fatzinger Hall, a 19th-century playhouse that sits atop the Waterloo Library and Terwilliger Museum. The theater was last used for stage performances in 1911, and served for some time as a children's movie house. Until recently, the stage had collected dust for quite a few years, and the theater had fallen into a state of disrepair. A group of trustees from the library, headed by the board's president, Melly Clemens of Waterloo, decided that it was time the theater was used again and went about fixing it up.

A lot had to be done to make the old theater operational. The old gas lights from

earlier days were replaced with more modern stage lights. A new plumbing system was also added, and new carpeting was installed. A fire exit was built to meet safety requirements, and a ramp was built to provide access to the library by the handicapped. After the entire place was cleaned and polished, as well as repaired and repainted, the theater once again looked as it had at the turn of the century. At last, the building was ready for its grand opening.

The first performance after the theater's many years of atrophy was by F.X. Brown, playing the famed humorist, Mark Twain. The show went well, and the theater's 150 seats were filled. The next performance was a Dixieland concert, which, again, packed the house. By the following weekend, the old theater had also housed an evening of barbershop quartets, an afternoon of storytelling and a musical "tour" of the Geneva area with a New York State troubadour.

In the future, those involved with the theater would like to see many more community plays and high school functions performed in Fatzinger Hall.

Everyone who has helped to re-open this historical showcase is proud to have brought a piece of the past back to life.



Speaking Out

By Michael Fleming
Cardinal Mooney High School
The precedent-setting Dram Shop Act has been repealed.

For those who haven't heard of it or don't understand what connection it had with the ever-controversial DWI issue, the Dram Shop Act stated that those who worked in a bar, restaurant or so-called "dram shop" could be held personally responsible for serving a patron who got drunk and accidentally killed himself. Governor Mario Cuomo simply decided that it was unfair, and signed a law that repealed it.

I think Governor Cuomo should be commended for this very controversial move. When I first heard of the Dram Shop Act, I thought it really made a lot of sense. After all, people can't drink and drive if a bartender is afraid to serve them another drink.

Then I decided to look at it from the bartender's point of view. It suddenly looked very different.

Why should a bartender have to carry that kind of weight on his or her shoulders? Being a bartender is a job. The bartender is simply trying to make a living, and suddenly, he's expected to make life-and-death decisions every day.

The problem is that it's often very difficult to determine when a person is drunk. An experienced drinker can fake sobriety pretty easily. Even a doctor might have difficulty determining when enough is enough, so why should a bartender have to do so?

A friend recently made a very relevant and simple comparison. What if a person is allergic to peanuts, but decides to buy some anyway? He takes them home, eats them and subsequently dies. Should the family of the dead man be able to sue the grocery store checkout clerk who sold the peanuts to him? This example is quite similar to the case of a man who dies on the way home from a bar after having too many drinks.

It may seem like I'm naive about the problems of drunk driving. Nothing could be further from the truth. I think that DWI is one of America's most serious problems, but placing the blame on innocent people is ludicrous.

The person who gets behind the wheel after drinking heavily is the criminal, not the bartender who can't foresee the consequences of serving him the alcohol.

Once again, I commend Governor Cuomo for repealing a law that was meant to entrap, not to serve.

Equal Time

McQuaid Jesuit High School
How do you feel you have changed since your freshman year?

DOUG SCHICKLER, junior

When I was a freshman, I spent weekends studying. I found since then that there is more to life than school alone. So, in order to do more with the same amount of time, I've had to use my time more carefully. That has been the single most important change in my life since my freshman year.



RICHARD BUCK, sophomore

In the time since I've been a freshman, I have changed greatly. I have adjusted to a new school with new friends and different teachers. However, more importantly, in this single year I have developed a strong school spirit.



ANDY DENNEE, senior

I have realized how valuable my parents' support and guidance has been for me. They have nurtured a strong set of beliefs and opinions that may not immediately correspond with their opinions. These ideals allow me to have an open mind and to see the beauty in all things. My parents have always said to take one day at a time, and life will come together in a good way. Four years ago, I would have shrugged that advice off, but today I see it is the truth.



J. PETER HUGGINS, senior

Since my freshman year, I have changed my attitude on many aspects of life. I have found that there is a great deal of education to be found, not only in the school, but also in the world around me. I have also found how to learn from other people so that I may better understand the people that I work with.



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HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 21 correct entries identifying Satisfaction as the 1965 hit by the Rolling Stones.

The winner was Carol Peworchik of Spencerport



MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:

Who recorded the following number 1 song? "If You Leave Me Now"

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
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School _____

A:

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
1150 Buffalo Rd.
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