

ECHO ECHO ECHO ECHO



Pseudolus (Mark Simonelli) tries to help his master, Hero (David Yehl), to solve his problems.

'A Funny Thing' happens at Aquinas

Musical has 'em laughing all the way to the forum

By Sean McNamara and David Yehl
Aquinas Institute

The Aquinas Drama Club is presenting "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" as its spring musical. The production is a light adaptation of several plays by the Roman satirist Plautus. One of its many highlights is the strong musical score by Stephen Sondheim, who is recognized as one of the best lyricist/composers of American musicals. This year also marks the 25th anniversary of the play's original Broadway run, which starred Mickey Rooney, who is currently appearing in a touring production at the Auditorium Theater in Rochester.

The story is set in ancient Rome in 200 B.C. Pseudolus, a freedom-loving slave, loyal to lovesick Hero, goes to great lengths to prove his dedication to his master, by playing the silly role of matchmaker between Hero and the lovely courtesan, Philia. Meanwhile, Hysterium, Pseudolus' friend and a servant to the arrogant Domina and

her frail husband, Senex, nervously makes the rounds of Rome with exaggerated loyalty to his masters. The situation is complicated by the arrival of the mighty Miles Gloriosus, the introduction of courtesan-seller Marcus Lycus, and the confused wandering of a senile Eronius.

Over the past three months, more than 80 students, parents and teachers at Aquinas have been working to make this show possible. The cast is made up of 30 students, ranging from freshmen to seniors. Elaborate sets, lavish costumes, intricate lighting and flattering makeup are the work of a dedicated backstage crew. The music onstage is supported by a 20-piece pit band, directed by Brian Coughlin. The actors, crew, and band all come together under the guidance of Father James Kelly, CSB, the director of this year's show.

"A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" opened at Aquinas last weekend. Its final two performances are Friday, May 8 and Saturday, May 9. Tickets are \$3.50 — \$2.50 for senior citizens — and can be purchased at the door.

Speaking Out

By Elizabeth Berliner
Notre Dame High School

Four years ago, the concept of a Bishop's Day with Youth was developed and implemented in the Rochester diocese. It provided an opportunity for Catholic youth from various parts of New York to unite for a few hours of prayer and informative workshops. Consequently, it was the origin of many lasting friendships. The youth day was successful and was soon adopted as an annual event.

Unfortunately, this year, through no fault of the administration itself, the youth day proved to be a disappointment to many who were involved. The organization of the event was the best that could be expected, especially considering the complexity of the layout of Our Lady of Mercy High School. However, the quantity and nature of the participants needs to be more closely examined.

The youth day has simply become too big an event. More than 1,000 attended this year, making it relatively impossible to maintain any semblance of order in such an unfamiliar setting. The auditorium was packed during the opening Mass, and many of the workshops were simply too large to carry on a productive discussion. Furthermore, the immense numbers reduced the feeling of personal involvement, and many were easily lost in the crowd.

The huge number of people resulted from a much more serious problem. Confirmation groups and parents have

begun to use the youth day as a means of forcing rebellious kids to spend a day involved in a religion-oriented activity.

The involvement itself was good, but leaders and parents to recognize that forcing kids to attend would not guarantee that they would participate. It may, in fact, have only increased their attitude of rebelliousness and lack of interest. Therefore, these kids were not only indifferent to the activities, but often were disruptive, detracting from the enjoyment of other students who gathered willingly. The disruptive kids also created disciplinary problems for already harried administrators, and only added confusion to the day.

Moreover, the noticeable number of seventh- and eighth-grade students who attended this year were assigned to the same workshops as high school seniors. This is simply too wide an age range to function well together, especially considering the differences in the maturity of 12 year olds and 18 year olds. The small group discussions in particular reflected this problem.

Perhaps it would be advantageous to develop two youth day seminars: one for the junior high students and another for high school students. This would not only reduce the number of kids attending at one time, but would allow for a more personal atmosphere. Those who do attend should also do so by their own choice, because only in choosing to participate can they have a worthwhile experience and allow others to do the same.

Keeping those considerations in mind, the youth day would ultimately become a more enriching and enjoyable time for students and administrators alike.

Volunteer cleaners needed for work weekend at Stella Maris

Camp Stella Maris needs volunteers to help the facility do its cleaning. To get ready for its 61st year of resident camping in June, the camp will stage a Family Work Weekend on May 22-25.

"We have a number of odd jobs that need to be taken care of before we open our doors in June," said Florence Mauro, program director at Camp Stella Maris. "We are looking for former campers, counselors and others to provide labor, tools, materials and equipment."

According to Mauro, accommodations and meals will be provided to all volunteers at the camp, which is located on the eastern shore of Conesus Lake.

Contact Mauro at (716)346-2243 for information.


Chamber music performance to benefit Amnesty International

Students from the Eastman School of Music will appear in a performance of chamber music, slated to benefit Amnesty International. The concert will be given Friday, May 8, at 8:30 p.m. in the Cutler Union, 560 University Ave. in Rochester.


Proceeds from the concert will be donated to Amnesty International, a worldwide movement dedicated to working for the release of prisoners of conscience.

Equal Time Bishop Kearney High School
Do you agree smoking should be banned in public places?


BRIAN KRESS, senior
If smoking is banned in public, it will not violate the smoker's constitutional right (he'll be allowed to smoke in private), and the non-smoker's rights will be protected. The non-smoker has a right to a smoke-free atmosphere and streets that are not littered with cigarette butts. Non-smokers outnumber smokers presently, and I believe the laws are constructed basically to protect the majority.




REBECCA FEWKES, junior
Smoking should not be banned in public places as a whole. Although I am personally opposed to the habit, the freedom of choice is a very important right in our society. Rather than completely banning smoking, non-smoking areas can be used to protect those who do not smoke. To completely ban smoking in public places would force rather than persuade a smoker to discontinue the habit.



CHRISTINE KRZANOWICZ, junior
I don't think smoking should be banned in public places. It should be designated in certain areas so as not to infringe upon other people's rights, while smokers should not be denied their freedom of choice — the choice of good or bad health.



TONY CONDELLO, senior
I believe smoking should be banned in public places. The right to breathe clean air and be comfortable in public places is important to most people. Smokers have no right to transgress this freedom and should be aware of their irritating habit.



HOUSE OF GUITARS

We received 22 correct entries identifying "Suicide is Painless" as the name of the theme song from the hit TV series, Mash.

The winner was
Cathy Hamilton
of Aurora, N.Y.

MUSIC TRIVIA

This week's question:
Who recorded the #1 song, "Black Water"?

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.

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