

Echo

# Bishop Kearney students staging musical 'Little Shop of Horrors'

By Charles L. Miller  
Bishop Kearney High School

The lights go up and the curtain slowly opens. Looming dominantly over the stage is an enormous plant. No, you're not at the Botanical Society's annual meeting — you're at Bishop Kearney High School.

The Bishop Kearney High School music department is currently producing Kearney's 26th spring musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*, which will run April 28-30 and May 1.

Fresh on the heels of last spring's success with *The Music Man*, Kearney is embarking on a production that certainly takes its audience in a different direction.

"On the 21st day of the month of September, the human race suddenly encountered a deadly threat to its very existence," a voice "not unlike God's" explains to the audience in the play's prologue. *Little Shop of Horrors* is a satire of many things: B movies, science fiction and the genre of musical comedy itself.

*Little Shop of Horrors* was originally produced at the Orpheum Theater in New York City in 1982, and its rights have only recently been made available for public performance. Thus Bishop Kearney is the second group to produce the show in upstate New York. Although the play provided the inspiration for the 1987 motion picture hit of the same name,

many scenes and musical numbers were left out in the film version. So a trip to see the play would be well worth it to see what you've been missing.

For years now, *Little Shop of Horrors* has made New York audiences scream with laughter. In this musical comedy Seymour — a poor florist's assistant — allows his craving for fame and fortune to seduce him into playing nursemaid to a man-eating plant. Starring in the show is the oversized carnivorous Audrey II, designed by Mike Champlin. This full-staged size plant is bound to bring the house down singing rhythm and blues — a la James Brown.

This major production features the talents of more than 100 students in the cast, stage, crew and band. Featured are: Chuck Miller and Russell Cattat as Seymour; and Jennifer Vallee and Renee Dobosz sharing the female lead role of Audrey, as the secret love of Seymour's life.

Musical and artistic direction are by Dan and Kellie Burke. Set design and construction are by Champlin and Brothers Dan Smith and Robert Burke.

The production staff and students promise a show that will leave the audience feeling just like Audrey II feels between victims — ravenous for more!

Call (716)342-4000 for ticket information.

By Anthony Wang  
Notre Dame High School

Whenever I used to hear the word retreat, a long and satisfying yawn would overcome me. I always fought the idea that I could get something out of a retreat; I would consider these times as boring or useless. In retrospect, though, I think that my indifference stemmed from a fear of perhaps seeing my true personality and not liking what I saw. After taking part in my junior class retreat, I discovered two things: that retreats can be meaningful and that the things I learned in the retreat could be used all the time.

My junior class was divided into four groups, and each was assigned to a retreat. The various activities of my two-day retreat seemed simple, yet there was more than I could see at first. One of the first exercises was to ask another participant a few questions, and then answer the same questions for the other person.

I took the questions to heart, because I had never really considered who has had the greatest influence on my life or who I would like to meet. Usually, I reflect on more "important" subjects, such as how I'll do on my exams or whether acquiring Jack Clark will help the Yankees. Academics and sports are important, but during the retreat I guessed I needed a refresher course on my life and the path it's taking.

The Mental Health Players in the retreat had to do some role playing as well. As one of the players, I had to take part in some meaningful situation. I was very nervous because I had

# Speaking Out

never play acted in front of people I knew, and it was obvious. Still, my discomfort was a small price to pay if I helped make even one person feel secure.

During these two days, all of us took part in activities similar to the ones I've mentioned. As essential as these activities are, they would mean nothing if there was no use for them later. I discovered that maybe I wasn't so deprived of talent after all; perhaps I could even be a beneficial influence. My family, friends and even total strangers could be affected by my actions. Also, I now feel more secure about others and the world around me. Life has become more enjoyable.

The old saying, "Ignorance is bliss" is a very tempting idea. However, I learned that being oblivious to myself and my surroundings didn't improve my life any. The retreat opened my eyes, which may or may not have been possible without the retreat. True, a retreat can sometimes seem like a waste of time, but next time you find yourself going to a retreat, open up your mind a little. It may mean more than ever before.

## Notre Dame announces policy for free, reduced-price meals

Notre Dame High School in Elmira has announced its free and reduced-price meal policy for students residing in Chemung, Steuben and Schuyler counties in New York state, and Bradford County in Pennsylvania.

Eligibility for the program is determined by a chart correlating family size and income. A copy of the chart may be obtained from the school. To apply, eligible families must complete application forms, which have been sent home with students in a letter to parents. Additional copies of the form are available in the school office.

Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year to Sister Mary Walter Hickey, principal. Families must submit new applications in the event of changes in household size, income or employment status. The school reserves the right at any time during the school year to verify information provided on the applications. The applications will be reviewed by a designated school official. Parents who wish to appeal the official's decision

may request a hearing by contacting hearing official Larry Spaulding, 1400 Maple Ave., Elmira, 14904.

The policy stipulates that no child will be identified or discriminated against because he or she is unable to pay the full cost of a meal. Moreover, in the operation of the program, no child will be discriminated against because of his race, sex, color, national origin, age or handicap. Anyone who feels he has been discriminated against in the operation of this program should write to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

A complete copy of this policy is on file in the school office, where it may be viewed by all interested parties.

## Private, public school students now eligible for award project

The League of Women Voters of Rochester recently announced its 1987/88 Citizenship Award Project for students in grades 10-12 at public or private high schools in Monroe County.

A total of \$675 in U.S. Savings Bonds and certificates of honor will be awarded to students who plan and carry out projects that demonstrate involvement with government, politics or current issues. The deadline for completed entries is April 20.

The League of Women Voters is a non-partisan, political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

Call the League office at (716)232-3380 for information on how to qualify and for project assistance.

## Career, employment program planned for Threshold center

Threshold's Career and Employment Program is accepting applications for career and employment classes. Applicants must be 16-21 years of age and unemployed.

Classes, which begin April 4, will run Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to noon at Threshold, 115 Clinton Ave., S., Rochester.

Threshold provides vocational, educational, drug-treatment-and-prevention, health-care and community-outreach services to young people aged 12 to 25 and their families.

Call Linda Hanna, program manager, at (716)454-7530 for information.

## Nazareth Academy Should a student be allowed to attend the prom without a date?

KARIN MARLETT, junior

It should be OK to go to the prom alone; it is your own choice. If you go to a non-coed school, it may not be too fun because chances are you may not meet anyone there.

If you do go to a co-ed school, by all means go.



VIVIAN STAUFFER, senior

I feel that it is your choice to go with a date or not. You shouldn't feel like you need a date. Let's face it, it's the '80s.



ENZA PRIVITERA, senior

I think it is OK to attend a prom or ball without a date. I think a prom should be a time to get dressed up and go out for a night of fun. It's nice if you bring a date, but if you don't have one, you can have the same fun.



## As Teens See It

KAREN DONNER, senior

I think it would be a bad idea not to require that a person have a date to attend a ball or prom. This kind of event is a tradition, and part of this tradition is to have a date. Also, not having a date could ruin your friends' night because while they might want to spend a romantic evening with somebody, you would want to tag along and have fun with them.



KELLI BUSHNELL, junior

I feel that it would be OK to go alone; you can have just as much fun. But it would be nice to have a date.

**Team Outfitters**

Golf - Baseball - Softball - Hockey - Football - Basketball

We received 8 correct entries identifying Jack Nicklaus as the first golf great to win five Masters titles.

The winner was Catherine Lennox of Nazareth

### SPORTS TRIVIA

**This week's question:**  
Who pitched the first perfect game in the National League?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
School: \_\_\_\_\_

**Rules:**  
Each week, the Courier-Journal, in conjunction with Zambito's Sport Shop will feature a Sports 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 certificate redeemable for \$10.00 OFF towards any purchase at Zambito's Sport Shop, 1350 Culver Rd.  
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 Sports Trivia**  
1150 Buffalo Rd.  
Rochester, NY 14624

## HOUSE OF GUITARS

Most New Album And Tape Releases Just \$5.98  
CD's From \$8.98 - \$11.98 Each

We received 19 correct entries identifying Vicki Lawrence as the performer who sang the 1973 song, "The Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia."

The winner was Frances Spinelli of Brockport

### MUSIC TRIVIA

**This week's question:**  
What group performed the theme song for the show "Hawaii Five-O"?

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**  
1150 Buffalo Rd.  
Rochester, N.Y. 14624