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Controversial Play to be Held Over

by Rod Luery
Collegian Editor

Despite opposition from Erie County religious leaders, the controversial play *Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You* will be held over this weekend for three more showings in Behrend's Studio Theater.

The play, which was presented at Studio Theater three times last weekend, received criticism from Bishop Michael Murphy of the Erie Catholic Diocese. The play "only feeds on ignorance and bigotry," Murphy said in a prepared statement.

Sister Mary Ignatius, written

by Christopher Durang, is a satirical play about the Catholic church and the methods of Catholic education. Sr. Ignatius, the title character, is a nun whose ideological teaching brainwashes students rather than educate them.

The play has always been

followed by some degree of controversy. When it opened in San Francisco, hundreds of people picketed the theater. Picket lines also followed the play to Detroit, Boston, and other cities this year.

The director of *Sister Mary Ignatius*, Lucian Zabramny, doesn't think that picket lines will conflict with the Behrend production. "We don't think that will happen in Erie. We're looking forward to a fun play that we think people will really enjoy," he said.

Zabramny commented on the controversy that is surrounding his production: "I think the controversy is more of a legend that is following the play...Erie Catholics feel that they, too, must protest." He continued, "They are protesting...not so much to stop the play, but just to protest its presence in Erie."

Zabramny had originally decided to edit his version of *Sister Mary Ignatius* to tone down the most abrasive of its anti-Catholic attacks. "I did a little surgery on the play," he said. "Our interpretation might be the first time in its stage history that the play is not anti-Catholic."

However, the very next day Zabramny changed his mind. Zabramny said that one theatergoer canceled his reserved seat when he read that the original ver-

sion of the play was going to be modified. That and the following controversy enabled Zabramny to present the play in its original context. "The play is an experiment. The Erie audience has a right to see this," he said.

Zabramny explained that his interpretation of the play was not a religious one, but rather, an artistic one. He said, "They (religious groups) weren't aware of my interpretation. Theirs was based on reading the play. Now that they see my view, they should be open to it."

Dr. John Lilley, Provost of Behrend College, defended the Studio Theater presentation: "Universities have the responsibility to protect the rights of discussion. What is inappropriate is any attempt to censor artistic or other intellectual endeavors."

With the final approval of Provost Lilley, *Sister Mary Ignatius* has been considered an artistic expression at Behrend College, and in no way does it attempt to demean the Catholic church.

The additional showings of *Sister Mary Ignatius* will be presented in the Behrend Studio Theater on Dec. 20, 21, and 22 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for the Erie community, and \$2.75 for the faculty, students and staff of Behrend College.



The cast of "Sister Mary Ignatius." From left to right: Shirley Minehart, Tom Rihn, Jo Larraway and Anita Canzian.

SKN Frat House Ready for Fall '85

Work will soon be completed on yet another addition to the Behrend College. Behrend's only active fraternity, Sigma Kappa Nu (SKN), will be moving into a house that will be revamped and ready for use by the fall semester of 1985.

The house, located on the corner of Cooper and Shannon Roads, was bought three years ago by Roger Bush, proprietor of the 'Bush House' on Buffalo Road which houses many Behrend students. Bush is offering SKN a 12-month lease at approximately \$36,000 a year with the option to buy, but neither party has committed anything on paper.

SKN President John Fronko remarks, "Mr. Bush has been very cooperative in dealing with us and we are working very hard to finalize the contract and get the house turned over to SKN."

SKN was started by Fronko and three others who have since



John Fronko
SKN President

departed, and was recognized as an organization by the University in the spring of 1983. In January of 1984, the fraternity received its charter and three years from that date SKN will be permitted to buy their own house. Fronko added, "Bush will lease the house to us over the next few years in order to collect rent money, and in the future SKN would like very much to buy it."

The ground floor will contain two dance floors; one with a complete audio-video system featuring a large screen TV, and the other with an extensive bar in the shape of an 'L'. It will have two separate bathrooms and a secluded room with a jacuzzi. The first floor will have four bedrooms and the second floor will have five. Fronko says, "The rooms are very spacious and we can easily get

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