

# Musical's satire foolproof

**Collegian arts**

By JIM LOCKHART  
Collegian Arts Writer  
"Little Mary Sunshine" is a foolproof play. It is written to be played so broadly and so good-naturedly that even the most inept of casts could carry it off with great success. That is one reason it is one of the most-produced of summer stock plays.

win over the sourest of audiences. "Mary" is a musical satire of the Jeannette MacDonald-Nelson Eddy movies from the 30's. But there is no need to be familiar with these films to enjoy the play. Just remember that good always triumphs over evil and you will be fine. There is a plot of sorts concerning a renegade Indian and the Forest Rangers assigned to capture him. But fortunately the plot never gets in the way of the 24

songs. Indeed, the characters are ready to break into song at the slightest pretext. And in keeping with the spirit of the play, not one of the songs has any aspirations to seriousness. They even dared to rhyme June and moon.

light. They could easily have gotten by with their cartoon characterizations, but each one also brought a strong voice to complement their roles. The second leads (David W. Czarnecki and Audrey Tischler) went for the comic relief, if there can be said to be such a thing in this play. They also brought some much needed dancing to contrast to the many songs. The play does tend to bog down in the middle with a few songs seemingly thrown in

## play review

Paul Farin plays Captain Big Jim Warrington with a square jaw that would make Dudley Do-right blush. Sheila McCarthy is Mary, the epitome of sweetness and

just to make the play run longer. It picks up again near the end when true love and the American flag are called upon to draw ovations from the audience. The lighting of the play is exceptional. Mary seems to control the sun itself in "Look for a Sky of Blue," and the party sequence is reminiscent of warm summer nights in the garden. Mary the Girl is Goodness itself. Mary the Play is a close second.

# Steiger, as Fields, saves film

If ever a movie was carried by the efforts of one man, it is "W.C. Fields and Me," now playing at the Flick. Rod Steiger as Fields is apparently the only person connected with the film who put some thought to the task at hand. The rest, from the screenwriter to the director to the supporting players, all must have been out to lunch. Steiger has the Fields' talk, grimace and mannerisms as under control as James Brolin had Clark Gable — cosmetics and mimicry seem to be the saving graces of modern screen biography. Steiger, however, goes far beyond the physical aspects of the role. He has the wisdom to make the off-stage Fields a completely new character, one not afraid to admit his loneliness. He still kicks dogs and small children, but it is more out of habit than spite.

Perrine), it could easily have been a whiskey bottle. Adhering to the Even-Famous-People-Have-Troubles Theory of filmmaking, the script focuses on Fields' unsuccessful battle with alcoholism. But in order not to become maudlin, the film has as many scenes of Fields emptying his bladder as those of him filling it. Valerie Perrine spends most of the movie doing a repeat of her role in "Lenny," the star's mistreated but loyal plaything. This time, though, she keeps her clothes on, which means her talents are exhausted long before the picture is over. Jack Cassidy plays Jack Cassidy and calls it John Barrymore, as if it made any difference. Cassidy manages to steal one scene, however, as the life of his own funeral. Anyone who goes to this movie expecting a comedy in the Fields tradition will be disappointed. There are a few recreated skits from vaudeville and films, but they lack the energy of the originals. Aside from a scene where Fields gets his two-year-old co-star drunk, the personal life sequences are serious, even to the point of tedium.

# Jeffersonian thought revealed in lecture

By BOB FRICK  
Collegian Staff Writer

Thomas Jefferson believed that the alliance of religion and government had caused deadly damage to human life and liberty through the ages, according to Merrill D. Peterson, the nation's best-known scholar on Jeffersonian thought. Peterson, speaking Wednesday night as part of the Bicentennial Summer Lecture Series, quoted Jefferson as saying, "Millions of innocent men, women and children since the introduction of Christianity have been burnt, tortured, fined and imprisoned, yet we have not advanced one inch toward uniformity of religious rights."

the other half hypocrites," Peterson said. "Jefferson was not an especially religious man, by some standards not religious at all," Peterson said. "He would often be called an atheist or an infidel, particularly after he became a highly controversial religious figure around 1790," he said. Peterson quoted James Madison, Jefferson's good friend, as saying after Jefferson's death, "He was a man of immense learning and varied attainment, who left the philosophical impression of his mind on every subject he touched. But what distinguished all this activity was an early and uniform devotion to the same cause of liberty and the systematic preference of a form of government in the strictest degree, for equal rights of men."

a holy cause," Peterson said. In Jefferson's system of values, according to Peterson, "The most fundamental liberty of all was the liberty of mind and of conscience." The founders of the American Republic were distinguished perhaps beyond any other generation of leaders known to history for the depth, the range and the fertility of their political ideas, Peterson said. "What for Jefferson was freedom to gain is for us freedom to lose, what was the dream of mastery of nature has turned into the nightmare of the annihilation of nature," Peterson said. Peterson quoted Jefferson as saying, "When we get piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become corrupt as in Europe."

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