# Musical's satire foolproof

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.

The Festival Theatre group now doing "Mary" at the Pavilion Theatre is far from inept. They brought an energy and sparkle to last night's opening that would

"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

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.

## play review

Paul Farin plays Captain Big Jim Warrington with a square jaw that would make Dudley Do-right blush. Sheila fortunately the plot never McCarthy is Mary, the down in the middle with a few itself. Magets in the way of the 24 epitome of sweetness and songs seemingly thrown in second.

are ready to break into song gotten by with their cartoon -characterizations, but each one also brought a strong voice to complement their

> 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

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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

Mary the Girl is Goodness itself. Mary the Play is a close

## 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.

Beyond Steiger, the film soon falls apart. As a biography, it is the proverbial crock. We see Fields struggling to break into films 17 years after he actually made his first picture. Fields was a star when Hollywood was an unknown suburb of Los Angeles.

Even though the Me in the title refers to Fields' mistress, Carlotta Monti (Valerie

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

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.

—Jim Lockhart

## 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 bestknown 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 imprisioned, yet we have not advanced one inch toward uniformity of religious rights."

"What had been the effect of this coercion, Jefferson asked? To make one-half the world fools and

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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."

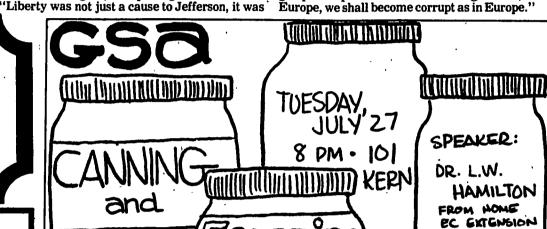
a holy cause," Peterson said.

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 et piled upon one another in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become corrupt as in Europe.



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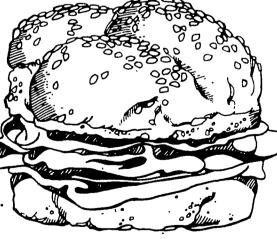


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