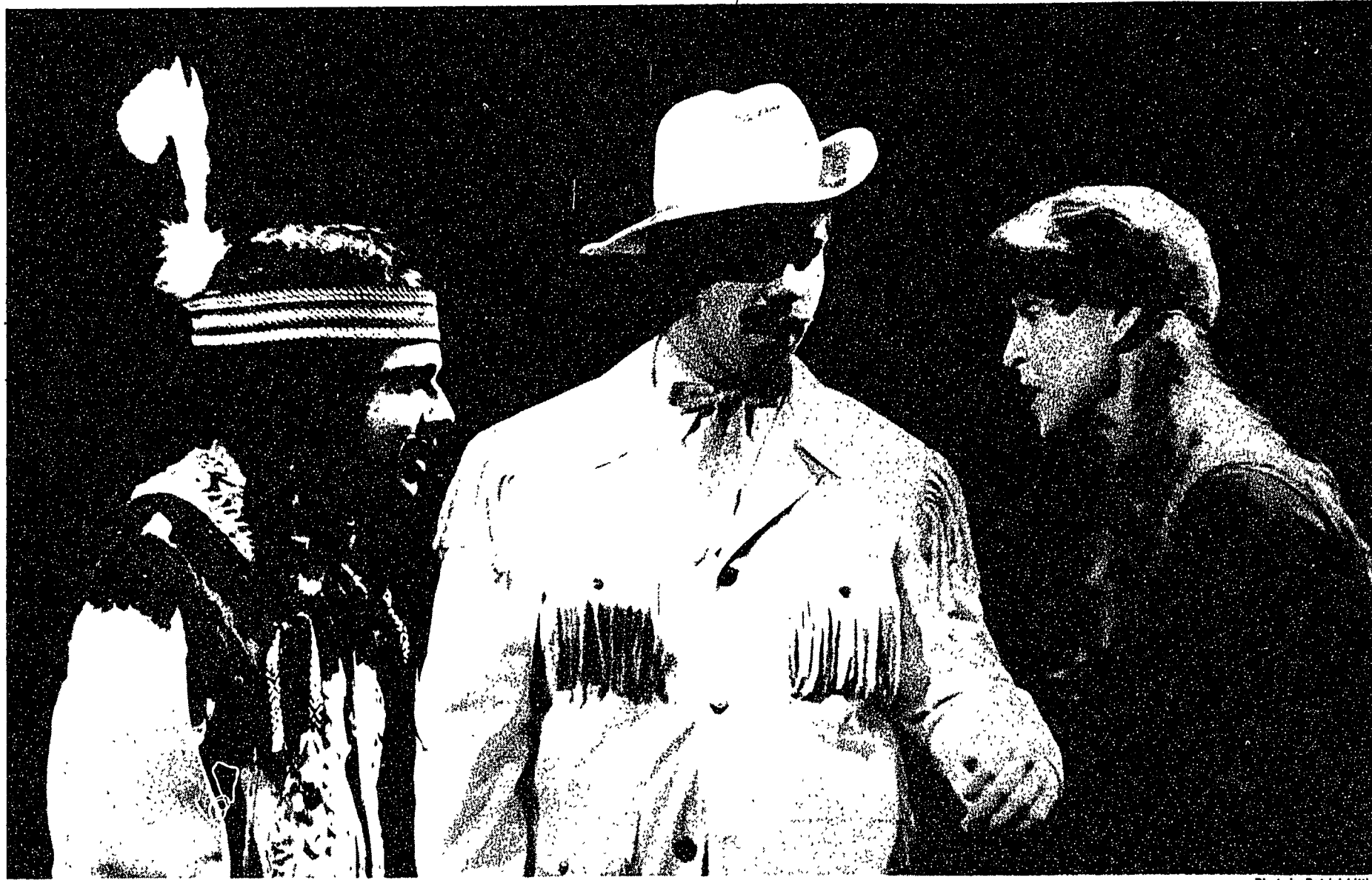


the daily Collegian arts



"Annie Get Your Gun" can be seen from June 14-18 and 21-25 at the Boal Barn Playhouse near Boalsburg. From left, Sal Caito (Sitting Bull), David Hughes (Buffalo Bill), and Nona Uhler (Annie Oakley).



Annie Oakley (Nona Uhler) gets fitted with a feather by Chief Sitting Bull (Sal Caito) in a scene from the Boal Barn Playhouse production of "Annie Get Your Gun."

'Annie' average for small town musical

By BOB FRICK
Collegian Staff Writer
"Annie Get Your Gun," the classic Irving Berlin musical playing at the Boal Barn Playhouse in nearby Boalsburg, is the kind of small-town production that evokes applause at its conclusion, but not standing ovations.

The singing ranges from adequate to good in most of the leading roles, the acting is campy (to be expected), and the dancing is a nice break from the adequate singing and campy acting.

The plot behind "Annie" involves a struggling romance between the famed female sharpshooter, Annie Oakley, and Frank Butler, the top-billed marksman in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show. Annie joins the traveling band of entertainers, falls in love with Frank, then alternately wins and loses him until the finale.

That's as thick as the plot gets, but with a musical score including, "There's No Business Like Show Business," "The Girl that I Marry," and "They Say it's Wonderful," a strong story line would be distracting.

Little things happening throughout the play keep reminding the audience that it's watching anything but a professional

production. A stuffed duck, for no apparent reason, fell from the rafters during one scene. The male lead repeated song lines in unrhyming sequences, and a little girl appeared part way through an Indian dance to perform a pointless tap dance.

Nona Uhler's Annie was played with imagination, but her country accent, along with Tom Lechner's (Frank Butler), varied from heavy to nonexistent according to the scene.

Despite these and other rough spots, some of the characters and most of the humor came through successfully.

Andrew Bealer's portrayal of Charlie Davenport, the scheming director of Buffalo Bill's troupe, and Chris Byrne, Bob Passow, and Vic Dupuis' chorus during "Moonshine Lullaby" showed real talent and polish.

This summer's production of "Annie" ranks about average for a Boal Barn musical — a play you wouldn't want to miss only if either close friends or relatives were in the cast.

You can see "Annie" this month starting at 8:30 p.m. on the nights of 14-18 and 21-25.

'Slap Shot' outrageous spoof of hockey

Hockey, as shown in the funny and sometimes outrageous film "Slap Shot," now at the Garden Theatre, is no sport for gentlemen.

The wild comedy portrays hockey as a sport where if one wants to win, he must break the rules. At least that's the way coach Reggie Dunlop (Paul Newman, in top form), of a team called the Charlestown Chiefs, sees it.

The coach's team is on a losing streak and the steel mill of the town where they originate is closing down, making the team's future look dim. So to spark new life into the team with hopes of another city purchasing it, Newman resorts to a series of dirty tricks and rough playing to get the team winning scores.

This consists of such doings as, in one

game, informing the goalie from the rival team that his wife is a lesbian or, in another, telling a player he's been dropped by his team. These players



freak out and results in their teams' losing the games. Fistfighting and other violence initiated by Newman's team also helps to earn them points.

"Slap Shot," directed by George Roy Hill (who previously directed Newman in two of his biggest hits, "The Sting" and "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid") moves along at a fast, enjoyable pace. The hockey games are well-photographed, managing to be both amusing and exciting.

Paul Newman does his best work in several years as the opportunistic coach. In supporting roles, veteran character actor Strother Martin gives an amusing performance as the team's sneaky manager and Michael Ontkean is fine as the pacifist member of the team.

The film's controversial foul language, which justifiably earned it an R rating, actually contributes to the film's humor and character develop-

ment. "Slap Shot" may not be for everyone, but for those looking for a sports film that shows both the funnier and dirtier sides of the subject, it is recommended.

— Alan Kolpon

Children's drama slated for this summer

Two six-week courses in creative drama for children will be offered this summer by the Department of Theater and Film. The classes will begin on Wednesday, July 6 and end on Monday, August 15.

The first course, for children entering first and second grades, will be held from 9:35 to 10:35 every Monday and

Wednesday. The second, for those entering fifth and sixth grades, will be held every Monday and Wednesday from 11 to 12 p.m. Classes will be held in 6 Arts Building.

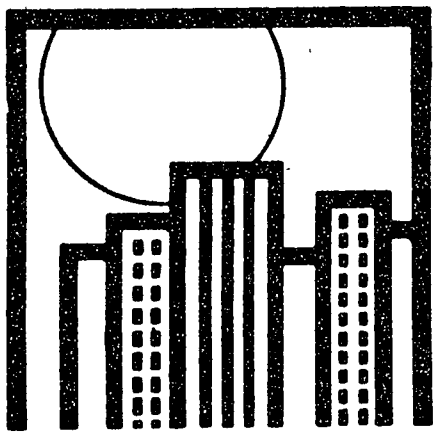
The course will be taught by Helen Manfull, co-director of children's theater and creative drama for the Department of Theater and Film.

The course will emphasize development of the imagination over performance ability, according to Manfull.

Parents may enroll their children by calling the Department of Theater and Film, 865-7586. There will be no charge for the laboratory course, but enrollment is limited.

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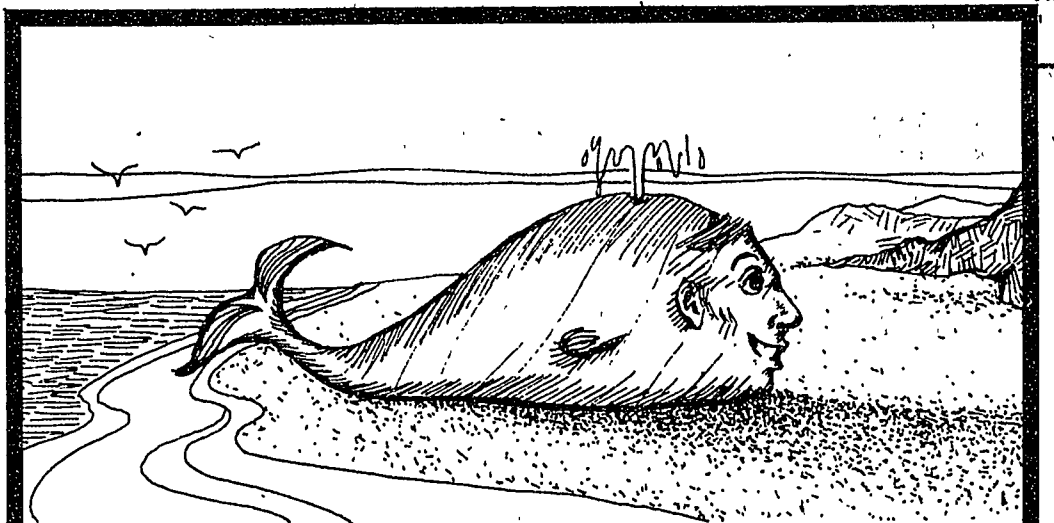


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