

Backstage With Sylvia

by Sylvia S. Cutler
Alyne Shane Cutler was walking the Wilkes College dorms one day when she noticed a tempera painting on the windows of Weiss Hall. It was a beautiful St. Patrick's Day picture, and there were students working on it. So she went in to see...and found Paula Pinter, '75 of Allentown, and Tina Blatt, '75 of Reading, steadily working on a replica of a Hallmark design. Seems that the insurance agent who covers the building told them students could walk right through the window...so they decided to decorate it to prevent accidents. Others who worked on the painting were Joanne Bartel, '74 of Montgomery, N.J., Pam McCann, '77 of Edison, N.J., and B.J. O'Bervey of Levittown.

At Ron's Hair Fashions recently, I met an adorable young lady who was having her hair styled for a theatre performance, well enough in advance so she could change it if she had to. She was Janet Drozda, taking the lead in "Cabaret", upcoming the weekend of May 11 at Little Theatre. Janet, a student at Hanover High School, is the daughter of Ellis and Eleanor Drozda of Ashley; she takes dancing lessons at Bob Niznik Studio and singing lessons at Tony Grant's Studio. Her only previous theatre experience was in the chorus line of "Applause". Director choreographer of the show is Bob Niznik; Warren Cox of Scranton will play Cliff; and David Lutz of Wilkes College will be the M.C.

"Fiddler on the Roof" is the big news this week, playing March 27 through 31 at Wilkes College. Al Groh directs; Bob Niznik choreographs. Fred Pacolitch of Taylor is Tevya, and Nancy Greenberg of Liberty, N.Y., is his wife. We'll be there with shawl on!

The wonderful "Wizard of Oz" will be visiting us twice this season, once theatrically, and once in ballet.

Bob Leach will direct a performance of "Tale of the

Land of Oz" at Wilkes College April 29 to May 4 with a children's performance Saturday afternoon and an adult performance Monday night. This will be a musical and the first children's show undertaken at Wilkes, with the exception of one several years ago entitled "Recollections of Childhood", a group of original poems by Alfred Groh. Hope Wilkes continues this annually to add to the marvelous plays presented for children by College Misericordia and King's College. Children need this. The Wilkes-Barre Ballet Theatre is doing "The Wizard of Oz" June 1 and 2.

The Misericordia Players present "Jack and the Beanstalk" March 23 through 31 with a number of matinees for children. What a break for kids!

Broadway had better look to its laurels. Connie Alichnie of Larksville and Mary Pleban of Forty Fort presented a show by the third grade of the Third Avenue Kingston School recently. The third graders produced a very creditable puppet show, Mary Pleban's idea, and the series of plays was written, directed, and produced by the kids themselves. The youngsters also made their own sets and puppets. They even included stage lighting by using camp flashlights.

The plays were "Wagon Train", "Who's Going to Marry the Princess", "Planet Zero", "The Mystery of Bambi", and "Thumper and his Friends". Participating were Alyne Cutler, Kerrie Davis, Stephen Davis, Stephen Dombek, David Egleberger, Beth Evans, Dolores Evans, Robert Evans, Eileen Finnegan, Tony Fiotti, Judy Jarrett, Kip Jones, Peter Koltis, Denise Moser, Dianna Nester, Jeff Nice, Linda O'Rourke, Debra Phillips, George M. Polito, Laurie Ratowski, Beth Rood, Debbie Schutter, Lisa Slavinski, Ken Urbanski, Jim Williams.

Several performances were held throughout the day with students of the various classes

from kindergarten to sixth grade visiting Mrs. Alichnie's room. Miss Pleban is a student teacher whose tour of duty just ended and for whom the students gave a going-away party.

"Butterflies are Free" is coming up at Little Theatre March 29, 30, 31 with Bob Stempin directing. He has assembled a fine cast, and I can hardly wait to see this sensitive play.

Jerry Godwin of King's College reports that their production of "The Father" is the first Strindberg play to be given a proscenium production in the area. Directed by Carl Wagner, the play will be presented March 30, 31, and will star Gil Page of Philadelphia and Kathleen Johnson of Trucksville.

They follow this with a children's production of "The Elves and the Shoemaker" April 27, 28 and May 4 and 5 with Brother Jim Miller, a senior, as director. This will be student designed and executed.

The Luzerne County Tourist Promotion Agency's bi-monthly calendar must have had a thousand items for March and April, more than I have ever seen in any calendar. All Hades is breaking loose now that spring is here and gasoline is a bit more available. Take advantage of all the doings. If you haven't picked up your copy of the calendar, stop at 300 Market St., Kingston, and get one. It's worth your while.

As editor of the erstwhile "Our Town Magazine" I used to write a column like this one called "Around Town". But that seemed awfully dull to me, so I began titling the column, "High up on a Low Branch". Not one person ever asked me what it meant. As a matter of fact, it didn't mean a thing!

The aforementioned Alyne Cutler was the princess in "Who's Going to Marry the Princess," and Queen Esther in a Purim play at United Hebrew Institute. When teacher Masha Katz asked Alyne where she got her costume, Alyne said she wore it as an angel in the Christmas play at Third Avenue School! That's ecumenical, "haina"?



The Wyoming Seminary Upper School Parents' Council held its first talent auction recently. Contributions from faculty, wives, administration, parents, staff and friends were sold to the highest bidder. Shown are some of Sem's auctioneers. Left to right: Jack H. Meeks, director of development and alumni affairs, Dallas; Mrs. Robert C. Williams, Mountaintop; Charles Kanarr, president of the council, Harveys Lake; Mrs. Samuel Mackall, Forty Fort; and Dr. Wallace F. Stettler, president of Seminary, Kingston.

'Miss Parade of Progress' Will Be Selected April 27

Mrs. Samuel M. Wolfe III is serving as chairman of the "Miss Parade of Progress" contest to be held at the 28th annual Parade of Progress. The event, sponsored by the Greater Wilkes-Barre Jaycees, is scheduled for April 26, 27 and 28 at the Kingston Armory.

The "Miss Parade of Progress" contest is open to all young ladies who are high school graduates, between the ages of 18 and 25, and who have never been married. Ten young ladies will be selected to participate in the Parade of Progress and will model in fashion shows to be presented by The Teen Shoppe, The Lael Pritchard Shop, and The Country Corner Junior Boutique, formerly Pamela's Place.

"Miss Parade of Progress"

will be selected from among the 10 semi-finalists April 27. Young women who desire applications or further information may write to: Miss Parade of Progress Contest, Post Office Box 1519, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18703.

The deadline for entries is March 31. No entries will be accepted after that date.

Your social security number is the "key" to information about any state civil service tests you may have taken. Be sure to include it when you call or write the State Civil Service Commission about test results.

Your availability for employment—where you can work and when you will accept a job—are two important pieces of information for the State Civil Service Commission. Be sure to notify the Commission if there is a change in your availability.

Literary Honor Society To Present Irish Bard

Irish poet Thomas Kinsella will present a poetry reading at College Misericordia at 8 p.m. March 27 in Walsh Auditorium. Featured are excerpts from Kinsella's newest book, "Notes from the Land of the Dead," as well as readings from his translation of the Irish epic, "The Tain."

Kinsella is the winner of two Guggenheim Fellowships in Literature and has twice been awarded the Devlin Memorial Award, Ireland's principal recognition for poetry. He is currently a Professor of English and Poet in Residence at Temple University.

Other books published by Kinsella include "Nightwalker," "Another September," "Downstream," and "Wormwood." His poems are included in numerous anthologies, including "New Modern Poets," "Oxford Book of English Verse," and "Poet's Choice."

He has been described as an "intellectual troubador" with a desire to sing crossed by a need to explain.

The reading is sponsored by College Misericordia's chapter of Lambda Iota Tau, the national literary honor society. The public is invited to attend.

Bernie's PIZZA
692 MEMORIAL HWY. DALLAS
675-9611
Week Nights—4 pm to Mid
Friday—11 am to Mid
Weekends—3 pm to Mid
SUNSET PARK HARVEYS LAKE
639-5970

CHECKERBOARD INN
FEATURING
Seafood Steaks
Homemade Italian Food
Dinners Served
Tues-Sat 5 til 12
Diningroom closed Monday
Peter & Janice Mattioli
Carverton Rd. Trucksville

SHADOW BROOK
FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL
BRAISED SHORT RIBS OF BEEF,
Gravy, Choice of Potato,
Tossed Salad & Beverage \$3.00
Dinners Served
Monday Thru Thursday Friday & Saturday
5:00-8:30 5:00-9:00
Sunday 1:00-6:00
CALL 836-2151 Located 1 1/2 miles East of Tunkhannock, Pa. on Rte. 6

OVERBROOK INN - THE NICE RESTAURANT
West Overbrook Rd. Dallas, Pa.
Serving Dinner Tues. Thru Thurs. 5 To 9 p.m.
675-9639 Fri. & Sat. 5 To 10 p.m.
Sunday 12 To 7 p.m.
Daily Specials \$2.95 Full Course
Bring the family, plan your celebration with us. We supply the cake free.
Why Drive Downtown?

LIMITED TIME
ZENITH
BUILT-IN 8-TRACK
CONSOLE STEREO
SALE
The PAXTON • Model ET902W (shown at right)
Cabinet in wood grained Walnut color
20 Watts peak power. Zenith quality speaker system. FM/AM/Stereo FM tuner. 8-track tape player. Stereo Precision 1 record changer. Micro-Touch® 2G tone arm. Size: 26" H; 41" W; 17 1/2" D
The quality goes in before the name goes on®

WILLIAMS TV
226 Wyoming Ave., Kingston
FREE PARKING — OPEN EVENINGS
The PAXTON

Mr. Sandwich U.S.A.
WYOMING VALLEY MALL
Informal and decorative catering
Example: Fancy meat and cheese tray with rolls, potato salad, pickles and olives
\$2 per person
(Extras available)

Irene's Lake Silkworth Hotel
Every Friday Night 9:30 p.m. to 1:30
starring
"Yodeling Hank"
and the Rhythm Pioneers
for the best of Country & Western Music

Authentic serving tray reproduction
GREAT FOR COLLECTOR DECORATOR OR HOSTESS
from the original in the archives of The Coca-Cola Company
WHILE SUPPLY LASTS WITH ANY PURCHASE **59¢** each
Mark II
FAMILY RESTAURANTS
EDWARDSVILLE — MOOSIC ONLY
We Love Children

A Review

Community Concerts Presents Detroit Symphony Orchestra

by Harry Trebilcock
The Community Concerts presented their third concert last Thursday evening. It was comprised of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra playing Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet", Mozart's 4th Violin Concerto, Debussy's "Iberia" and the Rousset "Symphony in G minor". All this, and a great program it is, under the direction of a certain Serge Baudo.

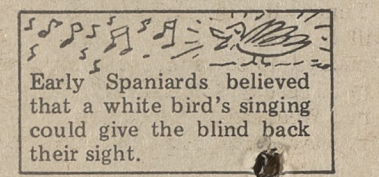
Mr. Baudo is a genius. One would have to be to make Tchaikovsky and Debussy as dull as they emerged on Thursday. Mr. Baudo has a gift for taking great music and reducing that music to the bone. The program notes tell me that Mr. Baudo made his debut at the Metropolitan Opera in 1970. One can only feel sorry for the singers. Mr. Baudo is a time-beater; and that's all. I saw him give at least three cues last Thursday, one of them to the triangle. A triumph of conducting, to cue in a triangle! He must be proud.

Following the intermission, which was perhaps the best part of the evening, Mr. Baudo returned, unfortunately, to conduct Debussy's "Iberia." At least that's what the program said. If that horror was Debussy's "Iberia", I'm a three-toed sloth. The conductor made the music sound like a bad soap opera. The essence of Debussy is sound, langrorous, sensuous, whatever—fill in your own "ous." And there was nothing of this in Mr. Baudo's performance. Mr. Baudo has a great gift for taking magic (and Debussy is full of magic) and reducing that magic to the lowest common denominator. And that's fairly low.

In all fairness, I must say that the last piece on the program, Rousset's "Symphony in G minor", was played magnificently. As was the encore, the "March of the Three Kings" by Bizet. One can only ask where was that brilliant sound for the first three-quarters of the program?

In short, I thought it a dreadful concert. It was not rehearsed, not planned, and played as a sight-reading clinic might play. I think it indicative of the entire affair, that those members of the orchestra not engaged in the Mozart Violin Concerto came out into the audience, ostensibly to listen, and fell asleep. So much for Mr. Baudo.

This man took Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet" and made it sound like nothing. That can't be easy. It was stale, flat, and tasteless. He then played the Mozart 4th Violin Concerto in a manner to convince one that here was an anti-musical man. It was given to Gordon Staples, concert-master of the orchestra, to play the solo part as a musician should play. It was interesting to hear Mr. Staples cut loose in his cadenzas and reveal himself as the fine performer he is—even though the tempos chosen by Mr. Baudo were funereal.



Big Boy PLATTER
THE Big Boy Hamburger
Served With French Fries or Potato Salad and Cole Slaw
1.19 SPECIAL
Now Thru Sunday
Elby's
Family Restaurants