

The arts



Dallas students win

Recently, Dallas Senior High School students participated in an art competition. The winning students were first row, Donald Burke, 2 gold key finalists and awards mentioned; Dave Harris, gold key; David Zachary, gold key; Charles Flemming, certificate. Row 2, Jessica Fritsky, certificate; Pam Elenchik, gold key; Chris Shalata, certificate; Sandy Rutkoski, three gold keys. Row 3, Mrs. Jane Walzak, art instructor; Frank Bigler, two gold keys; David Parduski, certificate; Kim Metzger, gold key; Jennifer Stueben, certificate; Jack Baines, certificate; Brenda King, certificate; Heather Hoyes, certificate; Wilbur Murdock, certificate; Mr. Steve Kasherbach, art instructor. Absent from photo were Paul Wilk, gold key winner and John Mooney, certificate winner.



Dance Visions performed

The Wyoming Seminary Dance Company will present its spring production, "Dance Visions," Friday and Saturday, May 6 and 7. The show, which takes place at 8 p.m. in the Buckingham Performing Arts Center on Sprague Avenue in Kingston, will feature a blend of ballet, jazz and modern dance. The production is choreographed by Bernardine Borinski Vojtko, dance instructor at Wyoming Seminary. The public is invited to attend. Pictured are members of the Dance Company, first row from left, Voula Tsoutsopliades, Dallas; Stephanie Ruckno, Forty Fort; and Yoon-Mi Chang, Dallas. Second row, Cynthia O'Brien, Dallas; Lori Prashker, Kingston, and Jane Oh, Dallas.

Catcalls & curtainscalls

BY BONNIE DOMBROSKI
Staff Writer

Recently my daughter and I were treated to a performance of "Charlotte's Web" at College Misericordia.

This Children's Theatre production of the E.B. White classic was presented by the Misericordia Players under the direction of Walter "Rusty" Andersen.

The group of children sitting in front of me were third-graders who had read the story of "Charlotte's Web" this year. They seemed to appreciate the show thoroughly and were especially entertained by the music of John Shemo (guitar), Chuck Eckert (piano) and Don Stone (percussion). The show tunes and original music had the audience clapping their hands and tap-

ping their feet.

Some of the younger children got fidgety (as children do) but the scene in which the entire cast pursued Wilbur the Pig up and down the aisles really captured their attention. I can see why the chase scene has become a favorite of Children's Theater audiences and a tradition for director Andersen.

The matinee we attended was a benefit performance given for the area's handicapped and underprivileged children. There were many schools represented and the students from the Scranton School for the Deaf brought along interpreters to sign the dialogue for them.

Gene Garber, Technical Director and Designer, made an extra effort to help accommodate this special audience. In the future, I hope

more teachers and counselors will make plans to attend a show like this because of the many benefits to the children.

The reasonable cost of the tickets, the intimate size of the theater, and the convenience of the Back Mountain location all contributed to the afternoon's enjoyment.

Children's Theater productions such as this are a welcome change from the usual children's fare and a perfect introduction for youngsters to live theater.

I congratulate College Misericordia for their 23 years of Children's Theater productions and hope they continue for at least another 23 years. I'm looking forward to seeing you at next year's performance. (Bonnie Dombroski's arts and entertainment column will appear monthly.)



"The Cheshire Cat" opens

"The Cheshire Cat" Art Gallery, Rte. 309, Trucksville will display the finest works of talented area artists. Pictured from left, Missy Turner, Pat Crisman, Genny Centrella, Sonja Stetten, Charlotte Ceconi, Jessica Proctor and Terry Proctor. (Linda Shurmaitis Photo)

Penn State presents drama

Black leaders Booker T. Washington, Malcolm X, and Martin Luther King, Jr. will come to life on the stage of Penn State Wilkes-Barre as the campus presents the African American Drama Company of California's (AACDC) "Can I Speak for You Brother?", Thursday, April 28 at 12 p.m. The performance will be held in the Bierly Auditorium, in the campus Science Center and is free and open to the public.

Prior to the performance members of the company will hold a master acting class for campus drama students.

"Brother?" is the Company's popular production combining dance, poetry, storytelling, puppetry, drama, letters, speeches and music to depict a chronology of Black leaders. Entertaining, informative and inspirational, the one-man show highlights such extraordinary leaders as W.E.B. DuBois, Frederick Douglass, High John, in addition to Booker T. Washington, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.

As the nation's most extensively toured, privately owned Black theater, AACDC has played 41 states from Alaska to Georgia. In its tenth national tour, the group visited 21 states this past winter. Their performance of "...Brother?" was featured in the PBS-TV series "Arts Alive."

For more information, contact Sean Kelly at Penn State Wilkes-Barre at (717) 675-9287.



Misericordia recital

Two College Misericordia music students will perform their senior recital on Saturday, April 30, in the College's Walsh Auditorium at 7 p.m. Vocalist Suzanne Hatrak will be accompanied by pianist Mary Catherine Rovinski in their senior recital, which is a degree requirement for music majors at Misericordia. From left, Suzanne Hatrak and Mary Catherine Rovinski.

"Charlotte's Web" adapted by student

BY BONNIE DOMBROSKI
Staff Writer

A special musical adaptation of "Charlotte's Web" was recently presented in the Walsh Auditorium by The Misericordia Players. The story was written by E.B. White and with some guidance from White was fashioned into a play by Joseph Robinette.

Walter "Rusty" Andersen, Associate Professor in the Humanities Division, and John Shemo, a student at Misericordia, have taken the play one step further by localizing some of the dialogue and adding some original music.

Andersen has directed these Children's Theater productions at College Misericordia for the last 23 years and has been involved with live theater since he was a child. Andersen, who has a Master of Fine Arts degree from Boston University, appeared as a child actor in a Broadway production of "Life With Father".

Shemo is in his fourth year at Misericordia after taking a year off from school upon graduating from Dallas High School in 1983. John has been in different local bands

since he was 17 and is currently a member of "Strawberry Jam".

Rusty, as he is affectionately called by his friends of all ages, reworked the dialogue to give the play some local flavor. For instance, the setting of the County Fair was changed to Bloomsburg and Bresler's ice cream was sold there.

There was no published music for the play so Rusty provided John with a tape of some show music and some lyrics he had written to go with the story. John said he came to the rehearsals for awhile until he got a feeling for the show and for what Rusty wanted. Other than the four or five show tunes featured, John created all the music for the show.

John told The Post he gave the music a modern sound with a jazz flavor. With the sound effects provided by Chuck Eckert on the synthesizer and Don Stone with percussion instruments, and the use of foreshadowing and underscoring by John on guitar, the three were able to create different moods throughout the play.

"John is very talented and we're lucky to have him," Andersen said. Rusty also praised all the students

who worked on the show. "We hear frequently about the bad things college kids do," Andersen said. This reinforces the positive image Rusty has of today's youth.

Andersen said that his experience provides a break from their studies but added that the students are still learning things. Since the college no longer offers a Theater major, this production is a club activity and no credits are earned for the time spent on it.

"I've learned a lot from Rusty," John said, referring to time spent both backstage and onstage. John also said he plans to pursue music throughout his life and considered this to be an invaluable experience.

John has worked on other Children's Theater productions at Misericordia, including "The Wizard of Oz" and "The Life of Br'er Rabbit" for which he wrote all the music. He has also been involved in putting together Rock Masses at the college.

This year's production of "Charlotte's Web" was the happy result of some real collaboration, some true talent, and some unselfish teamwork.

Campaign begins

The Wyoming Valley Band, northeastern Pennsylvania's only full-time professional instrumental ensemble composed totally of area residents, has opened its first Gifts Campaign with an opportunity for public support from corporations and individuals. This year marks the band's fourth year of existence and its first such support campaign.

Although the bands genealogy can be traced back to a group of fifers and drummers at the historical Battle of Wyoming, more realistically it begins with the band of the Ninth Infantry, Pennsylvania National Guard, during the Spanish-American War. Other ancestors include the 109th Field Artillery Band, the 28th Division Band, The American Legion Band, and the Stegmaier Gold Medal Band. Today's Wyoming Valley Band is establishing itself as a concert unit, oriented to everything from standard marches and Broadway shows to original contemporary works for symphonic band.

In addition to covering operating expenses and increasing its performance schedule, the band hopes to broaden its public recognition and support base. Among other appearances the band performs several "Night of Music" concerts annually and the next such is scheduled for Tuesday, May 24 at Darte Center of Wilkes College. All concerts are presented without charge and open to the public.

When a contributor makes a gift in any amount to the band a membership card in the "Sousa Club" or "Podium Club" is issued to them, they are listed on band programs for the year and receive periodic band news, among other benefits. Gifts in any amount may be sent to Wyoming Valley Band, 10 Gordon Street, Dallas, 18612.

The band is a tax-exempt non-profit organization and operates under a constitution. Band president is Jonathan Pineno of Lehman. Founder and conductor of the unit is Reese E. Pelton of Dallas.

Spencer to compete

Frank Spencer, a senior student at Bishop O'Reilly High School in Kingston, has qualified for the PMEA All-State Chorus to be held in Pittsburgh on April 29-May 1.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. John Spencer, Dallas, Frank has been participating in District and Regional Choruses since his sophomore year. Spencer is pictured above, standing, with Mr. Thomas Hanlon. (Bernie Walko Photo)



Volunteers still needed

Susan Davis, volunteer coordinator for The International Children's Theatre Festival says volunteers are still needed for the three-day event in May.

"Our response has been good, but there are still many activities that need volunteers. We're seeking assistance in two particular areas: Playworks: volunteers to help children in making creative, pre-planned crafts, and crossing guards, to help insure the chil-

dren's safety." Davis said, "If anyone has some free time, please call or fill out and mail the coupon below so we can help provide the fun-filled days for our areas' children."

The Festival is scheduled for May 18, 19, and 20, in various locations in Wilkes-Barre. This is the first time Theatre for Children will be held in Northeastern Pa. It is hoped it will become an annual event.

International Children's Theatre Festival Volunteer to help!

Name Phone.....

Address

City/State/Zip

Mail To: N.E.P.A. Theatre Festival, c/o F.M. Kirby Ctr.
P.O. Box 486, Wilkes-Barre, PA 18703
Or Call 829-KIDS

Day: Wed., Thurs., Fri. Shift: 9-3, 9-12, 12-3