



PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS — Area students are helping make sure this year's Theatre-On-The-Green production of 'Much Ado About Nothing' goes smoothly by serving as production assistants. Shown from left are, seated, Melissa Billington, Traci Gusher, Amanda Marshall, and Rosemary Whalen. Standing are Drew Bishop and Libby Davies. (Post Photo/Eric Foster)

Students help with Theatre-On-The-Green production of 'Much Ado About Nothing'

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

When College Misericordia hosts its annual Theatre-On-The-Green July 17 to 19, the actors playing the parts will be seasoned professionals from around the country.

Working behind the scenes however, will be seasoned volunteers from the Back Mountain.

The volunteers include 10 area high school and college students, who as production assistants, will make sure that there is sound and lights for the performance.

"They get to work with professional actors," said Donald Hopkins, who directs the production assistants. "They work with the sets and lights. This is all practical experience that they can take back to their schools."

This year's performance will be of Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing," done in the style of the roaring 1920's.

Hopkins, an English teacher and drama director at Dallas High School, has been involved with Theatre-On-The-Green for four of its five years, and has directed the production assistants for three of those years.

Two of Hopkins' production assistants have been involved with the Theatre-On-The-Green for three years running. Though neither is involved in theater at college, both find the experience rewarding.

Dallas will stay with LIU

By ERIC FOSTER
Post Staff

The Dallas School Board voted to contract with the Luzerne Intermediate Unit to provide special education services for the 1992-93 school year.

In response to public questions about the possibility of having the district run its own special education classes, superintendent Gerald Wycallis reported that taking back special education programs would cost the district about \$22,000 more than the cost from the intermediate unit.

Ernest Ashbridge, president of the board, noted that with other districts taking their special education programs back from the intermediate unit, it may become cost effective for Dallas to take the programs back later.

The board voted to renew superintendent Wycallis's contract for another five-year term starting in July of 1993. Wycallis started working at Dallas in 1972 as an elementary principal. From 1977 to 1984 was supervisor of curriculum and instruction, and became superintendent in 1984.

Janet Evans, who was named executive secretary to the superintendent after working as acting secretary for the past year.

Brian Judge was hired as a mechanical drawing teacher in the high school.

The board approved a sabbatical leave for the 1992-93 school year requested by June Eyet for travel and study purposes.

Clark Van Orden was appointed as a volunteer assistant coach at the Dallas Middle School.

The school board rescheduled its August meetings. The worksession will be held August 17 at 7 p.m. in the administration building. The work session will be devoted to the district's long range plan.

The regular meeting will be held August 24.

"It's been growing every year. It's a kind of event where a lot of people don't get to see something of this quality," said David Crake, a 1990 Dallas High School graduate. Crake is studying business administration, economics and computers at Wilkes University.

"Just the involvement with the professional people, it's different from working with high school students," said Dave Zachary, another 1990 Dallas graduate. Zachary is studying math at Elizabethtown College.

"The first two years, they learned a lot. I'm glad they're here now because they can pass it on to a new group," said Hopkins.

The other production assistants are William Camp, Libby Davies, Rosemary Whalen, Drew Bishop, Amanda Marshall, David Seidel, Traci Gusher, and Andrea Shone.

The production assistants also have created an indoor stage and set in Walsh Auditorium that can be used in case of rain.

"We build an indoor set and hope it's never seen," said Hopkins. "It's not identical to the one outside, but it will give them a similar acting area."

The production assistants began work Monday morning, July 13, hammering together the indoor sets. In the afternoon, they set up the outdoor sets with the cast of the play, and before the weekend's show goes on, they run through the dress rehearsals with

the cast. "During the dress rehearsals, they do everything they would do for a normal show," said Hopkins. "Sometimes we're not out of here until 11:30 p.m. They do the lights and handle the sound and the props. Three or four of them, dressed in appropriate costume, will help with ushering and the details needed in the front of the house."

Other volunteers from the community help with other aspects of the production, such as ticket sales and setting up the grounds.

Like many of Shakespeare's plays, "Much Ado About Nothing" is about matching the right people with one another.

"In this play, you have two people, Beatrice and Benedick, opposite each other, who find they are best suited to each other," said the play's director, Jim Petosa.

For this year's production, Misericordia's maintenance staff has constructed a permanent earthen stage, which will allow the actors to be more acrobatic than they could on the temporary wooden stage formerly used.

Tickets for the play are \$7 for chair and bleacher seats, and \$3 for lawn seating. At press time, lawn seating has sold out for Friday and Saturday, but was still available for Sunday. Chair seating was still available for each night. For tickets, call the Theatre Box Office at 674-6719.

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Auction

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been snapped up by Friday night.

Other booths did equally well.

"The Odds 'n Ends booth set a new record," said chairman Sybil Pelton. "We earned more than \$3,100! We're very tired but also very thrilled."

Pelton said that one customer bought an electric charcoal lighter, which he had wanted for several years, for \$1.

The Nearly Old booth had its second best year ever, raising more than \$2,000, according to chairman Maryan Daily. Many beautiful old linens, a beer stein made in Germany and a mint-condition sewing basket were among the unusual items featured. Several pieces of collectible Fiesta china which did not sell will be saved for next year, Mrs. Dailey said.

Bennie Matchett reported that Mrs. Crump's Book Booth was an overwhelming success. "This was our first year working without the guidance of our old friend Mrs. Crump," Matchett said. "I don't have all the sales figures in yet, but I know that people waited in line to get into our booth Sunday."

An older man visiting the book booth looking for a copy of the song "The Church in the Wild Wood" lucked out when Matchett, co-chairman Priscilla Liput and other volunteers dug through mountains of old books, Sunday night finally finding one that contained the song.

"He was thrilled to find it," Matchett said. "The song is very special to him because it had been his grandmother's favorite hymn."

Matchett also commended Jane McMichael, who did a yeoman's job carrying books and other heavy items out to the booths, and the library staff, who took extra time from their work to help handle the influx of donated items.

A small army of members of the Dallas Feder-

ated Women's Club made countless batches of the club's famous fudge in four varieties. After an eight year absence, the fudge made a roaring comeback. "I saw Shirley Smith on her way home from work, carrying an armload of fudge ingredients to make up Saturday night," Connie Scott laughed.

Fresh Welsh cookies made at the auction by the Women of the Rotary were snapped up by hungry customers almost as fast as the women could make them.

Scott was pleased with the public's response to the private vendors who set up booths on the library grounds. "Some new businesses took advantage of this opportunity to give themselves more exposure to the community," she said. "Several vendors said that they were glad to be a part of the community, to be able to give something back to their customers."

Visitors had a special treat Sunday night when watercolor paintings of Friday and Saturday night's activities by local artist Sue Hand and her protege Leigh Pawling were auctioned off.

Another contributor, the Fourth Annual Back Mountain Memorial Library Horse Show, held Sunday, June 28, attracted a record number of spectators and raised more than \$4,000 for the library, according to co-chairman Dr. John Shaskas. Sixty-four riders entered 33 classes in the all-English show.

"The state's cutbacks in library funding have had us all worried," Scott concluded. "But when the chips were down, the community stepped forward to help out. The auction is always a good family event, a way for the public to have fun, find some great bargains and help support their library, our very special resource."

Zoning appeal

(continued from page 1)

Occupation regulations, the primary structure on a lot most be used to store any material involved in a business.

The township zoning hearing board voted July 2 to allow Moser to operate a home occupation and use the small house for storage for a one-year trial period provided that he look for a new place to store his supplies in the coming year.

"We asked him in that year's time to look for another place to house his business," said William Bachman, chair of the zoning hearing board. Bachman said that the zoning hearing board gave Moser the year to find a new home for his supplies because he had bought the house assuming that he could store them there.

Moser said that when he lived in Dallas Township, he had no problems storing cleaning supplies in his separate garage, even though that area was also zoned residen-

tial. The township supervisors want Moser to move the cleaning gear sooner, not later, and voted July 8 to authorize township solicitor Benjamin Jones to appeal the zoning board's decision to county court.

"Home occupation was written into the ordinance for the lawyer who has a briefcase and wants to see a client at home," said township manager Jeffrey Box. "The supervisors feel that the Zoning Hearing Board stretched their interpretation of the ordinance."

"The board feels that it's against the ordinance," said Benjamin Franklin, chairman of the supervisors. "He wants to store equipment in his rear residence. If he just put the stuff in the principal building, it'd probably be all right. We've never allowed it before. The zoning hearing board never allowed it before."

Moser feels that the supervisors' action to try and overturn the approval he was granted by the zoning hearing board may have something to do with his involvement in protesting the trash-hauling agreement the township entered into with the Dallas Area Municipal Authority.

"These are people who are obviously not friends of mine because of the garbage situation," said Moser. "I'm surprised they're spending taxpayers money to send this to county court."

Franklin says that Moser's involvement in protesting the garbage collection system has nothing to do with the appeal.

According to Benjamin Gorey, the township's zoning officer, if judge rules that a hearing is necessary, the township's solicitor could find himself arguing with the zoning board's solicitor, Robert Op- II.

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