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Thalians To Stage Their Ninth Production

Thalians, entering its fifth year of existence, is currently producing The Rivals, Richard Sheridan's hilariously funny satire. The Rivals (reviewed elsewhere in the paper) is an eighteenth century Restoration comedy which after some 190 years is still considered stage-worthy. For three weeks, the thirteen-member cast of The Rivals have developed eighteenth century characters which are accurate representations of Sheridan's satirical comedy. Sheridan's more famous work, The School for Scandal, a work studied in the Dordt Freshman English curriculum, is comparable in many ways to The Rivals. In both plays, Sheridan jabs "passion," the conventional sentiment of that day, advocating as a substitute a Socratic principal of moderation in all things.

Correct character interpretation is crucial to staging of Sheridan comedy; consequently, much depends on the acting ability of the cast. The present cast is highlighted by such experienced Thalians as Jeri Brower, Alan Huisman, and John Schuurman. Miss Brower, a four-year participant in drama, portrays the exhaustingly funny Mrs. Malaprop while Huisman, also in his last year, stages the unpredictable old Sir Anthony Absolute. Happy-go-lucky Schuurman uses his well-developed facial expressions to create a very unique Acres-the English plowjockey turned gentleman.

Being the only focus on dramatic arts at the college, the Thalians organization consisting of students majoring in every imaginable field, are sparing no efforts in producing three memorable nights on the Dordt stage. Stage movements, memorization of lines, and character interpretation are primary concerns of

the Thalian actor. Behind this acting mask, however, exists the typical, animated student. The best indication of this normalcy is the informal, backstage "horseplay" which ranges from impromptu song-and-dance teams to six-man, full-court cageball skirmishes.

Directing the current production is Mr. James Koldenhoven, a member of the English Department. Koldenhoven has directed most of the Thalian productions and some of the plays in his drama repertoire include The Admirable Crichton, Pygmalion, and Shakespear's classic Macbeth. Currently Mr. Koldenhoven is also spearheading a drive for more concentration on the dramatic arts at Dordt. Presently, a committee of faculty-administration members is thoroughly investigating the propriety and feasibility of drama at a Christian college. The implications of this committee will be of direct importance to development of dramatic concern at the college. Thalians anticipate the time when Dordt will accredit the student for theatrical productions and provide courses on drama in the academic curriculum. Serving as a stimulant to Thalian efficiency, these things could make the organization more beneficial to the college as an implement to promote an appreciation of art to both Dordt students and to the off-campus constituency.

Indeed, The Rivals, will be another "extra curricular" production in the field of drama, but the future may contain a time when plays produced will be part of a drama curriculum at Dordt college.

Patriotic Rallies This Week

"Freedom Isn't Free" but the Patriotic Hootenanny on Thursday, November 10, is. Sponsored by the Student Council, this hootenanny will feature the Opposite Six, a "musical" lately sprung-up on campus, and a mass choir composed of all patriots present. You will hear and sing "Freedom Isn't Free," "This Cruel War," "God Bless America," and other patriotic folk songs. Don't miss it! On the following morning (Armistice Day), all nation-loving students will also observe an on-campus flag-raising ceremony at 7:15 A.M., conducted by the VFW and the American Legion. However, the Patriotic Hootenanny might have to dismiss on time if all students are to be wide awake for the flag-raising ceremony.

Dordt to Hear Christy Minstrels

Under the combined initiative of Dordt Student Council and the Student Senate of Northwestern College, the New Christy Minstrels will appear on December 8 at Northwestern Auditorium. See story under Council Activity elsewhere.



LYDIA'S LAMENT



David Sinclair

November 9, 11, and 12, the students of Dordt College will be given the opportunity to see one of the world's finest comedies, Sheridan's The Rivals. It is one of the finest examples of Restoration comedy, which simply means that it was written when the monarchy was restored in England after the Puritan interlude. The spirit of the age was one of insouciance and frivolity, and this spirit is reflected in this lighthearted comedy.

The standard criticism of The Rivals is the lack of coherent plot. The plot is absurdly complex, beautifully foolish, and almost unbelievably inane. This criticism has fortunately not kept the piece out of standard repertoires, for after 191 years The Rivals remains a classic comedy. The play has always been a favorite of audiences and shows no signs of dying. In fact, the beauty of the play lies in its silliness and frivolity.

The characters in the play are among the most memorable in theatre. Each of the major, and even the minor characters is delineated with a sharpness and clarity that is truly remarkable. Each character has a most distinct personality, and Sheridan has the remarkable ability to make each character seem real and familiar. The empathy between audience and actors in the play is kept high. The characters are human.

Undoubtedly, the funniest, most memorable character is Mrs. Malaprop. This dear woman has the ability to misuse nearly every word she sets her tongue to. Her "use of her oracular tongue and a nice derangement of epitaphs" is celebrated in the word "malapropism." The other characters too are exaggerated and overdone, and together they compose the comical farce.

Perhaps the play is too funny. It is very probable that in this production, through no fault of the troupe or the audience, most of the comic lines will not be caught by the audience simply because they come so fast that it is not possible to absorb them as quickly as they are given. The lines are just too funny, and they come too fast. But it is a marvelous play.

From a theoretical standpoint. The Rivals ought never to have survived 191 years. Its faults are too overwhelming.

We may certainly be thankful that things do not always work out according to theory. Otherwise, a beautifully technical play and a rewarding evening at the theatre would be denied us.

Council Activities

Dordt students will get a chance to hear the New Christy Minstrels if plans made in the November 3rd Student Council Meeting go as expected. The Minstrels will be jointly sponsored by Northwestern College and Dordt, using the Northwestern auditorium. The President of the Northwestern Senate was present at the meeting and outlined the tentative plans his Senate had already made. The Student Council passed a motion to jointly sponsor the New (for Dr. Rozeboom who thought this might be the same group started after the Civil War) Christy Minstrels on December 8.

Lest you think this is all the Student Council has done, a few highlights from previous meetings are in order. The first meeting of the '66-'67 Student Council was held October 18 where the first order of business was to elect the rest of the officers: Ron Rynders, Vice-Pres; Sid Halma, Sec'y; and Aldon Kuiper, Treas. Several important committee appointments were made at that time by President Drenth: Dan Veldman and Aldon Kuiper to the Student Conduct Committee and Ron Rynders to the Chapel Committee. One minor item of business was permitting the Delta Sigma Kappa to have charge of the Friday, October 28th activity thus relieving the Student Council of all responsibility for the "Truth About Spring." The main highlight of the October 27th meeting was the report on the Dordt Bookstore

made by Dean Ribbens who pointed out to the students who were complaining of high prices, high mark-ups, and low resale that the Nebraska Book Publishing Company is not making much profit on the Dordt Bookstore. Which still leaves the question: Is the Dordt Bookstore making profit on the students? Other highlights of the meeting were plans for the Christmas Party, featuring outside entertainment; and some pre-Christmas activity such as caroling and decorating.

The November 3rd meeting was actually not opened by the Minstrel news, but by some interesting committee reports. The Activities Committee reported the cancellation of the All-School Cookout which was due presumably to the weather although the sun was shining, and the plans for the Patriotic Hootenanny to be held November 10, and the flag-raising Nov. 11. The Cheerleaders' committee chairman, Jean Theune, reported the plans for cheerleading tryouts to be judged by the Student Council and the three coaches on November 12. Unfortunately, there are only seven girls as yet signed up for the tryouts. The committee appointed as Consistory delegation to Bethel and First Church about continuing evening services throughout the winter had no report although they stated informally that Bethel is quite likely opposed.

A motion was passed to publish a letter in the Voice asking the graduating classes, who have left collectively some \$747, if said money may be used for a Commons' music system. When asked, President Drenth said that naturally they will get credit for the donation in the

(Continued on next page)



SIR LUCIUS AND THE BRAVE MR. ACRES

Fine Arts Preparation Nearing Presentation

The music department is polishing the efforts of weeks of rehearsal for the presentation of the Fall Fine Arts Festival. The Festival is to be presented on Friday night, 8 p. m. on November 18. Tickets are to be sold at the door only, and are reasonably priced at 50¢ for students, 75¢ for adults.

The groups which will be performing are the following: the Concert Band, directed by Mr. Grotenhuis, and the Chorale, led by Mr. Warmink.

Making their first appearance will be the Male Chorus and the Concert Choir, both conducted by Mr. Grotenhuis.

Rounding out the program will be small ensembles, including a brass quartet and a vocal ensemble.

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES, Continued
form of a plaque located perhaps in the inside of one of the four speakers.

President Drenth very reluctantly brought up an item of business (for which she assured the Council they could impeach her) that plans had already been to secure the services of speaker Dr. Doolin for November 15. The cost which would have to be met by Council plans, if deficit, will naturally be footed by Miss Drenth. Dr. Rozeboom comforted her with the fact that he would personally provide better meals than she was getting now when she was in jail.

The Student Conduct Committee asked for the appointment of two members of the opposite sex to the Committee in order to perfect plans for an initiatory committee rather than merely a consultative one, to work with the faculty discipline committee. This would involve a lot more responsibility in student discipline resting with the student committee itself. The appointment was made.

The last main business was the Minstrels and then several minor matters were taken care of such as a reprimand to Miss Drenth for placing thumbtacks which make holes in the Student Council Bulletin Board, a motion to pay last year's Intramural Bulletin Board bill (the Bulletin Board from Sears Roebuck and Co. will be up soon—glass enclosed!), permission granted to Pete DeHaan to purchase at least 50 sheets of tagboard in one bunch to be used for Activities advertising, and last, but not least, a motion to grant the Diamond staff \$25 petty cash fund to pay several petty bills (contents not divulged except one was for film "and stuff"). With that unanimous motion the weekly meeting of the Student Council was adjourned.

PREPARATION FOR FALL FESTIVAL



GROTENHUIS AND HIS BAND



"... HEART"

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

Concerning Mr. Elgersma's letter to the Editor of October 31, I would like to ask one question: in what way was this letter constructive? Mr. Elgersma criticized Mr. Huisman for his alleged and largely mythical "forgotten propriety," yet there was not one constructive statement in the entire letter, just slams of Mr. Huisman and of the Diamond for printing a somewhat controversial article.

I defend Mr. Huisman not necessarily because of agreement, but because of his right, as a critic, to express his considered opinions. We feel sure Mr. Huisman would not make statements such as he made without sufficient backing for those opinions.

Mr. Elgersma sets a standard for criticism—"building, strengthening, edification and love." Yet he fails to live up to these standards in his criticism of Mr. Huisman. This points up a lesson (which hopefully will be building, strengthening, edifying and demonstrative of Christian love) that one should live up to the standards which one sets for others. Mr. Elgersma has failed to do this. He commits the error he was deploring, and I'm afraid that his letter takes on more the quality of two-day-old grapefruit.

Sincerely,
David W. Sinclair

Debate Team Prepares Foreign Policy Topic

"Resolved: That the United States should substantially reduce its foreign policy commitments." This is the topic that our debate team and all debate teams across the nation will be using for discussion this year.

Debaters meet at least once a week to gather material and to hold practice debates. Each member has a partner with whom he discusses affirmative or negative views. Much time is put into the club to gather and organize material for the meets.

The team, composed of eight new members this year, is coached by Mr. William T. Lothers. Members are: Orlin Hogan, Barbara Jabaay, Larry Kooi, Ron Oostra, Reynold Siebenga, John Strikwerda, Jack Van Vliet, and Dean Vander Veen.

Scheduled events began with teams observation of a debate held at the University of Dakota on Saturday, November 4. Wayne State University in Nebraska will give the squad members their first challenge on December 2 and 3. On December 8 and 9 they will be in Sioux Falls, South Dakota for another meet.

These early events should provide worthwhile experience for the potentially strong debate squad.



Editorial

THE RIVALS.... (DRAMA AND CHRISTIANS)

"The play's the thing wherein I'll catch the conscience of the King." And the play's the thing that has captured the conscience of many a Reformed Christian. English departments painfully assert that "drama has had a hard time of it" in Christian high schools and colleges. Gratefully we acknowledge, however, the progress made and being made in proper evaluation of the place and purpose of dramatic arts in Christian curricula.

Some rivalry, no doubt, will occur over The Rivals. Purpose will be questioned. The moral and value will be looked for, and probably not found. Others, however, will enjoy it in a naive sort of way, seeing no more than surface humor and fun. Diversity of audience makes unitary reception impossible.

Relaxation hunters ask: Must we always look for deeper meaning? Can't we just sit back and enjoy something? The answer is bound up in an undeveloped (to this writer at any rate) theory of pre-theoretical involvement, allowing for both pipe and slipper enjoyment and critical evaluation. So, become involved with the play; enjoy the totality of presentation. But remember that any production worthy the name of art is a reflection of self. It uncovers frag-

ments of truth relating to self.

The frequently challenged function and purpose of drama involves more than what first appears. And because of its implications, it is a challenge not easily answered. To prove that statement, question any member of the newly formed study committee on dramatics. Redeemed Christians are constantly involved in a reclamation process in this world. Christ has redeemed the world—it now remains for us to reclaim and redirect it to its Redeemer. This is no less true in literature, more specifically, drama. It is a matter then, of reinterpreting and redirecting the fragments of truth which depraved man has been allowed to reproduce through grace overflowing from Christ's redemptive work. This is a sticky business however, because these fragments are embedded in an apostate whole.

Thus, objections to the non-commentary nature of drama have been made. Products of humanism can be taught in classrooms because of an interpreter—a "redirector." But who, other than three-page program notes, will guide the audience as they watch a humanistic play?

A democratic American once watched a Communism-indoctrinating play in Russia. When it was over, and he was asked what he thought of it, he only shook his head and said, "You poor suckers."

And thus it is with any well-founded

Christian. We hold the key of interpretation to open every humanistically constructed, self-locked door to Truth in drama. For a long time now this key has been in the conservative pocket of Reformed belief. We have been afraid to use it for fear that we might find some bad bug-a-boos mixed with the Truth behind those locked doors. Indeed some of us keyhole peepers have even claimed to have seen them. Licentious actors and actresses, church-scoffers, and hyper-sophisticated Thelians are among those discovered.

We seem to fail to realize that peeping isn't purifying; that, not unless we open the door, will we be able to separate Truth from bug-a-boo.

Red China Specialist On Campus--Nov. 15

A lecture on the subject of Red China will be presented at Dordt College on Tuesday, November 15, by Dr. Dennis Doolin, one of America's top-ranking authorities on China. He lectures on government and political science at Stanford University. He is in charge of research on the East Asian affairs at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace Center for advanced study in international affairs.

Red China contains the largest population on earth, dominates the largest continent of the world, and is believed by many to hold the greatest threat to the Western way of life. Dr. Doolin, in his lecture, covers many spheres of the Chinese communist system: political, economical, agricultural, social, and military. He analyzes in detail the doctrines and goals of the communist government in China, comparing the accomplishments and the failures; the limiting factors of the system and its visible contributions; the constraints of human nature; and the directions of present trends.

Dr. Dennis Doolin's background includes over seven years spent in the Far East. He holds three degrees, and his university work was at the University of Hong Kong, University of San Francisco, and Stanford University. He has a thorough knowledge of the Chinese language. His writings on China are highly regarded, and he has been called on by the United States government as a consultant in Asian affairs.

Insects sting, not in malice, but to live. It is the same with critics: they desire our blood not our pain.

—Nietzsche