Festival, play recreate 19th Century America

By Paula Cahnmann

America in the 1830s will be recreated Tuesday through Thursday, May 30-31, at the annual Spring Drama Festival at University High School, 1362 East 59th Street.


"The Matchmaker," which will be performed each evening, will be presented in the courtyard between U-High and Blaine Hall, with the show starting at 6:30 p.m. Each act of the festival and play will be for $1 students and $2 adults.

If rain closes the festival, or play any evening, the festival will be extended through Sunday.

"The Matchmaker," by Thornton Wilder, is one of the theater's most enduring, classic comedies. It traces back to a one-act British play, "A Day Well Spent," written in 1930. Oxenford, the author, developed the story further for a comedy seven years later.

Wilder, an American author, says "The Matchmaker" is one of his "best plays" in his long career. He wrote "The Matchmaker" and both play as the basis for his first novel, "Our Town." The novel was published in 1916, the year after "The Matchmaker" debuted on Broadway.

The May Festival will be the first time one person has done so. Mrs. Ambrosini has designed the entire festival, including all the booths, the stage, sets and all furniture in the play. The money also will help finance a larger Festival this year will be performed by more than last year. Complete festival, nearly a dozen stores, many in multiple units. Everyone working the festival will be dressed in clothes of the period, with participants responsible for making their own costumes. More than 20 booths are expected.

An enlarged, continuous court show will bring all parts of the Laboratory Schools together.

The stage, sets and all furniture in the play were designed by Mrs. Ambrosini's husband, Allen. Students built the 14 pieces of furniture plus 14 additional set pieces.

Senior Eric Nash, technical director, headed the construction crew assisted by Sophomore Norm Stockwell, Senior Tim Lewontin heads the lighting crew; Sensor Karen Madd, makeup; Mary and Julie, costumes; and Junior Atsuo Kuki, sound. Senior Faye Price is assistant director. Mrs. Ambrosini has designed the festival as a whole, including all the booths, the first time one person has done so. Mrs. Ambrosini's husband, Allen, Students built the 14 pieces of furniture plus 14 additional set pieces.

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The 1890 motif will be carried in a graceful Art Nouveau design. The booths will be arranged like stores, many in multiple units. Everyone working the festival will be dressed in clothes of the period, with participants responsible for making their own costumes.

More than 20 booths are expected for the festival, nearly a dozen more than last year. Complete meals and snacks will be available from food concessions sponsored by the Deli Dali delicatessen, the Black Students Association, the French, German and Russian Clubs, and at an ice cream parlour.

The Russian Club also will feature a belly dancer.

New booths include a pawn shop, a novelty shop with period pieces, a glass-blowing exhibit, fruit stand, candy store, and simultaneous chess matches with members of the Chess Club.

A museum will exhibit memorabilia and artifacts of the 1890s.

Other attractions will include a tie-dyeing booth, plants sold by 7th graders from the Middle School, jewelry and ceramics done by craft Teacher Nella Wein, and goods sold by Science Teacher Richard Boyajian (see advertisement page 9).

An enlarged, continuous court show that brings all parts of the Laboratory Schools together will be performed 6:30-12:30 nightly.

Roving sellers will sell shells and cotton candy.

The May Festival was begun in 1969 as a fund-raising project, succeeding an indoor "Bazaar," to benefit school projects. Festival profits presently go to the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund and other selected programs, however, much of the receipts ($6,000, of which about $1,000 is profit) must go to the high cost of producing the Festival and play themselves.

The larger Festival this year will require a larger crowd to break even, Mrs. Ambrosini said.

Dean of Students Standford Cahnmann estimated that about 2,000 people have attended in recent years.

Bleachers erected for the play in front of the stage outside the cafeteria doors will hold 450 people comfortably and 800 with supplementary seating.

Mr. Carmichael feels that, as a project, the festival is important to the school because "it helps to bring the school year to a climactic determination. It is one of the only things that brings all parts of the Laboratory Schools together."
A student's

From Senior David Wilkins:

I am a black senior who has been in the Laboratory Schools system for 13 years. You won't have any problem determining my letter's topic.

In the next few paragraphs, I would like to go beyond the generalities, platitudes and rhetoric that permitted the May 8 letter to the Midway and deal with specific objections that were raised.

After a rather lengthy and vague three-paragraph preamble concerning the student's general dislike for the treatment of blacks by U-High, the letter goes on to list four concrete objections to the articles in The Midway.

First, the anonymous writer feels that BSA should not "leach" money from U-High if it does not approve of the school. At the risk of invoking even more wrath from our dissatisfied while student by using one of our favorite expressions, it is evident here that she does not understand the entire purpose behind BSA.

This organization was founded with the dual purpose of giving blacks a feeling of community and making the white students aware of the problems of black-U-Highers and black people in general.

The only requirement for obtaining money from the Student Activities Fund, from which BSA and all other organizations draw their resources, is that the organization must in some way benefit the school community.

By providing white students with an opportunity to learn about a culture that they may one day be expected to work with some time in their lives, BSA certainly qualifies as well if not better than, the Model Train Club, the Hockey Team and Junior Achievement Student.

Secondly, it is important to remember that BSA sponsors several fund raising events each year to provide for these organizations that we see not only important, but also important to the Soul Food Dinner, the BSA play, and the soul food booth in the Midway Food Court. All of these have been a major contribution to such organizations as the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Fund and the Scholarship Shop.

In the position sections, BSA has really put its money and its effort where its mouth is.

The next objection that was raised in the letter is that the black student association does not, as it should, give freedom of expression when it has any black students in my house, when my mother has partied them with all the dignity, compassion and respect that she deserves as a fellow being in a difficult situation, and not as a mindless automation. We try to have an understanding of her feelings and of her family that she left behind. It is this understanding we respect that is missing in many white homes, and makes this already difficult job flittery and degrading.

The third complaint that the whole student has with Onyx is that blacks should not complain about being treated the way they are treated the white students. Instead we feel that we are isolated from our own personal and cultural roots in the black community.

This is precisely the reason why blacks tend to cluster together-to try and form a substitute for the missing black society.

Finally, the student claimed that school parties were cancelled because they were black parties. Being involved in the decision to eliminate school parties, I can state with assurance that this is just not true.

These parties were cancelled because no one was coming-black or white. More importantly, if white students did not like the kind of parties that were being given, they could have easily voted in white students to change them.

Blacks are still a minority at this school, and I have yet to hear of a situation in which a minority without power has controlled a majority against its will.

From the preceding four objections it is obvious that this anonymous writer does not understand the concerns of black students. What she or anyone else has to do anything with the fact that she is black and doesn't like people to think that she is black. It is an inescapable part of judgment.

Finally there is an attempt to provide the explanation she claims has been so long demanded.

The last three paragraphs of her letter and the absence of a signature are, to me, most depressing. Not only does she have no courage to affix her signature to what she has written, she also has no courage to take the responsibility for her own actions on some kind of paper.

In the last analysis, no one can make you do anything you don't want to do. The idea is a good one and shows that at least this branch of student government is doing some thinking.

BA's

From the Black Students Association: To the Nameless One:

Because you did not choose to firmly back your letter by signing your name, we have no way of being sure you gave true concern or just said it for responsibility of your feelings, but we feel so.

We seem to have made two unforgivable sins according to reality and two, not publishing something people wanted to see. From what is nothing, something that would help them ease their guilty conscience, and that there cannot be of black student without and at some and U-High. No more of name-calling and widens will that change.

As we write about all whites being classified as us, black, and racist pigs, we could know your mistake of classifying all people on the election is some (your letter is addressed to all black suppressions isn't as much washing andaddock for a lot of view on the racism against you called another lie and completely ridiculous.

I expressed opinions in Onyx. How can you call someone's opinion a lie? Your刨it is your opinion. Do you consider yourself a liar? As for the opinions of others, you are right that all people don't think alike whether they be black or white.

We no reason not to print someone else's opinions because you offended you. As far as you are concerned, you feel we have a view of the world being upset. Here is the problem, I can't help but think you are right.

we think people have as much right to activity money as anyone any group in this school.

As a Midway racist if only because of us-if the shoe fits, wear it. But don't blame the lengths of your feet on us.

A teacher's

From Drama Teacher Paul Shedd:

Last year West has come and gone. Was it a success? Was it a failure? What are all the positive aspects? These are some of the questions I hoped to first answer for you. I picked up the latest edition of the Midway. I was disappointed. In spite of the fact that the BSA members and other black students in the school may be classified by their activities and the Midway neglected to discuss in detail what Back to School means to them.

Another Black Arts Week has come and gone this year only this extra issue, by journalism students this year only this extra issue, by journalism students.

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By Richard Adams

After the student-faculty basketball game one would think the faculty would take a rest. But no, they took up the gauntlet against the U-High Frisbee Freeks in a game of Frisbee Football.

The Frisbee Freeks, U-High's Frisbee Club, issued the challenge April 25. Said Frisbee Freek Jerry Robin, "We decided to propagate the bitter rivalry between students and faculty by having one of those interscholastic faculty games that have challenged everybody—Mount Prospect, Kenwood, the University of Chicago, we've even issued an open challenge to the world, and bodies have taken us up on it."

Junior Alan Gottlieb, another Frisbee Freek, commented, "For over two years, we've been trying to fire up the interest of the student body in the Frisbee Freeks. We've asked to be allowed to play against the faculty for the whole school than just the senior class."

"Consequently," Jerry said, "we decided that the best place to start beating someone is within our own school.

"Frisbee Freeks is played like ordinary two-hand-touch football. Except that the frisbee must be passed on every play.

"At the end of the game, the Frisbee Freeks is the invention of the Frisbee Freeks. 'We don't know of anyone outside of U-High playing it,' he said."

The game was played after school May 18. Two students, not Frisbee Freeks, make up this year's team, Sophomore Paul Hinopoa and Junior Steve Massaquoi.

Sixth-grade Teacher Mary Williams who accepted the challenge for the faculty said, "There is no way we could have won."
The Frisbee Freeks won the game 8-4.
Students vow to press new gov't election

By Bejil Pollock, student editor

Three students who challenged the all-school elections May 9 plan to bring their case before the student body following the Student Legislative Coordinating Council's (SLCC) decision not to hold new elections in light of their charges. A meeting at which SLCC representatives could have overturned their own decision was postponed twice for lack of a quorum and then cancelled.

Election results were as follows:

SLCC President, Junior Steve Widdick; Vice President, Sophomore Brian Arnold; Secretary-Treasurer, Senior John Spalding; Student Body President, Junior Tom Evans; Student Body Vice President, Senior Alex Katz; Student Body Secretary-Treasurer, Senior Andy Field; Student Body Parliamentarian, sophomore Andy Brown; Student Body Ex-Officio Senator, senior Tom Banko.

The student body has the power to remove the SLCC, and it has the power to remove the SLCC president and vice president. The procedure for removing the SLCC president and vice president is as follows: The SLCC president and vice president must be removed by a vote of the student body. If they are removed, no new elections will be held. If they are not removed, new elections will be held.

The Student Legislative Coordinating Council (SLCC) has decided not to hold new elections in light of the charges made by three students who challenged the all-school elections May 9 plan to bring their case before the student body following the Student Legislative Coordinating Council's (SLCC) decision not to hold new elections in light of their charges. A meeting at which SLCC representatives could have overturned their own decision was postponed twice for lack of a quorum and then cancelled.

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