

Cast, Crew Of 'Firebugs' Does Excellent Job Full House Entertained Well By Production

A REVIEW
BY: HARVEY METTS
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Despite some technical difficulties at the three performances of "The Firebugs," the Blackfriars first offering this school year provided real entertainment for its full to overflowing audiences each night.

The November 16, 17, and 18 performances were a special treat for those theater-goers fortunate enough to get a seat in the small room in which the cast and crew must work.

"The Firebugs," an allegory of the Nazi seizure of Weimar, Germany, offered food for thought as well as several big laughs

as its parable of the pattern of Fascist infiltration anywhere, any time unfolded.

The play tells the story of Gottlieb Biedermann (Allen Thompson), a well-to-do businessman, who, despite his constant nagging fear that his property will fall prey to the many loose arsonists in his town, becomes possibly the easiest victim. Sepp Schmitz (Paul Atwell) and Willi Eisenring (Bill Kinsey), the firebugs, have an amazingly easy time of setting the stage for Biedermann's house to burn, and the irony of it all is that both arsonists tell the anxious businessman exactly what they intend to do. In some scenes, Biedermann is even seen aiding Willi

in the preparations for the fire!

The entire cast seemed to play their characters to the maximum and the result was an enjoyable, fulfilling evening for the audience.

Allen Thompson obviously enjoyed his role as Gottlieb Biedermann, the pompous, self-centered, cigar-smoking businessman. His delivery was sure and convincing, although his pronounced Southern accent set up an interesting contrast with the crisp, clear accent of his wife Babette (played by Suzanne Gilliland) as well as other members of the cast.

Paul Atwell proved himself quite a capable actor in the role of dirty, bedraggled Sepp

Schmitz, unmitigated arsonist. He delivered Sepp as forceful and cunning with a facade of misfortune and pitiful humbleness.

A special treat in the play was the Chorus of Firemen, played by Gerry Dione, Joe Biron, Richard Gantt, and Pat Price. With voices that blended exceptionally well, the Chorus prompted and warned Biedermann of impending danger. In reverent and joyful tones the Chorus greeted the sun, "the god-like eye", the sign that the town had passed another night without fire and destruction. The over-excited, clumsy actions of the protecting Chorus were in direct contrast to the cool, calculated moves of the two firebugs.

Joe Biron deserves special mention in connection with his rather adept imitation of Bobby Kennedy, which, alas, so many of the audience members appar-

ently missed.

Bill Kinsey, in the role of Willi Eisenring (the Devil), displayed almost supernatural powers in portraying the clever king of the underworld. His sly looks and deceitful smiles seemed to be second nature as he wiled and beguiled Biedermann and his household.

The technical staff did an excellent job even though there were numerous difficulties to overcome as a result of lack of facilities and an appropriate stage.

The Blackfriars are planning another play to be presented in the Spring.

Board Motion Passed Unanimously

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of the learning process," he continued. "For the educational years to be most meaningful, students have to be as free as possible from restraint."

Dr. Robbins said that he felt the Publications Board should act in an advisory capacity. "I would like to see a properly constructed news story in the Journal," Dr. Robbins stated. He felt that this area is where the Board could serve its most useful purpose.

Formal statements came to the Board from the three editors, the student legislature, and the petitioners.

The statement from the legislature was worded as follows: "We, the members of the Student Legislature respect and endorse any decision made by the Publications Board. Further, the sentiment of the Legislature favors the use of beer and liquor advertisements used proportionally

and in good taste."

The editors' statement clarified their stand on the issue. The statement read in part as follows: "At the November 2 meeting, the arguments given in support of not making use of this source of revenue seemed very logical at the time, we accepted them, and thus, added our consent to the consensus without having thoroughly weighed the argument for running the ads against the argument opposed to running the ads."

"After the meeting had adjourned, and we had a chance to do just that--pit the arguments against the other--we realized that our minds had in reality

not been changed at all but only swayed during the meeting."

The petition, which was signed by students and faculty members, was worded as follows: "We the undersigned, respectfully protest the limitations placed by the Publications Board on beer and liquor advertisements in student publications and request that the decision on whether to accept such advertisements be left to the editorial staff of the publications involved."

After little discussion, Dr. Mason made the motion reprinted above, a vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

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