

Boychoir sings and keeps busy schedule

Courtne Walton
Special to The Pilot

He could barely reach the microphone, but his voice rang out saying, "I usually end up sleeping during my free time, but sometimes I play soccer and talk with my friends."

Although this is a typical response from a young boy, this boy and his friends are not completely typical. They make up the American Boychoir, the country's premier concert boys'

choir.

On Tuesday, February 2, at 8:00 p.m. in the Dover Theatre, the American Boychoir entertained members of the community, as well as Gardner-Webb students and staff.

"I was surprised that they sang so many different types of music. I especially liked the African selections. The boys are so talented," said Mary Jones.

The program included Concert Spirituals, Classical

music, Slovak and Newfoundland Folk Songs, South African songs, opera, and a Gershwin medley. In their matching red turtlenecks and black pants, the boys went from soothing melodies to lively dances. The South African selections included drums. The opera consisted of spirited choreography and humorous acting scenes of a disillusioned lover and the advice of his pirate friends.

"Their voices were so pure.

I was impressed that such young boys were so talented," said Wes Browning.

Two of the boys were selected to answer a few questions in order to give the audience a chance to get to know them a little bit. They talked about their daily schedules, beginning with a 6:30 a.m. wake-up call and a 9:15 p.m. curfew, with school work and rehearsals in between.

The American Boychoir has been performing for 58

years at home and abroad. The boys attend The American Boychoir School in Princeton, New Jersey, North America's only nonsectarian boarding choir school. The school has 82 students, grades five through eight, and this year's boys come from 25 states, The Virgin Islands, and four Canadian provinces. They have signed a recording contract with Angel Records and have recorded "Hymn" and "By Request."

Students hear about Fusion and growth

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"Fusion is a physics term," said Louis Giglio, the founder of Passion. "But I'd like to see it applied to us here tonight."

On Friday, February 5, two GWU vans and a trail of cars traveled to Hickory Grove

Baptist Church in Charlotte for free pizza, worship, fellowship and a Christian message from Giglio of Passion ministries, which is an interdenominational student revival.

Fusion brought together college students from campuses all over the Carolinas to encourage a new generation of

Christians to pursue holiness and in doing so, see God.

"It was totally awesome. I can't find the words to describe it," said Jacqueline Bowen.

Giglio spoke on Colossians 1:25-28, explaining that the mystery talked about in these verses is how Christ in us is our hope of glory.

He said that Christians often have an incorrect theology that states that the combina-

tion of Christ and us can produce holiness in our lives. The truth, Giglio said, is that Christ in us changes us, not Christ and us. When Christians realize this, they are free to stop being overwhelmed with the burden of becoming holy by themselves, said Giglio.

"Louis Giglio, in his search for truth, found it in the Trinity, and he shared that with me and about a thousand other people,"

said Doug Keene.

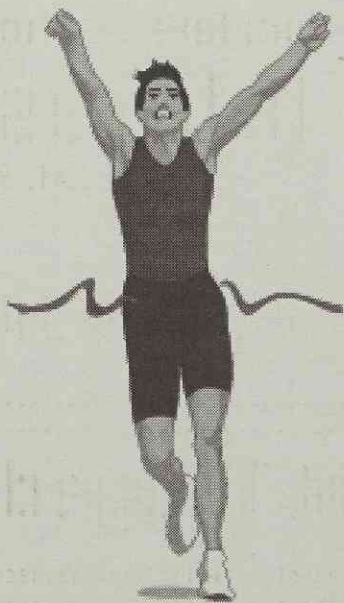
"The pizza was good, and I liked the speaker's message," said Andrea Turlington.

"What the speaker had to say really inspired me," said Hanh Tran.

For Walter Miller, the best part of Fusion was "The fact that God came down and touched puny lives like mine in an awesome way."

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whole audience was singing along to "My Little Runaway." That itself was worth coming out to see the play. I was impressed with the fact that those five musicians played the entire musical score themselves, and played it beautifully.

As far as the quality of acting goes, I've seen better. Many lines were lost in a haze of poor projection, over-acting and mediocrity, however, the charm and charisma of the core characters pulled it all off nicely.

Jeremy Burger (Danny Zuko) and Michael Brooks (Kenickie) were fantastically 'greasy'. Their showy yet convincing tough-guy act and heavenly voices were tantalizing. I doubt there was a woman in the audience who didn't love the musical number "Greased Lightning".

Betty Rizzo played by Erin Cox couldn't have been any trashier. Cox's ability to make the audience despise Rizzo as a slut and then turn

around and open up their hearts to her during her beautiful performance of "There are Worse Things I Could Do" was excellent. I found Cox to be an incredible actress.

Other characters worthy of note were Eugene (Nathan Rouse), the lovable nerd of Ridell High. Jan (Denise Deaton), who kept the audience rolling in their seats with her appetite driven antics, and Jonny Casino or Teen Angel (Derek Futrell) who, as the name would denote, sang like an angel.

And last but not least, Sandy, played by Corie Lewis, belted out her songs with incredible beauty and passion. Musically, she rocked!

The entire cast sang well. I was impressed, not only with the lead characters' musical abilities but also with the supporting actors' and chorus singers' as well. All the musical numbers were highly entertaining.

My only major criticism of the play was of the sound.

The cast used approximately ten hand-held mikes with long cords that got in the way. I've been told that the original show did it that way, so I guess the point was to bring in that old nostalgic feeling.

That's all well and good, but it detracted from the play. Several times I was terrified that someone was going to trip over a cord or drop their mike.

Grease is a lot of things to a lot of people. It's a statement about the moral values of a generation. It's a musical masterpiece and an entertainment icon. When it's all said and done, GWU's production of *Grease* was excellent. It was funny, the music was catchy, and the scenery and props were great.

Although, I wouldn't want to base my moral outlook on this play (I still think Sandy sold herself out for some no good high school punk), if you missed *Grease*, you really missed out.