

## Musical Roman Comedy to Be Performed at Methodist

by Eric Kimbel

The Methodist College Theatre Department will be presenting the musical comedy *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* Feb. 28 and 29 at 8 p.m., and on Mar. 1 at 3 p.m. in Reeves Auditorium. The musical was created by Burt Shevelove and Larry Gelbart, with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim.

The Methodist College production is directed by Dr. Jack Peyrouse. The production's Musical direction is by Alan Porter, and the choreography is by Pamela Johnson.

The production will have a component that is not often used by Methodist College. A live orchestra will be performing the scores for the musical at all three showings. Funding for the live orchestra was made possible by the "Grass Roots Fund" of the Arts Council of Fayetteville and Cum-

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Cast of *A Funny Thing Happened on The Way to the Forum*.

## Professors With Bad Reps: Teachers We Love To Avoid

by Ann Morris

It could happen to you: you're filling out your pre-registration form. You need one more class to complete your core requirements. Suddenly, you realize that the only class available is taught by--that professor! The toughest professor in the department! The one that your roommates, your friends, even people you don't know have warned you about. "He's a tough grader," they all say, "Don't take his class, it'll ruin your GPA!"

Who are these teachers, and why do they have these reputations? What puts a teacher on the unofficial list of "Professors to Avoid at All Costs"? *Small Talk* interviewed dozens of students, and there were several names that came up time and time again.

First on the list seems to be Dr. Walsh, a professor of Religion and Philosophy. Several people named him as the toughest teacher at Methodist, and one student said that he had heard someone say that "if Jesus were alive today, he couldn't get an 'A' in Dr. Walsh's class." Dr. Walsh's essay tests seem to give students problems. "He gives out so much information in class," said one student, "and he wants you to know it all for the test." Others said that, although they found his class difficult, they thought it was "stimulating" because it "makes you think."

When asked what advice they would give someone taking Dr. Walsh for the first time, most suggested students take copious notes and ask questions if they don't understand something. One student

suggested jotting questions down on paper, as Dr. Walsh does not take questions until he is finished with a thought.

Dr. Walsh said that he was not particularly disturbed that people considered him a tough teacher. He also said that he thought this attitude might cause some to think that he is unconcerned about his students. His class is tough, he says, not because he doesn't care about his students, but because he feels that "you get out of something what you put into it. I'm not aware of anything worthwhile that doesn't take time and effort."

Dr. Walsh said he realizes that most people take religion courses simply because they are a core requirement and that he knows that some people would rather not take them, but he said that he feels a responsibility to "show students

what education is. I would like to make education easy, and if I knew how, I would. I often tell my students that I wish I could stick a data disk inside them. Better still," he says, "I'd use a program disk, because that would tell them how to use the information."

Dr. Walsh said that he thinks the stories about him are funny, because they are blown out of proportion. "Once you get a reputation," he said, "it tends to grow." He also said that a few years ago, the soccer team had shirts printed with "The Top Ten Lies at Methodist College," and the number one lie was "I got an 'A' in Dr. Walsh's class." Incidentally, Dr. Walsh says that Jesus has never taken his class, but "if he were in my class, he'd have to work for his

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