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HC Presents Jesus Christ Superstar

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Once again the theater and music department of MHC are combining their efforts for the production of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. This rock opera will be performed in Owen Theater from Wednesday, Dec. 5, until Tuesday, Dec. 11.

Events in the musical are portrayed closely to Biblical references. Stories such as the marketplace in the temple when Jesus becomes angry and frustrated at the people for their wrongdoings, the Garden of Geth-



With music written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Tim Rice, *Jesus Christ Superstar* was performed on Broadway in 1970. It was the first religious rock opera, setting a precedent for others such as *Godspell* and *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dream-*

The rock opera is much like opera because there is no spoken dialogue. All conversation is sung. The Jazz Band, under the direction of Dr. Pete LaRue, provide musical accompaniment. The difficult music includes contemporary orchestration for electric and acoustic guitars, electric keyboards and drums, brass and percussion.

Jesus Christ Superstar allows the audience to view the life of Jesus from the plotting of His death until the crucifixion. "The production is unrealistic. It is theologically conservative and is based on the New Testament. Jesus is portrayed as human," says director Jim Adams in addressing the controversial aspects of the production.

"It's difficult to portray someone who is so perfect yet human. I can only try to reenact the life of Jesus," explains Christian Ramsey, who plays Jesus Christ.

semane, the Last Supper and the trip up Golgotha appear in this interpretation by actors Christian Ramsey (Jesus) and Larissa Brown (Mary Magdalene).

Additional members of the cast are Kerrie Beechler as Judas, Travis Green as Herod, Stephen Smith as Caiaphas, Heidi Long as Pilate, Lisa Atkinson as Annas and Michael Lester as Peter. In addition, Leigh Angel, Tomeka Forrest, Mollie Freeman, James McGraw and Michelle Medlin each appear in two or more roles including townspeople, mobs, and the apostles.

Basic grey sweats and tennis shoes make up the costumes designed by Sara Stewart. Additionally, the use of scarves will aid symbolically. Theatrical devices such as strobe lights will also be used. The simple set of scaffolds was creatively designed by John Oertling. There is no effort for a set in Jerusalem; it is a non-realistic work.

Additional assistance for music is given Dr. Julie Fortney (music director) and Dr. John Adams and Charlie Davis (rehearsal pianists). Lisa Edwards is stage manager. Candy Oertling beautifully choreographs this dramatic show.

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Student Assists Alumnus in Translating Document

From Staff Reports

Not many Americans know that the Japanese made a second attack on Pearl Harbor. Steve Horn, a retired Air Force officer who lives in Horse Shoe, discovered this fact while researching another subject and became fascinated by his discovery.

"The raid was made on March 3, 1942, by two Japanese flying boats," he said.

The original research project laid aside, Horn began investigating the raid only to find that there was very little information available.

"There was very little damage done during the raid," said Horn, "but the Americans didn't want to admit to anyone that the Japanese could slip through undetected again."

Horn wrote a letter to the Shin Meiwa Company in Japan, successor to the wartime Kawanishi Company, which manufactured the flying boat used in the raid. A Shin Meiwa official provided information about the boat — one example still exists — and gave Horn the address of a man in Japan who was preparing material for a book on the subject.

The man turned out to be retired Rear Admiral Tsuneo Hitsuji, who commanded the unit which made the raid. He provided Horn with a wealth of personal and technical information about himself, the Emily flying boat and the raids made on Hawaii and Midway. Unfortunately, most of the important infor-

mation was written in Japanese.

"I tried to find someone to help translate the material, but there didn't seem to be anyone in the area who could help," Horn recalls. Stymied for several years, he put the information in a file.

Horn is also a member of the French Broad Modelers, a regional club whose members have a wide range of interests, from cars to aircraft ships and armor, and who express this interest in plastic models.

John Campbell, MHC news director, is a member of the club and overheard Horn, who is an alumnus of the college, talking about the raid. He knew that current MHC student Yumiko Suzuki had recently assisted Dr. Harley Jolley, professor of history and historian of the Blue Ridge Parkway, in translating some English documents into Japanese for some landscape architects from that country who visited the Parkway recently.

Campbell agreed to contact Suzuki to see if translation of this document was feasible. Suzuki is a sophomore psychology student from Tochigi, Japan. She agreed to look at the document to see if she could translate it.

Suzuki is a student in the International Education Program. She met Dr. Jon Crawford, director of the program, in

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