

# Charlie Brown cast fights on

By R.S. LEIDER

Slide whistles toot. Cymbals hit the floor. Wood blocks signal the direct meeting of a bat and a baseball. The delightful noises are the clever use of sound effects in the Troy Players current production of "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown."

There is perhaps no task more difficult than translating cartoon characters to the stage. Almost 15 years before "Annie," Clark Gessner gave us a theatrical translation of the Charles Schulz Peanuts characters in the form of a musical called "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown."

The show took off-Broadway by storm and remains a staple of theater groups because of its small cast and familiar characters. It is an entertainment that plays equally well to adults and children. This is what the Troy Players hoped for in a summer show which extends its usual three-show season.

The production could pass alone on the enthusiasm of the cast, aided and abetted by the friendliness of the players' own crew and house committee. Performances continue at 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday at the Troy Community Center.

ADULTS PLAY children with the intellect of adults and the savvy of children. The cast works as an ensemble in what seems to be a true respect and caring for each other.

## review

The cast succeeds despite the unimaginative direction of Beverly Lloyd. Gessner deserves blame for the poor representation of Schroeder and Patty in the script. They are given very little to do. Miss Lloyd furthers this by giving them very little to do on stage.

As director, she should have given Warner Isopelti and Jessie Youngblood, Schroeder and Patty respectively, comic bits which would have made them a more integral part of the show. To let talented actors stand helplessly or turn set pieces is ludicrous.

The cast manages to overcome the long unnecessary backlots between sketches and burst forth with radiance, especially Noan Colborne as Snoopy. His flair for comedy is evidence that his innovative performance is imaginatively of his own doing.

Colborne comes on with such vigorous excitement, anyone who knows the show is sitting in high anticipation of the "Supertime" number. We are not disappointed. The number is delightful.

HOLDING ONTO his blanket for dear life, Jon Katz plays Linus with a perfect brainy-innocence. This is his first appearance with the Troy Players. Brian Juleff is just right as Charlie

Brown. He is the perennial loser. He is no one to everybody. He is everything to us all. He is at once dawdling and loveable, a soul inept yet endearing.

Juleff is hardly the battered butterball Charlie Brown. He is tall and good looking, but he manages to overcome these positive attributes with a slumped-shouldered, inferiority-complexed stage presence.

As Lucy, Caren Hebenstreit starts weak but ends up turning in the strongest performance of the show. She has the loudest voice of the cast and uses it to take control and pervade her crabbiestness throughout the production.

Her only crime is that she smiles too much. And moreover, it is the set crew's crime that there is no "The Doctor Is In" sign over her table when she initiates a therapy session with Charlie Brown.

THE TWO-DIMENSIONAL bright-colored flavor of the funnies is captured in a clever periaiktoi set piece. This three-sided piece of scenery helps

take us to the various locations the Peanuts gang frequents.

Sadly, the props and other set pieces are neglected. You can almost hear Lucy yelling, "Plain old pencils in the book report scene! Get out those oversized, colorful big ones, blockhead!"

The audience was not annoyed by the faulty light cues and characters occasionally speaking in darkness. As the production continues into this weekend, you can expect that to improve.

Kathy Pulliam's musical direction really brings out the best in the performers and, therefore, in the musical numbers. The talents of Miss Pulliam and the pianist, Sarah Bucy, greatly added to the show. All the numbers, except for a lack of interesting or eye-catching movement, are very well done.

The performers use their skills and talents to effectively portray their characters' singing and don't worry if they sound pretty. It is a wise decision. It's a shame the director didn't do more with the talented cast and crew. The production is a light summer treat, however.

## Free summer concerts

Free concerts in the "Summer Concerts at Prudential" series are being held every Sunday at 7 p.m. through Aug. 24 at the Prudential Town Center, Northwestern at Civic Center Drive.

The Chicago Pete Trio and Bobo Jenkins and His Big Star Band are featured in the concert. Guests may bring their own blankets and lawn chairs to the outdoor event. In case of rain, concerts are held in the Southfield Pavilion, 26600 Evergreen. For more information, call 354-9603.

Tuesday Night is Inflation Fighter Night! At The **Shalea Inn** \$6.91 per person  
Featuring: Prime Rib Dinner (all you can eat) served with: Cheese Crust and Crackers, Soup, Salad, French Fries, Roll and Butter  
552-3410  
3315 Auburn Road  
Between Adams & Opdyke Rd.

**This Week's Specialty**  
**PRIME RIB DINNER**  
Served with Yorkshire pudding, salad, fresh breads, rice, peas for baked potatoes and fresh vegetable \$7.95  
**Meriwether's**  
Telegraph North at 10 Mile Southfield 358-2458 Van Dyke South of 13 Mile Warren 371-9676

## Kingsley Inn

HOTEL

Would like the pleasure of hosting your next banquet or party. Call us today. Our experienced staff, headed by Mr. Coleman and Mr. Petrides, will personally oversee all arrangements and details.



Woodward and Long Lake Road  
Bloomfield Hills

644-1400

564-5144

ALBAN'S

## Bottle & Basket

Restaurant & Delicatessen

**SUNDAY SPECIALS \$3.79**

- LASAGNA • BEEF STROGANOFF  
Over Buttered Noodles
- CHICKEN CORDON BLEU  
with Rice Pilaf



188 N. Hunter  
646-6553



## Pearl's Garden

Serving the finest in  
Chinese & American Cuisine

- Luncheons • Dinners • Carry Out Orders  
Chinatown Style Welcomed

Open 7 days a week

Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri. 11 a.m.-11 p.m.  
Sat. 12-11 p.m.; Sun. 12-10 p.m.

469 S. Woodward, Birmingham  
644-2913

**ALL YOU CAN EAT!**  
**Mexican Dinners SUNDAYS & MONDAYS**  
INCLUDING: TACOS, TOSTADAS, ENCHILADAS, BURRITOS & GUACAMOLE, BONTANA, NACHOS AND BEAN DIP \$4.88  
at **El Cafe and Seymour's**  
IN DOWNTOWN BIRMINGHAM  
545 W. NINE MILE PHONE 541-2960  
MEXICAN FOOD & COCKTAILS

# THE BIG OH! WEIGH-IN

Here they are. THE BIG ONES! FROM THE BIG OH!



The Big OH! Heavyweights

Tom Dean (10am-2pm) Ed Vanderploeg (news) Bob Bean (news) Marc Avery (6am-10am) Mark Andrews (sports)  
Bob Charlton (6pm-10pm) Nick Arama (2pm-6pm) Steve Peck (2am-6am) Greg Russell (10pm-2am)

Just guess the total weight of all nine WOMC personalities and you could win one of two grand prizes of \$52.00 per week for 52 weeks. That's a big, fat \$2,704.00 toward your yearly food bill, just for listening to the biggies at WOMC-FM104.



**entry blank**

My guess is \_\_\_\_\_

I heard about the Big OH! Weigh-In from \_\_\_\_\_ (personality)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Don't Weight Too Long!  
Deadline is August 5th at 12 Noon

Return entry blank to: The Big OH! Weigh-In  
WOMC-FM104  
Detroit, Michigan 48220