



Marc Shreeman plays Thurio and Elizabeth Kercheart is Lucretia in the Theater of the Arts production of "Two Gentlemen of Verona" at the Botsford Inn, Farmington Hills.

Warner students make Winter special Olympics

Randy Gardner, 15, and Lillian Sawyer, 14, both of Farmington Hills, were selected to attend the Winter Special Olympics at Schuss Mountain to be held this week.

The two Warner Junior High students were among 23 Oakland County special education students chosen to compete from a field of 80 who participated in the recent Oakland County Winter Games Day.

At Schuss, the students will be competing in cross country skiing, skate and snow sculpture, and ice block relay, according to Warner instructor Sue Kissing.

The northern Michigan event draws special education students from five

states, including Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, and Kentucky. The Special Olympics will run Wednesday through Friday.

Y needs volunteers

Volunteers are needed to work for the Greater Farmington Area Family Y Capital Campaign.

The drive's goal is to raise \$900,000 for a YMCA at Farmington Road and Twelve Mile. Launched Feb. 1, the campaign is seeking pledges extending over a three- to five-year period. Money raised locally will be matched by the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and the United Fund.

Persons interested in volunteering their time for door-to-door visits or coffee meetings are asked to call 474-2102 or 474-9201.

Cast puts energy into so-so show

By BARBARA MICHALS
In the '60s it would have been called a "happening."

Today it's dubbed a "musical Shakespearean experience," a free-wheeling soft rock adaptation of "Two Gentlemen of Verona," being staged as dinner theater at the Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills.

The show is a wild mélange of pleasant tunes and zany antics barely clinging to the thinnest of plotlines. Though most of the cast puts a lot of energy into the show, the results are very uneven. A few individual shine at isolated moments; a few lines bring hearty laughter. The rest is light and agreeable but hardly memorable.

"Two Gentlemen" is one of Shakespeare's lesser plays, adapted well to the musical stage in the New

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York production that came to Detroit a few years back. A lot of the sparkle of that version has been lost in transferring the show into the dinner theater format.

Curiously, the brief printed program at Botsford lists no writing credits, no musical credits, and no producer or director. It suggests no one wants to take responsibility for the show.

"Two Gentlemen" is about two long-time friends, Proteus and Valentine, who take leave of each other to pursue different goals. Proteus cares only to win the love of Julia, while his

friend seeks to win fame and glory in Milan. No sooner has Proteus won Julia's love than he is ordered to Milan on business for his father.

IN MILAN both Proteus and Valentine find themselves in love with Sylvia, who in turn loves another young man but has been betrothed to still another by her overbearing father. Sylvia is as fickle as Proteus, finding it convenient to love whomever is nearest at hand.

Nate Vondrak and Denny Murphy are competent as Proteus and Valentine respectively. Murphy's singing voice is the stronger of the two. He draws laughs singing, "I wouldn't know a spiritual relationship if it tripped over it," and leading a leather-jacketed rock trio singing "Love's Revenge."

Kathy Kay is a spirited Julia but would do better to forget the Italian accent she slips in and out of. Yvonne Sloan is a fetching Sylvia but her voice sometimes lacks sufficient animation.

As Sylvia's betrothed, Marc Shreeman excels with comic antics and a falsetto voice. Even when performing as part of the chorus, Shreeman clearly stands out, mugging and using body English to maximum advantage.

Dave McDonald is effective as the Duke, Sylvia's domineering father who

delights in drafting her would-be suitors into the army.

His solo "Bring All the Boys Back" is an amusing parody of election promises.

Sporting an incongruous cowboy hat, Del Howison parodies country western songs with "I Bent Down to Kiss You and Your Pearl's Got in My Mouth." He also draws laughs in a drunk scene with Rich DeManico.

WHILE THE principal players wear period costumes, chorus members wear shirts emblazoned Theatre of the Arts. In keeping with this hodgepodge style, some supporting players slip in and out of Mexican accents for no discernible reason.

During the course of the show the audience is assaulted with soap bubbles, Frisbees and paper hearts. For the finale, the cast dances with members of the audience to a disco-type number. The actors also go from table to table to chat with the audience both before and after the performance. While this is a pleasant idea, it is too drawn out before the show starts.

The buffet-style dinner preceding the performance is ample but very unexciting. The menu features refreshes, fruit cup, salad, rolls, beef stroganoff, chicken, green beans, and miniature fruit tarts. An open bar is available.

Teacher fights for open doors at school meets

Arthur Stokus, the teacher who has charged the Walled Lake Board of Education with violation of the State's Public Meetings Act, said he will take a new tact in legal proceedings.

Stokus said he will ask the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office to seek an injunction through the circuit court to enjoin the school board from further non-compliance with the Public Meetings Act.

Although the law provides for personal civil liabilities and criminal penalties, Stokus said these require proof of an intentional violation on the part of the public official.

"The proper remedy to seek in this case," Stokus said, "appears to be an action to enjoin further non-compliance with the act."

If the court should enjoin the school board from further non-compliance with the act, another violation would not only be a second violation of the Public Meetings Act, but could also lead to contempt of court charges, according to Stokus.

STOKUS, A RESIDENT of the district, filed a complaint with the county sheriff's department on Jan. 30, alleging that six members of the school board conducted an illegal meeting Jan. 23.

No charges were brought against trustee Betty Campbell, who missed the alleged illegal session.

The charges are presently in the hands of the county prosecutor's office

which will decide if a warrant will be issued and the case brought to trial. Supt. Don Sheldon said in his opinion the charges were "groundless."

The fate of the charges rest on two sections of the act which detail proper posting and notification of special meetings of a public body.

Stokus admits that the board posted a notice of the meeting in administration offices 18 hours in advance in compliance with the law.

He maintains that the notice did not specify whether it was an open or a closed meeting.

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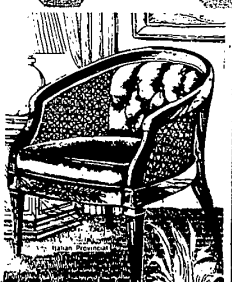
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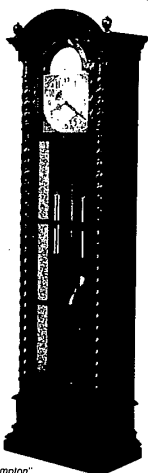
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