Super musical is updated in fresh, modern version

lesus Christ Superstar" continue through Sun-day, June 17, at the Birmingham Theatre. For ticket information call the box office at 644-3533.

call the 602 diffice al 644-333. "Jenus Christ Superstar" at the filmingham Theatre is simply super-performers and super cleverness in the updating of this 1971 messa. The first smash hit from composer function of this 1971 messa. There LiQO Webber and Upricist tim filte, "Supersar" caused major controversy when it premisered be-caused of this 2071 messa. Jesus (Afrian Zmed) is portrayed ma and swelling ranks of devoted fan and swelling ranks of the star-set used, the costumes and many of the plot details reflect moders . Thory for all Webber ranks theory or to blots to bolled, Berge theory size out operating and the moving "I ben't know How to Love Him," here being in a terrific blues redition by a used of the conterned to bayed. The FRESH CONCEPT for the

THE FRESH CONCEPT for the show is the inspiration of the lift-mingham Theatre's executive pro-ducer Jay Brooks and director/cho-reographer Victor Valentine. The production is slick, and most of the changes work exceedingly well. Val-entime's jazzy choreography, some-times pleasantly reminiscent of Bob Fosse's work, is skillfully performed

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shows the inevitability of Jesus' fate.



here as a jovial song-and-dance man who leads a chorus of swimuuit-tlad chorines and dancing beach cabanas. Other interesting updates include showing the moneychangers in the tremple as Wall Street stochborkers and the Last Supper as a black-tile event where the Apostice get tipsy. In public Jesus dresses like Michael Jackson in a drum major's rod Jack-et heavy with gold braid. He leaves his foatprints in wet cormen, has his face adorning countless T-shirts and is constantly pursued by legions of reporters and TV cameras. Despile its serious overiones, "Je-sus Christ Superstar" is an upbeat, Joyous show whose spirit is infec-tious. As Webber's musicals confinue to



programming Monday nights and in-vites visiting troupes to perform on stage. Worba explains that 60 percent of revenues for the theater comes from licket sales and subscriptions. Forty percent comes from grants and con-tributions from foundations, corpo-rations and individuals. "Large grants from comportions are pend-ing," she says, in hopes that corpora-tion generosity will help the theater survice. "But we won't know until June." To date, more than 50,000 people have responded to curtain speeches after every performance and to domong single-ticket buyers, and those who have taken classes whon the Attic owed money have theater get back on its feet. Despite progress and hopes that grants will come through, Werba says, "We operate every day as if

woods yet." The seven friends hope their sec-ond theater party, Jane 9, when they ce "Songlest," will add to the At-tic's fund. The tongue-in-check musi-cal running Wednesday. Jane 6 the second second second second second carter of a fletional song writer, one woorey Shapito, who is a cross be-tween Cole Forter, Neel Coward and Wooney Shapito, who is a cross be-tween Cole Forter, Neel Coward and Stephen Sondheim. The musical tracks Mooney's life and the changes in American music from the 1920s through the 1970s. Sound interesting? Why not get up a polluck, invite friends to see "Songlest" and join the grass roots campaign to save the Atilic Theatre-For ticket information cell the

we're in a pressure cooker. We have to keep our hopes up. "She is pleased at the "groundswell of support," and says, "It's encouraging to see that people really care, but we have a ways to go. We're not out of the woods yet," The seven friends hope their sec-

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come fluctuations. WITH A BUDGET of a little over \$1 million, the Attle mounts seven ananstage productions each season and runs outreach programs. Six art-lsts in residence work in middle schools and high schools in the city through Arts in Education in the Public Schools, and a travue of sen-ior citizens called the Oldsters per-forms in churches, schools and nurs-ing homes. In addition, the Attic pre-

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