

Little Mary Sunshine sparkles

Little Mary Sunshine—this year's production by students of Georgetown District High School—is a demanding production for both cast and audience.

Demanding on the cast because of its very slow movement from beginning to end that depends strongly upon the characterizations presented—very well, we might add—by the main and supportive figures in the play.

But it's equally demanding upon the audience for if the play is to succeed it's all important that the audience approach it with just the right expectation which is, simply, you're going to see a spoof.

Don't expect to see a troop of gallant Mounties riding off to fight a band of fierce Indians in Little Mary Sunshine. Do expect to see a group of Forest Rangers who would rather face a bevy of young beauties

rather than one single, solitary heaven(?)

Don't expect to see a naive but nevertheless shrewd heroine. There's no shrewdness about our girl Mary Sunshine, she's so naive she deserves the name.

And then there's our hero, Capt. 'Big Jim' Warrington. 'Big Jim' measures up to his name in every area but one... 'Big Jim' is a bit of a mental lightweight.

Little Mary Sunshine, as played by Wendy Smith, is exactly the sort of character Rick Besayan must have thought of when he created the play. She was sweet, unassuming, (as mentioned before) naive, and had an excellent voice which came across best when it had a strong contrast to balance with.

Her duet with Mme. Ernestine (forcefully played by

Leann Woodward) was Wendy's best in Friday night's performance.

Mike Sellars as 'Big Jim' handled the role well.

The brother and sister match-up of Bill Kent (Capt. 'Billy' Hester) and Denna Kent (Nancy Twinkle, Mary's Maid) although a little stiff in their dancing numbers were equal to the task of providing humorous touches to the play.

Although not major roles three other characters came through extremely well. Chief Brown Bear, played by Paul McGrath, was excellent even when providing the straight lines in old jokes. His facial expressions showed a real flair for humour behind that red face.

Not introduced until the play was well along, Rob Stubs'

portrayal of Gen. Oscar Fairfax was worth the price of admission alone. This ladies' man cum graft politician took over the stage.

Although the chorus of 'Young Ladies' was, for the most part, up to par, the young lady known as Cora (Joy Fenton) with her broad, oh-so-upper crust, accent got a reaction every time she delivered one of her lines. Now that's what a young lady from the finest schools sounds like.

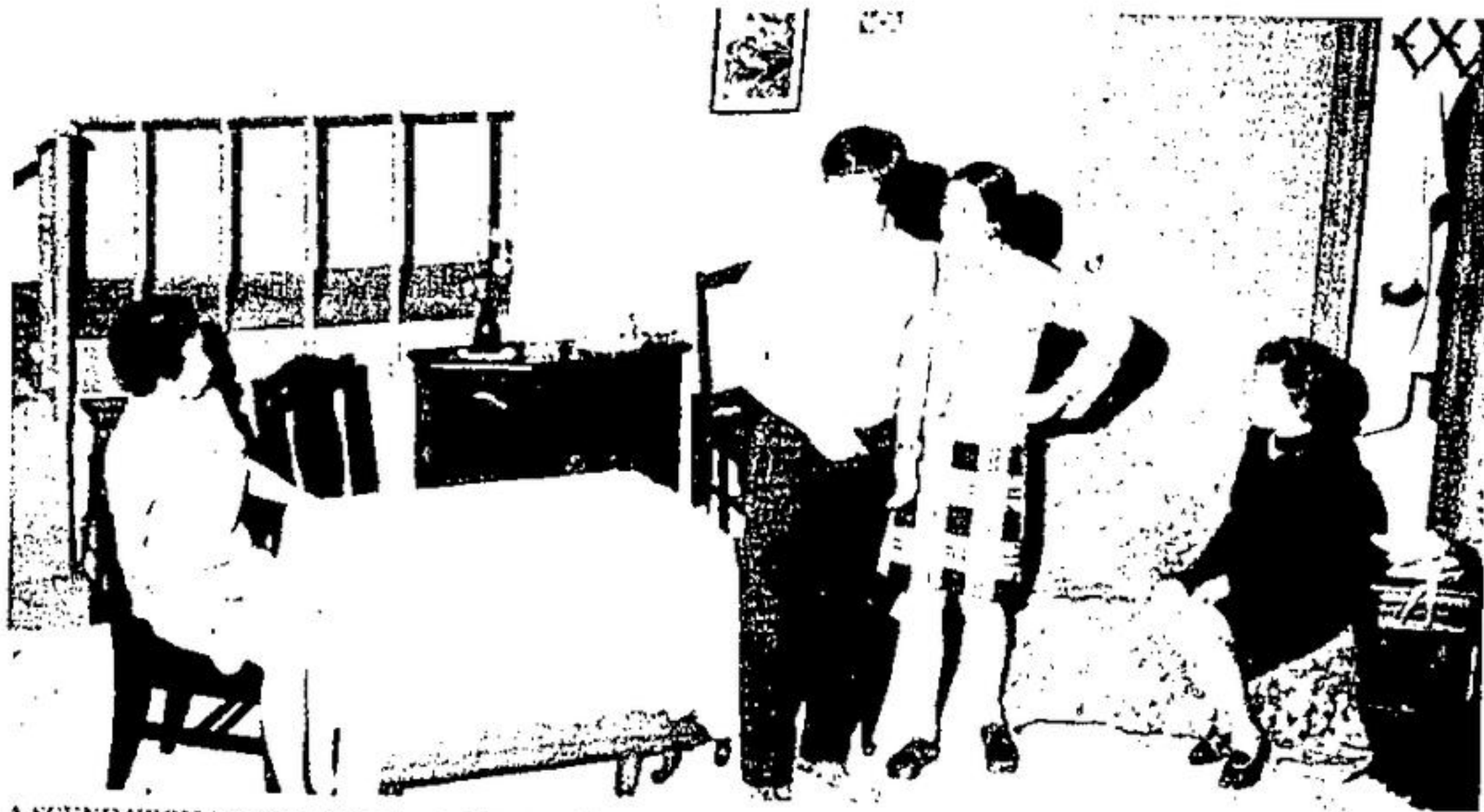
The other 'Young Ladies' Jayne Bell, Michell Purdy, Sandy Smith, Wendy Tough, Sue Johnson, Maureen McIntyre and Cathy Booth, all brightened up the stage while they were on it as did the 'Forest Rangers' played by Edgar Thatcher, Joe Scott, Hal Porter, George Garrard,

Roland Lechner, Steve Gransby, Jeff Jobb and Keith Norria.

Director Bob Morrow is an old hand at musical comedies and his skills were demonstrated throughout Little Mary Sunshine as was the choreography of Marg Eggleton and Ron Hunt.

In a high school musical the toughest job tends to fall upon the musical and vocal director's shoulders as he tries to co-ordinate untrained voices to sound like at least a semi-professional unit. Ralph Ursel, a familiar name in local little theatre circles, handled the duties well, as did conductor of the GDHS orchestra, Harry Hamilton.

Costumes were provided by Carol Manning and the scenic producer was Bob Mathe.



A SCENE FROM BILLY LIAR presented last week by the Georgetown Little Theatre troupe.

Perfect characterization makes Billy believable

by George Evashuk

The play "Billy Liar," Georgetown Little Theatre's final production of the season, is a portrait of a star struck, lying, thieving young man and a day in his life. As written by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall it contains characters which challenge the range and depth of any actor. Within its lines lie the latent power to move audiences to laughter, tears, pity, disgust and wonderment.

The most challenging part of all is, of course, that of Billy Liar himself. The actor playing this part must manage somehow not to lose the audience's sympathetic interest in how the plot resolves itself. Should the actor play the part without giving the audience a single trait to believe in, "Billy Liar" could fall flat on its face regardless of the calibre of the supporting cast.

In Thursday night's performance, Simon Joyne gave the character of Billy Liar a core of hayseed charm which was the saving grace the imagination of the audience needed to bring the play to life. At the play's end after having broken every promise he made to each of the supporting cast, Billy Liar remains true to himself, a lazy dreamer living only for the now.

Simon Joyne's performance set a standard which the other players all rose to. Looking at the play was like being a fly on the wall in your neighbour's family. No doubt this sense of

watching a real family came about because four of the play's eight characters are of one family.

Pat Joyne played the elderly grandmother who has become as helpless as a young child but, like a young child, can clearly see what the situation is and how best to rectify it. However, her advice is given in asides to a chest of drawers. Where the playwrights sketched an old woman no longer with a voice in her home, Pat Joyne's performance added a dimension which seemed to cloak the part in dusty old age.

The middle class father, all bluster and thunder which shields a hollow man, was capably performed by Derek Joyne. In the third act when he tells his stage wife, Alice, of the final moments of her mother's death, Derek Joyne brought the audience to breathless attention, then to laughter which released the nervous tension in comic relief.

The mother, Alice Fisher, was played by Val Stoddart who crafted a character which reflected all overworked mothers devoted to ones they love in a "T".

The three young women in Billy Liar's life, Barbara, who wears Billy's engagement ring; Rita, who wants it back and Liz, perhaps the one Billy might have found some happiness with if only he had the courage to leave with her for

London, were played by Perrienne Waters, Stephanie Gorin and Stacy Arcuri respectively.

Perrienne Waters was perfectly cast as the genteel lady, "dead below the head" in Billy's estimation, who withholds her favours until after the wedding.

Should the time frame of the play have been, instead of a single day, five decades, the fishwife's shrewdness of Stephanie Gorin might have stolen the stage. It was easy to imagine Rita, changing into a fat, raucous, ugly alewife.

The surprise performance was delivered by Stacy Arcuri as Liz, the girl who proposes to Billy and in turn receives from him an honest, if only at the moment, proposal of marriage. Instead of being the slattern the other women in the play make her out to be, she is the one most suited to Billy, most able to understand his desire for fame and for make believe.

She is the type men later wonder how more exciting life would have been like had they married her.

But though the character portrayal of the cast, including that of Mark Joyne who played Arthur Crabtree—a friend of Billy's who finally becomes disillusioned—was excellent, the pace of the play might have quickened had there been a larger audience to inspire the delivery of the lines.



'BIG JIM' AND MARY—The two stars of the Georgetown District High School's production of Little Mary Sunshine rehearse one of their numbers prior to the play's presentation last weekend. Mike Sellars played the part of Capt. 'Big Jim' Warrington and Wendy Smith played Little Mary Sunshine.

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS BY-LAW NO. 76-24

A by-law to stop up and convey to the abutting owner part of River Drive, in the Town of Halton Hills, in the Regional Municipality of Halton (formerly in the Town of Georgetown).

WHEREAS Council for this Corporation proposes to stop up and close part of the street known as River Drive in the Town of Halton Hills (Georgetown);

AND WHEREAS the part of River Drive to be stopped up and closed is shown on a plan of survey prepared by Clipsham Moreton Ltd. of Part of the West Half of Lot 18, Concession 10 for the Town of Halton Hills (formerly in the Township of Esquesing), a copy of which is annexed as Schedule "A" to this by-law;

AND WHEREAS Council for this Corporation has instructed the Clerk Administrator to publish notice of Council's intention to stop up, close and convey that part of River Drive shown as Part 3 on the plan of survey annexed as Schedule "A" to this by-law to the abutting owner in accordance with the provision of the Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1970, c. 284, as amended;

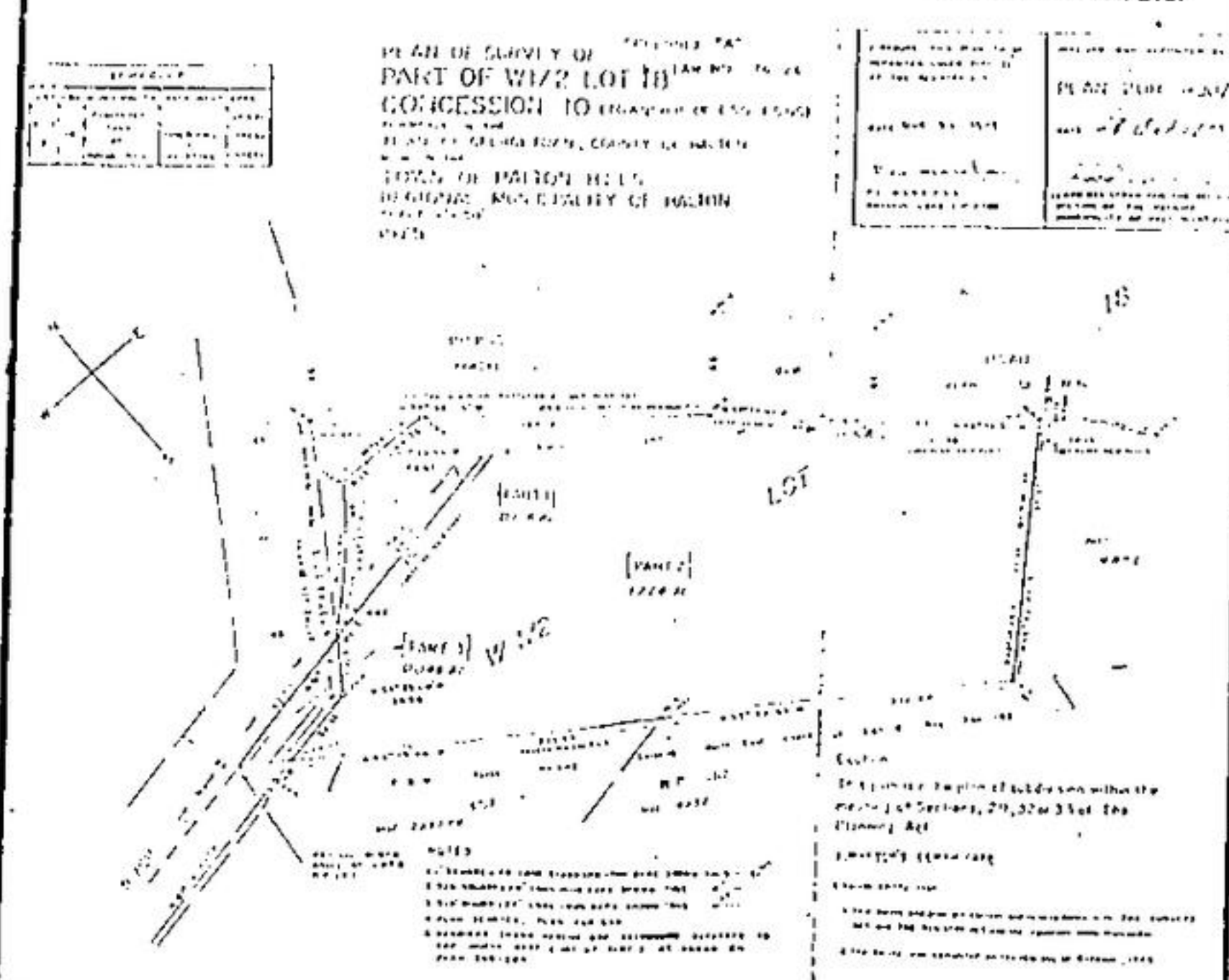
NOW, THEREFORE, COUNCIL FOR THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF HALTON HILLS ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. That part of the street in the Town of Halton Hills (Georgetown) known as River Drive and shown as Part 3 on the plan of survey attached to this by-law as Schedule "A" be and the same is hereby closed and stopped up.

2. Notice of the intention of Council for this Corporation to pass this by-law is to be published once a week for four consecutive weeks in the Georgetown Herald and in the Independent and Council for this Corporation shall hear any objections to the proposed closing and conveying of the said part of River Drive to the abutting owner at its regular meeting on the 17th day of May, 1978 or so soon thereafter as is possible, and if there are no valid objections to the proposed closing at such meeting Council shall give third and final reading to this by-law.

BY-LAW read a first and second time this 5th day of April 1978.

Thos. J. Hill
Mayor
G. R. Pritchard,
Clerk Administrator



BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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