



Paul Carter as Captain Corcoran regales Wednesday evening's audience with tales of his life as the skipper of the H.M.S. Pinafore from the deck of his vessel during the opening night of the operetta in the McKenzie-Smith middle school auditorium last week. Crew members including Dick Deadeye (with the patch) await word of the arrival of Sir Joseph Porter to inspect the ship.

Acton middle school launches HMS Pinafore

By MAGGIE HANNAH
Herald staff writer
A very impressive effort is the only way to describe the McKenzie-Smith middle school operetta last week. The Gilbert and Sullivan musical H.M.S. Pinafore has been abridged for use in schools but follows the original plot and characters.

Captain Corcoran still has a beautiful daughter, Josephine, whom he hopes to see married to Sir Joseph Porter, one of his Royal Navy senior officers. Josephine still prefers Ralph Rackstraw, one of the sailors on her father's ship the H.M.S. Pinafore. Dick Deadeye still elopes with Josephine's plan to elope with Ralph and Ralph still winds up in the brig in irons.

Buttercup, a peddler who frequents the waterfront, reveals that in her younger days as a baby farmer she managed to mix up Ralph and the captain and thus Josephine is definitely not suitable to marry so noble a personage as Sir Joseph, but Ralph still finds her eligible. Sir Joseph settles on one of his numerous cousins and Captain Corcoran who is now a simple seaman decides Buttercup would be a good match. And everyone still lives happily ever after.

Nerves threatened to put a damper on the whole affair for the opening scenes Wednesday were pretty staid. The sailors passed around their pipes and swabbed their decks like scared rabbits for the first five minutes. Then they seemed to get the feel for putting on a show and began to loosen up. By the time they did their hornpipe they were grinning and clapping easily enough to

inspire the audience to join right in. They were having fun and they made sure the audience did too. The really good performances turned out once again to be the ones which the young actors could find humorous.

Paul Carter as Captain Corcoran manages to show just the perfect amount of amazement when he is told to use "please" when speaking to his men while Sir Joseph Porter, alias Steve Saxon, was a perfect pompous naval official who can't see how useless he is. Joel Pink as Dick Deadeye proved to be a most

engaging villain who sings and dances as well as he rattles on his fellow officers.

Della Webster as Josephine showed a lovely voice when she sang her farewells to Ralph while he was being dragged off in irons.

Colourful period costumes added greatly to the mood and the cast members seemed quite at home in their trailing gowns and knee-length breeches. The portion of the ship which was built out from the stage did a lot to help the cast who used it to project their voices played over the sound system. A record of seagulls and waves set the mood nicely.

Home, school conference

Halton Home and School Council will be sponsoring the third Annual Leadership Conference on Wednesday, May 17 at 7 p.m. in the Halton board of education administration Centre at 2050 Guelph Line, Burlington. Registration forms can be obtained at the library. Workshop leaders will include board chairman Gary Morton, Halton Regional Police Chief Ken Skerrett, and Halton regional medical officer of health Dr. Joseph Chamberlain. Additional information may be had by calling 844-6051, 844-5438, 844-4528.

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