

Ecology play draws praise

By MAGGIE HANNAH Herald staff writer

McKenzie-Smith Middle School students' performance of Rana's Pond, an ecological musical by Peggy Feltsmate and Howard Cable, drew enthusiastic response from the audience viewing it Tuesday evening in the Acton school.

The star of the show, Rana, was played by Chris Lobsinger on opening night and Chris Rosenquist the second night. Rana is a bullfrog living in a polluted pond outside a large industrial town watching all his friends die from pollution but not really understanding what is causing the problem. When he gets captured by a student and taken into a classroom as a class exhibit the students are horified to see he has labels instead of spots because that's the sort of camouflage he needs for life in his pond. The students decide to clean up the pond and tell off all the polluters in the process.

NOT INTRICATE While the plot is not intricate or even very dramatic it is ideally suited to the age and ab ilities of the young performer and the music is certainly pleasing. Rana would have to be classed as the star of the show not only because of the importance of his part but also because of the quality of his

Probably one of the best actors of the Tuesday night group was John Kwiatkowski in the role of Gregory Goormay, a manufacturing magnate who wants to stuff all the world's frog population into one of his cans. His entrance complete with drum rolls and butterfly net was delightful

and his attempts to catch poor Rana and his friends came off well. He spoke his lines well too so that it was unfortunate he seemed to have trouble reaching higher notes when he began to sing. Perhaps nerves got the better of him as they did with several other performers on occasion, but he was still one of the cast's better

members.

The trio of Ladies from SPINCE (the Society for the Preservation and Integration of a Naturally Clean Environment) made a convincing show of planning how to cure the pollution in Rana's Pond without ever accomplishing any thing. Kim Heaps as Mrs. Doolittle, Monica George as Aggie Lottatock, and Carrie Curran as Mrs. Fritter proved both their ability to act and their ability to sing. Their role satirizes all the long-winded do-gooders and is one that young people are bound to find fun to do.

Rita Bottero played Linda Litterkid, the thoughtless individual who litters and blames all pollution problems on industry. Her opposite number was Mark Walker as C.T. Badworks, representing polluting industries who lay all the blame on individuals for the world's pollution. Another cameo of a polluter was William Board, played by Scott Allonby, the advertising king who litters the swamps with his signs and doesn't believe in visual pollution.

The sets were colorful and well-thought out as were the costumes. The nicest touch in that department was a taperecorded segment of frogs croaking. Altogether an entertaining effort.

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FOILED AGAIN!

McKenzie-Smith Middle School students presented the ecological musical, Rana's Pond last Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Here stalwart law enforcement officers complete with red costs and boy scout hats cart away the villain of the production, Gregory Goormay, Mr. Goormay's ambition in life is to put all the world's frog in a can, including the hero of the show, Rana Caspiana.

(Herald photo)

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