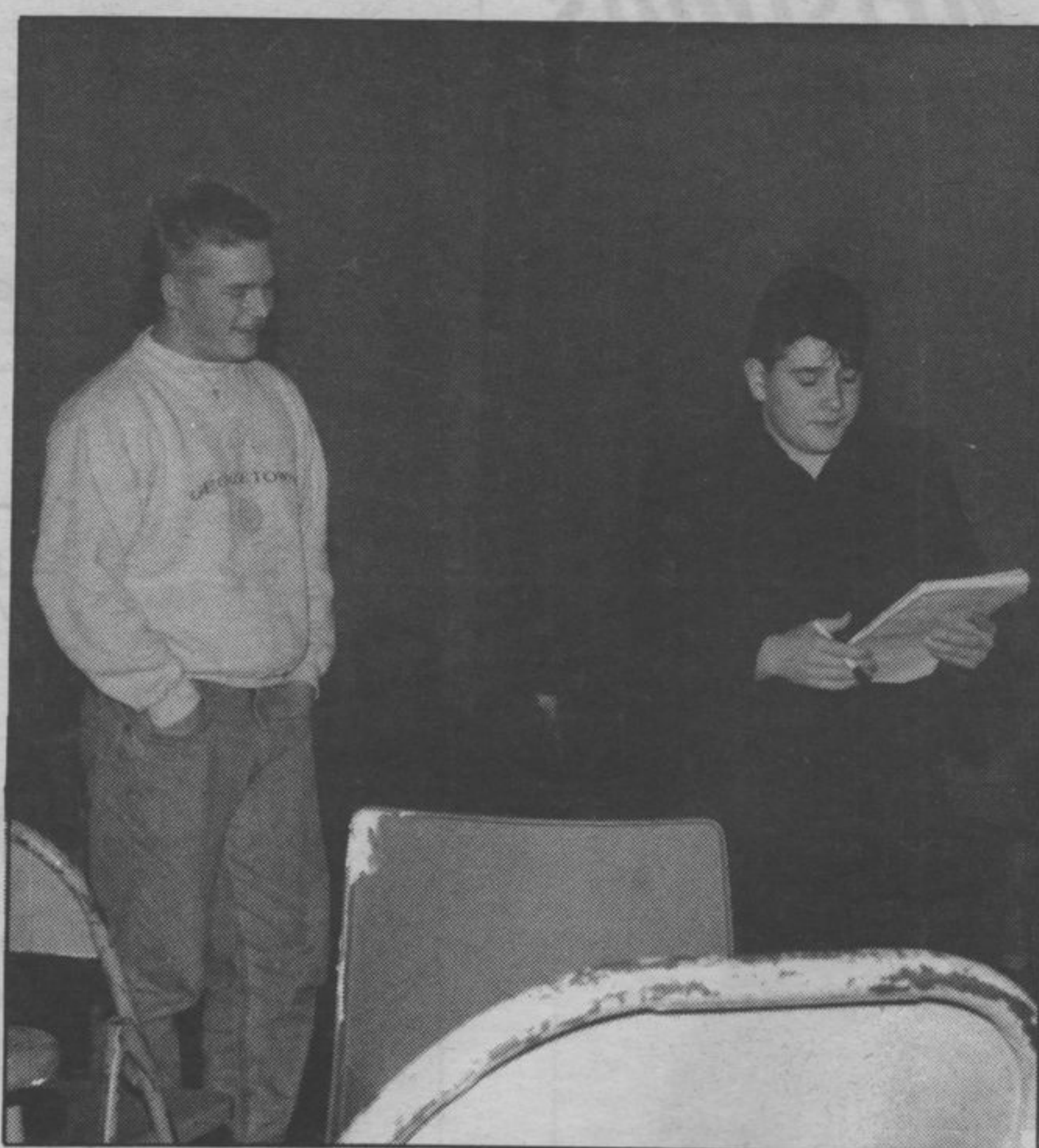


# Ambitious and unconventional theatre at LSHS



Students perform three one act plays last week-end—*The People Versus Christ*, *Do*, and *An Overpraised Season*. It was Schreiber's first ever theatre in the round performance



by Darren MacDonald  
*The News*

The lighting is standard gymnasium fluorescent, and the sets include nothing more elaborate than a rocking chair. But what "Theatre in the Round" lacks in production values, it makes up in the variety of ideas it conveys.

The audience who attended last week-end's performances

at the Schreiber Campus of Lake Superior High School saw three plays that dealt with subjects ranging from humanity's guilt in the crucifixion of Christ, to the ways parents try to shape their children.

The theatre program asks the audience to "consider the production as a workshop—that is, presented for your interest, and discussion, but not in a pol-

ished form."

The actors are literally surrounded by the audience, and they play multiple roles.

The first play, *The People Versus Christ*, by Albert Johnson, involves a trial scene, in which the Virgin Mary, played by Charis Stewart, testifies in the defense of Christ, prosecuted by a lawyer, played by Sal Figliomeni.

The scene shifts to the nativity story, and Figliomeni is now Joseph. In another scene he is a racist.

The character shifts of Figliomeni are crucial to understanding the play's message: that it was intolerance and ignorance that killed Christ, not the Romans or the Jews. And this intolerance still exists today.

The play ends with a condemnation of modern society in which "no man is king, but every man wants to be."

The next production was *Do*, a comedy by Gary Apple. It was a welcome change of pace after the intensity of the first play.

Starring Giselle Tremblay and Keli Turpin, the play drew on word play for much of its humour, but the pies-in-the face ending worked so well partly because it was so unexpected, considering the sophisticated dialogue.

After the whipped cream was cleaned off the floor, the actors presented the final play, *An Overpraised Season*, by Richard S. Dunlop.

Director Sandra Costa opened the play, and reappeared between scenes to expand on the themes contained in the scenes.

The play dealt with the gap between what the teenagers felt, and what their parents thought they should feel.

Betty (Charis Stewart) simply has no mind of her own. If she has a problem, her parents will tell her what to do.

In contrast Bob, played by Derek Sitko, can't communicate with his father (Sal Figliomeni), who preaches incessantly to his son such gems as "do it to others before they do it to you."

Bob eventually stops trying to communicate with his father.

But Larry (Anthony Friedrich) goes as far as to tell his fundamentally Christian mother (Sian MacKay) just how wide the gap is between them: he rejects her attempts to pass her puritan convictions to him, and breaks with her.

The play, and the evening, ended with Costa asking parents to give their children room, and to "trust" them to make the right choices.



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