



COLBY FREE PRESS

Curtain goes up on college play next week

If everybody likes a comedy, as the old saying goes, then everybody will be on the Colby Community College campus next week.

The Frahm Theater, in the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center, will be the place to gather as the college's drama department offers Woody Allen's early comedy *Don't Drink the Water*. The curtain goes up on Thursday, April 5, and runs through Saturday, April 7, at 8 p.m. Tickets will go on sale next week.

According to drama instructor Dr. Richard Groetzinger, the play is set in a U.S. Embassy behind the Iron Curtain during the Cold War. A touring Jewish caterer, his wife and daughter are accused of espionage and seek asylum. Unfortunately, the Ambassador is back in the U.S. and in his place is his bungling son, Axel. After a trade for a captured spy falls through, a daring escape is planned during a party for a visiting dignitary.

The play has been made into two movies, one starring Jackie Gleason and a more recent version starring Woody Allen, Michael J. Fox and Julie Kavner.

Playing the Jewish caterer and his wife, Walter and Marion Hollander, are John Walls (Enterprise) and Jeanine Thompson (Topeka). Sarah Heier (Colby) plays their daughter Susan. Brent Hockersmith (Oakley) plays the bungling Axel Magee.

The ensemble cast includes a number of other zanies including Joseph Bradley (Oakley) as the also-in-hiding Father Drobney; Pat Warren (Salina) as the efficient embassy aide Ms. Kilroy; James Bradley (Akron, Colo.) as Ambassador Magee; Mindi Jackson (Hill City) as the temperamental chef; John Baker (Colby) as the zealous communist police officer Krojak; Everett Robert (Colby) as the Sultan of Bashir; and Sarah Evert (Brewster) and Jenna McGinley (Goodland) as his wives. Also wreaking havoc are Rebecca Steward (Topeka) as the alarmist Miss Burns; Aaron Thompson (Kinsley) as the suave Yanis Kasnar; Amanda Dodd (Oakley) as the Countess Bordoni; and Dusty Pilger (Sharon Springs) as a communist guard and party guest.

For information, call Groetzinger in the college drama department at 462-4783.



Jeanine Thompson and John Walls rehearsed their parts for the Colby Community College's rendition of *Don't Drink the Water*. The play opens Thursday, April 5 at the Frahm Theatre in Cultural Arts Center on campus at 8 p.m.

JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Radio station's silence explained

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Area listeners of public radio may have noticed High Plains Public Radio, FM 88.9, has been off the air in the last two weeks, but according to Tony Stout, spokesman for the Garden City station, that shouldn't be a problem any more.

Stout said the problem was in a satellite dish about eight miles south of Colby.

He said that on or about March 12, the dish was hit by lightning and also experienced some damage from high winds, forcing the station off-line until repairs could be made.

"It was pretty expensive," Stout said. Repairs involved two trips by technicians, the first time to replace the dish and some wiring, then later to replace some fuses and other equipment.

Total cost is going to be about \$5,000, according to Stout. A new downlink recorder has yet to be installed, it only arrived in Garden City Monday, but Stout said installation shouldn't affect operations.

"We plan to install it after (broadcasting) hours," he said.

After getting back on-line March 22, Stout said the station went back off-line for a few hours.

"Jeff Horlacher, one of our members in Colby, was listening about 12:30 p.m.," said Stout.

"He went to lunch and when he came back about one, the station was off the air."

Station technicians discovered the dish had been moved out of place on its tower and had service restored by 8 p.m.

"There was no wind, or anything that could have moved it," said Stout. Radio station personnel reported the damage to the owner of the tower, Larry Dickey of Goodland.

The Thomas County Sheriff's office said no report was filed and Dickey was unavailable for comment.

"The cost was about \$500 for the last trip," said Stout, adding that costs add up quickly for public radio stations that rely on donations instead of advertising.

Suicides among teens, young adults rising

TOPEKA (AP) — Suicides among Kansas teens and young adults increased during the 1990s, a new state report shows.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment reported a 32 percent increase in suicides among people aged 15 to 24 from 1989 to 1998.

But that figure reflects a relatively small number of people — 47 suicides in 1989, compared with 62 in 1998.

This is the first time the state has made such a detailed report on suicides.

The suicide increase for people 15 to 24 topped the list of age groups. Suicides increased 23 percent among 35- to 44-year-olds.

In 1998 the leading cause of death for 15- to 24-year-olds was unintentional injuries, which made up 47 percent of total deaths within that age group. Suicides were next at 18 percent.

"We think this is an important first step," KDHE spokesman Mike Heideman said. "Now, researchers can draw conclusions and look for ways to reverse the trend."

Kansas suicide rates are increasing as rates nationally are decreasing, according to the report.

As a whole, Kansas' rate increased by 2.6 percent from 1997 to 1998, while the United States' rate dropped 1.9 percent.

Kids want more dances, according to Youth On Board's survey

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A newly formed organization, *Youth On Board*, continued to work on ideas Monday night in their quest to look at a community center and/or use what resources are currently available to enhance relationships between adults and young people.

About 20 people attended the second meeting with updates given on student surveys asking what they envisioned a community center would look like. According to Jamie Quenzer, a sophomore at Colby High School, the survey was given to students at the middle school and high school. She noted that while most of the activities are available already, the survey was geared toward summer hours or evenings.

Although results at the high school were not quite completed, middle school results indicated that dances were rated their top choice with 121 votes, followed by weightlifting (92); mud volleyball (89), open swim (85), video/computer game nights (84), bowling tournaments (83), open gym basketball (80), pool tournaments (70), co-ed volleyball (57), racquetball (56), rollerblade activities (55), organized

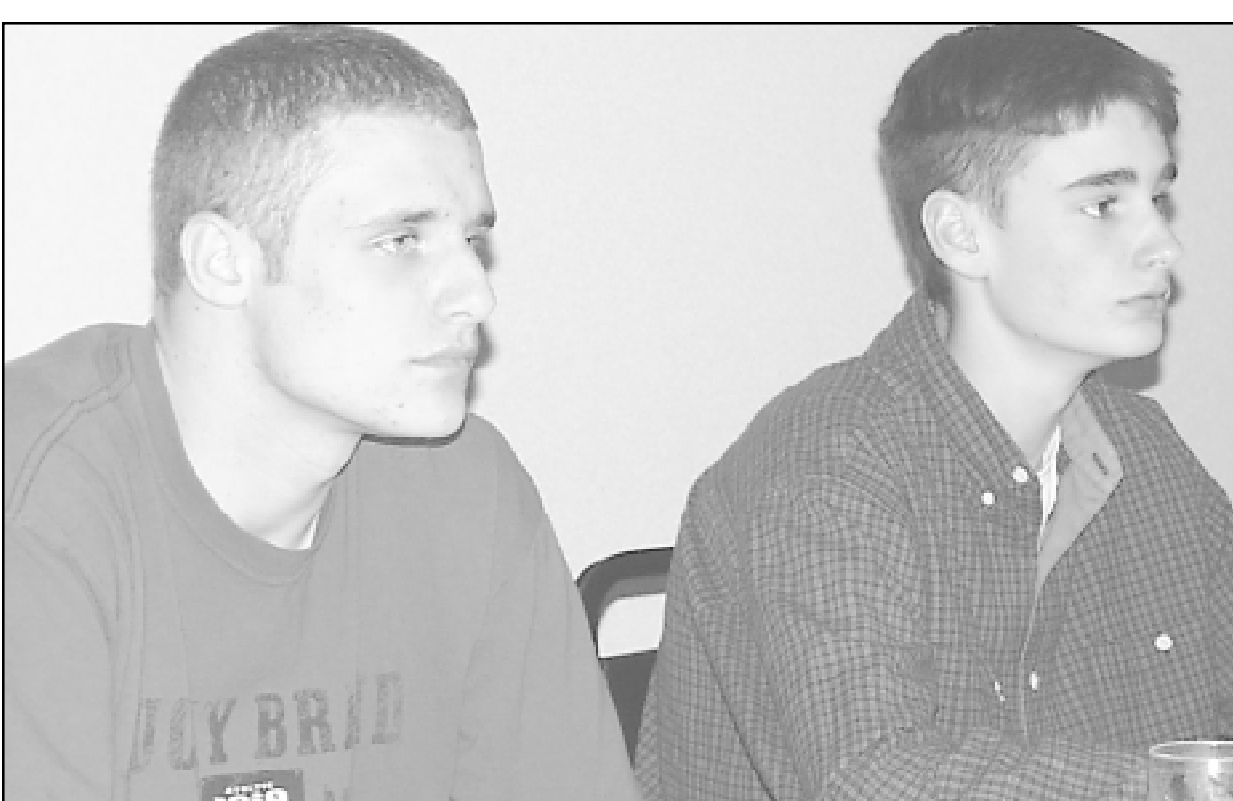
bicycle rides and aerobics (52), arts and crafts (41), co-ed softball (37), powderpuff football (37), board game nights (36), potluck suppers with themes (33), and skateboard workshops (31).

Some of the write-ins on the survey included paintball activities, soccer, football, carnivals, motocross, tennis, rugby, golf, student music jam festivals, bible study, fencing, nature walks and photography.

At the high school level, about half the surveys were tabulated and again dances were at the top of the list with nearly the same order as the middle school on other ratings.

Taylor Miller, also a student at Colby High School, said he had taken a student opinion poll on specifically the community center concept. In response, he said, students pictured the facility having a place for playing cards (i.e. bridge, pitch, Old Maid, etc), area with couches and bean bags for watching television, along with concession area and dance floor.

Students also were interested in a science project corner, using computers, scholars' bowl-type events, activities in learning more about leadership,



Adam Smith and Clayton Kaiser listened to ideas for new recreation opportunities for youth at a Youth On Board meeting at the Ramada Inn on Monday night. Smith and Kaiser are part of the Community Awareness Team.

PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

tutoring facilities and more.

Clayton Kaiser, another student, told the group that in order for the youth center to work, young people of all ages need to be included.

Janet Worthy, one of the adult organizers, added that the group is also looking at ideas that would support things already in the community and build on that.

It was decided that students and adults would continue spreading awareness among various agencies, organizations and public entities as to what the group is all about.

During the next few weeks, students will visit private businesses to see what can be done to accommodate ideas brought forward from the surveys, while others will introduce themselves to city and county government by attending board meetings.

Youth On Board, Worthy explained, is an arm of the Community Awareness Team, which was formed in 1996 to assist in prevention associated with the problems of tobacco, alcohol and other drugs.

For those interested in offering suggestions or would like to attend the next meeting, call Worthy at 462-8152.

Briefly

Weather: Clouds, cool, damp

Monday's forecast for improving conditions this week in the Colby vicinity, just got bumped for a cool and damp outlook, according to today's forecast from the National Weather Service. Tonight, a 30 percent chance for rain or snow showers, lows around 30 and south winds 10-15 mph, turning to the northwest. Wednesday, cloudy, highs 45-50 and southeast winds 5-15 mph.

Wednesday night, cloudy, 30 percent change for rain or snow showers, lows around 30. Thursday and Friday, cloudy, rain likely, lows in the middle 30s and highs in the 40s. Saturday and Sunday, rain or snow, lows in the 30s and highs in the lower 40s. There was a trace of precipitation during the past 24 hours. The records for March 27: 82 in 1989 and -1 in 1931. (*The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.*)

Free tickets at Press, college

Free tickets for Saturday night's performance of the United States Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus of Washington, D. C., are now available at the Colby Free Press and at Colby Community College. Mail-in orders may not arrive in ample time, so the free tickets are being made available to the public at those two locations for quick pick up. The concert starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Colby Community Building. Ticket holders are asked to be seated no later than 7:15.

Farming course offered for youth

Logan and Thomas County Extension Offices will jointly conduct a Hazardous Occupation Training course on April 7 at the Dick Farmer Arena in Oakley. The training will begin at 9 a.m. There will be a \$10 charge for the training course with lunch provided. According to Dennis Chandler,

Thomas County Extension agriculture agent, the training is directed at youth who want to operate a tractor for someone other than their parents for summer employment. Pre-registration is due to the Logan County Extension Office or Thomas County Extension Office by Monday, April 2 by 4:30 p.m.

For information call the Logan County Extension office at (785) 672-3245 or Thomas County Extension office, at (785) 462-4582.

Endowment auction Saturday

Doors open at 4:45 p.m., Saturday, March 31, for this year's Colby Community College Endowment auction. The event will be held at the Colby Comfort Inn Convention Center on S. Range and over 250 items will be offered via live or silent auction beginning at 7 p.m.

The buffet dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m. and includes

prime rib, grilled herb chicken, garlic mashed potatoes, vegetables and dessert. All proceeds will be used to provide scholarships for Colby College students officials said.

Admission is \$25 per person or a table of eight may be purchased for \$150. For reservations, call (785) 462-4684.

Senator will stop in Colby

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts will visit Thomas County on Wednesday, April 11, as part of his annual 105 County Tour. Roberts will be the guest speaker for the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce luncheon at the Ramada Inn, 1950 South Range.

The event is open to the public and the media. Roberts, who conducted annual listening tours of the First District's 66 counties during his 16 years in the House of Representatives, has continued the tradition in the Senate and plans to visit all 105 Kansas counties this year, officials said.

