

# Kimberly High School goes parochial for the weekend

By R.J. Foster

For The Current

**KIMBERLY** — Kimberly High School's Advanced Musical Theater Class took a leap of "faith" by performing the John Powers' musical, "Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up," last Thursday through Sunday.

And the results were heavenly.

## REVIEW

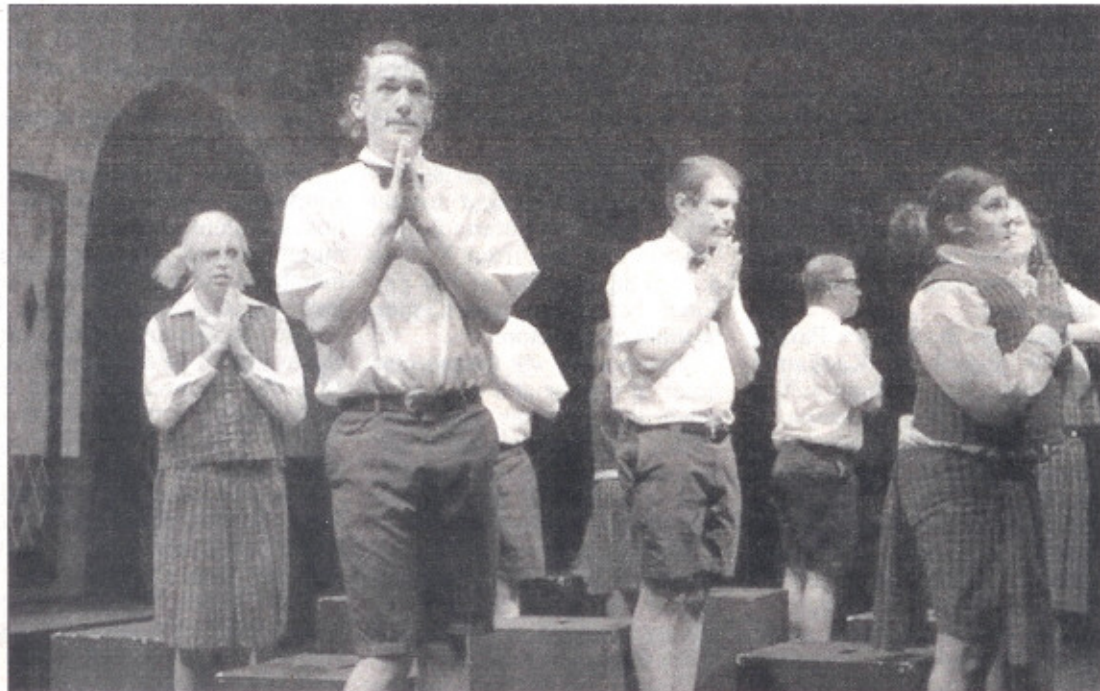
"I thought it was wonderful, a lot of fun, very comical" said Joan Kohl. "I went to Catholic school right here in Darboy so I could relate to a lot."

Dylan Hackbarth was a joy to watch in the role of Eddie Ryan, a young man recounting his journey through Catholic schooling as he tries to reconnect with his childhood sweetheart, played by Sara Probst.

Throughout the first act, Probst played the insecure, pudgy grade-schooler perfectly. Her first song, "Little Fat Girls," combined a child-like tone with an emotional maturity that brilliantly captured the sadness of the girl-everybody-picked-on.

The last number of the first act, "How Far is Too Far," blended the voices of Krista Kruegen, Deborah Kohl and Courtney Bednarowski with Probst's to create a beautifully harmonized portrayal of the confusion and fear of growing up, first dances, and boys.

Hackbarth and fellow male leads Spencer Wentland, Luke Uphill, and Alex Kayser complemented the girls well. But like



**COURTNEY BEDNAROWSKI** (from left), Dylan Hackbarth, Alex Kayser, Luke Uphill, Sara Probst and Deborah Kohl perform in "Do Black Patent Leather Shoes Really Reflect Up" at Kimberly High School.

Photos for The Current by Brenda Rosenow

any school dance, the girls were definitely leading.

Celebrating the end of the school year, the elder Sister Lee, played by Kate Hermsen, stole the end of the first act with a solo dance number. Although restricted by her habit, the little nun kicked up her heels to the delight of the crowd.

Susan Hammes of Appleton agreed. "I really liked the little nun dancing."

Director Todd Wenger teaches the students, all of whom were involved in the production.

"Two of the kids were in the technical crew, the rest were in

the show," Wegner said. "Students gain an appreciation for all aspects of the theater beyond what's happening on stage. They're all assigned to a production committee such as costuming, props, or publicity."

The production used a unique staging design with audience members surrounding the stage on three sides, mere inches from

the performers. Although a little strange feeling at first, the stage/seating arrangement drew the audience into the story, and allowed the actors to connect with the audience on many different levels.

Kayser's portrayal of the sex-crazed Felix Lindor was balanced perfectly by the prudish demeanor of Kohl's blushing

Mary Kenny.

Uphill's solo, "Doo-Wah-Doo-Wee," showed a transition from geeky-glasses to cool shades that had the girls in the cast swooning, and geeks in all of us cheering.

Whether being yanked by the pigtails, or confusing "self-abuse-ment" with "self-amusement," Bednarowski's ditzy Virginia Lear was a stitch.

Benjamin Cahall did an excellent job in the role of Father O'Reilly, striking the fear of retribution into his students' hearts with his words, and their heads with a big, old Bible.

The show appealed to Catholics and "publics" alike. The Rev. Tom Pomeroy, a current priest and former public school student said, "I thought it was very funny!"

It's safe to say everyone involved earned high marks on their "permanent record."

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