Climaxing Black Month at Eastern will be a concert featuring Billy Preston at 8:00 Thursday in the PUB, and a play entitled "A Day of Absence," with roles portrayed by the members of the Black Student Union in Showalter Auditorium Saturday night at 8:00 p.m.

"A Day of Absence," directed by Eastern student, Shelly Young, is a satire concerning a typical day in a typical Southern town during the 1930's. The Whites attempt to get through the day without the aid from the Black people.

BSU president, Jim Williams said the 13 to 15 members of the cast will be portraying White people in a Southern town when they have no Negroes around to do the work.

The question arises as to where the Negroes are and the play features how their absence affects the mayor, a married couple, and two country men of the town, Williams said.

He said the scene is "totally chaotic" as the Whites attempt to get through the day without the aid from the Black people.

As Black Month draws to a close, Williams said it has not been a success in its goal—that of "bridging the gap between the students here on campus"—but if nothing else, he said it has helped the Black students.

Williams stated he knows a few Cheney residents who have enjoyed the program and that the Cheney planning Commission has expressed its pleasure at the promotion of such a program at Eastern.

This year's Black Month activities began May 8 when four speakers came to Eastern to speak on various aspects of Black culture and history.

Gary Gayton, a Seattle attorney, spoke on the role of a Black lawyer in the legal profession.

David Cole, a staff member of Eastern's department of military science and a Sergeant in the Army, spoke on the Blacks in the military.

Yawman Ware, a sociology professor at Central and Rindy Jones, an advisor for Central's Education Opportunity Program, spoke on various general aspects of Black culture and history.

Another part of the Black Month program was a coffee house "get-together" in commemoration of Malcolm X's birthday.

BSU member, Linwood Brown stated that the get-together gave the "people time to exchange their views about whatever was being said." It was sort of a jam as the group listened to tapes and recordings.

Last night a Black experience theater was featured in Showalter Auditorium featuring two plays set in the late 1940's or early 1950's depicting the attitudes of the people at that time.

Preston To Perform

A musician-composer that has played with the Beatles, Leon Russell, Eric Clapton, Carole King, Barbra Streisand, Steven Stills, Ray Charles, and Aretha Franklin—to name a few, is coming to Eastern tomorrow, in conjunction with the BSU and "Black Month."

Billy Preston, sometimes known as the "Fifth Beatle," because of his association and performances with that group toward the end of their existence, will be playing the keyboards and singing at 8:00 in the PUB multi-purpose room.

Performing tomorrow—Highlighting the activities of this year's Black Month will be tomorrow night's performance by Billy Preston in the PUB multi-purpose room.

Having had three hit singles on the charts ("That's the Way God Planned It," "I Wrote a Simple Song," and an instrumental, "Outa-Space"), Preston is considered quite a good keyboard artist, composer, and vocalist by his own contemporaries.

His big break for popularity and fame was his performance at Madison Square Garden at the concert for Bangladesh. He was part of a back-up group for Eric Clapton, Ringo Star, George Harrison, Leon Russell and Bob Dylan. In turn, he performed his own number "That's the Way God Planned It" with some of the people mentioned backing him up.

"I'm really excited about this concert," said Herb Jones, executive coordinator of activities. "It's not often this kind of big name makes it to Eastern."

Tickets go on sale for Preston at the PUB ticket desk at 11:45 today and tomorrow. Only 900 seats will be available, and the ticket cost will be $2.00 with student ID.

in this issue . . .

track - hopley wins in district
editorship - a.s. to hear case
intramurals - over 330 entrants
editorial

There is a certain something about fighting windmills—the more you believe the windmill is something substantial, the more glorious the fight becomes.

So too it seems with conducting the battles in student affairs. A case in point is the current "battle" over the appointment of a new editor for this esteemed publication. In the beginning, it could have been a simple thing to choose an editor on considerations of certain criteria. The criteria hopefully would have been somewhat objective and applied to all applicants for the position.

However, at the time of the appointment there was little display of such considerations. Rather there was a marked atmosphere of personal subjective preferences holding sway.

That was the beginning of the "battle", for once the game had been set in motion it becomes too late for the advocates of such sport to back out.

Now that there is concern on the part of some students that the choice for editor was not the best and that it should at least be reconsidered the gamesmen find it necessary to continue in their glorious manner. The reconsideration can not be done in a logical, reasonable manner either. Rather accusations and half-and non-truths proliferate.

All we would like to ask is that persons on both sides take the opportunity today to sit down, shut their mouths, open their minds and forget their own selfish interests for awhile. Today there is a chance for a somewhat representative body of students to make a somewhat representative decision on the behalf of other students. We ask that the parties immediately consider that the choice is ultimately a student body choice and that the preferences are ultimately to be those of the student body. Consequently personal goals and desires have no place in the decision-making process.

We would therefore urge that students who wish to have any say over who will or will not be editor of the Easterner next year attend the A.S. meeting today at 3:00 in the PUB council chambers.

Besides, hating to make assumptions on the part of students as much as we do, we will, however, this once suggest that students are as tired of playing petty games made to seem important as we are.

to the Ed:

I would like to make mention of the tactics of a group of students known as "Jesus Freaks". With increasing frequency I, as well as others, have been victimized by the discoursive proposition of "Jesus Freaks". It seems that many times it is nearly impossible to decline conversation without a great deal of indelicacy.

The appearance of a conversation one may be engaged in at the time, they will interrupt with a few relatively meaningless phrases which are themselves characteristics of Jesus Freak's state of mental atrophy. Such impediments is incredible.

I would also suggest that they keep to themselves rather than create provocation and suspicion as well as public nuisance. Finally I would like to add that I seriously doubt that the sky is falling!

Jack Demson

Dear Editor:

Perhaps you and the Easterner readers are weary of the peace march issue; however, I want to respond to Mr. Dan Austin's letter. My first reaction to the letter was one of mirth. Some what later I realized that if Mr. Austin wishes to continue to write and to call other persons "no - one's in a bility to re a d that he has not yet learned to read. Apparently he is somehow officially connected with Eastern Washington State College, since he apologized for the college; I hope he is a Freshman.

Mr. Austin's first mistake was to assume that Mr. Hepler is a student at Eastern Washington State College, even though some other categories of people had been listed in Mr. Hepler's letter. Mr. Hepler is in the campus minister at EWSC for the United Ministries in Higher Education and has been marching for various causes for at least eighteen years.

Further evidence of Mr. Austin's inability to read is that he cannot discern between one's concern for being photographed for publicity purposes and being photographed for security purposes. Mr. Hepler's whole complaint deals with the reason for the photography, not with the fact of it.

Mr. Austin also needs to learn a little more about his own rights. Every person in any march is constitutionally guaranteed the right to assemble. He gives up no legal rights. Obviously anyone who marches exposes himself to opposition, because everyone else has the same right to assemble and to freedom of speech. Mr. Hepler's complaint was against the Campus Safety department, not against private citizens.

I hope this letter will motivate Mr. Austin to read with a little more analytical reasoning.

Myrtle E. Hepler

Dear Editor:

The Inland Empire Veterinary Medicine Association, in consultation with the Spokane County District Health Department and other county departments is conducting a rabies immunization clinic.

The primary source of rabies, a disease nearly 100 percent fatal to animals and humans, are dogs and cats. In Spokane and adjacent counties, there has not been a positive case of rabies in dogs or cats since 1964; however, bats have been a consistent carrier of the infection. To keep dogs and cats free of the disease, they must be immunized. The immunization being offered for the fee of $2.00 protects animals from the disease for a period of years. This fee covers the cost of vaccination and supplies as well as aiding in the support of research and financial assistance to students of the veterinary profession.

Veterinarians participating in the program are donating their time.

Several locations in the immediate area are contributing time to the effort from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on dates indicated:

Dr. Tavener's Office, Cheney

May 18 & 26

Drs. Morton & Blakeslee, Spokane

May 26

Sprague Fire Station

May 18 & 26

In Spokane: Low Cost-Wellesley & Crestline

May 19 & 26

Rosauer's at 11th and Lincoln

May 16 & 26

University City

May 18 & 26

Wellesley & Assembly

May 18 & 26

5-Mile Shopping Center

May 19 & 26

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Annual HSCASS Due

The 1972 Annual High School Creative Arts Summer Series (HSCASS) will be held June 19-21 at EWSC, highlighted by the Tamarack Festival and the Spokane Symphony Orchestra in residence.

Designed for the high school student, the program offers two weeks of concentrated study for the student to attend the classes of his choice exploring artistic work in the entire area of creative art. Time and effort put into it will be a worthwhile experience, too.

The Tamarack Festival, the special music portion of the series, will feature Dr. Mary Hagan, a famous music instructor from the northwest. EWSC students may take advantage of some of the special features by signing up for the series during summer registration on campus.

Courses are provided for the beginner to the most advanced in the fields of art, dance, drama, gymnastics, music, radio-TV, and speech. Outstanding college professors will teach during the series.

The EWSC Student Union building, gymnasium, recreation fields, swimming pool and creative arts complex will be open to the participants. After classes there will be sports, picnics, dancing, games, recitals, movies and other social activities.

In art, experience in drawing, printmaking, woodworking, and experimental new forms is available. The creative dance class will explore techniques of movement as well as dance composition.

In drama, theater performance and technical projects will be the fare for those interested in drama activities.

The gymnastics class will develop performance skills on the balance beam and uneven parallel bars. Vaulting, tumbling, and free exercise will also be included.

All opportunities are available for high school and college students, plus those entering the tenth grade in September. The fee is $41 for on-campus living, and $40 for off-campus students. Applications are available from Dr. George W. Lotzenbiker, department of music. If mailing the application in, send the completed form and either the full fee or a $10 deposit to the Cashier, Business Office, EWSC, prior to June 15.

Tuition Provisions Open To Most Vietnam Vets

The 1972 legislative session produced additional changes in the residency law relating to tuition and fees paid by Vietnam Veterans.

Qualified veterans of the Vietnam conflict previously had to be a bona fide citizen or resident of the State of Washington for a period of one year prior to the date of entry into the service. Residency status now includes those who qualify as a resident student under R.C.W. 28B.15.012. Stated simply for residency purposes, "A veteran must be one who has had domicile in the State of Washington for a period of one year immediately prior to the time of commencement of the first day of any quarter at E.W.S.C."

If the student meets all other requirements as contained on the Department of Defense Form 214 (DD-214) it has been certified as a resident student by the College under R.C.W. 28B.15.012, then the reduced tuition and fee rates apply. The change is not retroactive but does apply to spring quarter, 1972 and future academic year quarters. Students who have previously not qualified because the former residency specifications should contact Al Whiteside, Room 317, Showalter Hall, Telephone 359-2466 prior to the end of Spring quarter for possible refunds.

Eastern's traditional team title, "Savages," crumbled before a vote of the Board of Trustees last Thursday.

Presently Mike Baker, executive coordinator of activities is heading a committee to replace the savage mascot title which fell as a result of the BOT action.

The move to replace the title was first taken by minority groups on other colleges who have expressed the feeling that such titles are derogatory toward a segment of the student body.

The committee, which will work in connection with vice-president for student services, Dr. Drayl Haggie, consists of student, faculty, athletic department and administration members of the college community who will work toward the institutional goal which the BOT has deemed necessary.

Eastern's president, Emerson C. Stuck, delegated the responsibility for formulating the actual proposal to the committee which will go before the BOT "as soon as possible" in the words of the Board, to replace the slogan. Until such time as a new slogan has been approved by the Board, Eastern is slogans.

In other action, the BOT passed a proposal submitted by the Associated Students providing that the Associated Students (AWS) be funded from the A.S. general fund budget.

The proposal provides for consistency in funding for all organizations on campus as the male counterpart, the former Associated Men Student organization voluntarily went the same route two years ago and has never applied for funding according to A.S. Treasurer Mark Lobdell.

Formerly, AWS received $50 per quarter from the tuition of every woman student enrolled at Eastern. Under the new policy, the funds will be transferred to the A.S. budget and the organization will have to "justify its budget request before A.S. legislature as does any other organization," said Lobdell.

The A.S. budget request which has been approved by the Finance Committee and will go before the A.S. legislature for final passage this afternoon parallels the amount of money the organization received last year.

A.S. To Fund AWS

BOT Drops "Savages"

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FOR PHOTO & STEREO EQUIPMENT

THE GROOVE & SHUTTER

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Red and white checks cover the counter in the Boys' Book store off the East Webster Student Center.

Three identical white checks were found in the clothing lockers of three male disc jockeys who were circulating the checks.

The checks had the slogan "Put 'Em On" written on them.

The checks were confided to行業 members to keep them from going on the street.

A group of students who were in the East Webster Student Center at the time, saw the checks and figured that they were supposed to be used for something.

The checks were placed in the Boys' Book store where all of the checks were collected.

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A Year To Remember

This is the last of a two part feature reviewing Eastern’s successful athletic year.

FRUSTRATION NEARLY RELIEVED

It was 1947 when a Savage basketball team lost the District I title game to Central City, 67-58. That year dry spell was not ended but the Savages made it to their first playoffs since 1953. Under the reins of Jerry Krause the Savs finished 21-7, the best mark in many years.

After splitting the first four games the Savages reeled off 11 straight before going flat against Central and Western on the road. The Brick Barn Barons, so nick named, could not afford to look back from there on out. They outdid Southern Oregon 95-78 but saw all EVC hopes vanish at the hands of OTI the following night. Krause’s crew rebounded to outclass Central but faced a more formidable foe in the likes of Western the next weekend. It was nearly a blueprint of the earlier season. Their annual trip to Roswell, New Mexico ended the season with a 3:22.0 timing and then came back to Martin. Steve Slavens who anchored the Eastern’s 440 relay team set a district record. Coach Martin reported that Maplestone is ranked as the number one miler in the N.A.I.A. standings. Hopley is in the top five N.A.I.A. javelin throwers, and Watson is ranked in the top ten high jumpers.

HOPLEY THROWS TO DISTRICT WIN - Eastern’s Mike Hopley 215-3 have earned him a spot at the NAM National at Billings

By Mick Meller

Savs Second In District; Central Favored In EvCo

After a second place finish in the N.A.I.A. District I Track and Field Meet last weekend here at Woodward Field, the FSWC track and field team are now preparing for the Evergreen Conference Meet at Bellingham this Friday and Saturday.

Central Washington, dominating almost all events at the District I Meet, is a co-favorite with Oregon College of Education to take first place at the conference meet.

As was last weekend, Eastern and Western Washington will be fighting it out for the third place finish.

At the District 1 Meet, Central overshadowed the five other teams and finished with 230 points, over 100 more than second place finisher Eastern. With 177 points, and Western was third with 111 points.

The most exciting runner at the drizzling rain meet was Central’s Dave Stevens who anchored the 440 relay team to a meet record 41:2 timing and then came back to run a startling 21:1 in the 220. Eastern’s 440 relay team set a school record in placing second in the relay.

A standout for Eastern was Barry Jahn in the steeplechase. He ran the mile relay by over 20 yards on the last lap, overtook Western’s anchorman and won the relay by 10 yards with a 3:22.0 timing.

Earlier in the day, Atkinson won the 220 and had a 235-6256 Beer Garden

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INTRAMURAL PROGRAM EXCELLED

Perhaps the most progress in athletics at Eastern this year was the intramural program.

Under direction of Jared Fors the intramural program exceeded all previous years with a full slate of events entered by thousands.
By Gordon Taft
Eastern's men's golf team will be making its sixth straight trip to the National NAIA tournament, when they travel to Roswell, New Mexico, for a three-day tourney scheduled for June 6-9.

Eastern, led by Bruce Brevet and Gary Lindeblad (who will be making their fourth trip to the Nationals—perhaps a "first ever" for a collegiate two-some, for sure a first ever for an Eastern two-some), could put it all together this time.

The very strong Chowchillian team had sub-par rounds at least one time during the year. Steve Solomon and Mark Running will be posting their second National trip. Vincent Monaco, who had not played golf steadily since his high school days—three years ago, has become a real asset to the team, said Coach Donald E. Kallem. Monaco's scores were used in the District I tournament, held two weeks ago, when the Sages qualified for the Nationals by taking first place. Brevet was the tourney medalist at District I, and headed two other Eastern performers (Lindeblad and Running), who were named on the first All-District I team.

There will be 33 teams participating in the Nationals. Eastern's highest finish in the past was a 10th place in 1989, however there have been two All-American picks from EWSC. The first was Carl Ota in 1966, and the second was Fred Lark in 1968. The top six finishers at the Nationals are awarded NAIA 1st-team All-American recognition. The next six are designated 2nd-team NAIA All-Americans.

Coach Kallem indicated that it is really hard to place in the top ten teams at the Nationals. "Many golf teams offer full rides (tuition and books) to good players. The only time we (Eastern) was ever able to give a golfer anything was back in 1966 when the school paid for his books because he really needed the assistance," said Kallem.

Other teams are also allowed to practice free at local country clubs. Eastern's budget allows for six half-season tickets for the team. A half-season ticket is not valid on weekends, therefore all Eastern players must pay out of their own pockets if he wishes to practice on Saturday, Sunday, or holidays.

Another factor that enters into play is the weather. Mid-western and southern schools are afforded the luxury of a longer playing season.

Coach Kallem has been contemplating holding the National tournament locally, however money seems to be the biggest problem. Eastern was one of the top three choices for the 1972 tourney site, before the final selection was made.

Kallem said, "I have several fine prospects for next year and expect a continuing successful program of Eastern golf."
Hams Will Call

By Kathy Wilkes

"We'd like to let more people know about our radio so they could use it," commented Gary Campbell, ham radio operator and member of Eastern's Amateur Radio Club. We are a service organization and so far we've had very little response."

The ham radio Campbell spoke of is located in room 115 of Monroe Hall, and is in operation almost every evening. Messages from students to anyone in the U.S. or Canada or any military personnel in the world are accepted. A phone patch (talking to the person directly) can be arranged. This can be done by leaving your name and phone number and the area you wish to contact at Rap-In. The operator here and the operator in the area of your contact will connect you directly by the ham, to each other. Phone patches for the Northwest are the least complicated. The phone number and address are provided. An average message should consist of about 25 words. Students in particular hard to reach, Campbell mentioned. To send a message to someone on board, you must know the alternate port APO zip code. Messages are generally easiest for the ham operators to convey, as out of state messages must be relayed through a chain of stations to the right locality. A message to someone in Seattle, for instance, is fairly uncomplicated. The message given to Rap-In is relayed to the EWSC radio operators, who contact a station in Seattle. A phone call is then made by the Seattle operator to the person intended to receive the message. Returning messages are also relayed through them. "We are a volunteer organization," Campbell added. "And of course are not 100 percent effective. But it is definitely worth it to give us a try before you write a letter or make a phone call. It is free of charge.

Wives' Push Rewarded

Behind every great man there is a woman. Or is it, behind every man there is a great woman? Any way you want to look at it, being a student and a husband can be a trying experience. There sometimes has to be a push from behind (almost literally) to make it through school and more times than not the push comes from the wife.

Over 100 wives of Eastern students will be recognized at graduation when they are presented an honorary degree of their own; the PHT (Putting Hubby Through). Each year the degrees are awarded to the wives of graduating students. It has been pointed out that married students study harder. Maybe it is the support of their wives.

Faculty Morale Needs Boost

Mounting evidence of the need to restore faculty morale on all higher education campuses in Washington has been reported by presidents of the state's six public college and universities. Dr. Emerson Shock, Eastern president, said a report from the Council of Presidents to the trustees and regents indicates the presidents are "alarmed by the intensification of the focus feeling on each campus rose because Washington institutions have been falling behind in both salaries and fringe benefits.

Purpose of the report to each trustee and regent is the "urgent recommendation of the presidents that priority attention be given to strenuous efforts to increase the rates of compensation of faculty and to improve the fringe benefit system available to them.

"The presidents recommend that these items receive careful attention in the next weeks and months as the biennial budget requests are being prepared," the report read.

"We wish to share our common deep concern with you because of our fears that Washington higher education can be qualitatively downgraded rapidly once faculty lose faith in their institutions."

"If the faculty, internal and external, are left behind, a point of no return exists."

"In order to prevent such a situation from occurring, the presidents recommend that the institutions be given the funds to keep the faculty satisfied."

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This bag is perfect for the day hiker or bike rider. It's size is fifteen inches high, twelve and a half inches wide, and five inches deep.

Olympia Beer is offering this bag for $7.50.

Giveaway Successful

The Radio-Television Guild wants to thank everyone for participating in the R-TV Guild bike bag giveaway, which grossed $300. Ray Kosse and Jim Watson won the bikes. There were 75 other winners. The winners names and prizes are available in the SUB, room 208.

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Simmons Lessens Amount of Loan Defaults

Troubled by an unexpected increase of loan defaults during the past year, the U.S. Office of Education has begun cracking down on student borrowers. William M. Simmons, director of the Office of Education's division of insured loans, says "we will do anything to be responsible" in helping students pay off their debts.

If a reasonable settlement cannot be worked out, he said, his office will ask the Justice Department to obtain a judgment and place a lien on any assets the borrower may have.

If a student with such a loan defaults before bankruptcy, he absolves himself of the responsibility to pay the loan. In such a case of default, the government pays the difference to the bank which made the loan, since the loan is federally guaranteed.

All the efforts are designed to bring the default rate on the loan program below its current level of 4 percent.

This probably is not an optimistic rate, said Simmons, considering that the program dates from the fall of 1966 and that it deals with young, inexperienced borrowers. "You also have to remember that 96 percent of the loans are being repaid," he said.

Defaults rose sharply last year, according to a report by the General Accounting Office.

To help tighten the collection efforts, the Office of Education has assigned 46 more people to work in its 10 regional offices. Another 11 persons are expected to be assigned eventually, along with 25 field examiners who will go to banks and colleges to see if lenders are billing the government accurately and are making a strong effort to collect loans that go default, Simmons said.

In addition, Simmons and his staff are planning a series of regional meetings with college officials to encourage student aid officers to impress on students that they must pay their loans.

Also, in another move to tighten the loan program, Simmons said he had arranged for the Internal Revenue Service to work in its 10 regional offices.

defaults were reported by late September, 35 percent higher than the same period last year.

Defaults rose 20 percent in 1971 over 1970, with the greatest increase during the first semester of 1971.

Defaults were reported by late September, 20 percent higher than the same period last year.

Defaults were reported by late September, 14 percent higher than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, 9 percent higher than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, 5 percent higher than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, 2 percent higher than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, 1 percent higher than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, 0 percent higher than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, -1 percent lower than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, -2 percent lower than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, -3 percent lower than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, -4 percent lower than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, -5 percent lower than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, -6 percent lower than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, -7 percent lower than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, -8 percent lower than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, -9 percent lower than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, -10 percent lower than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, -11 percent lower than the same period last year.

 Defaults were reported by late September, -12 percent lower than the same period last year.
Set, Lights Acting Shown To Advantage
Premiere Theatre Performance Nets Acclaim

By Tom Rantz

The premiere performance in Eastern’s new College Theatre was presented Thursday night as the Drama Department opened its production of William Shakespeare’s Much Ado About Nothing.

The production was quite enjoyable and contained many good points which added up to create a memorable occasion. The little extras, like the door-to-door exposition or simply to opening night. Whether due to excessive exposition or simply to opening night jitters, the first half-hour of the show dragged. But the cast finally got warmed up, as did the audience, and after the initial scenes the energy levels built to a sufficient point and the lines became funny instead of forced.

The cast, for the most part, was believable in their roles and any dropped or muffed lines were quickly covered. The biggest problems were elusive Shakespearean accents which came and went in various characters throughout the show, problem and several other small difficulties were outweighed by several cast members who literally shone in their performances.

Ocealia Shoemaker as Beatrice was outstanding. Her biting wit and sharp tongue were entertaining and her courtship with Benedick was quite amusing.

James Herrmann as Benedick played his part well through the many changes of heart his character went through. As a confirmed bachelor falling prey to love he was believable and humorous.

William Schwartz, as the rotund Leonato, remained strong throughout the show, adding humor and compassion to a well-acted role.

Also notable were James Armstrong as the Sexton and J. R. Rand Carr as the Constable. Both characters were extremely enjoyable and their fast-moving scenes together were quite well done.

In addition to the above-mentioned “outstanding” performers, Much Ado About Nothing boasts a strong supporting cast.

David Lipe and Sue Lofstrom at the other pair of lovers, Claudio and Hero, were for the most part good in the roles, however both characters were weak at crucial moments. In the wedding, Hero, and upon learning of Hero’s death, Claudio, both go through the actions just aren’t strong enough to be believable. There are other weak spots, but basically the portrayals are good.

David Marberg maintained a high level of believability throughout, although all the back-patting, elbow-sudging, shoulder-grasping and similar “manly fraternal contact” got to be a little too much. His reactions to situations were fresh however, and didn’t seem as rehearsed as some of his fellow cast members.

James Devann successfully portrayed Don John as a despotic, if somewhat wimpy, villain in a constant, low-key performance; a perfect example of a person only a mother could love. James Mickelson wins my praise for taking what has to be the world’s most uninviting, unmanageable staff and making it totally believable. The purpose it served was unclear, but at least it looked natural.

As villains, William Specker and Daniel Everett just weren’t menacing, but they played convincing pawns corrupted by bad friends and money.

Nita Simon and Helen Walker were good as flighty, flirtatious ladies in waiting.

Phillip Weller was good with his sub-bass voice, but it was disturbing to see his twitch disappear after his first scene. Doug Rice did some fancy footwork which gained him a good laugh and James Beley, in addition to having spindly legs and the mouth of an extra terrestrial, successfully massacred his song as well as any professional; it was horrible.

In addition to the acting, the technical aspects of the production were quite good and added greatly to the success of the show.

The costumes were elaborate and beautiful and only a seasoned veteran of Eastern’s dramatic endeavors would recognize several of them from past productions. However, in a year of budgetary tightness this frugality should perhaps be praised rather than picked upon.

The set was striking, simple and served its function well. The purpose of the trees painted on the arches wasn’t really clear, however, as most of the action took place indoors. Oh well, artistic license, perhaps?

The revolving stage was used subtly and fit into the action smoothly, even if it did turn a bit too far or jerk the actors and actresses on it at a couple of points.

The lighting effects were handled quite well and convincingly conveyed changes in mood and location as well as nicely complementing the set.

The checkerboard floor, in addition to looking like it took many frustrating hours to paint, created an interesting image of players on a chess board as the kings, queens and pawns moved through their actions in the game they played.

In total, it was a good performance, in spite of several flaws. At any rate, the good points far outweigh the bad and I would recommend the show to those seeking an enjoyable evening of theatre. Dr. K. Boyd Devlin, the director, has taken out the pain that most people find in Shakespeare (myself included), and has created an entertaining production which makes for a fine grand opening of the new theatre.

The play will continue for two more weekends, with performances at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow, Friday, Saturday and on June 1, 2 and 3. Free student exchange tickets are available at the PUB Information Desk and reservations are necessary.