

Hundreds Assemble to View Schreiber's Talent

by Robert Weisz

Fifteen acts performed before a packed house on the night of March 11, vying for first prize in the 1989 Talent Show. First place was won by "Julius G. Thum's Juggling Extravaganza," while "Willy and the Poorboys - Fiddle-Harp Jamboree" came in second and "The Contemporary Dancers" took third.

The show, which was held in the auditorium, began after an introduction by the three MC's, Ed Gold, Gina Farasciano, and Ian Reynolds, who told jokes and sang between acts. The first act opened with the "Juggling Extravaganza," presented by Sam Zimmerman and Doug Ramsdell. The performance contained a variety of routines. One of the best received was a section described by Zimmerman as "DANGER!" In it, Zimmerman juggled clubs with razor blades attached to them and pretended to hit himself with one, producing fake blood. Another audience favorite was the closing routine, a satire of the anti-drug public announcements. The audience applauded wildly as the two left the stage.

The next performance, a dance routine entitled "Company 'B'," consisted of Betty Adorno, Wendy Shilensky, and Christine Schendel-Smith dancing to music, attired in military style clothing. The music was barely audible because of sound system problems, and once during the dance the music stopped, causing the performance to stop briefly. Before, during, and after the performance there was much applause, accompanied by chants of "Betty, Betty."

The active "Company 'B'" was followed by Brian Ullman and George Ramos, "The Doowop Twins." The two performed the Richie Valens a capella song, "O Donna." They too received much applause and even a small standing ovation.

The act was followed by the fourth performance, "Survival," in which Christine Schendel-

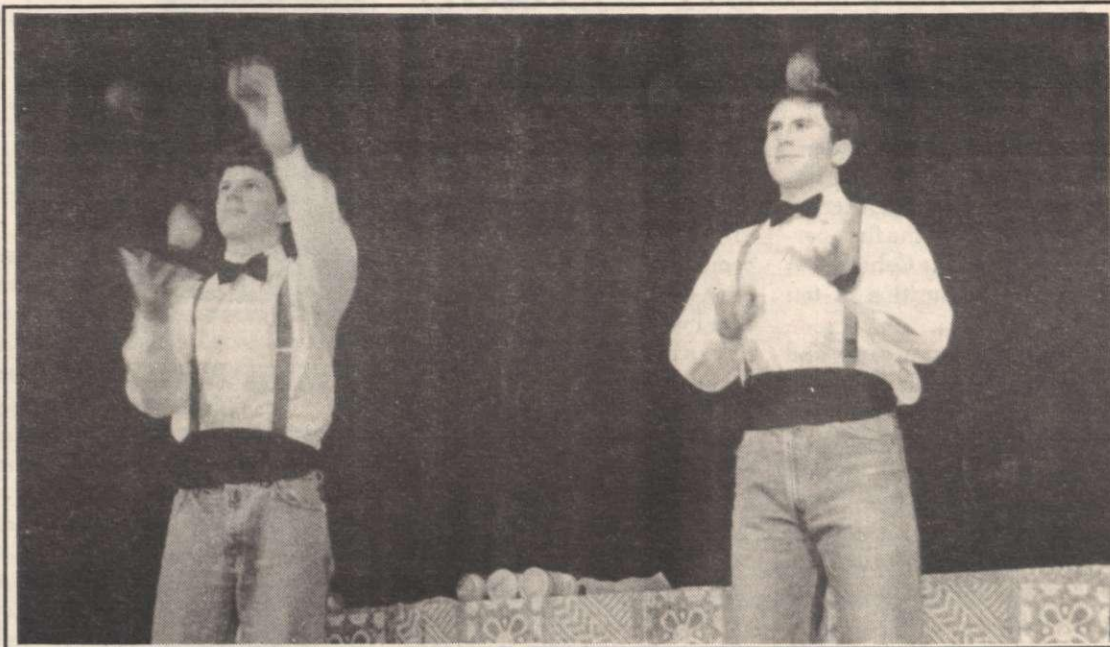
Smith danced to the George Michael song, "Hand to Mouth." Once again there was a problem with the sound system, and the music could hardly be heard.

"40 & Blunt Possey," a rap group, came next. As Jamal Skinner rapped, Mike Blakeney, Fred Wright, Terrence Hall, Luis Guzman, Mike Rhoden, Ernest Gray, and others acted out the song, which was about a man involved in crime who wound up dead as a result of his law breaking.

Next came Flora Huang and Brett Kessler, "The Untouchables," wearing trenchcoats and hats, while singing the Ben E. King song, "Stand By Me." The final group before intermission was called "Three Men and a Bein." It consisted of Mike Newman, David Kesselman, Neil Lieberman, and Mike Fishbein, with a special appearance by Jason Kesselman. As music played in the background, the four, dressed in bathrobes, danced and one by one brushed their teeth, spitting the toothpaste into a cup. After the four finished Jason played a drum roll as Newman took the cup and drank from it.

After a fifteen minute intermission, the second act began with a piano duet by Masako Ohyama and Jennifer Coronacion, entitled "Duet." The act was interrupted by two or three people running across the stage. The two pianists kept playing throughout and were rewarded with applause when they finished.

The next performance was entitled "Assault with a Deadly Pepa." As Angela Dubose, Erika Skinner, Ruth Brown, and April Young played keyboard, sang, and danced to the song "Push It," the audience clapped along and several people joined the performers on stage. This was followed by an act entitled "Smooth Criminal," in which Silvia Alvarez, Gloria Rincon, Patti Narducci, and Natalie Rivera danced to the song "Smooth Criminal" by Michael Jackson.



Contestants Doug Ramsdell and Sam Zimmerman juggle their way to first place.

After this came yet another dance routine, Betty Adorno's second performance of the night, "Simply Dancing III." This consisted of Betty dancing to two versions of "Aiko Aiko." A dedication to Betty's deceased aunt and to everyone who helped Betty cope with the tragedy of her aunt's death was read by Betty's friend Wendy Shilensky. In addition, the MC's requested that the crowd be quiet because of the dedication, and the previously boisterous audience complied.

The next group to perform was a rap group called "First Priority Possie in Effect." The group members were Mike Blakeney, Andrew McClaim, and Kenyatta Williams, who rapped to the song "Mona Lisa." During the song, members of the audience joined the group on stage.

After that, Danny Chehebar and Sean Cronin did their own rendition of the Abbot and Costello classic "Who's on First," which was entitled "Danny & Sean." At one point during the skit, Chehebar's script fell from his baseball mitt, producing laughter from the audience. The mood changed a bit with the next act, which consisted of Alisyn Paino and Lucy Wallace

dancing to a new wave song. This performance was entitled, "The Contemporary Dancers."

The act ended with "Willy and the Poorboys - Fiddle-Harp Jamboree," a country style jamboree featuring "Willy" Hogenauer, Mike Corbisiero, and Jamie Kirmser on vocals, "Rusty" Zimmon on guitar, "Moonjuice Dan" Juceam on bass guitar, "Cowboy Bob" Bordan on drums, and Jamie's grandfather Johny Kirmser on fiddle. The group played two songs and members of the audience danced in front of and on the stage. When everyone returned to their seats, the results were announced.

The awards were \$100, \$50, and \$25 for first, second, and third places, respectively. When asked what they were going to do with their money, the winners replied, "We're going to Disneyworld!" The prize money came from the admission fees paid by the audience, and any remaining money went to the four class clubs, who sponsored the event. Each entry was given a score of one to five in each of the following four categories: talent, stage presence, audience appeal, and creativity and originality. The entries were evaluated by eight judges: teachers

Al Pollakusky, Stefanie Joannon, and Carol Hulse, guidance counselor Jacqueline Marshall, and students John Aronstein, Kasi Binder, Eliza Comer, and Laura Chekow. Each student represented one of the class clubs.

Before each act could enter the show it had to audition. The purpose of the auditions was to see that the entrants were serious, possessed some degree of talent, and were not offensive. One of the groups that auditioned, "Otis Day and the Knights," was found to have potentially offensive material in their act. After discussion, those in charge of the auditions asked the group to eliminate these things from their act, possibly causing their withdrawal from the show.

Students attending the show had a mixed reaction. One student said, "We had a fun evening. It was entertaining. Some of the acts were very good. It was an extremely sharp contrast to the apathy people said we had in the beginning of last year." However, another student was not impressed. "I thought the crowd was embarrassing. Their behavior was childish. Some acts were outstanding, but some were pathetic," he said.

Rayfield Dismissed as Varsity Football Coach

by Elissa Blum

Mr. Mike Rayfield, physical education teacher in the Port Washington school district for the past 20 years, was recently fired from his three year position as varsity football coach.

According to Rayfield, the decision to dismiss him was made by Superintendent of Schools Dr. William B. Heebink and Principal Dr. Sidney Barish. Although the letter firing him contained no reasons for the dismissal, Mr. Rayfield was assured that he would receive reasons in a forthcoming letter.

When asked about his coaching career, Rayfield replied, "I think I did the job well," and continued to say that he feels "outside pressure" from unsatis-

fied parents of football players caused his firing.

Controversy surrounding Rayfield's position as varsity football coach began early in January when a group of parents submitted a petition asking for his removal. A group of parents, team members, and former players in support of Rayfield counteracted with a petition disclaiming many of the accusations voiced in the original petition.

At the January 17 meeting of the school board, board members noted that the administration would make the decision of whether or not to fire Rayfield, but that both positions could be stated in front of the board privately in executive session.

When asked in January what would be done with the petitions, Dr. Barish stated that it was a complex issue that "doesn't boil down to a win/loss record." He said that the administration would consider the facts and find a solution in the best interest for everyone.

According to an individual involved in the issue who asked for his name to be withheld, the administration did not base their decision to fire Rayfield solely on the petition or "on the whims of a parent group." He said that the decision was reached after an evaluation of Rayfield which included concerns raised in the past.

One parent who signed the petition supporting Rayfield

was upset by the "false and unwarranted accusations" contained in the petition calling for his dismissal. The parent felt that Rayfield was not properly evaluated by the administration because of the lack of a proper system to evaluate coaches in the school district. She continued by saying that one of the allegations in the original petition had been disclaimed by the Nassau County Coaches Division. When Mr. Robert Bracken, Schreiber union representative, was asked about the issue, he said that it was handled in the wrong way.

A number of parents signing the petition against Rayfield were contacted, but declined comment.

According to Steven Soldano, a member of the football team, the firing of Mr. Rayfield is an insult to every coach because it leaves all of their positions in the hands of the parents. He said that the parents must have faith in a coach and understand the coach's reasons for certain judgement calls. "He was a good friend and a good coach. I'm not one of the best or biggest players, but he showed me how to win even when we lost."

Look for coverage of Alcohol Awareness Day in the Next Issue.