

UT does it again

"You Can't Take It With You"
University Theatre
April 9

Despite its title, the University Theatre's production of "You Can't Take It With You" tries hard to ensure that the audience takes the show's message with them as they leave.

Set in the late 1930s, the comedy by George Kaufman and Moss Hart revolves around a theme still relevant to modern audiences: "Do your own thing. Live your life the way you want. Don't worry about the Joneses."

The characters of "Take it With You," or most of them, certainly practice what they preach.

Penelope Sycamore (Cynthia Blaise) is a middle-aged mother of two who uses human skulls as candy dishes and composes plays, all unfinished, because a typewriter was mistakenly delivered to the Sycamore home years ago. Her husband Paul (Grant Waldron) invents fireworks for a living and plays with an erector set in his spare time. It's not so much that he's entered his second childhood, but that he never left his first one. Both Blaise and Waldron play their roles with just the right combinations of parental love and individual eccentricity.

Their daughter Essie (Ellen Rice) and her husband, Donald (Peter Strubel), make Mr. and Mrs. Sycamore look like average citizens. Essie firmly believes that her dancing talents are close to genius, and so plies and pirouettes her way through life with a glazed, starry look in her eyes. Rice is excellent as the flighty Essie, endowing her with childish charm. Donald accompanies Essie on his xylophone and prints everything from calling cards to flyers proclaiming "Dynamite the White House," just to see the black words on white paper. He doesn't really care what the words say and later this causes the family a lot of trouble and grief when the government finds some of his posters. Strubel works well as the bumbling innocent.

All of these characters live under the

patriarchal care and guidance of Grandpa Martin Vanderhof (Kenneth Payne), an elderly gentleman who dropped into nonconformity late in life and now occupies his time attending university commencement ceremonies, spending time with pet snakes and dodging IRS agents. His philosophy, "Life is pretty simple if you just relax" seems to be the family motto. Payne gives Grandpa a wonderful combination of wisdom and spirit — he's the grandfather we'd all like to have.

That is, except for one family member, daughter Alice (Enid Clark). She successfully maneuvers between the "real world" of her job as a secretary and the idyllic atmosphere at home, until she falls in love with her boss' son, Tony Kirby (Brian Marchington). Pulled between the two worlds, Alice feels that her family stands in the way of her happiness with Tony. Total chaos erupts when the Kirbys come to dinner a night early, the two families meet, clash and finally resolve their differences.

Overall, the production is nicely done. Jerry Williams' realistically busy set adds much to the action with its screaming yellow walls and multiple levels. There are also several impressive fireworks scenes which add spark (and smoke) to the show.

Other pluses include nice comic delivery by Martha Sawhill as Rheba, the Sycamores' maid and Pedro Garrido as Mr. dePinna, an iceman who once delivered to the Sycamores' home and stayed.

Still, there are a few difficulties. With all of the chaotic action onstage, lines often become lost in the noise. Timing is sometimes off, with actors not waiting long enough for laughter to subside before going on with the dialogue. The production also suffers some pacing problems, especially toward the end of Act III.

In spite of these problems, "You Can't Take It With You" presents an evening of pleasant entertainment and smiles that stick around after the curtain call.

by **brenda thornion**

IFC overrides Wilkins' veto

The Incidental Fee Committee Tuesday overrode an ASUO presidential veto and approved seven resolutions.

The IFC rejected the veto of ASUO Pres. Rich Wilkins cutting \$714 from the Foreign Students Organization budget next year because of a perceived duplication of services between the Iranian Student Association and the Supporters of a Muslim Student Society.

The veto was unfair because the basic nature of the Foreign Students Organization is to raise money, IFC member David Gibson said.

The SMSS restricts membership to only Iranian students who agree with the democratic principles of the group, Gibson said. The SMSS and the Iranian Student Association are du-

plicating services while the Muslim Student Association, which is religious and educational in nature, has no such conflicts, he added.

Gibson said his concern with funding the groups under the Foreign Student Organization umbrella was in their religious nature.

Foreign student programs are restrictive by definition, IFC chairer Karsten Rasmussen said.

The committee voted 6-0 with one abstention to override the veto, and unanimously approved a footnote to the FSO budget specifying that the SMSS and Iranian Student Association go through goal hearings before either are allowed to spend incidental fees.

In addition, the IFC approved seven resolutions, some of which are ASUO Executive policies. One allows the ASUO Executive and IFC to reduce program allocations if enrollment projections prove too high, including "lump sum" programs.

"If they do not, their allocation for the following fiscal year shall be reduced accordingly," reads the resolution.

Other resolutions prohibit a person from being paid for working for two programs and prohibit program members from being paid more than the IFC allocation. The latter resolution is intended to prevent program directors from transferring other program line item monies to pay themselves, Rasmussen said.

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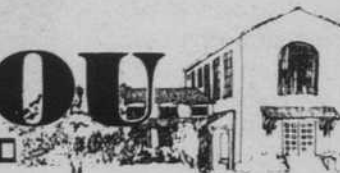
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