

the arts

Student's Christmas cards denote noncommercialism

Christmas is a time for friends and family -- not the commercialism that has taken its place. That's the whole idea behind Charlie McDonald's Christmas cards.

McDonald, who's not an art major at Clackamas Community College, makes the cards himself. He's a child care major and

Flick thrusts
pair into
noble experiment

By Steve Williams
Staff Writer

"Cousin Cousine" is a light, humorous, very human story plastered over a contrasting background.

This film shows the reality of the French middle class as a group of relatives gather for a wedding. During the festivities the groom bares his ass, an uncle, dead drunk, pees into his hat, and several love affairs are consummated about the premises.

Thrust into this confusion are two independent people, Marie-Christine Barrault, daughter of the bride, and Victor Lanoux, nephew of the groom -- both of whom are married and have children.

Thus begins the noble experiment: As the two become more attracted to each other, they come to an agreement to have an affair without sex. Their reasoning is simple, everyone will suspect them of sleeping together, but they will be totally innocent.

But in the end, they succumb to their desires making no attempt to hide anything from their respective spouses.

The comedy is derived from the couple's various narrow-minded relatives. Throughout the picture, Barrault and Lanoux are laughing in a quiet way at everyone around them.

Most of the contrast comes from the couple's spouses.

His wife is a flighty, shallow woman who attempts to slash her wrists but fails because she cuts her finger on the razor blade.

Her husband is a typical married playboy roaming the town looking for an empty bed. Realizing his neglect and showing some intelligence he tries to win his wife back, but she is sick of her husband's antics and looking for a change.

Thus, the unique couple decide the time for dodging relatives is over and instead of sneaking out they announce to the entire family their departure from the scene at the annual Christmas Eve party.

Basically, "Cousin Cousine" is a



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study in contrasts as it shows the pure freedom of Barrault and Lanoux where sex is secondary as opposed to the failure of the totally physical relationships of their spouses.

"Cousin Cousine's" noble experiment is now being shown at the Movie House.

Weinstein mellows coffee house scene

By Denise Linck
Staff Writer

Folk musician Marc Weinstein performed a Coffee House concert on Wednesday, Nov. 11, at 11:30 p.m. in the Fireside Lounge.

Mellow music floated through the Community Center Mall as Weinstein sang to the accompaniment of his guitar. It was a relaxing atmosphere that prevailed as he continued with instrumentals using his guitar, harmonica and flute.

A talented, young musician, Weinstein at one time lived out Beavercreek way. He now lives in Portland where he's closer to the taverns and clubs he plays at.

When Weinstein first began performing he used just the guitar and harmonica. Then a friend taught him to play the recorder, and he adapted that knowledge to the flute. He plays all four instruments equally well.

Weinstein said he didn't start singing right off when he played because he couldn't even whistle. About four years ago he took voice lessons from Gene Hardin here at Clackamas Community College.

"I still can't whistle," he said, but the combination of his voice and music makes up for this minor lack. His music was easy listening and made an enjoyable afternoon for those present.

wants to work with handicapped children. The cards appropriately present the spirit of Christmas, the season of children.

If you're interested in purchasing Christmas cards they're 40 for \$3.00, a variety. For more information call 655-

Glittery plot loses sparkle in 'George M!'

By Steve Williams
Staff Writer

The new production at the Portland Civic Theatre, "George M!", is a glittery life story of George M. Cohan. In fact, the production seems to have too much glitter.

The first act shows Cohan's rise from Vaudeville to the brink of Broadway fame. Michael V. Schauerman gives a superb performance as George M. combining his skills of tap dancing, acting, and singing. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said about the supporting roles.

The other three members of Cohan's family -- his parents and sister -- are much weaker characters in comparison with the brilliance of Schauerman. His performance completely outshines theirs, making them seem drab and unexciting.

Even with this unbalance, the first act was quite good giving an excellent portrayal of Cohan's early life. But the second act, every good quality about the musical is cancelled out by the outlandish costumes and extravagance on the players.

The audience suffers through the play's long spiral down through Cohan's long Broadway career to the final scene which regains the original brilliance of the first act. At this point Cohan is confronted with conflict between progress and his own past experience.

Cohan returns from a long retirement only to find a vastly changed Broadway. Cohan must change his habits and forget his experience to please an audience more modern and sophisticated than he remembered.

Then, back to the glitter, for the finale climaxed with Schauerman descending to the stage on a contraption covered with lights and sparkles.

The show seems to come from a Broadway stage with everything in miniature. Anyone who enjoys live music and musicals and who can withstand bright lights and a multitude of dazzling costumes, should see "George M!" if only for the experience.

