

Theatre arts course needed at Westlane.

By PETER JEDICKE
Westlane Reporter

Last week, we put our 1972 Westlane musical to bed. Yes, after months and months of work without end, *Girl Crazy* is now a thing of the past.

I'm certain most people in the audiences enjoyed the show. Thursday and Saturday nights we received standing ovations. Of course, there was much to enjoy, starting with the fantastic voice of Paul Wintemute and the hilarious comic acting of Steve Coopman

In any case, each person who saw it must decide for themselves as to the value of this year's musical. Financially, I am only allowed to say that it was not so fulfilling as past years' have been.

Something like the musical brings out very graphically one of the greatest needs at Westlane. There is obviously much interest, plenty of enthusiasm and considerable talent in drama at Westlane, now as ever. All our efforts have been extra-curricular, however—we must work after school, and with only volunteers who are motivated sufficiently to find their way to school in the evenings and weekends. We cannot be given academic credit for participation in the musical

THEATRE ARTS COURSE.

Anyway, this week, on Tuesday, the drama club sponsored a trip to Toronto to see a preview performance of *Godspell*. This is an absolutely fantastic show, and I'm sure it's going to be a hit. The story is adapted from the Gospel according to St. Mark. The first act expounds on the teachings of Christ, and is done in a humorous manner. It is incredibly funny. However, the second act is more serious in tone, dealing with the betrayal and crucifixion of Christ. It moves along with a fast pace, and it never is difficult to concentrate on. Certainly a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and thanks go to Mr Lannon for organizing this opportunity for us

Speaking of trips, the concert band spent two days in London this week. You see, a while back we had a London high school band down here to play for us, so we had to go back for a return engagement, so to speak. I'm told that Mr Bettger, a man whose memory shall stay at Westlane forever, was on hand to hear the band

Some rather exciting news comes from the commercial department. Early in May, the Canada-wide shorthand competition was held. In the 120 w.p.m. speed category, Karen Ort of Westlane placed first in the country. Furthermore, Carol Johnson was Canadian first in the 100 w.p.m. category. Kathy Fry and Marilyn Maxim were runners-up in the 120, Lorraine Seidersberger in the 100 and Pam Elliott in the 80. Such nation-wide acclaim is simply a stupendous achievement for these six girls.

The word of the week is Snarky, and if the attendance sheet keeps looking like it did, this week, last week's word, "truancy", will win word of the year!

The way around this is something that many schools under the Niagara South Board, and, indeed, across Ontario, have. It is called a Theatre Arts Course.

Westlane annually requests and is annually refused a theatre arts course.

Why? What justification do the powers that be—Board, supervisor or department—have for giving other schools a theatre arts course whose interest is certainly not much greater than ours, and then closing their courses offered book when they come to the end of the alphabet, where Westlane is. The point of the matter is, we've been trying to get one for many years, but our efforts have never been rewarded.