

'A Funny Thing' happens at Westlane

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1973 is the eighth consecutive year in which the all-out efforts of a large group of Westlane people have been channelled into the production of a spring musical. This year we are presenting *A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum*.

It was under the guidance and leadership of Mr. P. J. Lannon that Drama at Westlane was first founded and nurtured. It flourished to the point that, when Mr. Lannon left for a year in 1970, enough student support and staff assistance was readily available for a production of *Guys and Dolls*, perhaps our finest musical.

This year, Mr. Lannon is no longer at Westlane. He left, however, a drama club victimized by recent years of

apathy at Westlane. Dwindled in numbers and drained in treasury, the drama club began this year with only grim determination to start a musical.

Much of the determination stemmed from two of Westlane's staff members, Miss Fanstone and Miss Skavinski. Their minds set to the responsibility of giving Westlane an opportunity for a musical, they approached the drama club and offered to take the reins of this vast undertaking.

Events of great gravity have transpired since then, as Danny Gallivan might put it. Forum was chosen. The Drama Club put together the Spardecory to raise money — and received virtually no support from the student body. The Student Council stepped in and loaned the Club funds

to purchase royalties. The show was cast in late November. Preliminary rehearsals began in January, and the pace has accelerated since second-term exams. Costumes were designed, and are being produced through the diligent efforts of Mrs. Edmonds, et al. The giant set is under construction, under the jurisdiction of Mr. Lang, et al. Properties are being made by Ron Kronstein and Dennis Stokoe, Ltd. Ticket sales began recently with Meryl Folemsbee at the helm. Miss Skavinski set in motion the wheels of publicity. Miss Fanstone has devoted many hours to our cause as our director. The actors learned their lines. The chorus learned their numbers. Stan Sauer, our illustrious pianist, has prepared the musical accompaniment. And now, only 13 days remain before all is ready; the lights grow dim: Let the show begin!

Whether or not the students will show the support that Forum deserves is an interesting question. *Guys and Dolls*, in 1970, played all three nights to an entirely packed Westlane gym. Since then, we had fewer people in 1971, and fewer still in 1972 — so few, in fact, that the drama club was left in an embarrassing financial position. It is time to reverse the trend. Our drama nights, at which we presented a total of five one-act plays, played to sparse crowds averaging but 90 people — a dreadful situation. But a glimmer of hope lies in the statistic that some 350 persons attended music night a few short weeks ago. We can only do our best, and pray that our efforts will be rewarded by the presence of an overwhelming crowd.

Next week, I'll write about the play itself — what to look forward to and why you will most definitely enjoy it. Details as to how to get advance tickets for \$1 ought to be available by next week, too.