

This year marked the sixth performance in the history of the Hughes *Merry-Go-Round*. For five of these six years the script has been written by gifted Hughes graduate and teacher, Mr. Robert Portune. Besides writing *Merry-Go-Round* scripts Mr. Portune has contributed his literary talents to several University of Cincinnati presentations, among these *Scamp of the Campus*, *Khaki Wacky*, and *Quiet Please*. This year he also provided the script for the Walnut Hills High School production, the *Walnuts*. The rewriting of *Red Mill* for the Evansville Opera Company may also be credited to Mr. Portune.

This year's *Merry-Go-Round* was set in the Sunset Valley Hotel which is presided over by Mr. and Mrs. Humphrey Higgins, portrayed by Tom Minnich and Martha Runck. Norma May as Gracie, a snake-loving scullery maid, "brought the house down" by merely appearing on stage. The sarcasm of Winnie, Beverly Bates in everyday life, and the antics of Peg Pounds, who played the part of the stage-struck Southern belle, Dixie, were high points in the *Merry-Go-Round*.

The *Merry-Go-Round* boasted three separate chorus lines, all of which were directed by Miss Virginia Garrett. The short and tall pony choruses and the tap chorus interrupted the action often enough to provide even more pleasure for the audience.

Other characters in the *Merry-Go-Round* included Sandra Wulff and Jim Dietz as the two beautiful but obnoxiously conceited specimens of the human race, Shelley Summers and Apollo Casanova. Dick Junker in the part of Sour-dough Johnny, an ancient uranium prospector, and Ed Crawford as the rabbit-like Dr. Ellsworth Pennywhistle further enhanced the riotously funny plot.

Students taking part in the *Merry-Go-Round* gave their time after school almost every day for two months in order to perfect their roles. Rehearsals in the morning before school often made it necessary for the actors and actresses to be at school at seven-thirty.

Bert Bramkamp in the role of the wealthy Mrs. Smedley O. Smedley, Frank Hermann as Smedley's German Director Van Schlacter, and Bill Thompson as the precacious juvenile delinquent, Courtney, did their parts to bring the counter-plots and plots together for a happy ending.

Mr. Herman Slayman's delightful musical arrangements and the orchestra under his direction provided a fitting musical background for "Shoot the Works". The intricate backdrops were designed and executed under the direction of Miss Marcella Schroth.

Sonya and Charmaine discuss their routines with dancers.



The short pony gals await their debut.

