



Jack Penkethman

'Take me out to the ballgame'

"Jack, that was a nice column you wrote about "Oliver" in The Dispatch. I am and have been for nearly 20 years now, heavily involved with South Valley Civic Theatre. We do four or five plays a year which involve young children through adults. We're a non-profit community theatre, and are celebrating our 30th anniversary in Gilroy this year. Will you be seeing any of the remaining SVCT plays this season? Thanks.

- Bill Corneth, SVCT supporter

And a follow-up:

"Jack, I just wanted to let you know the latest situation at SVCT with Bleacher Bums. We're no longer doing the play at Rosso's. Last Thursday when we arrived at rehearsal we had a "cease and desist" order posted on the set. It seems somebody with a warped community spirit called the city and turned us in because the store wasn't zoned for theatre use.

Anyway the good news is that we really scrambled and with the proper kind of community involvement found a new place, got the set torn down, moved, and set up last weekend, and the play is going to go on, on schedule, at the Old City Hall.

We've got some amazingly hard working and dedicated people in this community theatre group. I hope you'll be able to come down one evening and have a wonderful night at the theatre and meet some of them.

D:11

Staff Reports

PLAY BALL!

The players have been drafted, warm-ups have started! South Valley Civic Theatre has announced the cast of the upcoming baseball comedy entitled Bleacher Bums. The entire play takes place in the right field bleachers of Chicago's famous Wrigley Field on a sunny afternoon, and will be performed at the Gilroy Rosso's Furniture Store next month.

The team of actors has begun practicing watching a Chicago Cubs game, and the roster includes Bob Eltgroth, Nicole Bowers, Chris Souza, Steve Spencer, Dick DeBolt, Luke Rideout, Bill Corneth, April Ouillette, Yolanda Cotterall and Nick Rocchi. Coaching the team is veteran director Marion Pintello, while Managers Christine McElroy

and Jeff Patereau take care of business in the front office.

Described as a Nine-Inning Comedy, the play was written as a group project by the Organic Theater in Chicago and performers through the years have included Joe Montegna and Dennis Franz. "It will be a complete baseball experience," says designer Whitney McClelland, "including peanuts, popcorn and crackerjacks!" Fans are invited to enjoy hot dogs and soda or beer, wear baseball paraphernalia for a discount ticket and join in singing the national anthem which will be lead by a different local musician each weekend.

Bleacher Bums will open October 15th and run Friday and Saturday evenings through November 6. Tickets are available through cast members, by calling SVCT box office at 842-SHOW or on the website www.svct.org.

'Bleacher Bums' a home run for SVCT

Staff Reports

South Valley Civic Theatre has hit another one out of the park.

"Bleacher Bums" is an adult comedy which takes place in the bleachers of Wrigley Field during a game between the Cubs and the Cardinals. The play has been described as a nine-inning comedy.

Though originally supposed to be performed at Rosso's Furniture, South Valley Civic Theatre found that the space was unavailable a mere eight days before the show was supposed to open.

All was not lost however, and SVCT managed to secure the stage at the Old City Hall, located on the corner of Sixth and Monterey streets.

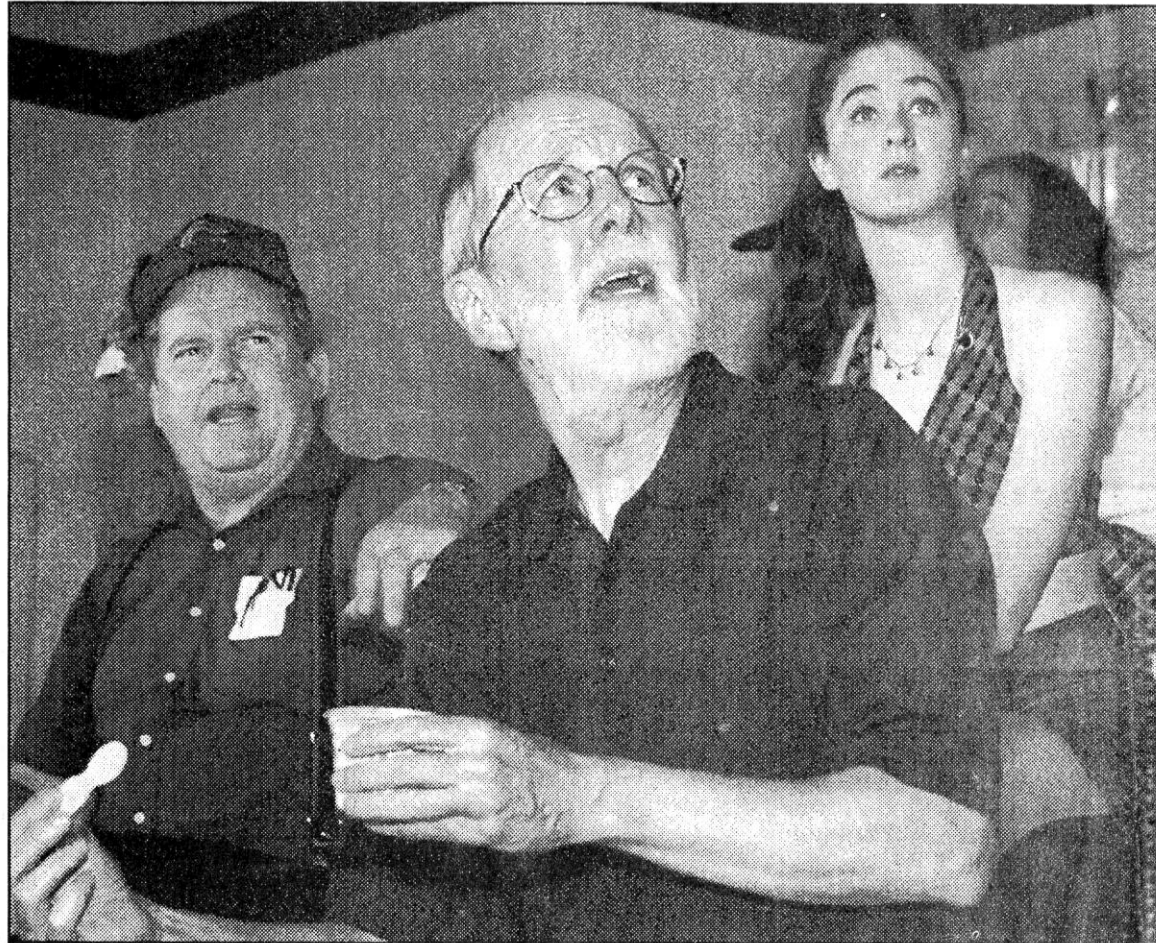
The show will open as planned on Friday, Oct. 15 at 8 p.m.

To complete the 'bleacher' experience, audience members will be able to snack on peanuts, popcorn, cracker-jacks and hot dogs, and enjoy sodas and beer before the show.

Anyone wearing baseball paraphernalia - especially if it's from your favorite team - will receive a discount ticket.

"Bleacher Bums" is directed by Marion Pintello and produced by Christine McElroy and Jeff Patereau. The set design was done by Whitney McClelland.

The show features a cast filled entirely with local talent.



J.J. Medina/ Special to the Dispatch

An all star cast: (from left to right) Steve Spencer, playing 'Zig,' Bill Corneth as 'Marvin,' and Nicole Bowers as 'Melody' rehearse for SVCT's "Bleacher Bums" that opens tonight.

Come join SVCT as they begin their 30th year of producing comedies, musicals and dramas that showcase local talent. The group also supports the Josh Brawn scholarship fund for graduating seniors from local high schools.

Play ball!

Tickets for "Bleacher Bums" are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors or students. Tickets are available at California Music in Gilroy, Booksmart in Morgan Hill and First United Credit Unions in Gilroy or San Jose, calling 842-SHOW or by visiting www.svct.org.

SVCT is running into its 30th season

With one show under their belts for the season, "Some Enchanted Evening," South Valley Civic Theatre is preparing, and now showing the rest of its 1999- 2000 season.

The show season, which began last June, marked the 30th anniversary of the theater group. In 1969, Gilroy Community Theatre previewed its first show, "Come Blow Your Horn." Only in 1985 did the theater group decide to change its name to South Valley Civic Theatre in order to incorporate residents from Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Hollister and San Juan Bautista. Thirty years later SVCT has a season of five performances with casts of children, teens and adults performing in drama and musicals.

In the works for this fall is a children's performance of "Stuart Little," followed by a teen cast production of "Wash Your Troubles Away" in the spring. The SVCT season will come to an end with "The Secret Garden," a show for all ages. Because SVCT does not have a permanent theater to call their own, it is important to become part of the mailing list to hear about audition dates and performance locations.

Now showing is the adult drama "Bleacher Bums." This nine-inning comedy takes place in the bleachers of Wrigley Field during a game between the Cubs and the Cardinals. The show is

directed by past SVCT president Marion Pintello, produced by Christine McElroy and Jeff Patereau with design by Whitney McClelland. This combination of talent is sure to provide a much-anticipated show. Guests are invited to come early and enjoy the full baseball experience with hot dogs, beer and soft drinks. Peanuts, popcorn, and crackerjacks will also be available throughout the nine innings. The only thing missing to make this a complete baseball experience is an annoying fan sitting in front of you taunting the opposing team and yelling at the umpire. Knowing the history of this theater group I am sure that no one will be annoyed or disappointed with the performance SVCT has to offer.



**Terra
Fachin**

LET'SGO! WRITER

Although "Bleacher Bums" was scheduled to play at Rosso's Furniture, the game has been moved downtown to Old City Hall, located at the corner of 6th and Monterey streets in Gilroy.

The audience is encouraged to wear paraphernalia from their favorite baseball team and by doing so will receive a discounted ticket to the show. And what is a baseball game without a national anthem? Each week a different local musician will be present to lead the traditional song before the game starts.

"Bleacher Bums" will show every Friday and Saturday through Nov. 6 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors. For more information on the show, upcoming auditions or about South Valley Civic Theatre you can log onto its Web site at www.svct.org or call 842-SHOW.

With baseball being America's favorite pastime and theater being mine, it is no doubt that I am ready for tonight's performance of South Valley Civic Theatre's "Bleacher Bums." Make sure you have your ticket for tonight's show and I will see you at the game. Take me out to the ball game!

Terra Fachin is a reporter for The Dispatch. She lives in Gilroy.

SVCT takes you to Chicago - sort of

Well, last weekend I took my first trip to the wonderful city of Chicago to catch a Cubs game. I went for work actually. You see, I was sent to observe the fans in the bleachers during a Cubs vs. Cardinals game. Let me tell you - those fans can get pretty nutty.

I walked into Wrigley Field, amazed by its size, foam finger in one hand and warm jacket for the evening in the other. Well, actually I had a notebook in one hand and purse in the other, but I was sure aching for that foam finger.

OK, and I confess that I really didn't go to Wrigley Field in Chicago, but I did go to Wrigley Field in downtown Gilroy to watch South Valley Civic Theatre's "Bleacher Bums," but the atmosphere could have fooled me.

From the moment I walked through the doors to Old City Hall I felt as though I was whisked into a baseball stadium as I heard vendors yelling, "Crackerjacks, I've got your peanuts!" I could almost smell the grass inside the building.

As the play begins in the bleachers of Wrigley Field, the loyal Cubs fans begin piling into their usual seats when Mr. Decker, a gambling man says, "And on the seventh day the good Lord rested and came out to Wrigley Field."

I loved seeing all the diverse fans that came to the game. There were those who were looking for love, just wanted a tan and quite a few who were looking to make a profit from the game.

Terra Fachin

LET'SGO! WRITER



Most of the play is concentrated around the three men, and one sidekick, who wager money throughout the whole nine innings - bets ranging anywhere from \$10 into the hundreds. When Ziggy, everyone's favorite hometown fan, begins losing money left and right, he becomes known as the automatic teller machine in the bleachers.

Just when I am starting to really become involved in the betting that is going on between the men I hear a loud yell of "Here we go Cubbies, here we go!" A fan who thinks she is a long lost Cubs cheerleader comes in wearing every Cub paraphernalia know to man, from the earrings to shoelaces. Yolanda Cotterall who plays the eccentric cheerleader was one of my favorite characters during the show with her cheers of "Give me an E-X-L-A-X. What does that mean? GO GO GO!" She was highly entertaining and even kept my energy up when the Cubs were down, although her energy was probably enough to fill the room.

Before I knew it it was time for the seventh inning stretch and intermission. I made my way to the concession stand where I bought a traditional Coke and peanuts. To my surprise, my little treat was only \$2 compared to the usual \$7 at the real ballpark. Because of the extra money I had leftover I almost bought Coke and peanuts for everyone, but quickly changed my mind when seeing the size of the audience.

Before the eighth inning resumed play I sang along with the rest of the audience to "Take Me Out To the Ballgame," and gave a loud Cubbie cheer despite the salty peanuts in my mouth. What can I say - I had definitely been put in the baseball mood. Although the Cubs lost their game, South Valley sure hit one out of the park with their comedy performance of "Bleacher Bums."

My only suggestion is to bring foam fingers for those fans such as myself who love to wave that finger high while cheering for their team! (But maybe that is just my own personal obsession).

I know you will love "Bleacher Bums" just as much as I did, in fact I bet you will. Do I have any takers?

You can still catch two more weekends of "Bleacher Bums" downtown in Old City Hall, on the corner of Monterey and Sixth streets.

Terra Fachin is a reporter for The Dispatch. She lives in Gilroy.