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Sara Bivin/Old Gold & Black

Junior Jacqueline Springer checks her makeup at the pamper session at the second annual Sisters' Inspirational Summit held Oct. 2 on campus.

Play captures rapture of 80s

By Abbey Maglaris
Contributing Reviewer

"The Secret Rapture" by David Hare was performed in the MainStage Theatre Sept. 24-25 and Sept. 29-Oct. 3.

With a cast of only six actors, the piece was set in Margaret Thatcher's 1988 England and tells the story of Isobel, played by sophomore Dowd Keith, who fights for truth and integrity against the temptations and evils of society.

The story takes place during the years after Isobel's father passed away. With the noble intent of carrying on the spirit of her late father, Isobel is determined to behave how he would have - by doing unto others as she would have them do unto her.

Her character is somewhat of a tragic hero, as she is confronted with the difficulty of upholding the golden rule amidst the realities of life.

The world of business and politics ridden with human flaws rob her of her quest to seek honesty and truth.

Finally, in the end, she dies fighting against the greed that characterizes the 1980s.

Among the other characters in the play is Isobel's boyfriend, Irwin Posner (sophomore Nate Donaldson). His undying love for her eventually causes both their ruin as both her partner in love and in business.

His character is a voice of reason that constantly tries to keep Isobel on the ground and to take her head, filled with dreams of honesty and truth, out of the clouds.

Although he never ceases to love and support Isobel, Irwin maintains a more level head in the face of the challenges that arise to meet them.

In the end, Isobel rejects his support and opinions, which become increasingly contrary to her own, and leaves him devastated and heartbroken.

Other characters in the play include her older sister and the conservative party minister, Marion French (senior Stephanie Hill), Marion's husband Tom (junior Zach Tysinger), Marion's assistant Rhonda Milne (sophomore Laura Halsey) and Isobel's late father's widow, the crazy and alcohol-dependent Kather-



Old Gold & Black file photo

Isobel, played by sophomore Dowd Keith, confides in her brother-in-law, Tom, played by junior Zach Tysinger, in Act I of David Hare's 'The Secret Rapture.'

Although truth and goodness survive into the twentieth century in the embodiment of Isobel, she is defeated in the face of greed and selfishness that consume society.

ine Glass (senior Madeline Smith).

This modern tragedy is a good story in that it portrays a clear message and meaning.

Although truth and goodness survive into the 20th century in the embodiment of Isobel, she is defeated in the face of greed and selfishness that consume society.

On one hand, the message is heartwarming - it is a play written about the innate goodness in the hearts of human beings. On the other hand, however, the flaws of society obliterate the goodness in society.

Directed by assistant professor of theatre Brook Davis, the play was very well done overall. Although it was bit slow at some points, there was also a lot of comic

relief in situations that were tense.

The character of the piece itself was neither a comedy nor was it lighthearted. Rather, it was a more meaningful and thought-provoking entertainment.

Although possibly intended by Hare, Isobel's ignorance of reality and life beyond truth became quite difficult to watch and listen to, which sometimes made the piece a little slow.

Not to belittle the performances of the actors, they did an impressive job assuming the roles of their respective characters.

Notably, the performances of Keith, Donaldson and Smith were well executed with mock British accents that were almost believable.

The sets, lighting and costumes were also well done. Although it was not a far stretch of the imagination to recreate scenes and wardrobe from 1988, the atmosphere was achieved so that the time and setting of the play were easily discernable.

Although the momentum of the piece lagged a bit at times, "Secret Rapture" was very well performed and demonstrated the hard work of the actors, director and designers.

XM, Sirius battle for air time

As satellite radio gains popularity, two providers compete

By Jane Bianchi
Old Gold & Black Reviewer

If you're tired of reprogramming your car's AM/FM stations every time you drive to school, or if you're sick of getting tricked by those stupid Geico Insurance advertisements every five minutes, then satellite radio might be worth the investment for you.

Just like cable television, satellite radio transmits audio signals from antennas grounded on earth to satellites that hover in orbit approximately 23,000 miles above us.

Those satellites then deliver the signals evenly across the entire continental United States, so you can drive coast to coast without ever experiencing static.

Working through a monthly subscription plan, satellite radio also offers over 120 different stations, including news, talk, sports, children's programs and 70 commercial-free music channels that span almost every genre imaginable.

We're used to hearing about commercial-free streaming audio over the internet and through satellite music television within the home, but this idea is relatively new for automobiles.

One of the many advantages of this system is that you can still access your local AM/FM stations while subscribing to a satellite radio program.

The antennas are not huge either; most are the size of a cordless phone antenna and can be mounted either on the roof or on the window of your car.

Anyone interested can purchase satellite radio tuners to enhance their regular car radio or to actually replace an existing one.

These tuners are sold at most electronics stores, such as Best Buy, Circuit City or Radioshack, but they are expensive.

They can cost anywhere between \$100 and \$1,000, and a possible installation charge may

be included.

Then, once you subscribe to a particular satellite radio provider, there is a recurring monthly fee.

However, the two satellite providers have paired up with certain tuner manufacturers.

So, if you are label conscious, you may want to do some homework before you commit to a certain provider.

Besides the expense, one other disadvantage that your mom probably will not like is that

because satellite radio is a subscription service, the normal policies of

the FCC do not apply.

Therefore, on certain stations you might hear profanity, since censored versions of songs do not necessarily have to be used during broadcasting.

So, is it really worth it? Or is listening to a cheap homemade mixed CD with good quality sound and no commercials just as satisfying?

Senior Jim Hamblin, who used to subscribe to satellite radio in his Expedition said, "I recommend it - it's great. The only reason I stopped using it is because I totaled my car and almost died."

As of right now there are only two main providers of Satellite Radio: XM and Sirius.

They are almost identical services and give listeners about the same amount of channels with a similar amount of diversity.

However, both providers have started forming partnerships with certain automobile corporations, just like they did with tuner manufacturers, so some new model cars only give you one option.

XM was created first in Washington, D.C. and is currently the most popular choice with over two million listeners.

Perhaps the reason more people choose XM is because it is three dollars cheaper than Sirius at \$9.99 per month.

Its main selling points include exclusive traffic channels, which are especially helpful while you're

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Senior

on the road. They also offer a 24-hour NASCAR channel for all the stock car racing buffs.

It has partnered up with upscale tuner manufacturers, like Sony, Motorola and Sharp. However, it has paired up with only average car corporations, such as Chevy, Buick and GM.

Sirius was born in New York City shortly after the creation of XM. The subscription price is slightly steeper at \$12.95 per month. It offers exclusive NFL live play-by-play channels, gay/lesbian news channels and National Public Radio channels. It is also the only company that lets subscribers listen online for free.

As opposed to XM, Sirius has paired up with average tuner brands, like Kenwood and Jenson, while partnering with more posh car corporations, such as BMW, Aston Martin and Mercedes Benz.

The fierce rivalry between the two continues as both services strive to increase their listenership. There have been plenty of media stunts as well to grab the attention of listeners.

For example, shortly after XM announced it was launching a Starbucks music channel on Saturday afternoons, Sirius responded by unleashing a show from the Beer Radio Network that will air in the exact same Saturday time slot.

This battle of the beverages may only be the beginning of stiff competition between the rival services.

So, if you're looking for high-quality, uninterrupted digital sound, you might want to check out satellite radio.

Both the XM and Sirius car satellite systems have much to offer any avid fan of music or talk radio.

In support of the Brian Piccolo Cancer Fund



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