



BEST LITTLE WHOREHOUSE IN MEDICINE HAT — Mona Stangley (Darlene Dee) and Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd (Steve Welling) reminisce over old times in Medicine Hat Musical Theatre's wacky presentation of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*. The musical runs nightly at 8 p.m. until Nov. 28 in the College Theatre.

— News photo Frank Webber

Comical struggle delights patrons of Hat whorehouse

KAREN SEGAL
Of The News

About 500 people got their money's worth at a whorehouse Saturday evening in the Medicine Hat College Theatre.

A nearly sold out house laughed its way through Medicine Hat Musical Theatre's presentation of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*.

Review

The musical, based on a book by Larry L. King and Peter Masters, centres around a television personality's zany attempts to shut down a long-standing whorehouse in the town of Gilbert, Tex.

Darlene Dee stars as Mona Stangley, the madam keeping watch over six girls. Among her charges are two new recruits: the brash Angel (Nancy Sinclair) with the heart of gold and the reserved Shy Kid (Erin Pringle).

Ray Hoger portrays Melvin P. Thorpe, host of the *Watchdog* show, who is determined to close the establishment.

Steve Welling plays Sheriff Ed Earl Dodd, a corrupt but kind-hearted lawman who wants to see the brothel stay open.

All actors in the cast of 40 are good in this witty production. Nothing is to be taken too seriously at this brothel.

Directed by Bob Gehring, the show toned down the scripted raunchy language and humor, but enough is re-

tained to keep the show's "earthy" flavor.

Dee is a standout; her acting and singing superb. In almost every scene, she manages to make you care about a madam faced with the possible ending of the only career she's ever known.

She's got her tongue-in-cheek performance down pat and even manages to simulate a Texan accent none too badly.

Welling's comic timing as the sheriff is excellent, and John Dunlop puts in a brief but hilarious turn as the governor.

Sinclair and Pringle also give noteworthy performances as the two new girls.

Pringle is excellent as fresh-faced Shy Kid rather desperate for acceptance.

And Sinclair is completely believable as the beer-around-one-too-many-blocks Angel.

The musical keeps a steady pace, and the songs, for the most part, are well-placed and performed well.

Only a couple of times did a voice warble or a beat get missed.

It might be best to keep children away from the adult content of *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, but for anyone else, it's a fun way to spend an evening.

Performances continue nightly at 8 p.m. at the Medicine Hat College Theatre until Nov. 28.

Privatization closes Pop Stop

JEFF WELKE
Of The News

Earl Schall has closed the doors on his family's business, the Pop Stop, for the last time.

And he blames the province's liquor store privatization scheme for its demise.

"I was forced out of business by the government," says Schall.

Too many private stores has meant less traffic to the Southview Drive S.E. outlet, where Schall opened his shop in July.

When the Alberta Liquor Control Board store on Southview opened, Schall moved his 13-year pop, ice and tobacco business from the closing Maple Avenue S.E. outlet.

Less than two months later, Municipal Affairs Minister Steve West announced the province was getting out of its 204 stores, including the one on Southview.

West said it was opening up the marketplace.

For Schall's business, the announcement was a death knell.

"My store depended on a large, government-owned store at a central location," he says. Schall committed to a 10-year, \$500,000 lease to store owners Meadows Development Corporation.

Business has been so poor, he cannot pay rent.

"If I can't get out of the lease, I will have to claim personal

bankruptcy."

Losing the store hurts.

"It was an excellent business. My five sons all worked there when they were growing up. It kept them off the streets and taught them responsibility," says Schall.

Not including hotels, four applications for liquor sale licenses in Medicine Hat have been approved in principal, says George Rodziewicz, communications director for the control

board.

One has been given full approval: Larry Frandsen's plan to reopen the Maple Avenue S.E. store.

Full liquor sales are in place at the Corona Cold Beer Vendor, The Royal Cold Beer Store and the Medicine Hat Lodge.

The market will prove which stores are successful, says Rodziewicz.

"I was basically made to hold onto a pig in a poke," Schall says.

Hat drug sweep nets 12

Medicine Hat city police were part of a large drug sting Sunday morning, as a six-week undercover operation culminated in raids at dawn.

Twelve people, eight men and four women, were arrested and face a total of 28 charges, including trafficking in narcotics, possession of restricted drugs, possession of stolen property and unlawful possession of ammunition, said Sgt. Frank Potter.

Four arrest warrants are still outstanding, but police expect to have the four rounded up and charged by the end of the week, said Potter.

Drugs seized include morphine, and morphine derivatives, cocaine, magic mushrooms and marijuana.

Potter said many of those arrested were involved together in the drug trade, forming about three separate rings, one involved in selling opiates, one

involved in selling cocaine and another in selling marijuana.

All offences occurred in Medicine Hat, said Staff Sgt. Lou O'Reilly.

Potter said he was uncertain of the drugs' exact value, but estimated they are worth thousands of dollars.

Those charged are all from Medicine Hat, except for a man and woman from Bow Island and a man from Irvine.

Some of the more serious charges involve multiple charges of trafficking in opiate drugs.

There were at least 15 officers involved in the raids, said O'Reilly, and numerous search warrants were executed.

Two of the 12 suspects were also arrested by Bow Island RCMP.

Deficit busting brings cutting

JEFF WELKE
Of The News

In kinder, gentler times in Alberta, Tories promised to cut spending, but not at the expense of social programs, education or health care.

TAYLOR

That was then, before the Conservative majority seized power June 15. Five months later, a proposed \$365 million from education, \$190 million out of health care and \$150 million from social services are cuts set out before Albertans.

"Basically, it is what we decided. We have to balance the budget," says MLA Lorne Taylor.

"I believe it is working. We will know how close we are by the end of November."

The Tory plan includes the Deficit Elimination Act.

To balance the provincial budget by 1996-97, each department has been asked to cut 20 per cent. The total would bring the \$3.1-billion deficit down to zero.

"But we do not want to jeopardize the quality," says Taylor.

It is what Taylor, Medicine Hat MLA Rob Renner and Brooks MLA Lyle Oberg all said before the June 15 vote.

Health care workers showed they believe quality, service and their livelihoods are in jeopardy when they marched on the legislature in September.

Students marched this month, worried about their future and what a cut-to-the-quick education system would mean.

Renner, Oberg and Taylor have been at the round tables. Taylor says the Conservatives will push on with their deficit reduction goals.

But at what price?

"In education, for example, we believe the changes can be made in the fundamental structure, but not in the classroom," says Taylor, who holds a doctorate in educational psychology.

"The classroom is where the rubber hits the road."

Cuts to physical education, early childhood services and other classes have been discussed, but Taylor maintains those are not the key areas of saving. The way education is administered must change.

And though 20 per cent is "a firm figure," Taylor said it is an overall goal.

Premier Ralph Klein said if more can be cut in some areas, as is proposed in Municipal Affairs, cuts may not be as severe in areas like health care and education.

Taylor, a member of a group of rookie back-benchers called the "deep six," a gang dedicated to deficit reduction, said he questioned the apparent backtracking.

"It is not really. If the 20 per cent is achieved overall, we can balance the deficit. Of course, my concern is if you only ask for people to shoot for 10 per cent, that is all you will get."



TREE DEGGORATIONS — Ayumi Mori checks out hand-painted the eggs. Diana Campbell, a member of the Art Club,

— News photo Joe Klamar

Management says problems shouldn't be McDonald's two finger conditions

LOUISE SMITH
Of The News

Two employees of McDonald's Restaurants in Medicine Hat say the company has problems with working conditions, but two people in management are not aware of the difficulties and say they should not be happening.

Although workers Iain Reid and Pete Iatrides recognize problems, both do not support unionizing, unlike Sarah Inglis, 17, who is trying to form a union at a McDonald's in Orangeville, Ont.

Iatrides, a crew chief who is not in management, said a general attitude of McDonald's managers has been to not advance female employees.

The practice was especially obvious at a McDonald's where Iatrides worked in Nanaimo, B.C. He recalled there was one girl

who especially deserved to be promoted but was not.

Bob Podritske, area supervisor for the three McDonald's in Nanaimo, confirmed Iatrides worked in a Nanaimo franchise. He said he disagrees with Iatrides because more than 50 per cent of his managers are women.

Half the managers with McDonald's are women, said Mark Hancock, marketing and training manager with Max Pasley Enterprises Ltd., which operates the franchise.

Also in Nanaimo, Iatrides said he heard management talk of getting rid of people receiving higher wages. Pay increases an average of 10-20 cents every six months.

"They would go gunning for these guys."

They would concentrate on finding things the workers were doing wrong in order to fire them, he said. He noted he has not seen such behavior in Medicine Hat.

Iatrides said he has also seen some people lose hours when they receive a raise.

Podritske said his restaurants have never had a policy of eliminating people with high wages and have kept people for as long as 20 years.

"Most of our highly paid people are full-time."

Reid, an inventory supervisor in a Hat franchise, has not noticed problems with firings in Medicine Hat.

However, he said some people may be let go for "stupid" reasons because managers are aware they are stealing but cannot prove it, he said.

Employees who have a complaint can write an anonymous letter to head office or phone a 1-800 number. An investigation would be conducted because incidents mentioned by Reid and Iatrides should not be happening, Hancock said.

Iatrides said he did not notify anyone of the treatment he disagreed with because it did not involve him. He did not know if others lodged complaints, but said he believes letters or phone calls would make a difference.

Inglis is so disgruntled with working conditions she is trying to unionize the McDonald's Restaurant franchise where she works in Orangeville, Ont., 75 kilometres northwest of Toronto.

The Service Employees International Union is fighting her case before the Ontario Labor Relations Board.

The case involves abusive conduct by restaurant managers, inadequate wages and benefits, arbitrary reduction or scheduling of hours and unjustified firings or threats of firings.

Mark Ortlieb, spokesman for the union, said all McDonald's in North America will be targeted to join.

Miss Rodeo Canada '94 sets sights on busy year

KAREN SEGAL
Of The News

Medicine Hat's second Miss Rodeo Canada in a row begins her busy year Dec. 26 attending a rodeo in Hobbema.

Wendi Lund, 20, a former Medicine Hat rodeo queen was crowned Friday evening in Edmonton.

Hatter Dode Minor, Miss Rodeo Canada 1993 and Medicine Hat rodeo queen for 1991, handed over the crown.

"I was pretty excited — I certainly wasn't expecting it. I certainly didn't know it was me," said a hoarse Lund this morning from her hotel room in Edmonton.

Ten finalists were judged in several categories in the week-long competition, including personality, horsemanship, modelling and public speaking.

Lund of Duchess also came in first in the horsemanship category.

"It was really tough. You're always on the edge. There's a lot of pressure.

"The competition was really good. All the girls in the contest are already stampede queens.

"I thought it was a very close competition."

Laurie Sharland, co-ordinator for the Medicine Hat rodeo queen contest and past chairman for Miss Rodeo Canada, was on hand to watch Lund's win.

"It's quite unusual that a place has had four Miss Rodeo Canada's and two back-to-back. It must be telling us that Medicine Hat is doing something right.

"I'm very excited, very happy for her."

From Hobbema, Lund will travel across Canada and parts of the United States in a Dodge mini-van, one of the many gifts presented to her.

"It will be very busy."



SUNDAY RIDE — At home on the range northeast of Medicine Hat, Lea Moser, 11, rides Klovvar and Megan Dillon, 13, is up on Gracie. The pair was out exercising their horses near Highway 41.

— News photo Joe Klamar