EB’s Present Porter Musical; Shannon, Nolen, Butler Head Cast

By WANDA PHEARS

The Elizabeth Baldwin Literary Society, with cast of one and directorate of thousands, is again preparing to stage a Broadway musical on the Rice campus — coming November 18 and 19.

Complete with clever characters, a moving plot, suggestive lines, and catchy tunes, this year’s play will be “Anything Goes,” written by Guy Bolton and P. G. Wodehouse, with music and lyrics by Cole Porter.

The scene of action is a luxury liner to England on which the innocent and lovely Hope Harcourt (Pat Shannon) is sailing with her fiancee, Sir Evelyn Oakleigh (Roy Nolen), for a family-arranged marriage intended to amalgamate business interests rather than personal ones.

Hope’s true love, Billy Crocker (Mark Winslow), naturally arranges to make the boat and sails using the passport and bunk of Snake-Eyes Johnson, Public Enemy Number One, who was nabbed by the Feds just before the ship left.

Billy’s roommate on board is Moonface Martin, the would-be criminal who feels quite unsuccessful because he has only made it to the number thirteen slot of public enemies. Moonface is traveling under the guise of The Reverend Dr. Moon. This comical criminal part is played by Barry Moore, who could easily steal the entire show.

Stealing much of the male audience’s attention will be Reno Sweeney, ex-evangelist turned night club singer, played by Jay Butler, and her show-girl Band of Angels in white tights, Margo Garrett, Danna Holmes, Shirley Laughlin, Betsy Miller, Carol Pettigrew, Pat Pizzitola, Pat Woods, and Mary Woodson.

Billy is aided in his various maritime attempts to win his love by Dr. Moon and Reni Sweeney who hold a gospel meeting and get the supposedly-frigid Sir Evelyn to confess that he once seduced a young Chinese girl. Amazingly, a pregnant Chinese girl (Jay Butler) turns up in the next scene to inform Lork Oakleigh (Charlie Kipple) that his son has sowed some wild rice and therefore cannot marry Hope Harcourt.

Perhaps the most colorful scene of the production is the revival conducted by The Reverend Dr. Moon and Elmer Gantry Butler, including the mixed chorus of thirty-four singing “Blow Gabriel Blow.”

A daring daylight sin scene with Jay Butler and Roy Nolen should also please the modern audience.

Cracking the whip at rehearsals is Linda Day, a junior chemistry major who has somehow found spare time between her four weekly labs to direct and coordinate the entire production.

Business managers are Mary Day Milbank and Betsy Miller. Betty Branard and Sally Terrell are handling sets and publicity, while Lil Lubinski is in charge of costumes.

The EBLS wish to express their gratitude for the services of an ex-Student Association President, Steve Shaper, who will play the ship’s drunk.