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# Mask & Wig Club gets silly at night

By **TIM KELLER**  
*The Chronicle-News*

The young actors and comics of Raton High School's Mask & Wig club are again up to shenanigans at the Shuler Theater, where they've been gathering most weeknights for a couple hours of fun and games.

It's still a little early to tell, but eventually their zany antics will coalesce into a coherent - if zany - story of gods and goddesses and a few mortals. "The Great Mythology Olympiaganza"

will play at the Shuler Theater Feb. 12 and 13 before the group takes it as their entry in the annual Drama Fest in Portales later in the month.

The new one-act play was written by Don Zolidis, who many will remember for his hilarious "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon," produced at the Shuler last March by the Raton Youth Theater.

Besides a penchant for the classics and titles with newly-minted words, Zolidis specializes in mixing up sto-



Photos by Tim Keller

The Mask & Wig Club of Raton High School rehearses at the Shuler Theater most weeknights. Here, many of the young thespians meet at school.



Clockwise from bottom, Tegan Thompson rehearses Medea, maladjusted enough to kill her own children; Jeremy Gentry plays a police officer working the case; Marcus Hodge lords over the others as the god Apollo; and Haley James plays a therapist trying to comfort Medea.

ries to produce sidesplitting humor - which explains why the Raton kids are acting so crazed. It'd be hard to rehearse a Zolidis script and not act somewhat silly: they're just too much fun.

Stage manager Etta Briscoe gives some examples of the warped humor. "There's death, babies being eaten, drowning Trojans, harpies, zombies, and overly-obsessed fan girls." There's a therapy session between the original Titans, Rhea and Chronos, played by Emily Berry and Chris Fissel.

The group's sponsor and director, Cian Hazen, sched-

ules two-hour rehearsals but they often run long. Several members of the troupe tease freshman Toby Henson for making the practices run overtime. "Toby does makes them run longer," allows Briscoe. "We're ADD-friendly," explains junior Tegan Thompson. Briscoe agrees, "This group is kind of hard to focus. Everyone's very imaginative and has their own ideas."

Whether the blame goes to the playwright or the young actors, there's just too much fun going on. Soon they'll have to settle down and produce a play.

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