



**By Jan Schultz**

***The Imperial Republican***

With cat-like tread, the Pirates of Penzance will be slipping into town Monday and Tuesday night next week, as Chase County Schools presents its annual musical production.

The cast of 35 high school students will stage the Gilbert and Sullivan musical, “The Pirates of Penzance,” at 7:30 p.m. both evenings, Jan. 25-26.

The musical, actually written as a spoof on opera, tells the story of a young pirate apprentice named Frederic (played by Paul Gaschler) who is approaching the conclusion of that apprenticeship.

Unfortunately, his half-deaf nurse, Ruth (Jilanne German), had been instructed to apprentice him to a “pilot” but got it a little wrong, as he was apprenticed with a “pirate.”

Frederic has never seen any woman other than his old nurse, but stumbles upon a bevy of beautiful maidens once he returns to shore. What follows is a lot of comedy, conflict and a lot of other pirates about.

The musical was originally to be staged at CCS last October, but schedules and sickness forced its postponement until this month, said Director Randy Hayes.

“The Pirates of Penzance” originally opened in New York in 1879 with its musical score written by Arthur Sullivan and its lyrics/book by William S. Gilbert.

A major Broadway revival hit the stage in 1981, starring Kevin Kline, Rex Smith and Linda Ronstadt. Angela Lansbury joined the trio for the musical’s 1983 film version.

**Tickets now on sale**

Reserved tickets are now on sale at \$4 for adults and \$2 for students both evenings.

They are available from any high school chorus member or from Hayes at 882-4304, ext. 152.