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## Original musical 'Moses! Moses!' includes four from Academy in cast

by

Sgt. Bob Becker

"In 'Moses! Moses!' Mr. Clapp and I do not say this is how the situation is; instead, this is how we see that it is. That is our justification for writing on this subject. We want to create good theater and good entertainment, but our main purpose is to say something relevant, significant and sincere about Black problems in this country today."

Those are the words of Capt. James H. Conely, faculty member in the Department of Philosophy and Fine Arts and one of four Academy people involved in what may be one of the most controversial amateur stage productions produced in quite some time.

"Moses! Moses!" mixes the Bible, the ghetto and the Black and White problems of today with a sprinkling of original and beautiful music by Captain Conely. The book was written by Barton Clapp, minister of Education and Arts at the First United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs.

"Moses! Moses!" is now less than two weeks from opening night. In the cast are students from Colorado College, Palmer High School, a member of the Colorado Springs schools teaching staff, residents of Colorado Springs in various employments and Air Force Academy people.

Captain Conely is associate professor of Fine Arts and teaches all music courses offered to cadets. He holds a Doctor of Education degree from Columbia University and is a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia the professional music fraternity.

Captain Conely began piano lessons at 7 years old; wrote his first composition a year later and has been writing ever since.

Playing one of the lead roles is SSgt. Jim Johnson. His role, Cricket, is that of a happy-go-lucky clownish member of the Black Knights. They are the heavies in "Moses! Moses!" and advocate burning and killing as a way to racial equality. But Cricket is neither all bad or all good.

The lead role of Moses is played by CIC Ken Little who is known to Academy people as head cheerleader and Wing Open Boxing champion in the heavyweight class. He brings to the singing-acting role of Moses his experience with the Bluebards and the Cadet Protestant Choir.

SSgt. Ron Smith, lighting director for the recently completed success of the Academy Players, "Sweet Charity," will be filling the same role in the production of "Moses! Moses!" Lighting will be unusual in this production because only stark scenery is used and lighting is used to provide the proper atmosphere and setting.

"Moses! Moses!" is being produced as part of the annual Festival of Religion and the Arts which is co-sponsored by the Community Center Chapel Arts Committee and First United Methodist Church. Performances are scheduled for May 1, 2, 3, 16 and 17.



**"MOSES! MOSES!" — CIC Ken Little as Moses, is confronted by his mother Alma in a scene from the all Black cast musical.**