Plays, musicals offer an escape after break

How could break have gone so quickly? One day we were sunning ourselves on distant beaches, skiing down powdery slopes or just relaxing on a favorite beach and the next we are back at school trying viciously to finish all that was left until after break. It is a grim reality, but school is back in session.

An escape this spring to distant cities and fantasy lands without having to take out another loan or even leave Omaha is still possible: attend one or more of the several plays and musicals performed throughout the Omaha area.

"There is no place like home." So start the fabulous comedic musical, "Once Upon a Mattress," to be performed at Creighton's Interim Arts Center March 30 through April 1 and April 4-8. Based on the novel "Princess and the Pea," it is a rousing romp through a fantasy kingdom. Student tickets are $3. Persons interested in reservations or additional information may call 280-2509.

Those willing to venture off campus can take a trip to Never Never Land with Olympic gymnast, Cathy Rigby, and the rest of the cast of the 35th anniversary production of "Peter Pan." The cast will soar through the air doing battle with the evil Captain Hook in the Music Hall March 27 at 7:30 p.m. and March 28 at 2:00 and 7:30 p.m.

After leaving Never Never Land, how about going on the road to Mecca? The Omaha Community Playhouse production, "The Road to Mecca," is a charming story about a set of complex human relationships that raises questions about faith, creative expression, companionship and morality. Performances continue until the first of April.

Also on stage at the Community Playhouse is the comedy with a south-of-the-border flavor, "El Grande de Coca-Cola." It guarantees to be a bundle of fun filled with one comic disaster after another. It also continues until April 1. Information about either performance is available by calling 553-0800.

After enjoying a little spicy comedy at the Playhouse, play goer can set their sights on the habit-forming humor of "Nunsense," which is returning to the Firehouse Dinner Theatre in the Old Market on March 27. The cloistered comedic actors will have the holy rolling in the aisles. Performances continue through June 1. For additional information and reservations call 346-6009.

This spring, at least two versions of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" will be performed on stage in Omaha. On March 28 through April 1, the original Shakespearean tragedy will be presented by Opera/Omaha in the Orpheum Theater. "West Side Story," the modern musical version of the classic love story will be presented at the Orpheum on May 15 and 16. Persons interested in more information about either production may call 342-7107.

The plays mentioned are just a sampling of those being performed around Omaha this spring. Most theaters offer student discounts, making it easy to escape to far-away places without leaving Omaha or spending a lot of money.