Live opera returns

Canadian Opera brings "Carmen" to Halifax

convincing especially in the first their individual futures. acter of Carmen. Only her inabil- and tragic. ity to impress anyone with her There appeared to be little ef-

Don Jose was sung by Guy La- assume the Spanish complexion. voie, an excellent tenor, whose One other aspect was readily difficult part requires that the noticeable. There were only nine men. However, Mr. Lavoie without a crowd and chorus. handled this transition skilfully. The economy of scenery,

such as, "I have a letter from

Live opera has been absent in ately poetic. However, Micaela's the Halifax for far too long. But beautiful aria " I Try Not to Own on Monday February 1st a cor- That I Tremble" was to me the rective step was taken at the Cap- highlight of the opera. Her sweetitol Theatre when the Canadian ness and purity was a stunning Opera Company presented Biz- contrast to the bravado and sensuousness of Carmen.

Carmen was sung by June Gen- The less major roles were hanovese who has an adequate voice dled well. Especially enjoyable and the necessary acting ability were "Card Trio" in which the to fill the role of the passionate three gypsies; Carmen, Frasgypsy. Her coquetry was most quita, and Mercedes, predicted

act. While being questioned about The settings were simple and the stabbing of a co-worker, Car- very effective. Act 1V Takes men repulses eachaccusation place in a chapel adjacent to the with a gay and mocking, "Tra la arena. It is usually staged in a la, Tra la la". Miss Genovese square facing the bull ring. This handled this part of the opera very change was most effective, sugwell indeed and through her, the gesting a redemption of Carmen's audience achieved an intimate un- Character. Murder, in front of the derstanding of the complex char- altar, was just a little more ironic

dancing, detracted from this role, fort on the part of the cast to

singer create almost a dual role. singers in the cast. This made For the Don Jose that we meet in for rather unconvincing crowd Act 1 is vastly different from the scenes. Most crowd scenes were man who eventually stabs Car- either omitted or were present

Sheila Piercey played Micaela, make-up, and characters; all the quiet peasant girl whose de- these were not really bothervotion to Don Jose never ceased. some. They can be attributed to Miss Piercey's presence was of the limited budget of the Canadian special interest to his audience Opera Company. However, what as she is a native Haligonian. did bother me was the economy In the first act however, it of effort and enthusiasm that was appeared that, her part was un- common to the whole cast with the der one handicap. This opera was exception of Sheila Piercey. Pertranslated from the original haps this road company was French into English and her part showing the effects of twelve perconsisted of a great deal of dia- formances in 14 days, but I got logue. No singer can make a line the impression that this perfor-Please turn to page 6

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handle men---knock 'em down and stamp them out! says Nancy



Mikado

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GEMINI VI

MacRae rated "King of Social Satire"; but proved insulting to good taste

Gazette Staff

I suppose it had to happen. I mean, after two excellent first acts, there had to be a lapse when we'd get a couple of turkeys. Peter Fulsang was inoffensively mediocre. Alan MacRae was insulting, not to the ego or the sacred cows but to good taste.

He was billed as "Canada's King of Social Satire". That may or may not be true - depending on how good Canadians are. But I am inclined to think his title is a lot of hooey. Why? Simply because Alan MacRae is not a satirist at all.

Oh sure, he talks about the ridiculous attitudes that surround war, birth control, sex, skiing (?) psychiatrists and religion. Nice safe topics, eh? Heard the same stuff plenty of times, haven't you? That's right, most of his material was old hat, the clicheed tearing down of sacred cows that aren't sacred and haven't been for several years.

Maybe it's not his fault that there are so many 'good' co-

medians and social satirists that show him up as strictly Grade D. Maybe it's not his fault that we can see them every week telling their stale jokes on that monument to American distaste, the Ed Sullivan Show. No, we can't blame him if he can't be original, but we can sure hate him for his phoney irreverence.

Since all satirists are cast as irreverent, Alan MacRae is just that you can tell that by the way he liberally sprinkles his hells. That's irreverence. And using the Bible as a background for dirty tittery jokes. And dirty jokes themselves, along with sniggering double entendre. Oh, that's really irreverence.

The funny thing is, while showing how sadistic, irreverent, and hippie he is, Alan MacRae can about face and sing a sickening bit of insipid idealism about his "Highway of Dreams", or a pointless song, about how the world was created in seven days (hey, that means that he's not an atheist after all, and only an insincere comedian).

fact that Alan MacRae wasn't even as humourous as a folk singer who tells only the occasional joke to liven up his act. Even Rank Frank's Rib Ticklers could get more laughs. The reason for his staleness was that he operated on the principal that any mention of atheism or of the sex act will get a roar of laughter. And he's right with most people. Everyone is trying so hard to be open minded and liberal about sex that they will laugh at the worst jokes if they contain some sly reference to adultery, fornication, or homosexuality. That has resulted in more crumby comedians getting work than I can think of, You can always tell the good from the bad: the latter resort to tittery material if they find the straight stuff isn't going over, and that's the way he worked. It's also very in to be an atheist. No, not universal atheism, just the anti-Bible variety. Yes, that's very in, great for the sophisticated college crowd. There's that irreverence popping up again.

Enough on the non-humour. As a singer, Alan MacRae is only mediocre. What bothers me is the way he could make even a good song boring, such as Gordon Lightfoot's "Early Morning Rain" and Bob Dylan's "Tom Thumb Blues". If I hadn't known the songs, I would have classed them along with the rest of his uninteresting repertoire.

The evening wasn't a complete failure though, There is a waiter at Gemini V1 called Laurie (his last name remains a secret for income tax reasons) and that fellow is hilarious. He sat down with us between shows and had us in stitches for a good half-hour. Maybe that's why I was so disappointed with MacRae: Laurie served as a direct comparison between a phoney satirist and a natural comedian. Boy, that guy is great. They should consider using him after MacRae leaves, or even before.

started bubbling from the wood-

work. Those canteen cattle will

look for all the anti-Aristotelian

trends (if that is still the

fashion: I forgot) and justifiably

pass a judgement of self-con-

tradiction by reason of insanity.

The intellectual Brahmins will

have their way, and rightly;

when the cud is well chewed,

when coffee has been stirred

and ashes have been extin-

guished, when fingers have tan-

gled and beards have been

stroked the verdict will be clear;

"I suppose he's right, in some

ways. Even though I don't agree

with him. Yes, he's right; but

not right the right way.'

Whatever became of:

Walt Raleigh,



One of the outstanding botanists ever to graduate, Walt built his early reputation on his major thesis "The Care and Cultivation of Nicotinia for Profit." An excellent athlete, Raleigh is fondly remembered for an incident which occurred in his sophomore year. Shortly before the Big Game, Walt impulsively threw his football sweater over a puddle which lay in the path of that year's Beauty Queen. It was the only game on record in which eleven of our varsity squad wore numbers and one a large dirty footprint. After graduation, Walt went overseas to spark up the consumption of Virginia tobacco in England. He was "capped" for England against Spain on several occasions. He was finally "de-capped" after a local scrimmage against a team from the Tower of London. A monument in his memory is being proposed by a local manufacturer of filters.

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MAID **MARION**

For weeks before the Winter Carnival, some twerp with a highly questionable sense of humour kept making general announcements in the Hall. All were entreated to come out and clobber their professors in the annual broomball game.

Expose: it was a plot. I'd swear those guys had cleats on. How else could they walk, run and hit the ball even while we girls had all we could do just trying to stand up for five consecutive seconds? The big drawing card was the idea that you could take a very

sneaky and legal revenge for all those term papers you were supposed to be writing. Piffle! It was the profs who took revenge for all those lousy papers they were being forced to mark.

It wasn't as if we girls hadn't made preparations for the big

night. We asked ourselves searching questions like:

(1) What is the chemical composition of ice?

(2) What is a broom? (3) Is a ball or a puck used?

It was all to no avail. We were defeated ingloriously two to nothing. With two goalies even. And outnumbering our opponents

I came out with only two bruises which I understand was the minimum acquired. I must admit that it was only because at times I retreated to, shall we say, take stock of the situation. "Cowardly", after all, is such an unpleasant term.

However, congratulations to the Dal professors for playing a good game, far too good a game, the clots!

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Eisenstein 'Strikes' in good movie

S.M. Eisenstein's Strike was

shown at the Dalhousie Film Society at their last meeting. It was a good movie, Good enough to raise the most cliquish eyebrows.

No madam. I have no intention of summarizing the plot for you. You should have seen the film yourself. If you couldn't, go see it some other time. If you don't trust my recommendation (a mistrust that I commend) my "summary" would be worthless anyway as too narrow for your viewpoint, which, I am sure, is very broad

and flat.
For plot, gentlemen, is nonsense. No such enigmatic body was seen behind the pretty pitchers the other night. I look. ed closely, I assure you: I saw neither form nor content, plot nor style.

I saw Strike. (Ladies. I do not have galloping Piper's Pangloss. 1 An analytic discussion of Strike's beauties would interest only those who have seen Strike. Most of those who want such a discussion -- and have not had it from me already - attended, since the film is rare in these benighted parts, the post-filmic bull-session the night I did not attend. Excepting the trumpeting Brahmins and their sorry gulls 2 one retains an audience of some two or three, hardly sufficient for the illustrious Dalhousie Gazette.)



In them wretches exhibit their disgusting proclivities, for the adulation of senseless euphuists: cringing audiences look at the latest critical ur. banities and set their fashions accordingly. Reviews interest most the most worthless read. ers, just as does all but the most explosive journalism. Reviewers will become critics only when they are read for their opinions and not for their dictates.

This article will have a curious history. It will be read by some; on occasions it will be read entirely; it will be mulled, it will be batted from one month to another. 3 It will drop onto the canteen tables late in the afternoon, when the intellectual in-group has just

Is Gemini VI in a fix?

Quite frankly it could be. You see, the proprietors of GEMINI VI - a plush new coffee club - have lined up the most exciting list of entertainers ever to come to this city. Why, they led off with the famous folk-blues artists Brownie McGhee and Sonny Terry; followed that with the number one bluegrass, folk banjoist of the day, Mike Seeger; then came Peter Fulsang and NOW Alan MacRae - the very irreverent Alan MacRae.

Jovial Marven Berk, program director for GEMINIVI has scheduled such outstanding artists in the coming weeks as Gordon Lightfoot, Josh White Jr., Carolyn Hester, and many more.

Oh yes, what's the fix? Well response isn't at all what was expected. Everybody's mother's uncle is showing up . . . and they just hate to leave. The decor and atmosphere is exciting: the refreshments are superb; the talent is outstanding; and, it's an inexpensive way to spend an evening. Wherelse is there to go in Halifax, with a date, sit leisurely for a few hours listening to the finest in live entertainment for just a couple of dollars.

Can you help GEMINI VI out of its fix...maybe! Keep this information under your hat. Don't tell everybody that hat. Don't tell everybody that THE nightspot in Halifax is now GEMINI, least of all your mother's uncle...cause if you do, well who knows what might happen.

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