

Live opera returns

Canadian Opera brings "Carmen" to Halifax

By BILL DUNLOP Live opera has been absent in the Halifax for far too long. But on Monday February 1st a corrective step was taken at the Capitol Theatre when the Canadian Opera Company presented Bizet's CARMEN.



Mikado Feb. 17-20

There's only one way to handle men...knock 'em down and stamp them out! says Nancy White, D.G.D.S. production of the Mikado at the Neptune theatre.

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

By STEPHEN POTTIE 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.

Even funnier, — or should I say not funny at all, — was the fact that Alan MacRae would not even as humorous as the writer who tells only the occasional joke to live up to 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 crummy 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 VI 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 phony satirist and a natural comedian. Boy, that guy is great. They should consider using him after MacRae leaves, or even before.

Eisenstein "Strikes" in good movie

BY PETROLIUS 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.

In reviews are a waste of time. It wretches exhibit their disgusting proclivities, for the adulation of senseless ephemerals; cringing audiences look at the latest critical urbanities and set their fashions accordingly. Reviews interest most the most worthless readers, just as does all but the most explosive journalism. Reviews will become critics only when they are read for their opinions and not for their dictates.

started bubbling from the woodwork. Those canteen cottle will look for all the anti-Aristotelian trends (if that is still the fashion: I forgot) and justifiably pass a judgement of self-contradiction by reason of self-contradiction. The intellectual Brahmins will have their way, and rightly; when the cud is well chewed, and coffee has been stirred and ashes have been extinguished, when fingers have tangled 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."



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.

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.

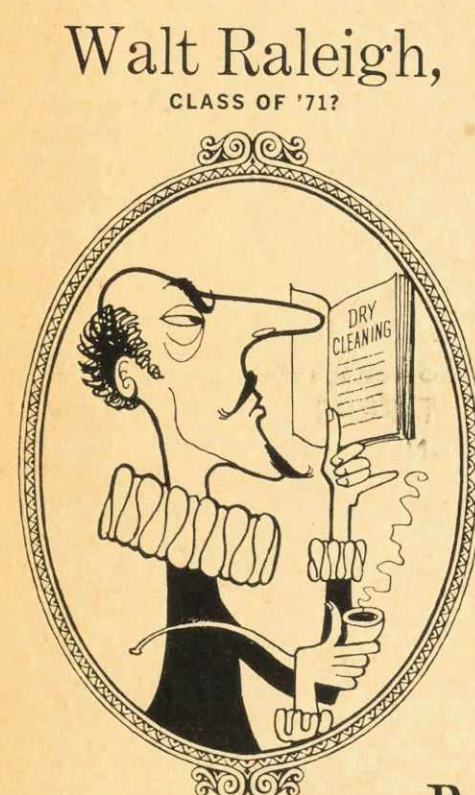


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Whatever became of:



Walt Raleigh, CLASS OF '71? One of the outstanding botanists ever to graduate, Walt built his early reputation on his major thesis "The Care and Cultivation of Nicotina for Profit." An excellent athlete, Raleigh is fondly remembered for an incident which occurred in his sophomore year. Shortly before the Big Game, Walt ventured through 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.

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