

photo Martin Beales

Bears basketball team plays to an unusually packed auditorium?

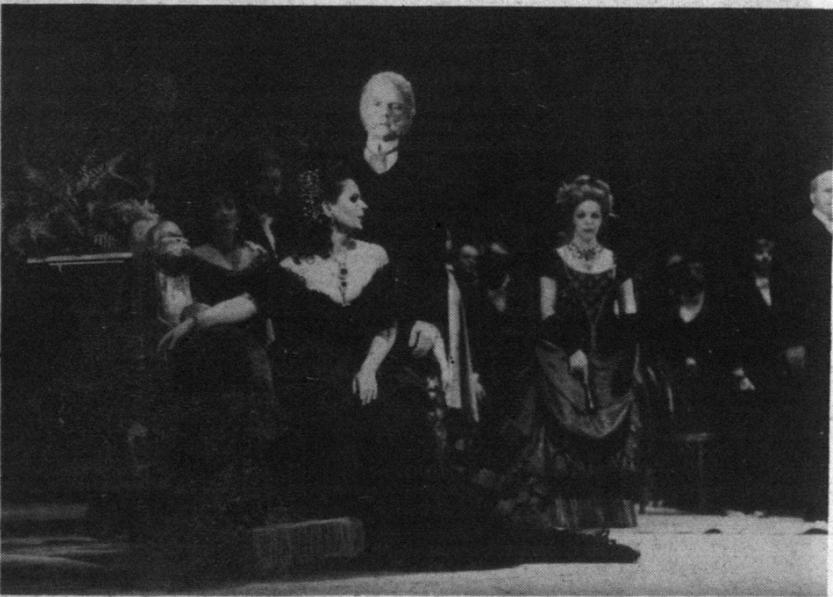


photo Ray Ciguere

La Traviata, finally great opera in Edmonton



photo Ray Ciguere

Julian and Pete* puckering up for a warm wet one.



photo Ray Ciguere

Would you let this man sell you anti-nuclear holocaust insurance?

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

by Jack Vermees

No space to waste on a silly long-winded introduction trying to place the months of November and December into the "Big Picture" so here goes....(and don't expect coherence, either).

By far the most disturbing event of the year was the suicide, on November 16, of Kells Owen Hall, a 33 year old graduate student in Economics. Hall, known as a bit of a loner, jumped from the 11th floor of Mackenzie Hall, becoming the first ever suicide in residence. Enough said.

Although far less disturbing, another person was lost to us in November. Steve Cumming, local Grateful Deadhead, bandanna freak, and director of CJSR campus radio, resigned after two-and-a-half years on the job. Waning enthusiasm and the need for food money were cited as reasons.

Lest we forget, the eleventh month was also provincial election month (remember Murray Scrambler? Me neither!). Loughheed's Legionnaires took 75 of 79 seats including the Edmonton-Strathcona riding where Julian Koziak edged out the NDP's Gordon Wright. The polling station in Lister Hall (that bastion of conservatism) turned the tide and gave Koziak the win. Heavy sigh.

Far more interesting than the election was the brouhaha created by the continued printing of the hilarious "Olivia Butti's Diary." The real Olivia Butti (yes, she does exist) finally got pissed-off and threatened the Gateway with a lawsuit. Frank Hutton, that sagacious *Edmonton Journal* columnist, revealed that it was Kent Blinston who did the dirty deed (ie. wrote OBD). Blinston calmly took his place on the podium as undisputed lawsuit champ with a record 2 threatened lawsuits. "I'm a little teapot/Short and stout/Here is my handle/and here is my spout...."

(Okay, serious stuff....) On the provincial front the Federation of Alberta Students had a topsy-turvy two months. Their fall conference in early November was a "thorough success" marked by a revised, more moderate attitude towards tuition fees and a trimmed budget. However, before you could say "That Don Miller is one crazy kinda guy" the roof fell in. The U of C rejected a two dollar increase in FAS fees and voted to pull out of FAS, thereby striking the first of a series of blows that led to the recent death of our Student Federation.

Remember the infamous Calendar Caper? U of A students Dawn Izzard and Keelay Vickson producers of *The Men and Women of the U of A* were accused, in print, of misrepresenting themselves to both business clients and the public. Misrepresentations included: the use of "ringers" (not all models were U of A students); implying a link with Universiade '83 which did not exist; implying all profits would go to charity which was untrue; and

more. Ah yes, once again the rotten by-products of a capitalist system come to the surface.

Speaking of rotten by-products and all that, perhaps the dumbest campus crime in years occurred one dark night in December. Three very drunk thieves were nabbed by campus security while trying to stuff themselves and three chairs (pilfered from RATT) into a small Toyota, proving once again that some University students rank lower than plankton on average intelligence scales.

The first semester certainly went out with the proverbial bang when anti-Zionist demonstrators led by Oscar Ammar closed down a Hillel Club forum where Colonel Yehuda Levy of the Israeli Defense Reserves was speaking. Shouting "Down with Zionist Racism" the demonstrators harangued Levy for over an hour. For Ammar it was the event that almost got him expelled.

Oh God, there was so much more (like the death of trees and the birth of the Commerce building, Anti-cruise demonstrations Alexander Haig (yecch), Save Grande Cache, the Amoco stink and more) but onto Arts and Sports.

Musically, we were treated to everything from Andre Gagnon ("magnifique") and Liona Boyd ("compelling") to La Traviata ("worth a Bravo") and the cancellation of Randy Newman's concert. Iggy Pop bludgeoned audiences with his rather self-destructive blend of music and madness. West Watch I, II, and III gave local bands like Troc '59, (now deceased), the Dragnets and many others the chance to showcase their alternative talents. They hope to finance a compilation album.

In the theatres, successful productions of *Marat/Sade*, *Mass Appeal*, *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* and *True West* provided U of A theatre-goers with a wide choice. (I know it's sketchy but I'm running out of space).

Turning to sports, the Bears football team finished the season with their worst record in two decades (1-7) while in Basketball, the Pandas had moved into the top ten in the country as of the Christmas break.

The Bears basketball team actually won a few games and going home for Christmas they were well-ahead of their previous years dismal pace. Most interesting to fat Bears fans was the institution of the Old Spaghetti Factory promo whereby (for certain home games) a win by the Bears resulted in a free spaghetti dinner for the fans. Needless to say, they lost.

And finally, a minor controversy erupted over the University Athletics Board budget. The general nature of the budget made it impossible to tell exactly what was being spent on what. The issue of accountability to students fostered a couple of articles that brought the wrath of the UAB down on the Gateway collective heads.



Remember the calendar scam?

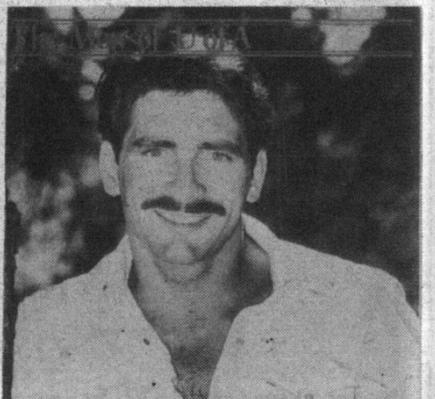


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