

Shoshan Unsensational



by Sheena Masson

Did you ever order something from a magazine and when it arrived, well, the ad didn't lie but it didn't tell the truth either. This was how I felt Thursday evening at Shoshana Shoshan's performance. A promotional release sheet described Miss Shoshan as having a warm stage personality and an agile and flexible coloratura voice. I anticipated "an exciting opportunity

to hear a commanding soprano."

True, Miss Shoshan did have an unceasing smile but otherwise she never said a word to the audience. Her agility was seldom demonstrated though when she did sing in the higher ranges, it was in a rich mezzo tone rather than the lighter coloratura.

The richness of her voice was marred however by a continual slow throaty vibrato which at times was

almost disturbing, and caused her to sound somewhat off-pitch. As she made constant use of vibrato which requires a tensed and open shape, her words tended to be mouthy and indistinct. She may have been flexible enough to sing in five languages but they all sounded the same to me, if one can imagine Italian and German sounding alike.

Miss Shoshan was not immediately recognizable as the same person in her promotional photo. I imagine that picture and the release itself are at least ten years out of date. She may once have sung to a "sophisticated New York audience" and received "thunderous applause" but just because they liked her then, doesn't mean we have to like her now.

The release trades on what she used to be, not what she is today. Once a soloist with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, Miss Shoshan sang only with piano at the Cohn. Her accompanist, looking like an Avon lady who had knocked on the wrong door and an over eager page turner, did nothing to help her image. One could imagine a still smiling Shoshana returning to her hotel room politely regal while the other two remained just politely polite. The overall feeling was one of pathos rather than awe.

For the bull-pen of pencil chewing reporters I was in, this was just another review. But I imagine that the majority of the audience felt disappointed and, well, deceived. Cultural Activities should research the releases they receive and require a recent recording or at least more recent reviews.

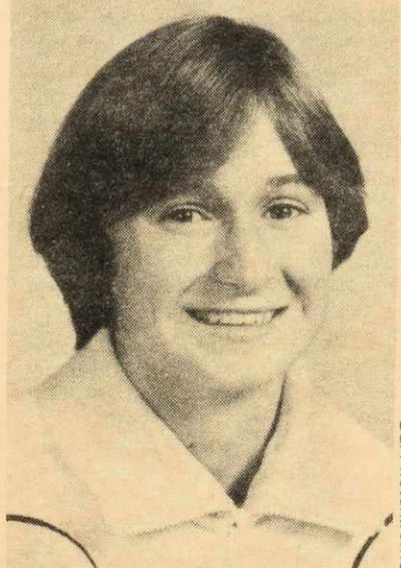
Women Tigers win

The Dalhousie Women's Volleyball Team has once again turned its fortunes in a positive direction. After dropping two straight matches, they have won their last two handily against Mount Allison Friday night, 15-11, 15-10, 14-16 and 15-5.

Last Saturday, Dal tangled with the always strong Ceilidh Volleyball Club from Halifax. The final outcome being 15-7, 15-10, 12-15, and 20-18 in favour of the Black and Gold.

Saturday, Dal will play host to the powerful UNB club. In the only previously scheduled meeting between Dal and UNB, the match was postponed due to the flu bug visiting the Fredericton campus. Game time on Saturday is 1 p.m. so come out and support the Dal team.

Two players who will be playing a large role in the Dal Women's quest for top spot in the AUAA are Deb Porter and Cindy Moore.



Dal Photo/Morris

Deb Porter, second year Phys. Ed., is in her second season with the Women's Volleyball Team. A native of Dartmouth, Deb is a back court specialist in the Lois MacGregor organization.



Dal Photo / Morris

A rookie on the team who wasted no time in making her presence felt is Cindy Moore. Last year Cindy led the Halifax West Warriors to the high school provincial volleyball crown

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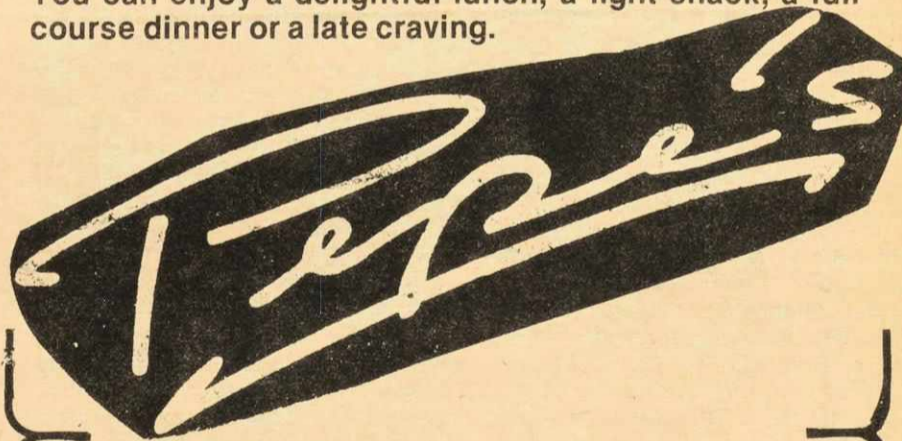
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Jazz . . . It doesn't need any words. It speaks for itself. All you need to be told about Jazz is where to find it. Cabbagetown . . . A Jazz Cafe . . . is on the lower level of Pepe's Cafe and Grill . . . and that's located at 5680 Spring Garden Road.

Just a few words about Cabbagetown: It's got an easy atmosphere. Casual. Natural . . . You know the music belongs there. The staff is friendly and courteous.

Cabbagetown's reason for being is good Jazz . . . Jam sessions every Saturday from 1-5. No cover charge.

5680 Spring Garden Rd. across from the Lord Nelson. 429-7321