

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

December 1987 Newsletter

Next Meeting: On December 7th, the first Monday of the month, at 7:30 pm at Enid Hallock's: 4001 Cherrywood; 477-0858. Please bring munchies. Come on time and work on the projected production of **Trial By Jury**. Then we can have a little music - - bring your scores of **Pinafore** and **Trial By Jury**.

Please Pay Your Dues Now!!! See report of last meeting, below.

Last Meeting: Eleven members, plus Michael Drousche who is rejoining us, and guest Bill Breaux, met at Enid's on November 9th. Some of you will remember Michael and Bill from our production of **Patience** at Zachary Scott Theatre in 1980. President Bob Kusnetz opened the meeting with introductions of the new and semi-new faces. He read us a very enthusiastic letter from Karen McDonald of AT&T, thanking us for our performances at the Austin Children's Museum Grand Opening on October 11th. She will send us an honorarium when she receives an invoice from us. Allen Lawshae spoke for the performers when he urged "Let's not do that again!" We had no control over the performance conditions, which were very uncomfortable. Also, there was no reason for us to perform twice - - none of the other performers did.



Consider the moral, I pray,
Nor bring a young fellow to sorrow,
Who loves this young lady to-day,
And loves that young lady to-morrow.

TRIAL BY JURY

Discussion of Dues: Bob reported two suggestions from the November 9th meeting: 1) Raise dues to \$10.00. 2) Raise dues to \$15.00. It was agreed that it was ridiculous to keep dues at \$5.00 when that just covers the cost of putting out the Newsletter per year, per member. Allen Lawshae asked if the dues should cover other expenses in addition; for instance, cost of copying music for a show and making flyers to advertise auditions. Bob explained that those expenses came under Production Costs, and were part of the budget required to produce a show.

Bill Girard stated that he believes dues should be \$15.00 because there should be more result from our efforts. Katherine Shields said she thinks we would lose more people raising the dues to \$15.00, and thus not make much extra money over charging \$10.00 dues. David Rigg said he thinks \$5.00 dues make people think we are a cheap-o outfit. He thinks \$15.00 shows more commitment and that people might be more serious about joining if we raised the dues.

It was moved and seconded that we vote to raise dues to either a) \$10.00 or b) \$15.00. The vote was:

a) for \$10.00 dues	7 votes
b) for \$15.00 dues	2 votes
Abstaining	1 vote

Bob Kusnetz moved that dues remain at \$5.00 for students and retired persons, but there was no second.

There was discussion of what to do about people who had joined in May or later, and had been told that their dues of \$5.00 would cover the 1987-88 season. It was agreed that we will honor that commitment, but will urge that anyone who wants to pay more do so now. Bill Girard suggested a committee of three, Bob, Enid, and Reba, to iron out details of what the cut-off date for dues would be in the future.

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Production News: Bob reported that we are going ahead on the production of *Trial By Jury*, with a curtain raiser of scenes from *A Gilbert and Sullivan Sampler*, to be performed on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights on February 26, 27 and 28, and March 4, 5 and 6, 1988. Bill Girard reported that Jess Walters would like very much to repeat his role as the Judge in *Trial By Jury* and will be available on those dates.

Bill and Enid had been to look at the Concordia College space and found it lovely. One drawback is that the curtains don't come out on the sides of the stage. There are no dressing rooms, but we could use classrooms upstairs. There is a beautiful grand piano, and a second piano could be brought in from another room. We could run concessions and take all profit. Bob had also looked at the space and talked with Mr. Hohle. He agreed that the space was delightful with seating for 269 people. Acoustics are very adjustable, with reversible panels. The prices quoted were not as reasonable as originally stated and it was agreed that Bob would talk further with Mr. Hohle and tell him that his charges were out of line with the going rates at local theaters.



And it's not in the range of belief,
That you could hold him as a glutton,
Who, when he is tired of beef,
Determines to tackle the mutton.

TRIAL BY JURY

Bob had also talked with Bunnie Grace Jackson at Live Oak Theatre. That theater seats 164 people. Live Oak runs the concessions themselves, so we would not be able to. Bunnie Grace quoted prices unofficially. We would need to talk with members of their Board for a firm proposal. It is not certain that the theater would be available when we need it. They are in the process of hiring a new artistic director, and may be using the space themselves by February. Another question is whether there is a piano at the theater.

It was moved, seconded and approved that Bob should pursue both Live Oak and Concordia as possible production spaces, and bring back their offers to some of the officers, who could vote on which offer to take. Bob also agreed to call people who had worked on the production crews for the *Sampler* to see if they could work on *Trial*. Allen offered to help Bob on details. Bill urged that we plan a fund-raising Gala for opening night.

There followed a discussion of possible directors. Nine suggestions were made and Katherine volunteered to call them all to sound them out. She will ask if they 1) are available 2) are interested 3) know any Gilbert and Sullivan. It was agreed that we would benefit from having a director who is known in Austin, but that we need to keep the fee as low as possible.

New Business: Sheila Glenn reported that the Round Rock Humane Society would be interested in our doing a benefit for them in Round Rock. Bill responded that we would need to set a flat rate for our services, with all money above that going to the Humane Society.

Reba reminded the group that it is time to renew our membership in the Austin Circle of Theatres (ACOT). It was moved, seconded and approved that we do this, and treasurer Keith Larson was instructed to send payment of the \$30.00 organization dues to ACOT. The meeting was adjourned for refreshment and sociability. Many thanks, as always, to Enid for having us.

New Member: Please add to your list

Michael Drousche
P.O. Box 7262
University of Texas
Austin, TX 78712

459-9298

Welcome back, Michael.

12/11/82

News of Members: Frank Delvy is probably our consistently busiest performer. Next appearance will be in Man of LaMancha, which opens on December 11th, at Hyde Park Theatre. Frank has the leading role. Plan to see it!!!

Bob Greenwood recently performed as a background extra in Save The Dog, a Disney movie being filmed in Austin. Bob was pursuing one of his interests, and attending a Sherlock Holmes Society meeting, when his distinguished appearance caught the eye of a young lady talent scout and actors' agent. She urged him to send her his picture, so now he's on her talent list. This assignment followed soon after, and who knows what may turn up next!!!

Goodbye to Steve Swanson, who will soon be moving to Wisconsin to study and be near his relatives. Barbara and their daughter, Katie, have already settled there. Steve will join them before Christmas.

Thanks to Dorene Cohen, who took the trouble to write a thoughtful letter in response to ideas in the recent Newsletters.

I would welcome more such comments. Even if you can't come to meetings your voice can be heard. What do our members think we ought to do at meetings? What do you think about dues? What kind of Board do you think might best serve our purposes? How can we get the jobs done when we put on a show?

In Fact Now is your chance to get involved! The production of Trial By Jury will create many jobs, large and small. You can volunteer for as little or as much as you like. We will need people:

- To run the house.
- To serve refreshments if we can manage the concessions.
- To work on an opening night **Gala**. This can be fun and profitable.
- To serve as crew for: Sets, Costumes, Props, Lights
- To work on publicity . . . That's crucial. We have to get the crowd out for EVERY performance.

Call Bob Kusnetz at home . . 836-1853. If he's not there leave a message on his machine. Tell us what you'd like to do, and how much time you could spend on it. **WE NEED YOU!!!**

Also, it's time to be thinking of a slate of officers for our annual elections in January. Suggest names, volunteer your own, don't be shy.



Reba Gillman, Secretary

**Pay your dues. Come to the meeting. Write a letter. Call Bob and leave a message.
Let us hear from you!**

Thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you, thank you!

2/8/73