

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society

May 1992 Newsletter

• Next Meeting •

• **Monday, May 4th:** at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028. Please bring munchies.

• Mikado Update from your President •

Happily, casting for *The Mikado* is completed and I'm pleased to announce that we have recruited possibly the finest ensemble of artists in our sixteen-year history. Included in the cast are six members of our Society, selected solely on the basis of their talents:

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Russell Gregory | The Mikado |
| Frank Delvy | Pooh-Bah |
| Janette Jones | Katisha |
| Katharine Shields | Pitti-Sing |

Allen Lawshae has graciously agreed to be the foundation of the men's chorus, and he will play The Mikado when Russell is away. Deborah Zallen will sing in the chorus.

Other principals (not Society members) are:

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Martin Vasquez | Nanki-Poo |
| Victor Sterzing | Ko-Ko |
| Blake Yelavich | Pish-Tush |
| Su Sun Wong | Yum-Yum |
| Cindy Curtis | Peep-Bo |

There will be a chorus of 18. As you can tell, this is a BIG production, and for the first time all performers will be paid amounts set in advance.

Obviously, my main concern is to raise the money we have committed to the production. I had set a goal of raising \$10,000 minimum before the opening. Box Office receipts won't do it. So far, we have received about \$4,000.

Firstly I have to thank Rick Anderson, President of Armstrong Moving & Storage, agent for United Van Lines, for underwriting \$2,500 of our costs. Many thanks also to "Deacon" Crain for \$500, and to an anonymous friend for another \$500. Thanks too, to Richard and Dorene Cohen, Mary Ann Courter, Bob Greenwood, Dalton and Mary Jean Gross, Mr. and Mrs. George S. McQueen, and Sherry Vance for smaller amounts.

Some advertising space has been sold, and you, dear members, may help with this, too. If you have a business or

know someone who does, program advertising is available. (See box below) Call me for particulars at 345-5950. Corporate underwriting is still being sought.

Remember Opening Night for *The Mikado* is Thursday, June 11th, and there will be a Gala Party afterwards. Tickets for that evening cost \$20. Please call the Zach Scott box office at 476-0541 for reservations, and help us start a happy and successful run.

«««««««««««« Robert Mellin ««««««««««««

Advertising Rates

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Back page | \$300 |
| Full Page | \$250 |
| Half Page | \$150 |
| Quarter Page | \$80 |

Call Robert Mellin at 345-5950

• News of Members •

Carla and David Hammock have finally settled in an apartment in the 15th arrondissement, a fifteen minute walk from the Eiffel Tower. Address:

74 bis Rue de Theatre
75015 Paris, FRANCE

Rosemary and William Garner, Jr. will be in Paris in June, studying French at the American University of Paris.

Recent performances: Sid Frost, Joe Haggard, and Ronald Wyllys appeared in the chorus of the Austin Lyric Opera production of Rossini's opera, *La Pietra del Paragone* in April. Allen Lawshae has just finished a run in *The Bad Seed* at Hyde Park Theatre.

We are delighted that Russell Gregory has been cast as The Mikado, although he had a couple of conflicting commitments. Allen Lawshae will serve as his understudy and back-up performer.

☞ Attention all members! Please let me know your news, and I'll print it in the Newsletter. Call me at 327-2277, or drop me a note.

Attend the 15th Annual Pun-Off!!! We are contributing to the fun.

Allen Lawshae is in charge, and has planned 30 minutes of snippets from *The Mikado*. Bob Wall will accompany. Sunday, May 3rd at about 12 noon, on the grounds of the O. Henry Museum, 409 East 5th Street.

6/10

• **Last Meeting** •

On Monday, April 6th, 21 people gathered at Pearl Amster's home: 17 members, 1 guest, and 3 Directors. They were: Pearl, Sue Ricket Caldwell, Frank Delvy, Reba Gillman, Loel Graber, Bob Greenwood, Enid Hallock with guest Gary Hallock, Dan and Susie Jacobson, Allen Lawshae, Robert Mellin, Katharine Shields, Anne Collins Smith, Isobel Stevnson, Bob Wall, Amy Lynne Young (maybe her last meeting!), and Chris Jennings, Stage Director, Wesley Grove, Music Director, and Bud Coleman, Choreographer.

1) President Robert M. reported that everything is moving right along for our June production of *The Mikado*. Our biggest need is MONEY. Enid had worked very hard to produce a fine letter and volunteer form, which she had sent out, and most members had already received. Robert is also going after the big corporations; but anyone with small business connections can help by soliciting ads for the program. Robert reported the first income received: a quarter page ad from Old Timer Clock Shop (owned by Robert's old friend, City Councilman Bob Larson).

The list of foundations that Allen compiled last year is in Robert's possession. Former President Karen Collier had written letters to these foundations without results. Now Robert is working on a list of big companies, and asks for volunteers to help by calling to find out the names and addresses of the individuals in charge of public relations or donations. Robert will do the follow up.

2) Katharine Shields, as Chair of the nominating committee, presented the name of Loel Graber for Treasurer (to replace the departing Amy Young). There were no nominations from the floor and Loel was pronounced Treasurer by acclamation.

3) Robert introduced the three directors and gave us the opportunity to ask questions. Amy offered the use of her Japanese screen, which she could leave here when she travels off to London. Chris Jennings urged that we all try out: auditions are open to everyone, of various ages. Susie wanted a chance to volunteer for other production chores. She was urged to respond to Enid's form, and to list what she was interested in doing. Robert said he had received many calls about auditions as a result of the notices posted at UT. Our member, Sid Frost, had posted notices in the men's dressing room for the ALO production of *La Pietra del Paragone*. Thank you. Sid!

4) A little music was introduced at this point. A parody of

"I've got a little list" (*Mikado*), written by our Poet Laureate, Anne Collins Smith, was sung by Frank Delvy. Bob Wall did the honors at the piano, and Loel, Allen and Robert provided the choruses.

5) After some other business, Gary Hallock warmly invited us all to the Pun-Off on May 3rd, at the O. Henry Museum. O. Henry lived in Austin when the Gilbert and Sullivan operas were first appearing. He and his wife were fans, and appeared in a G&S production on the banks of the Colorado River. Thus it is very fitting that our Society join the Pun-Off with some rousing Gilbert & Sullivan fun. More about O. Henry's involvement with G&S can be seen in the exhibits at the O. Henry Museum, and at the Austin History Center.

We then adjourned for refreshments, and many took the opportunity to chat informally with our directors. Thank you, Pearl, for the warm hospitality!

• Bits of This and That •

Various publications of interest come to me from time to time. I have been pleased to receive two issues of the Austin Choral Union Newsletter. We have several members in common, including Sid Frost, their Newsletter editor.

Amphigory is the Newsletter of the Dallas Gilbert & Sullivan Society. Like us they recently celebrated Frederic's Leap Day birthday. Also like us they are calling for volunteers of all sorts. But not like us, they have hired a part-time fundraiser. Good luck to your ventures, Dallas G&S!

Precious Nonsense is the Newsletter of the Midwestern Gilbert & Sullivan Society. They mailed out cards for Fred-
eric's Birthday.

But the biggest bash of all is planned by the Victorian Lyric Opera Company of Rockville, MD in honor of Sullivan's 150th birthday. They plan three days of special events, Friday June 19 through Sunday June 21, 1992. The high spot will be "The Great Gilbert and Sullivan Sing-Out": on Saturday June 20th. They plan to sing through the complete musical scores of 13 of the operettas (omitting only *Thespis*, for which the music is missing). Of course, this conflicts with our production of *Mikado*, but should any of you be planning a trip north at that time, call me for information. They will provide soloists, pianists and a few instruments. But the chorus is strictly you sing along!

Reba

[illegible]

Allen has put together a truncated version of *The Mikado*, leaving out several important aspects (the entire character of Katisha, for one), but stressing the comically logical elements and delightful language. Singers from our production will be Allen, Frank Delvy, Martin Vasquez, Blake Yelavich, and the understudy for Yum-Yum, known to me only as Christy.

Parody of "I've Got a Little List"

by Anne Collins Smith

As someday it may happen that a victim must be found,
I've got a little list, I've got a little list
Of society offenders who might well be underground,
And who never would be missed, who never would be missed!
All developers who try to build ten houses on eight lots
Environmentalists who coddle every bug with spots
The Austin City Council who just can't make up their minds
And won't take any action till it's 1999
And speculators who on buying airport land insist
They'd none of them be missed, they'd none of them be missed!

Chorus: You may put them on the list, you may put them on the list,
For they'd none of them be missed, they'd none of them be missed!

On TV you have the candidates who prattle on and on,
And the instant analyst -- I've got him on my list!
And the congressmen who overlook the fact they're overdrawn,
They never would be missed, they never would be missed.
All the Oscar winners thanking everyone they've ever met
The interviews with movie stars' ex-husbands' cousins' pet
and the folks who go on Oprah to confess their secret lives
Do they really think we care if they had forty-seven wives?
And the Energizer Rabbit -- there's a neck I'd like to twist!
I know he won't be missed -- I'm sure he won't be missed!

Chorus: You may put him on the list, you may put him on the list,
For we know he won't be missed, we're sure he won't be missed!

And when you go to movies there are some who make you pine
For a well-directed fist; I'm sure you get the gist.
The ones who rustle cellophane and talk through every line,
They never would be missed, they never would be missed.
So forget about the movies and forget about TV,
There's better entertainment up ahead for you and me;
We're doing *The Mikado* and we're starting very soon
We'll have our first performance the eleventh day of June.
So mark your little calendars and put us on your list
Of things that can't be missed, this really can't be missed!

Chorus: You must put us on the list of the things that can't be missed;
You must put us on the list, for we really can't be missed!



GILBERT & SULLIVAN

SOCIETY OF AUSTIN

ZACHARY SCOTT THEATER

KLEBERG STAGE

JUNE 11-JULY 5

476-0541

The Austin Gilbert & Sullivan Society
Reba Gillman, Secretary
1606 The High Road
Austin, TX 78746