

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin

March 1994 Newsletter

Reba Gillman, Editor

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• Next Meeting - Our Monthly Musicale •

- ➔ The Inaugural Installation ◀
- of
- ➔ The New Advisory Board ◀

Richard Anderson, president of Armstrong Moving & Storage, an agent for United Van Lines. His firm has been a strong supporter of our productions.

W.H. "Deacon" Crain, curator of the UT Humanities Research Center, and a friend of all theater in Austin.

Enid Hallock, a founding member of our Society as well as stage performer and faithful worker.

Bob Kusnetz, an influential member, financier, and past president.

Jess Walters, dearly loved local and world opera star, UT Voice Professor, and friend of the Society.

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• **Allen Lawshae** is devising a very special program of music for this occasion. Come help us celebrate!

• **On Monday, March 7th, 1994 at 7:30 pm.** at Pearl Amster's, 2304 Hartford Road, 472-7028. Please bring munchies.

• Message from your President •

The not-so-fat lady sang (Janette Jones as Buttercup) and it's over, and we did good. I'm happy. We put on a good show, entertained a large audience, and did well for our Society financially and imagewise. A large part of that success can be attributed to the fact that we did *Pinafore*, one of the most popular G & S pieces. But there were other important elements too, namely our stellar cast of principals and chorus, with quality directorship. Publicity for a show is vital because they won't come if they don't know about it. And in this department I'm pleased to say that we did our job. Individual financial donations along with corporate underwriting finally kicked in and with decent box office revenue put us in the black. We must acknowledge and thank the many volunteers, members and non-members alike, who contributed so much in so many ways to help make our *Pinafore '94* a success. God Bless you all!

Now, we cannot afford to feel smug and rich, because our next production will not be one of the Big Three. In this case, traditionally, we are hard put to break even, no matter how good the production. But we are the Gilbert and Sullivan Society and we love to perform all the good works available, not just the most well known.

What will our next production be? *The Gondoliers* has not been performed in a long time, and we have never done *The Yeomen of the Guard*. So I think it is safe to say that it will be one of these two. My dream, of course, is to perform in the perfect venue, the McCullough Theater at the UT on some kind of co-production basis. But the UT moves very conservatively, so if one of our members has any influence there, please help.

I would like to see a large reception on March 7th for our new Advisory Board of Directors. Come to this special Musicale and show them how they are appreciated.

***** Robert Mellin *****

• Future Plans for the G&S Society •

1. To bring small G&S performances to schools
2. To provide scholarships
3. To help provide music in Elementary and Junior High Schools
4. To hold a Texas Regional Gilbert & Sullivan Celebration (Seminar) in Austin
5. To pursue the possibility of hiring part-time clerical help

President Robert is still looking for a volunteer to help with correspondence. Call 345-5950.

• Thank You •

• **To Mr. William Gammon** of William Gammon Insurance, for his financial contribution to *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

• **And to Williard and Cordelia Hanzlik** for their financial contribution to *H.M.S. Pinafore*.

Thank You to Renaissance Glass and Rodney Muse Smith
Owner and Designer

For designing and contributing the distinctive mementos to honor our new Advisory Directors

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• A word to the wise •

- Did you know that it is possible to remember the Gilbert & Sullivan Society in your will? More information later.

• Special Acknowledgments •

- **To Dr. Libby Weed**, Principal of the Brentwood Christian School, member of the G&S Society, and of the cast of *H.M.S. Pinafore*. 80 members of her church attended our production.

- **To Bank One**. Under their Adopt-A-School program several children from Brooke Elementary School enjoyed *H.M.S. Pinafore*. Dr. Ashbaugh, music specialist at Brooke, wrote a note of thanks and appreciation to President Robert, and enclosed a few letters from his students. One is printed below (perhaps I can print the others in later Newsletters):

Dear Mr. Robert Mellin:

Thank you for the tickets, the play was wonderful. The singers were very good at reaching high notes. I think that I will be able to do what the actors and actresses did. I would not blame the actors/actresses for smiling because I would be smiling, too.

A Brooke Student
John Moran (5th Grade Chorale)

Glee from *H.M.S. Pinafore*

A British tar is a soaring soul,
As free as a mountain bird,
His energetic fist should be ready to resist
A dictatorial word.
His nose should pant and his lip should curl,
His cheeks should flame and his brow should furl,
His bosom should heave and his heart should glow,
And his fist be ever ready for a knock-down blow.



His eyes should flash with an inborn fire,
His brow with scorn be wrung;
He never should bow down to a domineering frown,
Or the tang of a tyrant tongue.
His foot should stamp and his throat should growl,
His hair should twirl and his face should scowl;
His eyes should flash and his breast protrude,
And this should be his customary attitude --[pose]

Found: A small, cuddly stuffed animal after one of the last performances of *H.M.S. Pinafore*.
If you know who lost it please call Robert Mellin at 345-5950.

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Austin
Reba Gillman, Secretary
1606 The High Road
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Come to our Musicale • March 7th at 7:30 pm • 2304 Hartford Road • Sing • Eat • And Be Merry!
Attend the Inaugural Installation of Our New Advisory Board!