

# Local Opera Society: fun for everyone



By Candy Moskal  
Collegian Staff Writer

Opera, commonly considered an exclusive affair to many people, has gained a foothold in State College, according to Ruth Yeaton. Yeaton, is Stage Director for the Opera Society of Central Pennsylvania, a local group that provides the State College area with this unique, metropolitan-associated art form.

The Society began three years ago when a group of local residents decided to produce a large-scale opera in their spare time. Since then the Society has managed to present one performance each year, usually in November.

The Society has been successful and seems to be an adaptable cultural and artistic event for a university area such as State College, Yeaton said.

Although there always has been a certain mystique surrounding opera, it should not be an exclusive art form, she added.

"There is too much snob appeal attached to opera," Yeaton said. "People don't go to opera and expect to love it, but we want them to."

"Most people of our generation are used to movies and films that have a realistic setting and they are not used to the abstract nature of theatrical productions," she explained.

"I think it's the unrealistic, very dramatic nature of opera that discourages people from attending. But opera extends the art form beyond a natural scene; it creates its own scene through the sung word. It is the enhancement of the spoken word."

The Society's first production, entitled "Broadway to Bizet," was a medley of different scenes from a variety of popular operas. Supported by the State College Music Academy, the production was an artistic and financial success, Yeaton said.

After this initial performance, the Society gained a foothold in Central Pennsylvania and in 1971 performed Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro." It was followed by Smetana's "The Bartered Bride" in 1972, which marked the first time the group used ballet in its performance.

According to Smith Toulson, the Society's musical director and associate professor of music here, the Society, although not officially associated with Penn State, uses many of its resources and people for musical and artistic talent.

William Miller, assistant director of broadcasting for WPSX-TV on campus, produces most of the Society's performances.

The Society's orchestra is a mixed group consisting of local and professional musicians.

Last summer the Society was invited to contribute a program to the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts, for which it performed six scenes from past opera productions.

The first step toward the Society's annual production is the workshop held from January to June, which is open to anyone in the community interested in the opera productions. Being in the workshop is helpful in auditioning for the production, Miller said, but it does not guarantee a part in the production.

The Casting Committee, including the music director and the stage director, hold auditions open to the public in the summer.

Most of the Society's productions have been musical comedies which generate more audience appeal. Yeaton said "Although singing is the preference in opera as opposed to drama, we are trying to stage visually what is happening in the sung words," she said.

## Court upholds desegregation

PHILADELPHIA—The Pennsylvania Supreme Court has turned down appeals by three western Pennsylvania school districts ordered by the state Human Relations Commission to desegregate their schools.

In doing so, the court upheld the definition of a racially imbalanced school as used by the commission.

The three districts, Uniontown, New Castle and New Kensington, were ordered to desegregate because at least one school in each district was more than 50 per cent black, although overall black enrollment in the districts ranged between eight and 11 per cent.

In the past, the commission has ordered desegregation in districts which have a racial imbalance of more than 30 per cent of the students.

The court, in an opinion handed down Tuesday by Justice Thomas Pomeroy Jr., did not specifically approve of the definition of imbalance used by the commission. But it said the commission had reasonably used authority granted by the state legislature and added "the wisdom of the commission's definition is no business of ours."

allows the audience to enjoy the drama of the opera, she added.

A good example is "Elixir of Love," a nineteenth-century Italian opera by Donizetti, which the Society presented last night.

Although this opera originally was set in an Italian scene, the Society this year adapted it to an American setting — Kansas in the late 1800's. Italian melodies were performed in the setting of the classic American "horse opera."

Included in this adaptation were a traveling medicine salesman carrying "elixir of love" (a cheap whiskey), and the usual love triangle, this time involving a wealthy heiress, a cavalry sergeant and a ranch hand.

All of the Society's productions have been held in the State College High School auditorium discouraging many University students from attending, Miller said. In the future, the Society would like to use University facilities for its productions, he said.

Miller added the Opera Society would like to do more productions and hopefully in 1975 present Bizet's "Carmen" exactly 100 years after its first production.

## Senate okays year-round DST

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Tuesday voted to put the nation on year-round Daylight Saving Time for the next 22 months.

The measure, offered as part of the federal energy conservation program, will allow a state to exempt itself from daylight time during the winter months. A state with two or more time zones could exempt any zone. The vote was 68 to 10. The House has passed a similar bill, and a conference committee will come up with a compromise of the two versions. Under the Senate bill, daylight time would become effective on the fourth after the measure is signed by President Nixon. The House version would become effective within 15 days of enactment. Thus it seems almost certain that most of the nation will return to daylight time by Dec. 30 with clocks being set forward one hour.

## Jobs for physicists, engineers up Energy crisis helps some

NEW YORK (AP) — Shortages of energy and other basic products mean good news for some physicists and engineers who found their talents in decreasing demand during the past few years.

A personnel search firm reports a big increase since last spring in demand for workers with talents in the nuclear area, and more recently for those capable of dealing with the use of coal in power generation.

Bill Breitmayer, president of Executive Register, which charges industry \$50 for a computerized search of its 15,000 up-to-date resumes of executive and professional workers, claims salaries also are soaring.

A nuclear engineer or physicist with capabilities in basic design and applications now is commanding a salary of above \$30,000, Breitmayer said, compared with \$22,000 to \$25,000 at the beginning of last year.

For highly talented and accomplished individuals with doctorates and the ability to manage industrial physics or engineering departments the salaries

might be as high as \$80,000, records show.

For some physicists and engineers the renewed demand for their services is in sharp contrast to the gloom that pervaded their fields three years ago, when many of them were forced to seek employment outside their specialties.

As a result, the search for qualified personnel today is somewhat more difficult than in previous years, when search firms and talent-hungry companies knew where to look.

Some talent-rich companies became known in the 1960's as universities, for example, because they trained and "graduated" so many specialists. Search firms regularly raided such staffs.

Breitmayer now finds searchers must be more creative. In some instances they have to induce specialists to return to industrial jobs from teaching or other pursuits.

Among job titles now in demand, Breitmayer said, are project managers, contract administrators, design engineers, safety specialists, pressure

vessel designers and computer systems analysts.

"Anyone who has design or project experience in power generation is valuable," he said, "whether it's for nuclear, fossil fuel or electrical."

Another area of demand, resulting from the vast number of product shortages, is for purchasing agents with international experience in buying foodstuffs, basic metals, cotton and other raw materials of manufacture.

"The cost of a good purchasing man is going up and up and up," Breitmayer said, adding that knowledge of currencies, rates of exchange and dealings with foreign experts is prized.

Pulp and paper companies in particular have a great need for production engineers, he added, especially for those who can handle waste, temperature and other ecological matters.

But Breitmayer added a word of caution. "The total market for executives is still high, but there's no telling right now what it will be around the first of the year."

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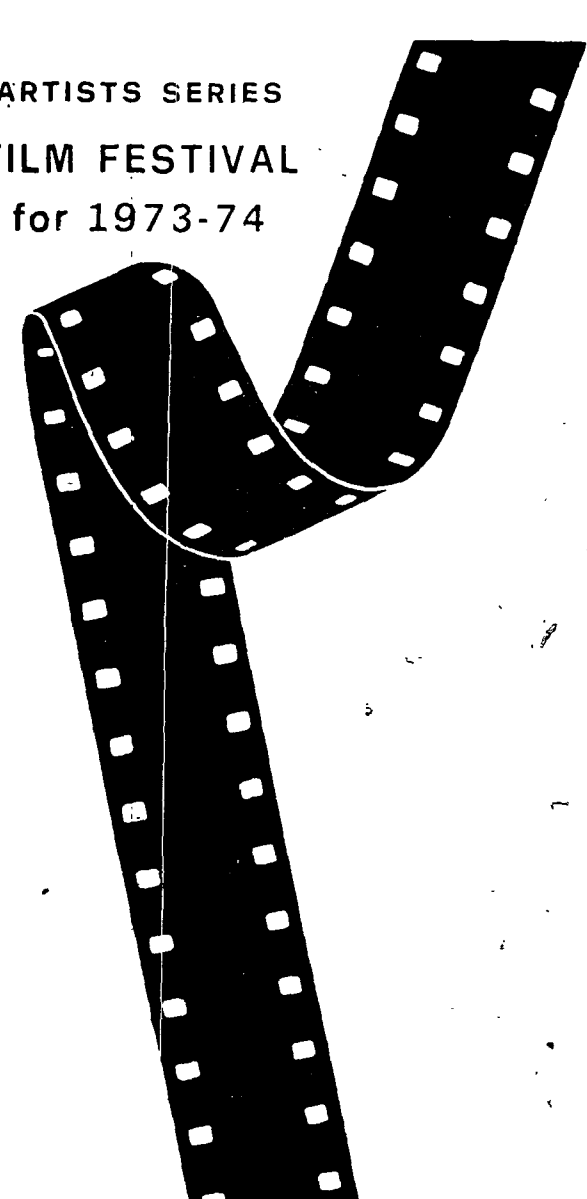
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The Thief of Bagdad (1924)

Saturday, December 8, 1973  
The Black Pirate (1926)

Schwab Auditorium 8:30 pm  
Doors open 8:00 pm

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### The Films of Luis Buñuel

Wednesday, January 9, 1974  
Un Chien Andalou (1928)  
Simon of the Desert (1965)

Wednesday, January 16, 1974  
Los Olvidados (1950)

Wednesday, January 23, 1974  
Nazarin (1958)

Wednesday, January 30, 1974  
Vindiana (1951)

Wednesday, February 6, 1974  
The Exterminating Angel (1962)

Wednesday, February 13, 1974  
Tristana (1970)

Wednesday, February 20, 1974  
Belle de Jour (1966)

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