ENTERTAINMENT

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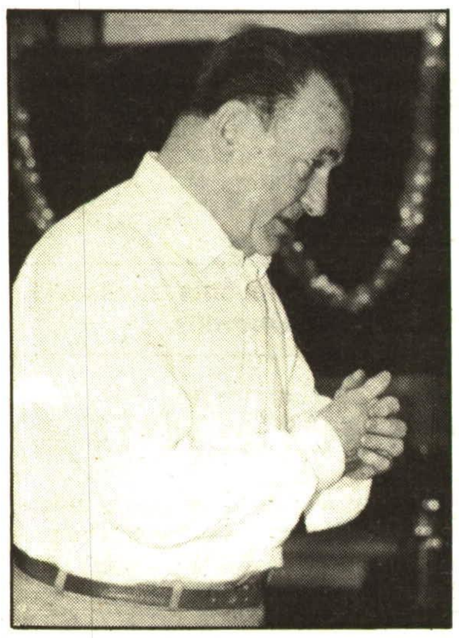
Opera Comique opens Friday

By IAN WATSON
GLT Publicity

Georgetown's community theatre group, GLT, will be presenting Opera Comique, opening this Friday. This is a most interesting comedy, often described as a farce with a difference, and is not really about an opera. Several of the characters are people who were actually at the Opera Comique on the night in 1875 when Bizet first presented Carmen, though the events are almost entirely fictional.



Ron Hunt prepares to take to the stage of GLT's exciting production of Opera Comique. This "farce with a difference" opens this Friday, Jan. 24.

While history records that this was the wrong venue to choose for a serious opera, the artistic importance of the night is only a small part of the play. Most of the action centres on a group of patrons whose relationships are the basis of the extremely funny, slightly bawdy, brilliantly farcical parts of the play.

In the background, most of the time, is an anxious Georges Bizet, played by Ron Hunt. Ron has been acting for 60 years, and this year was presented with a special Arts Alive award to acknowledge his contribution to the performing arts in Halton Hills.

Ron was attracted by the part of Bizet for several reasons. First, he has been interested in Bizet and his works for many years, Second, he says that "the play is very funny, very cleverly written and constructed. The author introduces two other real people into the action. Gounod was Bizet's teacher, while Ernest really was his student and friend. It's a most interesting play to be in."

Ron is well known to the Halton Hills audience for his acting, but his contributions to the group don't stop there. He also designed the set for Opera Comique, having done "about 40" over the years. These include one for Murder Mistaken which won an award in 1978. He had also won an ACT-CO award for special effects in Dracula, the outstanding memory of which was a mishap on dress rehearsal night. "There was group of girls there to watch the dress rehearsal. We hadn't tried out the bat before and this cardboard bat had to fly out from the stage over the heads of the audience. It was on a string, which was pulled using a bicycle wheel and pedal. But the operator pulled a bit too hard and the string broke, dropping this bat right into the lap of one of these young girls. A blood curdling scream, it was, poor girl."

There are no bats in Opera Comique by Nagle Jackson which is to be presented at the John Elliott Theatre in Georgetown on Jan 24, 25, 29, 30, 31 and Feb. 1. Tickets at $8 and $10 can be bought by post — see the ad in this paper — and are available by calling the box office (877-3700, 24 hours). They can also be bought by visiting the John Elliott Theatre box office, which is in the Cultural Centre, next to the entrance of Georgetown Library, Tuesdays and Thursdays, between 4-8 p.m.

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24 Tighter
25 Challenge
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32 Solo
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39 Remunerated
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43 New
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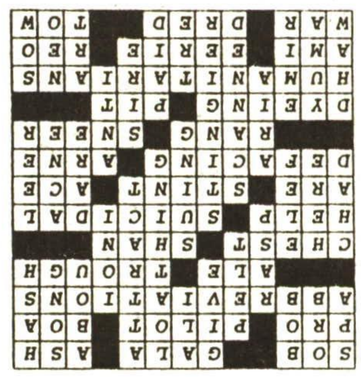
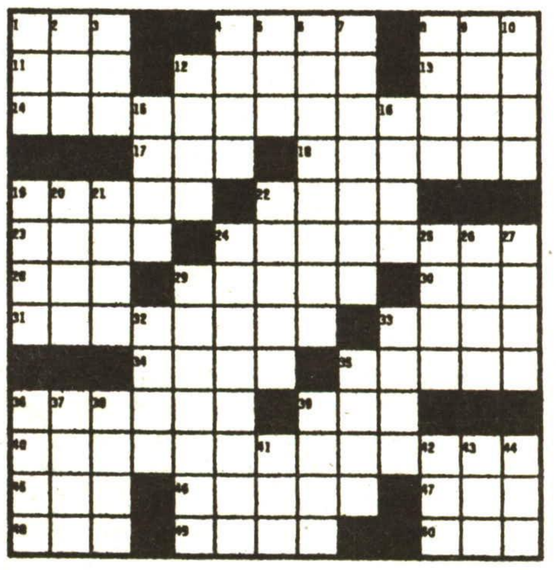
THIS WEEKS PUZZLE ANSWER





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GEORGETOWN LITTLE THEATRE
PRESENTS
Opera Comique
by Nagle Jackson
A FARCE with a DIFFERENCE
Director: Jacky Willows
Producer: Fran Anthony
JAN 24,25,29,30,31, & FEB 1 1992
8pm
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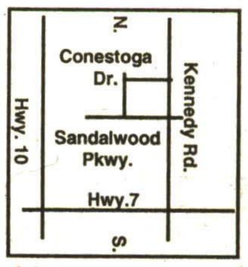

Packing Hints . . .

The secret to packing is simple: Select and purchase the right things to pack! In shopping for clothes during the year, think "travel-coordinated" both for basic colour and layering. Certain fabrics are almost 100% wrinkle-proof. The knit polyester fabrics that "breathe" are terrific. Other fabrics are crinkled and are supposed to look wrinkled. Knitted garments pack the best.

Use every inch of your suitcase. Put your photo film in an old stocking (remove film from the box). This way, you can poke the film around in the empty spots here and there. When you pick up the entire sock, all your used and unused film is intact.

Don't pack the heaviest clothing, wear it! You'll need a heavy pair of comfortable walking shoes. Wear them! The sandals (summer wear), slippers or pumps weigh less. Pack them. Wear your heaviest suit, pantsuit, slacks or skirt and sweater. Carry your coat or raincoat.

Tuck small items, such as the travel alarm and mini-flashlight inside your shoes.

Travel as light as you can. You don't really need to take expensive jewellery on holiday. It's best to leave it at home.

Medication, prescription glasses, first aid items, should all be packed in your hand luggage, together with a sweater, and soft slippers for that long trip.

When in serious doubt about taking something with you on a holiday, take it, more often than not you'll be happy you did.

Pack shoes heel to toe on top of each other and place near the hinges. Fold nightgowns and lingerie in thirds and roll up. Place buttoned jackets face down on pants. Button and fold blouses and dress shirts lengthwise with sleeves to the back.

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