

Entertainment

But cream pies missing

Slapstick served up in high school revue

By Kathy Wynne

Slapstick comedy, just short of cream pies, was the order of the night as the revue "Health's a Poppin'" burst onto stage at Thornhill Secondary last weekend.

And the music was great! The KGB Dance Band (alias the Russian Rabbie) set feet stomping early with rousing renditions of "In the Mood" and "When the Saints Go Marching In".

To balance the big band sound, at well-planned intervals between the spoofs and gags, some fine contemporary folk was offered. A special note

Special note of Mike Cowie whose medley of four Lightfoot and Denver melodies demonstrated a voice with a true quality, which developed could become a really beautiful instrument.

Tony Martin and Jim Linderman entertained later with some of their own material, competent in lyric and arrangement.

The ridiculous is, however, not to be ignored. Hollywood game shows received some of their just desserts at the hands of these TSS script writers.

"The Newlywed Game" and "The Mating Game", absurdities by nature, took on an aura of insanity as

grotesque female-males? and leering flashers made a mockery of the slick TV money-makers.

The very best of the TSS humor came in the Monty Python interview of "Interesting People"; interesting people such as those who hypnotize bricks and those who believe they wrote Hamlet and those who spend their time giving other people influenza.

Fascinating! Since the world is decidedly chaotic, it is no surprise that the audience seemed to revel in this statement of absurdity on stage.

Cleverly the stage crew was in tune with the show, being in fact a squad of goons determined to upstage the M.C.

Indiscreet One indiscretion on the part of a particular group called "Chris Anderson and Thank-you", cries out.

Babies in the audience may well have taken exception to their rather disrespectful handling of some of the oldest nursery verse of the western world.

Surely, "Mary Had A Little Lamb", deserves better than an electric screaming guitar and a T-shirted minstrel with tongue in cheek.

Is nothing sacred?



Mike Cowie (Photo by Hogg)

Mendelssohn would have liked local production

by Geraldine Ferrara
Mendelssohn's ELIJAH has become a prime favorite with audiences, second in popularity among the world's great oratorios only to Handel's MESSIAH.

The work is in two sections. The first describes how the prophet brings on a drought in Israel to punish the people for deserting God for Baal. He challenges the prophets of Baal to a contest to determine who the true God is. Elijah emerges victorious.

In the second part, Elijah is hounded by enemies out to destroy him. But under the protection of the Lord, he triumphs over them, and in the end is carried aloft to Heaven in a flaming chariot.

In 1836, Mendelssohn wrote, "I saw Elijah as a grand mighty prophet — energetic and zealous, but also stern, wrathful and gloomy".

He further explained: "I am particularly anxious to do justice to the dramatic element — I would fain see it vividly and sharply defined — the personages should be introduced as acting and speaking with fervor; not to become mere musical pictures, but as inhabitants of a positive, practical world".

Would please composer Mendelssohn would have been pleased with the weekend performance of his great work by the York Philharmonic Choir, (formerly the Richmond Hill Ecumenical Choir), augmented by members of St. Cyprian's Anglican and Hillcrest United Choirs, and accompanied by the East York Symphony Orchestra. The work was performed both at Seneca College and at Our Lady Queen of the World Church in Richmond Hill.

In the opening chorus, "Help Lord," we clearly heard the terror and anguish of the people of Israel... an impressive choral attack, clean and precise. There was a great union of chorus and orchestra throughout, especially in "Blessed are the Men," where dynamics, articulation, vitality — that magic blend — worked especially well.

"Truly Moving," I wrote in my program notes. Articulation was impressively clean, even in soft passages, with one notable exception. In the beautiful closing line of "Baal, We cry to Thee," this listener waited, alas in vain, for the final consonant of that poignant last line... "O hear us".

Soloists lacking The soloists did not fare so well. For the most part they seemed remote and untouched by the excitement generated around them. They sang their parts competently, with good control, but very seldom stepped over the line between the devotional and dramatic, giving us mostly traditional "oratorio" sounds.

James Bechtel was not a very commanding Elijah, especially in the opening prophecy of doom. We were not given the essence of the wrathful prophet in the first part, though Mr. Bechtel came into his own as a movingly-tragic and transcendent figure in the second half, singing with great warmth and control.

Great promise Brenda Luka embodied the intensely-dramatic feeling for her solo "Hear Ye, Israel," giving it a sense of urgency and hope, but her high notes have an edge to them that is completely foreign to the warmth and roundness of her middle voice.

That she has grown in artistry and poise is obvious, and there is great promise for this young singer's future.

Erwin Powrie was suitably warm as Obadiah, friend of Elijah, and especially good in the contrasting role of Ahab, but he, too, had trouble with his high notes.

Yves Able, boy soprano, gave his weather report to Elijah in clear, piping tones.

Great praise to the boys from St. Simon's Choir, who sang with the purity and perfect blend that one would expect from a choir of "angels".

Most satisfying The most satisfying solo performance was from Janice Taylor, contralto. Her full-bodied yet flexible voice was as velvet in "Oh Rest in the Lord".

Luka forceful It is in the forceful and dynamic hands of Edward Luka, conductor, that the success of the evening ultimately must rest. It was a giant task, for control of that number of performers is a formidable undertaking.

Mr. Luka took hold, swaying, exhorting, leaping, controlling and the performers responded.

And so, Mr. Luka, did we.

Parkway Hotel triples size

Following nearly 14 months of new construction the Parkway Hotel, Highway 7 and Leslie Street, has completed its new addition.

Growing with the community seems to be the Parkway Hotel theme, as it produces meeting and convention rooms of a variety of sizes to hold groups from five to 250 with a total capacity of 1,000.

Parking for 400 cars assures guests of convenience and security during their stay.

Literally hundreds of companies have used the Parkway Hotel facilities since opening just 2½ years ago.

Now fully equipped with every facility including audio visual and special black boards, the 19 new meeting rooms are in constant demand.

To further cater to the needs of guests with large appetites the new Parkway breakfast menu has been extended to include steak and eggs which has shocked even veteran chef Jim Spiro with its popularity.

Region's largest Now the region's largest complex with 120 bedrooms, the Parkway is also noted for its fine dining room and outstanding roast beef.

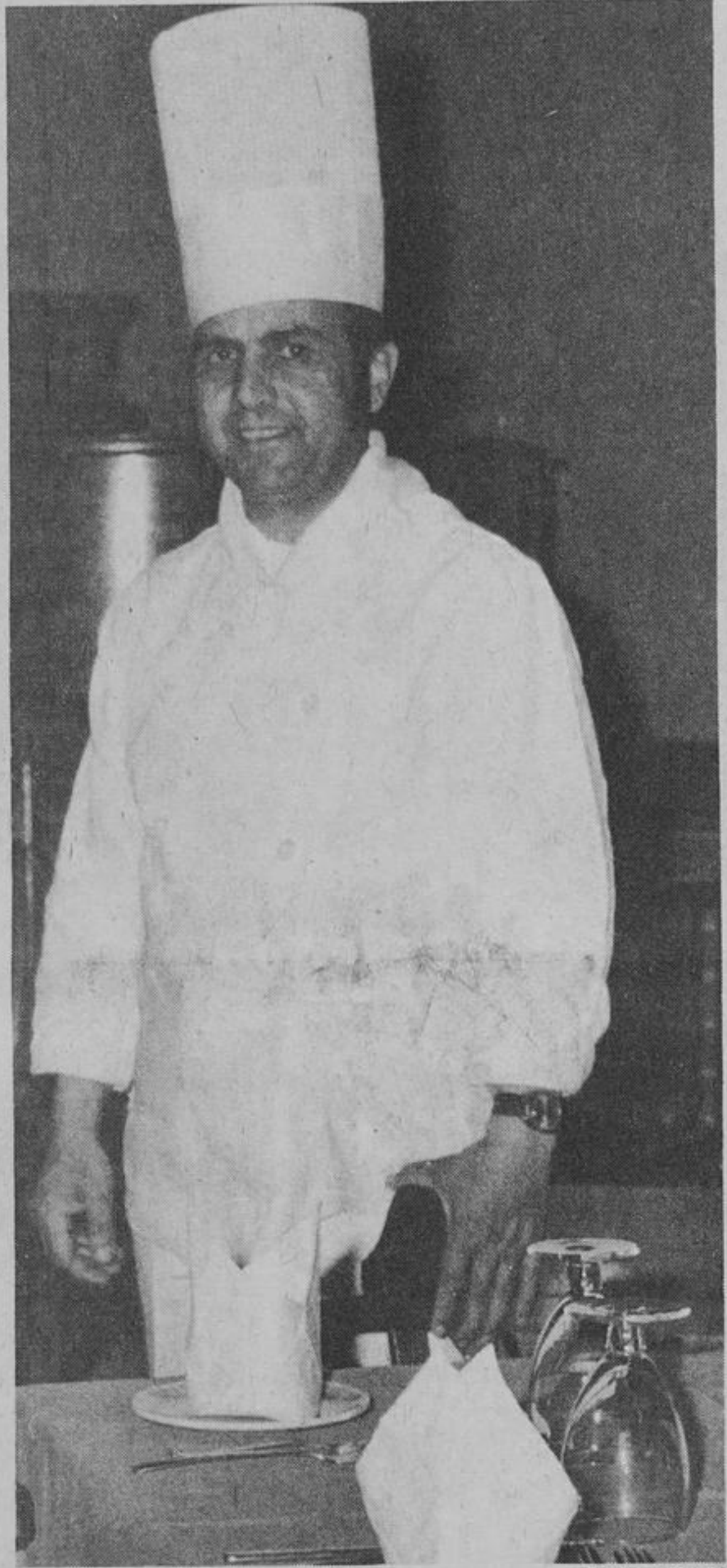
Host to many wedding receptions and anniversaries, The Old English Roast Beef room has enjoyed its share of celebrities too, including Ralph Nader.

Many parties are booked as much as a year in advance. The Parkway has some convention bookings as far ahead as 1977.

According to the superintendent Hugh Latimer, whose department arranges the set ups for business meeting rooms, many companies prefer containing their staff in the hotel complex during meetings of more than one day. Frequently even local residents become overnight guests, along with their out-of-town associates.

Wedding chapel A first in Ontario the Parkway Hotel has its very own wedding chapel, not to mention its popular bridal suite with a white fur round bed and pink mirrors.

The English theme introduced by director Neville Grahams Cook is evident



Head Chef James Spiros in the Old English Roast Beef Room at the Parkway Hotel, Highway 7 at Leslie Street.

throughout the new meeting rooms. The warm effects of deep stained wooden sections along with brick and interesting stucco touches create a relaxing atmosphere.

Furnishings have been selected locally as well as throughout Europe. The imported lights were arranged by Lady Cynthia Thomas from Rotterdam.

Manager Parker states that the hotel has one eye on costs and one eye on the rates passed on to the guest.

"We are very much a

service business," stated Mr. Parker, "and our objective is to give the guest the best possible service at the lowest possible price."

The Parkway has now introduced new commercial rates, family plan and athletic group rates.

Located on the future cloverleaf of the Don Valley (404) and Highway 7, the Parkway proposes to be even more central with the development of the Pickering Airport.

Plans are now progressing for the next addition.

Here and There

Dunlap Observatory — Reserve in advance to look through Canada's largest telescope. Demonstrations Saturday evenings at 8 and 9. Admission free. 884-2112.

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