

BUT, DAMME, YOU DON'T GO! Why do so few people attend NEGASS meetings? One answer: "Weekends are the only time I can do the outdoor activities I love - hold meetings on week nights instead." Another: "I enjoy attending performances with others with my interests, but I don't enjoy spending a beautiful Sunday afternoon in a theatre. Hold meetings at which we do things - for instance, LMLLO - on a Sunday afternoon, but if the meeting involves attendance at a performance, make it a Thursday or Friday night instead!" Yet another: "The reason I haven't been attending meetings is that I can no longer drive after dark and in the winter with it getting dark at 4:30 I'm stuck."

So - is the answer varied meeting times and days? Perhaps participational meetings on Sunday afternoons, concerts on Thursday or Friday nights... and perhaps a car-pool hot-line for people who either don't have cars or can't drive at night. (Note: It's spring now! - the sun won't set until 'way after the June 27 meeting ends!) Those of you who live within a reasonable distance of the NEGASS epicenter in Eastern MA should be finding stamped, addressed mail-back forms inserted in this issue of the **Bray**, asking you questions on this topic - please take five minutes to check off a few squares and send your form back to us! -- mlc

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**Marc Shepherd**, the new list-master of *SavoyNet*, writes: **The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company** has a website, which appears to be actively maintained. The address is <<http://www.doylycarte.org.uk/>>. The date of last update is 9th April. [actually - May 10, by now! - mlc] Among the news listed:

- **H.M.S. PINAFORE** will be played at the **Royal Festival Hall**, South Bank Centre, from 27th July to 1st August. A little bird told me that original orchestrations will once again be used.
- There is to be an autumn tour of a G&S opera TBA.
- There is likely to be another Christmas season at a West End theatre.
- "Plans are underway for a tour in the United States in the Autumn of 2000!"

Such plans do not always come to fruition, but it is at least interesting to know what is under consideration.

-- **MARC SHEPHERD** oakapple@cris.com

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We'd like to remind folks: To subscribe to *SavoyNet*, the G&S mailing list, send the message `Subscribe SavoyNet` (your full name) to the address `listserv@bridgewater.edu` - and you'll be sent all the information you need.

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| Tentative Meeting Schedule, 1998-99: |                                  |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 8/29                                 | Picnic/sing-through, Norfolk, MA |

~ NEXT BRAY COPY DEADLINE: August 1~

**Next Bray Stuffing: August 8 at 3:00 PM.** Call Us at (617) 253-5810 during the day, at (781) 646-9115 evenings and weekends, or email `mlcar@mit.edu` at any time, for directions to Our snug and easy-to-get-to home. -- mlc

*NB - after once again receiving the complaint that someone has been attempting in vain to send Us an e-mail - and after noticing once again that the problem was caused by a mis-reading of Our address - We wish to boringly reiterate: Our address is MLCAR@MIT.EDU. That is, M as in Marion, L as in Leeds, Car as in Carroll. <micar> won't get to Us!*



The traditional **Annual NEGASS Picnic**, as we all know, can no longer be held at the home of the hospitable **Mr. Alfred Shepherd** and **Mrs. Mary Howe DeWolf Shepherd**. We have received a new invitation for this year. To familiarize NEGASSers with the location, We wish to print preliminary directions early - detailed directions will be in the next **Bray!**

**This year's NEGASS picnic**  
Sunday, August 29 at 2 PM  
20 Marshall Street, Norfolk MA

From far west or far south, take Route 495 to Exit 15 (Wrentham, Route 1A North). Take 1A North to Route 115. Turn left onto Route 115 and continue to Marshall Street. Turn left onto Marshall Street. There will be several numbered houses on the right, a sign for a 'blind driveway' which will be #12, followed by a short stretch of woods. The next driveway on the right is 20 Marshall Street. It is an all-white cape cod house with a circular driveway. Welcome!

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1b) From the east, take Route 128 to Interstate 95 South. Take 95 to Exit 9 (Route 1, Wrentham). Exit onto Route 1 Southbound. Turn right at the next intersection (Old Post Road). Next, turn onto Common Street. Continue straight, still on Common Street, to the next traffic light, which is Route 1A, Main Street. Turn left onto Route 1A and continue to the intersection with Route 115 (Pond Street). Turn right onto Route 115 and continue to Marshall Street. Turn left onto Marshall Street and continue as above.



While you're in England at the Buxton Festival, visit the newly opened **Coleton Fishacre** in Devon, built for **Rupert D'Oyly Carte** in 1925. In addition to its natural beauties, the house includes "a bedroom displaying memorabilia, programmes and posters, mostly from the inter-war years of the **D'Oyly Carte Opera Company**," according to the May 8 issue of *The*

Independent, sent to Us by NEGASS's Swiss connection, **David Stieber**. In the UK, phone 01803 752466 for more info.

foreshadowed in the words. ("Food for fishes only fitted"). Good job by scenic designer **Brent Wachter**.

୬ ୩ INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL NEWS ୬ ୩

Next year's festival is set for July 28 - August 15 in Buxton, England. There will be plenty of opportunity to perform in "Scratch" productions and master classes, as well as a chance to audition for the Festival Production - and plenty of opportunity to attend performances and lectures, visit interesting sites, collect memorabilia, and make friends from around the world.

NEGASSers planning to attend so far include **Irv Hodgkin**, who'll be playing the role of Old Adam in the **SavoyNet** production of **RUDDIGORE**, and **Bobbie Herman**, **Mary Finn** and **Don Smith**, who'll also be in the **SavoyNet** production, while **Paul Cohen** will be on the production team.

For all the details of the **1998 Festival** - reviews, photos, diaries and a general sense of the ambiance of a wonderful experience, visit the **Buxton Daily Diary** at:

<http://www.btinternet.com/~richards.gands/buxton98/welcome.htm>
(This site was made possible in part by NEGASSer **Peter Zavon**.)

To learn more about attending, write to

Neil Smith, Festival Director
The G&S Festival Trust
The Old Vicarage, Haley Hill
Halifax HX3 6DR, UK

phone 011 - 44 - 1422-323252, or fax your inquiries to 011 - 44 -1422-355604 -- or visit the above Web page to find even more points of contact.

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There's been a spate of YEOMEN lately - here's news about a few of them:

PUBLICK THEATRE'S YEOMEN. Despite a few flaws, **YEOMEN** at the **Publick Theatre** [*Boston, MA*] is a superbly-directed show that capitalizes on the strengths of an open-air amphitheater. There were a number of innovations and interpretations that were new to me, and despite being a traditionalist, I enjoyed most of them.

The setting showed the castle courtyard, with a stage right stairway to an upper level walkway and cell doors at the stage left end of the walkway. The river was implied to be running just the other side of the wall. This allowed the crowd to realistically threaten to throw Jack Point into the river, and allowed for the arquebus to be fired from the river's edge as well. It even allowed for an ending I had never seen, though it is clearly

The Yeomen costumes were the spectacular and familiar ones we had seen earlier, provided by **Janice Dallas** and the **Sudbury Savoyards**.

The accompaniment was provided by birds in the nearby trees, but they seemed to have the sense to go to sleep after the opening number. (They fit quite nicely into Phoebe's opening number, but might have seemed a little inappropriate had they still been active during the execution scene.) More persistent were the two pianos, which did an accurate job. Whether two pianos can adequately convey Sullivan's music is a matter for discussion among people with better music credentials than mine; I found them fully satisfactory, and those people can consider themselves warned.

Sarah Reese (Elsie Maynard) was excellent, with a strong voice, though I suspect she came in a beat early at "Oh, Mercy, thou whose smile has shone". The advantage of not having a full orchestra was seen in that the error, if it was not my imagination, was quickly compensated for by the accompanist. The only major weakness in the music: I suspect the music director yielded to the wishes of the stage director on the *a capella* numbers ("Alas, I waver to and fro" and "Strange adventure")["*Alas, I waver*" was done a capella? - *very interesting... - mlc*]; if the singers were less spread out they might have been better able to maintain their pitches.

Some minor dialog changes were necessitated to allow Jack Point to sing "Oh! a private buffoon is a light-hearted loon" to the audience, to show Point's low spirits before Wilfred's Second Act entrance. The more usual spot is to sing it to Wilfred a few minutes later, to explain to him how easy it is to be a jester.

I had no problem with these changes, even though it was arguable whether the new position for the song was better. But I was upset by several cuts, and even outright changes, that were made in other places in the dialog. Some of my favorite lines were missing, such as "and I am but a girl, and so, when I am highly wrought, I faint." The scene in which Phoebe expresses her dismay at how things have turned out, and loses control until she blurts out her fatal admission, was shortened and made less convincing. Sgt. Meryll's wooing of Dame Carruthers was vastly abbreviated. I can only guess that these cuts, and others, were made to shorten the program by something like ten minutes.

On the other hand, some innovations were positive. Only Sgt. Meryll sang the chorus accompaniment to the first verse of "When our gallant Norman foes", making the second ending a striking contrast when everybody joined in. The interaction between Point and Elsie Maynard in response to Sir Richard Cholmondeley was unusually convincing, and avoided the usual effect of making Point seem self-centered and uncaring. (There was a twist I strongly object to, in that Cholmondeley had been given much more than the hundred crowns for the prospective bride, but only offered the hundred to Elsie. Why gratuitously

by his wife **Aroostine**, featuring solos and ensembles from **PIRATES**, **PINAFORE**, and **MIKADO**, among other shows. Performances will be July 27, 28 & 29 at the Norwood Theater, 109 Central Street, Norwood, MA. For more info, call (781) 762-4060.

The Sudbury Savoyards plan a production of Gilbert's play **Foggerty's Fairy** on July 23, 24, 30, 31, August 6, 7, 1999 at 8:00 PM at Hawes Hall of the Sudbury (MA) United Methodist Church, with a matinee performance at 2:00 PM on Sunday, August 1. Direction is by **M. J. J. Cashman**. For more information, call 978-443-8811 or check out their web site at <http://www.sudburysavoyards.org>

Yes, We know it's not... **MITG&SP** is planning a world premier production of a musical adaptation of J. M. Barrie's **The Admirable Crichton**. For more info, contact MITG&SP via e-mail at savoyards-request@mit.edu, call (617) 253-0190, or visit <http://www.mit.edu/activities/gsp/home.html>

Ocean State Lyric Opera (formerly Ocean State Light Opera) plans **La Boheme** and **PIRATES** for the coming season.

Valley Light Opera of Amherst, MA plans its 25th anniversary production, **PIRATES**, for November 5, 6, 7, 12 and 13 at the Amherst Regional High School auditorium. Call producers **Cami Elbow** (413-549-0024) or **Al Hudson** (413-256-6950) for more info - or visit VLO's new web site, www.vlo.org, provided by **BerkshireNet**.

The Connecticut G&S Society plans **PINAFORE**, 11/12 & 13 at 8 PM, 11/14 at 2:00 PM at the Middletown (CT) High School auditorium. Call 1-800-866-1606 for more info.

If you're in Perth, Western Australia in late September, catch the **G&S Soc. of WA's** production of **THE GRAND DUKE** - the first production ever in Perth!

The **Toronto-Ra** (newsletter of guess which Canadian city?) announces that the **Toronto G&S Society** will present **MIKADO** from 11/25 -12/4, returning to the stage after a several-year hiatus. For audition or other info, contact Producer **Ron Maskell** at (416) 512-1718.

The **Actorsingers** of Nashua (NH) plan to present **PIRATES** next year. More news as it breaks!

We're looking forward to **THE MILLENNIUM SINGOUT**, to be held in **Toronto, Ontario, Canada, August 18-20, 2000** - for details, contact **Ori Siegel** <oris@interlog.com>.

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*Yes, We know it's not...* **Living Room Opera** doesn't perform G&S. It performs scenes from operas under workshop conditions. But it boasts NEGASS members **Janice Dallas, Art Dunlap, Richard Knowlton, Larry Seiler, Tom Weber**, most of the **Burstein** family - and **Eric Schwartz** and Ourselves [*mlc*] as directors. Performance: 8/1, in Arlington, MA. Contact

Producer **Nancy Burstein** at [nancy\\_burstein@abtassoc.com](mailto:nancy_burstein@abtassoc.com) or call her at (781) 646-3698 for more info.

## **THE NEW ENGLAND GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY**

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