

*Au Courant*

The Trend

*Au Courant*, Monday, November 21, 1933



*Photo by Ken Howard*

17  
PORTWORTH



# Les Pêcheurs de Perles

By Susan Shields

There's an old joke about operas that goes something like, "You know the opera is over when the fat lady comes out to sing." Well, that's not exactly true although "Les Pêcheurs de Perles" ("The Pearl Fishers"), a French opera by Bizet, features a rather hefty bass-baritone in the Fort Worth Opera's season premier.

For non-opera goers (like the one at TCU who spends weekdays in the *Skiff* and weekends at neighborhood bars or the TCU library—depending on the weather), the very first visit to an opera is unpredictable. Visions of singers with horns on their heads and more chins than a Chinese phonebook may be a bit exaggerated, but naively typical.

Opera is art. Even the most classical uncultured student recognizes this fact. Opera has every quality of a fine painting or sculpture. It moves, flows, symbolizes, defines. It is a skill, a craft, but most of all beauty. Opera is quite simply a ballet of vocal chords.

Opera also tells a story, though without the use of words. "Les Pêcheurs de Perles," which ran Nov. 18 and 20 at the Tarrant County Convention Center, is set in a mythic Hindu Ceylon village. Mystic gods rule the life of the villagers and their king, Zurga, one of the principles played by Christian Du Plessis, baritone. In order to be blessed a prosperous season, the pearl fishers must offer a virgin to the gods. Leila, played by Australian soprano Glenys Fowles, is thus chosen to lead a chaste life on top of a mountain.

It is at the base of this mountain—an ornate granite-like structure that somehow moves quietly across the stage while creating different sets—that a love triangle develops between Leila, Zurga and Zurga's best friend, Nadir, performed by Miguel Cortez, a tenor from the Metropolitan Opera.

Both men agree to have nothing to do with

the woman, but the huntsman Nadir weakens. Leila falls in love with him, the two kiss and are discovered by the high priest (the tubby bass-baritone), played by Donnie Ray Albert from Richardson, Texas.

The lovers are condemned to death. Zurga, who also loves Leila, moves from love to hatred when he discovers the scandal. In the end, he learns that Leila was the woman who once saved his life, so he helps Leila and Nadir escape. In a tragic ending, Zurga kills the high priest and is then killed by guards.

There are 25 extras in this opera who are from the Fort Worth area. Most make up the chorus of villagers, but there are six ballet dancers and four gymnasts. Each costume is different and was created especially for every performer. Many of the costumes are made from hand-dyed silks and the beadwork is intricate.

It is difficult to explain how the story unfolds since communication comes only from the voice and the words are foreign. Even if they were in English, it is doubtful they could be understood. Listening to an opera, although the only word to be understood in this one is "l'amour," is an inspiration.

"Les Pêcheurs de Perles" is wonderfully orchestrated. At one time during a scene with the entire cast, the audience can almost visualize the moon or god they are praying to because their music is so emotional. The singers are also actors. Their voice intonations and facial expressions and gestures give life to the story.

Students need to pay particular attention to all types of music. Even though rock'n'roll may never die, it's the students who grow up to find other forms of musical life. Now is the perfect time to experience the Fort Worth Opera. Season tickets are available at a student discount rate of \$10—each performance less than the cost of a movie.



Photo by Ken Howard

**L'amour:** The 1983-84 Fort Worth Opera season premiered Friday, Nov. 18, and Sunday, Nov. 20, and featured an international cast of singers, designers, directors and conductors in the company's totally new production of Bizet's "Les Pêcheurs de Perles" ("The Pearl Fishers"). Pictured above left is Glenys Fowles, and right, Christian Du Plessis.



Glenys Fowles



Christian Du Plessis



Donnie Ray Albert



Miguel Cortez

# Review:

## 'Weekend' no fun

By Bill Hanna

The "Osterman Weekend" is a film based on a best-selling novel of the same name by Robert Ludlum. Ludlum writes exciting action-filled novels that make sense. But this film, the first of Ludlum's 11 novels to be transferred to the big screen, is a muddled piece of work that makes no sense at all.

At the end of the picture most of the audience walked out with blank expressions on their faces. The first hour, however, was perfectly clear.

A television broadcaster named John Tanner (played by Rutger Hauer, who was the bad guy in "Blade Runner") is approached by the CIA and told that three of his old college friends are actually Soviet agents. Tanner is convinced of this by video tapes that show his friends saying incriminating things.

The CIA agents ask him to talk one of the three friends into working for the United States instead of the Soviets. Tanner agrees to this because the head of the CIA, a man with presidential aspirations, says he will appear on Tanner's show, "Face to Face" if he can get the friend to switch sides.

Tanner meets with the three men and their spouses. Deluded into thinking that he can control the forces actually manipulating him, Tanner must ultimately face these friends and their wives in what becomes a long, tense and terror-filled weekend. During the "Osterman Weekend," Tanner and the others learn that they must fight for their lives.

Also on hand is a field agent who watches everything going on during the weekend from a truck loaded with video and surveillance equipment. From this point on, the story stops making sense. Nobody is quite who he seem to be.

This film also marks the return of director Sam Peckinpah ("The Getaway" and "Straw Dogs") to the screen after a five year absence. Peckinpah proves he can still stage a good action scene, even if it takes place within a limited terrain. The only problem is that he forgot about the plot.

The screenplay, written by Alan Sharp, is full of unexplained turns. The characters keep doing strange things with little or no



Trapped: The "Osterman Weekend," a film by Twentieth Century Fox, is based on Robert Ludlum's novel about danger and espionage.

clues for the audience to follow the plot of the movie.

Another small plus is the humor. One intent of the film makers seems to have been to make an attack on society's dependence on television. This is a justifiable criticism. But the movie "Network," which also deals with television, was funnier and made a lot more sense.

Hauer is the future star, playing the powerful TV host caught in the middle of somebody else's war. This is his first picture as a good guy and he came off as very likable.

Lawrence Fasset, (played by John Hurt, who starred in "The Elephant Man" and who won an Academy Award for his dramatic role in "A Man for All Seasons"), is the CIA agent who sets the plot in motion. Hurt is good at being kind one minute and ruthless the next.

Burt Lancaster's role as the CIA chief is not well enough developed. We see him at the beginning and we see him at the end, but he conveniently disappears for the remainder of the film.

The rest of the cast does a good job. Particularly Craig T. Nelson as one of the three friends, and Meg Foster as Tanner's wife.

If anyone is to really understand this movie, he must have read the book. Everyone else will be asking, "What happened?"

# c.a.l.e.n.d.a.r.

## 21 MON

ICHTHUS Prayer 7 p.m., Student Center Room 202.  
1990's Committee 2 p.m., Student Center Room 202.  
Campus Crusade 8 p.m., Student Center Room 203.  
Panhellenic 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 218.  
IFC 3:30 p.m., Student Center Room 222.

## 22 TUE

International Affairs 2 p.m., Student Center Room 202.  
Day Before 7 p.m., Student Center Room 202.  
Performing Arts 5:30 p.m., Student Center Room 203.  
Who's Who Dinner 5:30 p.m., Student Center Room 207.  
Interviewing Workshop 11 a.m., Student Center Room 218.

## 23 WED

Traffic Appeals Board 1 p.m., Student Center Room 203.  
UCAM 7 p.m., Student Center Room 204.

## 24 THU

Thanksgiving Holiday University offices closed.

## 25 FRI

Thanksgiving Holiday University offices closed.

## 26 SAT

Thanksgiving Holiday University offices closed.

## 27 SUN

Thanksgiving Holiday University offices closed.

## 28 MON

Project 1990's 2 p.m., Student Center Room 207.  
Stagedoor 11:30 p.m., Student Center Lower Lobby.

## 29 TUE

TCU Sailing Club 5:30 p.m., Student Center Room 202.  
International Students 4 p.m., Student Center Room 205.

*The Brass Station*

Many Colors to Choose From

**Semi-Precious**  
Stones From ... **\$700**  
up

3 blocks off University

**TWIST NECKLACES**  
Excellent Quality Semi-Precious Stones

LAPIS—\$28      MALACHITE—\$24  
34"-36" 14K-Gold Filled—3mm/\$29 4mm/\$39

**CLASP**  
\$4-10

*Quality At The Best Price!*

We have become direct importers and we can offer you the **Lowest Prices** in the Metroplex on 36" strands of semi-precious stones for your Twist Necklaces.

LAYAWAY WELCOME

MasterCard VISA
2751 Parkhill OPEN: Mon.-Sat. 10-5 921-4891
American Express

**SOIETY'S PAGES**

"SING" COPATED BALLOON DELIVERIES

Beautiful Balloon Bouquets  
for Every Occasion  
Delivered by Singing Costumed  
Characters

HOT AIR BALLOONS  
CANDY BASKETS  
DECORATIONS  
CENTERPIECES

Birthdays  
Anniversaries  
Get Well  
Wedding  
Banquets  
Parties

TCU FROG BALLOONS

Mon-Sat 9-6  
6308 Trail Lake Dr.

Mastercard
292-8585
Visa

# TCU C'est Chic Formal search

By Renee Cea

Have you ever said to yourself, "I have nothing to wear"? Well, the season is approaching when hundreds of closet doors will be slammed shut in disgust more often than usual.

The reason for this dilemma is simple and is most commonly referred to as the holiday season—a frustrating but eventful time of the year.

Not only is it holiday season, but formal season as well. It is a time when potential customers will be searching for that very special outfit. However, many will feel defeated after hitting the local malls because the clothes look mass produced and are overpriced.

This season's sensation is the pants outfit. In the long run, they are less expensive than the traditional dress because they can be mixed and matched with other items in your

wardrobe. The fabrics are of fine texture: velvet, silk or maybe satin. The pants can be paired with an Angora, beaded or sequined sweater. Silk, ruffled blouses are perfect complements for the pants.

Another complementary addition to the pants outfit is the chemise. The chemise has made its way from being worn only as a hidden undergarment, to being an outerwear necessity. Many have fine lace detailing that adds a feminine touch.

The holiday dress fabrics will be festive and traditional in silk, satin and taffeta. Oversized bows, sequins and bold, colorful plaids will accessorize the outfit. Black is a very popular color, since it epitomizes the formal look.

If coordinates aren't your "thing," the traditional holiday dress can be found in strategic places. The trick is to get away from malls and commercial shops.

Great looks, once again, don't have to be expensive. Try outlets where you will find designer clothes at discount prices. Many are samples, so the sizes and styles are limited. A few worth mentioning: Victor Costa Outlet and Loehman's Backroom, both in Dallas.

If you are still having trouble finding a look that is "you," why not try a vintage clothing store? Here you can recapture the essence of the femininity of years past. Quality clothing lasts a lifetime and never goes out of fashion. A good place to find all of your vintage needs is Le Vendage

Selection, on Hemphill Street in Fort Worth.

Remember—now is the perfect time to treat yourself to a seasonal gift, and at the same time save pennies for holiday gift-giving.



Photo by Phillip Mosier

Formal '40s: Renee Cea models vintage fashions.

## Review: The Police raid Dallas in super concert

By Rob Cornforth

Last Sunday and Monday nights the British rock group, The Police, invaded Dallas Reunion Arena for two high-spirited shows.

Near capacity audiences showed up for this group's heart stopping rock 'n' roll. Never forgetting that they had come to Dallas to please a Texas crowd, The Police played for two hours and performed songs that have made them a "super group" in only six years.

Ever since its start in 1978, The Police has turned every album into gold. The group was named The Police as a "wise-guy reference" to drummer Stewart Copeland's father's line of work. Sting, the group's lead singer and songwriter, is the mainstay of the group with a wide range of vocals.

Opening the show with "Synchronicity I & II," The Police used a variety of colored lights and smoke to add pomp to their music. They played almost all of the songs off their chart-topping new album, *Synchronicity*, including "Every Breath You Take" and "King of Pain." The best song of the concert, however, was a sleeper called "Walking In Your Footsteps," also from the new album.

The Police also played most of the earlier songs that made them famous. These hits included "Message In A Bottle," "De Do Do Do, De Da Da Da" and "Don't Stand So Close To Me." Helping the audience get into the mood of the show, Sting turned the chorus of "One World" over to the crowd. During "Roxanne," the audience stood and clapped as spotlights lit up the entire arena.

For the encore, Sting and company came

out playing the "Yellow Rose of Texas," and then went into "So Lonely." As the concert ended, The Police left more than 16,000 fans wishing for more.

With all the so-called "super groups" around today, it is a pleasure to see a group like The Police that doesn't need a studio to make its music sound good. In concert, The Police lived up to the expectations of the audience and more.

## Campus brights

By Molly Polk

Students make some interesting requests of Michael McCracken, dean of AddRan College. The other day a senior varsity football player (who shall remain nameless) asked if he might be able to drop a class—after the football game on Saturday. "Why after the game?" the professor asked. The answer: the student must be enrolled in at least 12 hours to play in the game.

Or how about the request from a student to take the second semester of a science course after she had failed the first semester? Her reasoning was that she wanted to be just one semester behind instead of a whole year!

A most amusing request was that of a student who for once, wanted to have the *real* dean of his school sign the enrollment packet. The request was granted and the enrollment packet turned in to the registrar. Shortly thereafter, a representative from the registrar's office called to verify the signature. It seems they couldn't identify it.



We'll be watching you: The British rock group, The Police, stopped over in Dallas for two performances

Nov. 13 and 14 as part of their U.S. tour.