

arts and
entertainment

Original student opera could premiere at Regents Hall

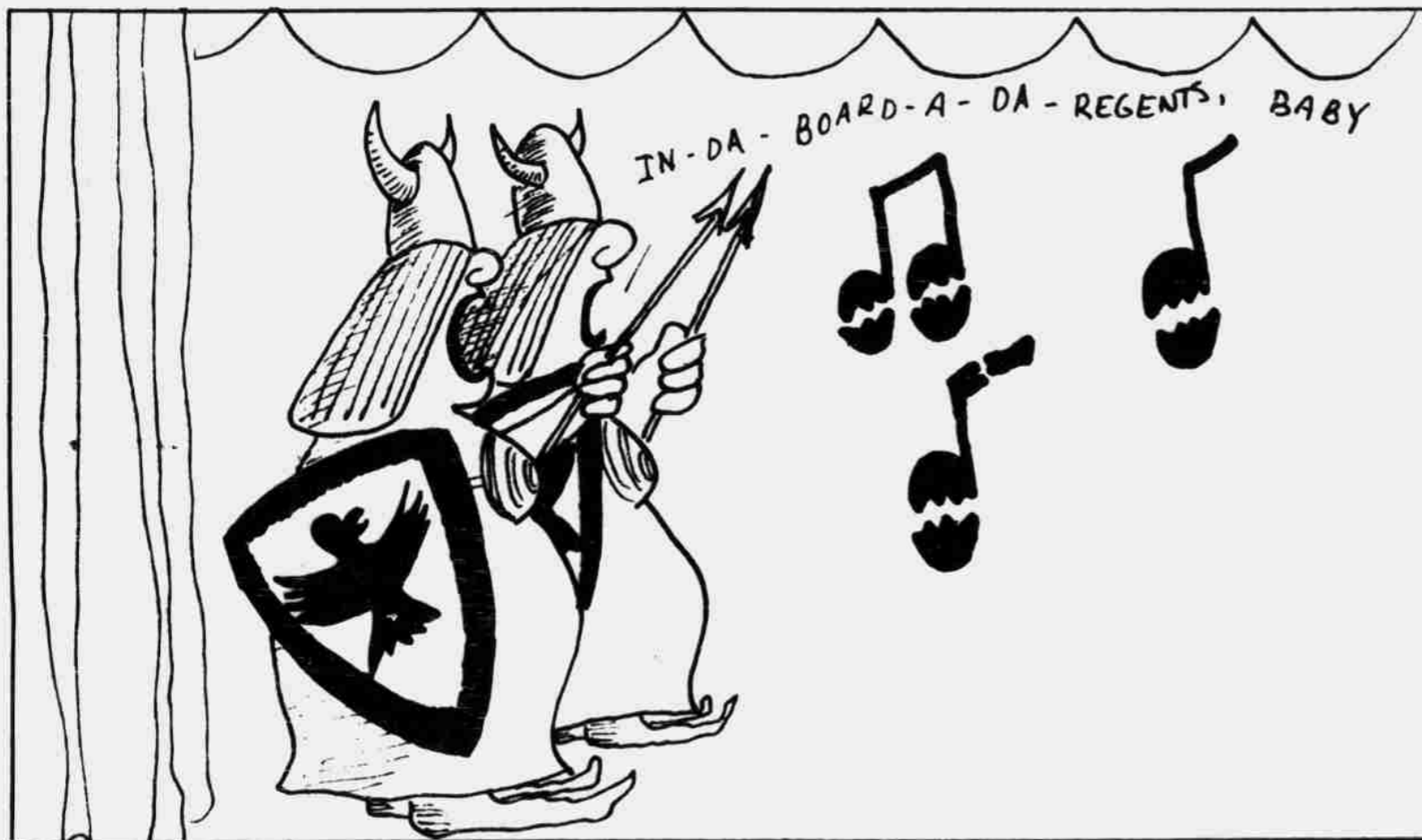
Opera is an interesting art form handicapped by the fact that most of the plots are concocted by Italian soap-opera rejects. They're usually turgid with things like Fet-tuchini stabbing Maserati because he thinks Maserati is seeing the beautiful Methedrina who actually is trying to poison the wicked County Onnayurfingurrsa so she can run off with Salami. . .

Anyway, I figured it's high time somebody wrote an opera UNL students can understand and relate to their own lives.

My work, *The Collegians*, is set in the mythical University of Nondenominational Learning. In Scene 1 we see a typical student, Lohengrin Gotterdammerung, standing in the line of a mythical cafeteria. He sings:

(tune: "The Ballad of John and Yoko")
Standin' in the line at East Campus -

**jim
williams**



*Trying' to get some edible food -
The man at the door
Says, 'That's fifty cents more -'
You know sometimes I think that I'm gettin'
screwed,
Christ, you know it ain't easy
This educational game
So much money's goin'
I really think it's a shame.*

LOHENGRIN: Surcharges! Fee increases! One thing after another! I don't know why college is so expensive, but I'm going to find out! I'm going to go find an administrator and ask!

(The orchestra strikes a menacing chord at the mere mention of the word "administrator.")

Scene 2 opens with a pleasant-looking man sitting behind a desk strewn with important-looking papers. He opens a box labelled "Important-looking Papers" and strews some more on the desk.

He sings: (tune: "When I was a Lad")
*When I was a student I learned to duck
Responsibility and pass the buck;
Now I push papers and shuffle them
And go home every day at four p.m.!*

*Yes, I do nothing and do it so well
'Cause I'm administering here at UNL!*

There is a clatter of swords as Lohengrin battles his way through the guards at the door. He bursts in.

LOHENGRIN: Tell me, O administrator, why college costs keep going up and up!

ADMINISTRATOR: It's caused by inflation, my boy.

LOHENGRIN: What causes inflation?

ADMINISTRATOR: Costs going up and up. If you want to know more, you'll have to ask the regents.

(The orchestra strikes another terrifying chord at the mention of "regents.")

Scene 3 opens in the sinister chambers of the Board of Regents. Bats hang from the ceiling and cauldrons bubble ominously. A thick book, labeled "State Education Budget," lies on a table with a dagger thrust through the cover.

Eight sinister men, clad in long black robes, hunch over a long table. They sing.

(Tune: "In-A-Gadda-Da-Vida")
*In-da-Board-a-da-Regents, honey,
We're-a-runnin' your life for you-ou-ou;
In-da-Board-a-da-Regents, baby,
YAF tells us what to do-oo-oo!
Dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum
dum dum dum dum dum dum dum dum,
We sit and de-lib-er-ate,
Cogitate and th-i-ink;
'Get this and get it straight,
Children shouldn't dri-i-ink!
Don't make a stink, now baby . . .*

Suddenly Lohengrin bursts into the room. "Tell me why college costs keep rising!" he shouts, brandishing his magic sword Nuping. "My budget is nearly . . ."

"Oooh," scream the Regents. "You said 'BUDGET!' We hate that word!" Drawing daggers from beneath their robes, they circle around him.

Things look bad for Lohengrin. But suddenly the good fairy Beog, patron of financial aid, bears him to safety.

Beog sings: (Tune: "You'll Never Walk Along,")
*You must travel through College with thoughts
strong-willed
And don't let yourself get distraught;
For someday with knowledge your head will be
filled,
Though your bank balance registers naught!
With your finely-trained mind,
A job you will find
In your father's hardware store!
A hat is passed among the audience as the curtain
falls.*

'Take One' movie series to show 'Midnight Cowboy'

The *Take One* American Film Classics series concludes its second semester tonight at the Nebraska Union Centennial Room with *Midnight Cowboy*. An extra showing at 11 p.m., in addition to the regular 7 and 9 p.m. times, has been added in order to accommodate those people who will be at the Ralph Nader speech, according to the series director Jim Anderson.

Midnight Cowboy stars Dustin Hoffman and Jon Voight. The film won an Oscar for Best Picture in 1969, the only X-rated movie ever to win that award.

Admission is \$2 general and \$1.50 for students or by series ticket.

Also opening tonight on campus is *The American Friend*, a 1977 film by Wim Wenders. The Sheldon Film Theater will present *The American Friend* today, Friday and Saturday at 7 and 9:15 p.m. with 3 p.m. matinees on Friday and Saturday.

Dennis Hooper (of *Easy Rider*) and Bruno Ganz star in this mystery thriller based on Patricia Highsmith's novel, *Ripley's Game*.

Admission is \$2.

Omaha Ballet closes season with legend of Orpheus' love

The final production of the 1977-78 Omaha Ballet season will feature a special event, "Disco and Delicacies," a fundraising program for the ballet, in addition to the performances of an original, full-length ballet.

An original three-act choreographic piece by Thomas Enckell, Omaha Ballet artistic director, is based on the ancient Greek legend of Orpheus, the muse of epic poetry. The story involves Orpheus, son of Apollo and Calliope, who loses his young wife Eurydice shortly after their wedding. The muse of epic poetry pleads to the gods for the return of his loved one, but they do not answer so Orpheus descends to the underworld to find her. There he charms Pluto and Prosperine, ruler of the underworld, by playing his lyre. The rulers tell Orpheus he may take Eurydice back but he cannot look at her during the journey.

Impatient with love, Orpheus succumbs to temptation and looks at Eurydice which

causes him to lose her again. Orpheus then sings sadly of his lost love and refuses the attentions of all people. This infuriates the Sirens into killing him.

The Muses then bring him and Eurydice together in the realm of blessed souls so they can behold each other forever.

The dance will be performed May 5 and 6 at 8 p.m. and May 7, at 2:30 p.m. Advance tickets are available at the Omaha Ballet Center, 5915 Maple St. in Omaha or any Brandeis ticket office.

The opening night of this world premiere production includes the "Disco and Delicacies" celebration at the Regency Fashion Court in Omaha. WOW radio disc jockey Dave Wingert will provide the disco and the Magic Pan restaurant will provide crepes and wine.

Reservations for "Disco and Delicacies" are due Friday. They are available by calling Mrs. Douglas Rupe, 391-6919, or John Emery, 397-7097, in Omaha.



Photo by Katy Fishman

Grant enables dance troupe to add 2 Lincoln concerts

With help from the Nebraska Arts Council, Dances for Passer-by will make two additional Lincoln performances. Due to enthusiastic response to the March concert in the Nebraska Union, the NAC has offered matching funds to cover the dancers' costs of performances set for two Fridays: April 28 and May 5.

Marguerite Fishman and Irene Wachtel, co-founders and members of the company, will perform at 8 p.m. in the Pilgrim Hall of First Plymouth Congregational Church, 20th and D Sts. The company's non-traditional approach to dance stresses informality and intimacy between dancer and audience. Their dances are choreographed for arena performances and the First Plymouth concerts will feature seating on all sides of the dancing area.

Music for the performance will be provided by flutist Bill Hanlon, cellist

Carol Warren and guitarist Leroy Critcher.

Fishman and Wachtel met while completing their modern dance degrees at Ohio State University. They also were members of the University Dance Company. They came to Lincoln to study the Alexander technique of movement with Marjorie Barstow and incorporate it into their choreography.

The selections for the First Plymouth concerts were choreographed by Fishman and Wachtel. The works include a dream sequence called *Scarf Dance Number Two* that combines athletic movement with singing; *Dance for Adele B.*, a ritualized creation; *Raincoat Variations for a Parisian Spring*, a frivolous dance; and *Cartoon*, a light number set to Benny Goodman music.

Tickets for the concerts will be available at the door for \$2.50 general admission and \$2 students and senior citizens.