

# Precious Nonsense

NEWSLETTER OF THE MIDWESTERN GILBERT AND SULLIVAN SOCIETY  
September 2000 -- Issue 61

**If our actions are stiff and crude, do not laugh because it's rude.  
If our gestures promise larks, do not make unkind remarks.**

The DIGITAL revolution is coming, and some of it is already here. In May, S/A Cole's little 286 computer crashed and burned – the hard disk, anyway – and so we're now working with a big ol' whiz-bang fast-and-furious computer with a screen one doesn't need reading glasses to see and a keyboard with all the keys in one place. I'm still getting used to a new computer (not to mention trying to replace lost files), and we're not online yet; but, as I said, the revolution is coming. And we're making progress getting through the accumulated material, too. (It's slow, but it's progress!)

So, we finally have this year's Big Quiz, a reprise of a popular article from many years ago, and the performance news we've been able to pull together. The Savoy-Aires are giving Mikado soon, Opera A La Carte is on an Illinois concert tour, and the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company is planning on giving Ivanhoe. So let's see how far we get.

(By the way – G&S Trivia for 1000 – what opera is this introductory quotation from?)

## Oh, Members, How Say You, What is it You've Done?

This probably isn't the accustomed place to put sort of this notice, but member **Herman Fried** recently donated to the MGS a DVD copy of the 1939 film *The Mikado*. We could use it for a prize, but it seemed it could be used more appropriately as a donation to a public library that collects DVDs. So, not only are we grateful to Mr. Fried for his generosity, but we're hoping to make some public library and its users grateful, too. If your library could use such a donation, please let S/A Cole know so she can start getting the process started.

## What Cheer! What Cheer! {Midwestern}

October 6-8 and 12-15, 2000, are going to be big days for the Savoy-Aires. They're going to be giving **The Mikado** at Chute Middle School (1400 Oakton St., Evanston, IL). Times for the performances evidently had not been set when the first issue of their new newsletter *The Savoy-aire* went to press, but they're usually about 7:30 pm on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2:00 pm on Sundays. For more information, do contact the Savoy-Aires at P.O. Box 126; Evanston, IL 60204. They would no doubt be pleased to hear from you!

We just heard from Opera A La Carte. First of all, they have a web site: [www.gilbertandsullivan.com](http://www.gilbertandsullivan.com). And second, they're coming to Illinois in October on a concert tour. Director Richard Sheldon writes:

"A small group of us will be doing a concert tour – *The World of Gilbert and Sullivan* – next month:

October 18: 7:30 pm	McKendree College, Pearsons Hall (Lebanon, IL)
October 25: 7:30 pm	Lewis University, Philip Lynch Theatre (Romeoville, IL)
October 26: 7:30 pm	Benedictine University, Benedictine Hall Theatre (Lisle, IL)"

(The individual theaters will evidently be setting prices: you might want to contact the college of your choice for more information.) He adds that if any MGSers come to any of these performances, they should feel free to come backstage and say hello. I'd take him up on it.

If you'd like to get in touch with Opera A La Carte in the old-fashioned, but oh-so-effective, ways, they are at P.O. Box 39606; Los Angeles, CA 90039 / (626) 791-0844.

*As mentioned before, S/A Cole likes news she doesn't have to retype. We just got this series of notices from David Craven and the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company:*

Item One: Auditions for **Ivanhoe**

The Gilbert & Sullivan Opera Company of Chicago announces auditions for principals and chorus for their special fall concert production of Sir Arthur Sullivan's Grand Opera, *Ivanhoe*. Stage direction by Professor David Currie, musical direction by Martha Swisher. *Ivanhoe* has a large cast, calling for eight bass-baritones, two tenors, two sopranos, one mezzo-soprano, and a chorus of 24. All roles are open. Auditions will be held from 2-5 p.m. on Saturday October 7th and Sunday, October 8th at 5650 South Harper Avenue in Hyde Park. Audition appointments need not be scheduled in advance. Singers are asked to prepare an appropriate piece from opera, operetta, or classical repertoire. An accompanist will be provided. The performance date is Saturday, November 18 at the United Church of Hyde Park, 53rd Street and Blackstone Avenue. For further information, contact Gwyneth Aubrey, Executive Producer at: [ivanhoe\\_hydepark@yahoo.com](mailto:ivanhoe_hydepark@yahoo.com)

Item Two: **Ivanhoe: the Performance Itself**

The Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company of Chicago will be presenting a concert version of *Ivanhoe* on Saturday, November 18, 2000 at the United Church of Hyde Park, 53rd Street and Blackstone Avenue. *Ivanhoe* is Sullivan's rarely performed Grand Opera. For further information contact Gwyneth Aubrey, Executive Producer at [ivanhoe\\_hydepark@yahoo.com](mailto:ivanhoe_hydepark@yahoo.com).

Item Three: ***Gilbert and Sullivan Marathon Committee Organizational Meeting for Chicago Sing-out 2002***

A tentative meeting to establish a planning Committee for Chicago Singout 2002 is scheduled for the second week of October. The purpose of this Committee will be to plan a "singout" to be held in the Summer of 2002. At a Singout, which is held over a two day period, all of the joint works of Gilbert and Sullivan are presented. A Singout was successfully held in Toronto in August of this year, and in past years in Rockville. Singouts bring together Gilbert and Sullivan aficionados from around the world and, as Chicago is centrally located, it has been asked to host the 2002 event. If interested in joining the planning committee, send an email to singout2002@hotmail.com or call (312) 368-8481 and leave a message.

(Now, remember, this singout isn't a "done deal" yet. But do get in touch with them if you're interested in helping or contributing, those trying to bring this event about would no doubt be delighted to hear from you.)

## The G&S Version of Star Wars A Reprise

Even legendary films are remade: from *The Shop Around the Corner* to *In the Good Old Summertime*, to *You Got Mail*. Each reappearance helps a new generation appreciate a timeless story. Well, the Midwestern Gilbert and Sullivan Society has reached the point where reprises of previous articles can be interesting to our membership. Back in 1990, this article appeared in Issue 26 (March 1990) of *Precious Nonsense*. It dawned on S/A Cole that, on the date she typed this introduction, twenty-three years before, she saw *Star Wars* for the first time. So, in recognition of that anniversary, of the recent revival of the *Star Wars* saga, of the regrettable death of Sir Alec Guinness, and because I enjoy it, here is *HMS Death Star*.

And Many Thanks to the Gilbert and Sullivan Archive at the University of Idaho for this transcription. S/A Cole has copies of the work in her basement, but thanks to their resources, she didn't have to retype it.

Without doubt, W.S. Gilbert was a writer before his time: he was writing stories about extraterrestrials (*The Wicked World*), alterations in the space/time continuum (*Foggerty's Fairy*), cyborgs (*The Mountebanks*), mind-transfer (*The Man in Black*), and men trying to play gods (*Thespis*) long before it became fashionable for science fiction writers to do it. Since there is such a strong vein of what has become regarded as the domain of SF in Gilbert's writing, and (more likely) since *Pinafore* and *The Pirates of Penzance* lend themselves so well to being parodied, it was only a matter of time before somebody came up with the following.

One of Sarah Cole's friends, a longtime fan of the film *Star Wars*, sent her what she thought was a parody of a G&S song from one of the science fiction film fanzines she had run across. It turned out that one song was part of a much longer G&S parody based on tunes from *Pirates* and *Pinafore*: *H.M.S. DeathStar*, by Bev Grant, which appeared in *Syndizine* #3, in about 1983. After a year, we still have no more information about this magazine than its title and the year of publication (if anyone knows anything more about it, please let us know {*After TEN years, we still don't know any more about it than this, even after several extensive Internet searches. Ed.*}). In any event, Sarah Cole, who still enjoys *Star Wars* herself, thought the parody was a riot, and thought the rest of the MGS membership would enjoy highlights from this work (As a matter of fact, she enjoyed it so much, she was sorry the author limited herself to only two of the G&S operas: there are so many other songs in the G&S operas that would have lent themselves to *Star Wars*-ization. But be that as it may).

Judging from the photocopy in hand, the author got the idea from the recording of Joseph Papp's production of *Pirates*. The work was set up like a libretto that would accompany a record album, and includes illustrations {*which we've left out because of layout problems. And besides, one's imagination is often the best illustrator! Ed.*}. So, courtesy of Margaret McNickle and the publishers of *Syndizine*, and in honor of the thirteenth anniversary of the film's release (on May 25), the MGS presents:

Syndi-Papp Presents  
**H.M.S. DEATH STAR: THE SOUNDTRACK**  
 Music pirated from A. Sullivan  
 Lyrics adapted from the original librettos of *H.M.S. Pinafore* and *Pirates of Penzance*

Dedication: to Anna Russell, who once proposed (see *Anna Russell Sings!* Again?, Columbia Masterworks) a formula for writing your own Gilbert and Sullivan operetta. . . as well as a description of the sort of person who could be expected to try. It's not my fault!

{The Cast, for the uninitiated:

### Good Guys:

**Princess Leia:** Representative to the Imperial Senate from the planet Alderaan.

**Luke Skywalker:** A farm boy from the planet Tatooine who has greatness thrust upon him.

**Han Solo:** A handsome young smuggler.

**Chewbacca:** Han's wookiee sidekick (he's big and shaggy and speaks guttural).

**Ben (Obi-Wan) Kenobi:** An old Jedi master.

**R2-D2 and C-3PO:** The cutest pair of robots (droids) you ever saw.

### Bad Guys:

**Darth Vader:** An evil Jedi.

**Governor Tarkin:** Commander of the Death Star.

**Stormtrooper Chorus:** Soldiers of Empire.

**Jawas:** Little desert scavengers. Ed.}

### SIDE 1

#### When I was a Lad

(Originally "When I Was a Lad" / *Pinafore*, Act 1, Part II)

Darth Vader: When I was a lad, I went to school  
 To a Jedi Master who I thought was cool.  
 His name was Kenobi, and they called him Ben;  
 And although you won't believe it, I knew even then

Stormtrooper Chorus: And although you won't believe it,  
 he knew even then

Vader: That when Obi-Wan Kenobi finished teaching me,  
 I'd be the finest Jedi in the galaxy!

Chorus: That when Obi-Wan Kenobi finished teaching  
 he,

He'd be the finest Jedi in the galaxy!

Vader: I studied very hard and developed skill

At levitating boulders and at saber drill.

I got so good I could balance, chum,

Upside down on the tip of my right or left thumb.

Chorus: Upside down on the tip of his right or left  
 thumb.

Vader: Pretty soon it became quite clear to me  
 That I was the finest Jedi in the galaxy!

Chorus: Pretty soon it became quite clear to he

That he was the finest Jedi in the galaxy!

Vader: I went to the Master, said "Obi-wan,  
 The days when you could teach me things have  
 come and gone;

I'm the finest Jedi alive, you see."

And would you believe it, Ben just laughed at me!

Chorus: And would you believe it, Ben just laughed at he!

Vader: Now I've killed all the others, none can disagree  
Than I am the finest Jedi in the galaxy!

Chorus: Now he's killed all the others, none can disagree  
Than he is the finest Jedi in the galaxy!

Vader: The end of the Jedi brought to me  
A once in a lifetime opportunity,  
For the Emperor had seen my work  
And knew that I would not be one to shirk.

Chorus: And knew that he would not be one to shirk.

Vader: My duty, be it e'er so mean  
To advance the position of Lord Palpatine\*.

Chorus: His duty, be it e'er so mean,  
To advance the position of Lord Palpatine.

Vader: And from that day, though you may curse,  
My power has been feared throughout the universe.  
I'm second to one man alone;  
The one who sits upon the Empire's throne!

Chorus: The one who sits upon the Empire's throne!

Vader: Soon the Emperor will fall to me,  
And then I'll be the ruler of the galaxy!

Chorus: Soon the Emperor will fall to he,  
And then he'll be the ruler of the galaxy!

Vader: If you yearn to become as great as me,  
Then you daren't be fettered by loyalty;  
You must study very hard and go to school,  
All the while being guided by this golden rule:

Chorus: All the while being guided by this golden rule:

Vader: There is nothing like a spot of treachery--  
To advance, don't miss a single opportunity!

Chorus: There is nothing like a spot of treachery--  
To advance, don't miss a single opportunity!

{\*For those who, like S/A Cole, are familiar with *Star Wars* but had never heard of Lord Palpatine, the introduction to the novel says he was a senator who got himself elected Emperor of the Galaxy, then let the galaxy go to the dogs. I haven't seen *The Phantom Menace*, but I understand he shows up with that name in that film. Also, the philosophy expressed in that previous song are exclusively those of the character and not those of this newsletter or organization Ed. }

### Keep Close to Me

("His Nose Should Pant and His Lip Should Curl"/*Pinafore*)

Jawa Leader: Keep close to me and don't make a sound;  
Don't let it know anyone's around.  
Just wait--yes wait--'til you see it fall,  
And then we will descend upon it, one and all.

### It Is an R-2 Droid

("He Is an Englishman"/*Pinafore*)

Jawa Leader: It is an R-2 droid,  
A valuable possession,  
And we've made it our profession  
To resell used R-2 droids.

Jawa Chorus: To resell used R-2 droids.

Jawa Leader: And though it be in fine fettle  
Or a useless piece of metal  
With a warranty long void

Jawa Chorus: With a warranty long void

Jawa Leader: Still we'll sell it at a profit,  
And we'll live quite comfy off it,  
For it is an R-2 droid.

Jawa Chorus: Still we'll sell it. . .(etc.)

### My Friends Call me Skywalker

("I'm Called Little Buttercup"/*Pinafore*)

Luke: My friends call me Skywalker, wormie\* Luke  
Skywalker  
Though I could never see why.  
They tell me I'm green, even for Tatooine--  
Just a dreamer with stars in my eye.

With Biggs, boon companion, I've flown Beggar's Canyon  
And bullseyed a womp rat or two.  
Now Biggs says, "Get out of here!" Uncle says, Wait a year!"  
What's a poor farm boy to do?

If you seek to enter into some bright center  
Of space, Tatooine isn't it.  
Come Jawa, come Raider, I'm hopping a freighter;  
When this harvest is over, I'll split!

The Academy calls, and adventure enralls--  
I may rescue some maid in distress!  
With a ship of my own, I'll fight Emperor or clone.  
The heroic Luke Skywalker? Yes!

{\*While it doesn't come out in the film, in the novel *Star Wars*, Luke's nickname is "Wormie". And don't let that put you off: according to T.H. White, King Arthur's childhood nickname was "Wart". Ed. }

["Pretty Traitor You Are" ("Pretty Daughter of Mine"/*Pinafore*), about Vader's interrogation of Princess Leia, has been cut. Ed.]

### When Darth Vader is Engaged

("When a Felon's Not Engaged"/*Pirates*)

Princess Leia: When Darth Vader is engaged in fiendish  
torture--

Vader: Fiendish torture

Leia: Or maturing his demented Sithish plans--

Vader: Sithish plans

Leia: There is one thing of which no one could be more  
sure--

Vader: Could be more sure

Leia: He is not a friend of Wookies' or of man's--

Vader: Or of man's

Leia: My worries I with difficulty smother--

Vader: 'Culty smother

Leia: As I wait for him to have his Sithish fun--

Vader: Sithish fun

Leia: Ah, take one consideration with another--

Vader: With another

Leia: A princess' lot is not a happy one.

Vader: As she waits for me to have my Sithish fun--  
Sithish fun

A princess' lot is not a happy one.

Leia: As I sit imprisoned here aboard the Death Star--

Vader: 'Board the Death Star

Leia: With the Dark Lord Vader standing in my cell--

Vader: In her cell

Leia: And his torture robot hovering not too far--

Vader: 'Vring not too far

Leia: From where I wait its special brand of hell--

Vader: Brand of hell

Leia: My fears close 'round me 'till I almost smother--

Vader: Almost smother

Leia: Can my secrets still be secret when he's done--

Vader: When I'm done?

Leia: Ah, take one consideration with another--

Vader: With another

Leia: A princess' lot is not a happy one.

Vader: Can her secrets still be secret when I'm done--  
A princess' lot is not a happy one.

{\*Darth Vader is referred to as a Sith Lord. I don't remember it being mentioned in the film, but nevertheless, that's the reason for the reference here. Ed.}

**You Don't Need to See His I.D.**

("Never Mind the Why and Wherefore"/ *Pinafore*)

Ben: You don't need to see his I.D.,  
 Though his speeder's most untidy,  
 And the droids you're searching for appear right under-  
 neath your eyes.  
 You are going to let us go much to your underlings'  
 surprise.  
 No stormtrooper with his blaster  
 In the entire galaxy  
 Can detain a Jedi Master  
 If he doesn't want to be!

These are not the droids you're after.  
 Stormtrooper: These are not the droids we're after.  
 Ben: Move along a little faster!  
 Stormtrooper: Move along a little faster!  
 Ben: You will count it a disaster  
 When it comes time to report  
 That you met a Jedi Master  
 Here in Mos Eisley space port!

For the Force now has you blinded;  
 That's because you are weak-minded,  
 Just the sort of a chap who volunteers to serve the  
 Emperor.  
 You will let us pass right by you and our safety thus  
 ensure.

(Repeat from "No stormtrooper with his blaster" through  
 "Here in Mos Eisley space port!")

**We Have Flown the Kessel Run**

("We Sail the Ocean Blue"/*Pinafore*)

Han: We have flown the Kessel run,  
 Though my pirate ship's no beauty;  
 Still we have a lot of fun,  
 and we never pay our duty!  
 All the Empire's decrees  
 We evade with ease,  
 Be our cargo gems or spice.  
 My Millennium ship  
 Can handle the trip  
 If you think you can meet our price.  
 In cash! In cash!

["What Joy, What Profit I've Attained" ("Oh Joy, O Rapture  
 Unforsen"/*Pinafore*), about Han Solo's nearly getting shot by  
 Greedo the Hit-Being; and "Though She May Not Look Like  
 Much" ("Sir Joseph's Barge is Seen [the Sailors' portion]"/ *Pin-  
 afore*), have been cut. Ed.]

SIDE TWO {A nostalgic aside about how things have  
 changed. Remember when recordings **had** two sides, and  
 couldn't be used for mirrors? Those were the days. Ed.}

**I Am Commander of the Death Star**

("I Am the Captain of the Pinafore"/*Pinafore*)

Tarkin: I am commander of the Death Star!  
 Stormtrooper Chorus: And a mighty fine commander,  
 too!  
 Tarkin: You're very, very good,  
 And be it understood,  
 I command a right good crew.  
 Chorus: We're very, very good,  
 And be it understood,

He commands a right good crew.  
 Tarkin: Though I really do abhor  
 Her cause, the Senator  
 Will I treat most gallantly;  
 I have never used a whip  
 Or torture on this trip  
 And would never treat her cruelly!  
 Chorus: What, never?  
 Tarkin: No, never!  
 Chorus: What, never?  
 Tarkin: Hardly ever!  
 Chorus: Hardly ever treat her cruelly!  
 Then give three cheers, and one cheer more,  
 For the kind commander of the great Death Star!  
 Then give three cheers, and one cheer more,  
 For commander of the great Death Star!

Tarkin: I do my best to serve the Empire--  
 Chorus: As a dedicated governor.  
 Tarkin: I'll destroy the rebel base;  
 Its location I will trace  
 With the aid of our prisoner.

Chorus: He'll destroy the rebel base;  
 Its location he will trace  
 With the aid of our prisoner.

Tarkin: Let the folk of Alderaan  
 Aid the rebels all they can  
 And call Palpatine corrupt;  
 Though the power I control  
 Could destroy their planet whole,  
 I would never, never blow it up!

Chorus: What, never?

Tarkin: No, never!

Chorus: What, never?

Tarkin: Hardly ever!

Chorus: He would hardly ever blow it up!

Then give three cheers, and one cheer more,  
 For the merciful ruler of the great Death Star!  
 Then give three cheers, and one cheer more,  
 For the ruler of the great Death Star!

["Although Your Chess Opponent There" ("I Am the Monarch of  
 the Sea"/*Pinafore*), about Chewbacca's being a bad loser, and  
 "Things are Seldom What They Seem", about getting stuck in a  
 tractor beam, have been cut, as have been the reprise of "They  
 Call me Luke Skywalker", in which Han talks about rescuing the  
 Princess; and "You've Discovered an Aroma" ("Carefully on  
 Tiptoe Stealing"/ *Pinafore*), about our heroes' adventures in a  
 Death Star garbage pit.]

**I Am the Very Model of a Modern Diplomatic Droid**

(What else?! *Pirates* {I like this one best, if for no other  
 reason than C-3PO is the only character who sounded like  
 he ought to be in a G&S opera to begin with (the actor who  
 created the character sounds rather like Thomas Round).  
 Ed. {Note for 2000: After 23 years, he still sounds like  
 Thomas Round, he still sounds like he ought to be in a  
 G&S opera; and this song is currently the most noteworthy  
 one in this collection. A number of websites of "Star  
 Wars" songs include this selection.})

C-3PO: I am the very model of a modern diplomatic droid  
 I'm fluent in the languages of robot, Wookie, humanoid;  
 A binary load lifter does not pose the slightest mystery,  
 I know the rules of protocol and also human history;  
 I'm very well acquainted too with matters mathematical  
 I understand equations, both the simple and quadratical,  
 About binomial theorem, I'm teeming with a lot o' news--  
 With many cheerful facts about the square of the hypotenuse.  
 Chorus: With many cheerful facts about the square of the hypotenuse (etc.)

C-3PO: I'm very good at integral and differential calculus,  
 I know the scientific names of beings animalculous;  
 In short, my masters find in me a reason to be overjoyed;

I am the very model of a modern diplomatic droid.  
 Chorus: In short, his masters find in him a reason to be over-joyed;  
 He is the very model of a modern diplomatic droid.  
 C-3PO: I am the very model of a modern diplomatic droid;  
 Adventure is the sort of thing I'd hoped that I could quite avoid,  
 For droids who find adventure often find that they get melted down,  
 Or shipped out to the Kessel mines and tiresome labor under-ground.  
 My counterpart excels at making trouble for the rest of us,  
 He lured me to the desert where the Jawas soon molested us;  
 They sold us to some farmers, and before the passing of a day,  
 I had to tell our master that the little twerp had run away.  
 Chorus: He had to tell their master that the little twerp had run away (etc.).  
 C-3PO: Now that we're on the Death Star, and stormtroopers swarm the premises,  
 I'm hiding in a closet with that little R-2 nemesis;  
 And so I want to make it clear ere R-2 gets us both destroyed,  
 I was the very model of a modern diplomatic droid!  
 Chorus: And so he wants to make it clear ere R-2 gets them both destroyed,  
 He was the very model of a modern diplomatic droid!

### I Am Commander of the Death Star (Reprise)

Tarkin: I am commander of the Death Star,  
 Stormtrooper Chorus: And we're now in sight of Yavin's moon!  
 Tarkin: The famous rebel base  
 Will be gone without a trace  
 Ere the end of this afternoon.  
 Chorus: The famous rebel base  
 Will be gone without a trace  
 Ere the end of this afternoon.  
 Tarkin: Any dangers you perceive  
 From attacks we here receive,  
 Do not overestimate.  
 With our triumph now so near,  
 This in not the time for fear,  
 And I never will evacuate.  
 Chorus: What, never?  
 Tarkin: No, never!  
 Chorus: What, never?  
 Tarkin: No, never!  
 Chorus: No, he never will evacuate.  
 Then give three cheers, and one cheer more,  
 for the late commander of the doomed Death Star.  
 Then give three cheers, and one cheer more,  
 For. . .

(Note from the record jacket: We regret that technical difficulties beyond our control made it impossible to record the end of this aria {sic! Ed.})

### The Grand Finale

("Come, Friends, Who Plow the Sea"/ *Pirates*)

All the Good Guys: Hail, hail, the gang's all here:  
 Leia and the Wookiee,  
 Solo and the rookie.  
 Hail, Hail, the gang's all here:  
 Get in line for Death Star II!  
  
 Hail, hail, the gang's all here.  
 Ain't the show been thrillin'?  
 Bet we make a million!  
 Hail, Hail, the gang's all here:  
 Get in line for Death Star . . .  
 (Spoken:) Two, four, six, eight,  
 Who do we appreciate?

(Note from the record jacket: The following music accompanies fifteen minutes of credits.)

## The 2000 MGS Big Quiz

It's quiz time again, and we have another silly quiz this year. Though not quite as silly as last year's. We've also bowed to popular demand, and have double-spaced the questions to aid in writing in the answers. Well, it's progress.

As always, the rules of the big quiz are simple. The member who answers the most questions correctly wins a prize. You can refer to any reference sources you like, but all responses must be received by the Midwestern Gilbert and Sullivan Society by **December 1, 2000**. But don't dawdle: that sounds like a lot of time, but it sneaks up on you! The answers will be checked and winners will be notified. In case of a tie, the response received first will take precedence, and decisions of the quiz correctors are final. This year's big prize winner will receive something nice--I don't know what he or she will win yet, but what we do find for a prize will be certain to satisfy.

Now, if you feel intimidated, you need not. The Society's founding fathers, in their wisdom, knew that many members would be novices in matters G&S-ical, so they saw to it that the member who makes an honest effort to answer the questions correctly and answers the fewest correctly will also win a nice prize. All are welcome to participate, even if you won a prize in the last quiz. We'll look forward to hearing from you (before December 1, don't forget). Any Questions?

*Then let the Revels Commence!*

1. What was or will be the Savoy-Aires' production in 2000?
2. On what kind of ship was Dick Dauntless a sailor?
3. How old was Ruth in *The Pirates of Penzance*?
4. In *The Palace of Truth*, what is the magical property of that palace?
5. Which G&S operas are featured in the Ohio Light Opera's 2000 season?
6. *The Contrabandista* is a "remake" of what operetta?
7. In "the wonder-working days of old", how much were dukes worth?
8. A number of authors have written book-length commentaries on the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. Name an author and the title of his or her book.
9. How many proverbs are referred to in the song "Things Are Seldom What They Seem"?
10. In what year was the ballet *Pineapple Poll* first presented?
11. Who complains about receiving excessive "toffee", and in which opera does he or she do it?
12. What is the name of the island on which *Utopia Limited* is set?
13. Name an incident that you experienced, or that you heard of, that reminded you of an incident in a Gilbert and Sullivan opera.
14. In which opera does someone complain that old age takes away too much, yet brings too much?
15. Name the Gilbert and Sullivan operas that have ironic subtitles, and explain your answer.

16. In how many of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas are the tenor and soprano leads married by the end of it?
17. Prove your answer for the last question by listing them.
18. As kindly as possible, describe the worst *miscasting* you have ever seen in a Gilbert and Sullivan opera.
19. What is Reginald Bunthorne's love of maidens compared to?
20. How old was Patience when she first knew Archibald Grosvenor?
21. How many people in the Gilbert and Sullivan operas are at some point scheduled to be beheaded?
22. If you didn't participate in last year's quiz, name your favorite Gilbert and Sullivan opera. If you *did* answer this question last year, report on whether any changes to your answer have been made?
23. How many lines does Private Willis speak in *Iolanthe*?
24. How many lines does Mabel speak in *The Pirates of Penzance*?
25. Write a short song parody based on a G&S song. (Or at least part of one. For instance, in Fred Allen's skit "The Hollywood *Mikado*", he explains why his film studio can't make a musical: "In all the excitement there's one thing we forgot: Petrillo, Petrillo, Petrillo!" See what you can do.) Or if you have to, write a long one.
26. Have you seen the film *Topsy-Turvy*?
27. Have you seen the film *The Girl Said No*?
28. Who does Colonel Fairfax impersonate? (Or is it "whom"?)
29. What color are Reginald Bunthorne's eyes said to be?
30. Who describes herself as a child of nature?
31. In how many of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas does a wedding take place in the second act?
32. In which opera does the "Patter Trio" appear?
33. Marco and Giuseppe Palmieri find themselves kings of what country?
34. The film *Topsy-Turvy* has made quite a hit. But how many times is the term "topsy-turvy" used in the Gilbert and Sullivan operas?
35. Describe the appearance of the Rich Attorney's elderly, ugly daughter?
36. In which opera does the "Bell Trio" appear?
37. Under what conditions should "A" die in misery?
38. Who sings the song "Come, Mighty Must"?
39. In which opera does he or she sing it?
40. Who declares that "Man is Nature's sole mistake"?
41. Mount Ararat is the site where Noah's Ark is said to have landed. Name a Gilbert and Sullivan opera that includes a character with that name.
42. Pick an actor or singer, past or present, and name a G&S role you would like – or would have liked – to see him or her play. Explain your answer.
43. A Captain Corcoran appears in two of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas. Name those two operas.
44. Name the madrigal in *The Mikado*.
45. Name another madrigal that appears in a Gilbert and Sullivan opera, and the opera in which it appears.
46. In what year was *Patience* first produced?
47. Research time: Name a celebrity not associated with Gilbert and Sullivan who has, at one time or another, appeared in a G&S opera, and the role he or she played. (For example, I've read that one of Christopher Reeves's earliest experience on the stage was as a boy in the crowd of a Princeton University production of *The Yeomen of the Guard*. See what you can find.)
48. Name all the melodies used in the overture to *The Yeomen of the Guard*.
49. Dream Cast: We all have ideas of how we would like to see certain operas presented, or wondered how a role if it had been played by a particular actor or singer (or combination). To that end, pick one of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, and list the cast *you* would like to see in these roles. Anachronisms, or performers who could never have performed together, are acceptable. Explain the reasoning behind your choice of cast.
50. How many positions does Pooh-Bah hold? List them to prove your answer.

BONUS QUESTION: What significant similarity is there between the films *Topsy-Turvy* and *The Girl Said No*?

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Well, we're working at clearing through the material we have for another issue; but don't let that stop you from submitting anything: there are all sorts of interesting things going on that S/A Cole misses. In any event, please do keep in touch! The *Nonsense* is only as good as the material our members provide! And did you recognize the introductory quotation? If not, don't feel badly. It isn't G&S, but G&C. It's from Gilbert and Cellier's work *The Mountebanks*: the opening lines of the Actors' song, which they sing after having been turned into automatons. While the MGS hasn't quite come to that, the new computer has, like Nita and Bartolo, had some trouble adjusting to its new condition. But it's learning.

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