

## Prayer

Through your faith, Lord, beauty, love and mercy. So, Amen.

## YOUR VIEW

### About language at the opera

To The Editor:

I am writing in response to Loretta G. Saul's letter, printed in *The Sun* Nov. 5, 1985, concerning the controversy over English language versus original language opera. She was responding to a letter by Lorette Whitely titled, "Opera's English Missed the Point." Mrs. Saul also missed the point.

Ms. Whitely did not claim that "knowing a second language" would "have helped the English-speaking people aboard the Achille Lauro." She did state that, "We can see by the attack on the Achille Lauro that all the world does not hold English-speaking people in great regard."

Mrs. Saul is an experienced opera-goer, and one wonders why she felt it necessary to annoy her neighbor to ask what the singer said. Every opera lover knows to do his homework before attending an opera — listen to a recording while following the libretto — so at the live performance he will know exactly what is going on, never needing to disturb his neighbor.

"Tosca" is a tragedy and there is absolutely nothing humorous about Baron Scarpia, who is bent upon rape, torture and murder. There is some humor in "Tosca," but it comes in the first act. The acrobat is a comic character in any language. Also, a delightful moment transpires when Tosca seeks to embrace Mario before the statue of the Virgin and he reminds her that moments earlier she had refused his embrace in the same spot, with the admonition that it was improper to kiss there. Tosca answers his teasing by asserting that Mary would understand.

The Colorado Opera Festival should NOT "be commended for its fine translations, year after year." I attended the C.O.F. performance of "Tosca" and was so disap-

pointed by the jarring and ungainly English that I vowed never to attend another translated opera. The new opera-goer who dips his toe into the water via English, will discover that the English cannot be understood anyway.

Innovative adaptations of operas to times and places other than those for which they are written belong in experimental theater workshops, not forced on the general public, as box office receipts prove. If artists and directors want operas in different settings, let them write their own and test their talents against those of Verdi and Puccini, rather than vandalize the works of these masters.

In every interview of every opera singer, conductor, critic or fan that I have ever read or heard, the interviewee tells how his love of opera was born because he grew up listening to the Metropolitan Opera broadcasts, or because his parents took him to the Met or an opera house in a foreign country — all original language opera. I became an opera fan by attending original language opera while living in Europe.

Coloradans are capable of appreciating original language opera. Opera Colorado dropped its English language performances because they couldn't sell tickets to them. Their original language performances are always a sellout. The singers the C.O.F. brings here are trained to sing opera in its original language. The C.O.F. chooses excellent operas, excellent sets, the best singers one can expect for this small city and charges big city prices. Must we settle for third-rate librettos?

Mrs. Saul is indeed to be pitied if she seriously pretends translated opera. She is missing so much! However, her close relationship with the Colorado Opera Festival leads one to suspect that her blind, illogical defense was motivated by misplaced loyalty or expediency rather than a genuine preference for English language opera. The possession of a record-

WHAT HAPPENED?  
DENVER? BEAT THE  
SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS?  
NOT A SNOWBALL'S  
CHANCE IN...  
IN COLORADO  
THIS WEEK



I HAVE SOME HIGHLY  
CLASSIFIED PROJECTS  
THAT NEED ATTENTION!  
ANY VOLUNTEERS?

AAAK! PUT  
MY HAND DOWN!



AND NOW, P  
GOVERNMENT  
WE HAVE, F



ing of "Fidelio" in German, or "Tosca" in Italian, spoils one forever for the translation.

Madeline Millard  
Colorado Springs

### Tax reform can stop urban sprawl

To The Editor:

In recent weeks, there has been much comment on urban growth in the Pikes Peak region as a cause of controversial annexations.

Whatever might be the pros and cons of urban growth, it is not the primary cause of city annexations of surrounding territory. Where 42 percent of land within a city such as Colorado Springs lies vacant, it is not urban growth but urban sprawl, that induces annexations and the bitter controversies surrounding them.

Urban sprawl, by which development leapsfrogs over acres of empty land, is the factor that pushes urban boundaries out far beyond the limits that would normally be reached if only population growth were involved. Because of urban sprawl, cities must support unreasonably extended utilities, police and fire services, streets and highways stretching over an underpopulated tax base; and are under immense compulsion to seize all adjacent populated areas in order to somehow make up for their costs.

What causes urban sprawl? Primarily, where land is suitable for building, it is land speculation that causes urban sprawl. Land speculation occurs when people secure land and hold it for later increase in price, thus preventing development. They perform no public service, such as is indeed performed by people who build on

and truly develop their property.

The elimination of land speculation and the stimulation of building and improving — in other words, the ending of urban sprawl — depends on reform of the property tax.

One part of the property tax is beneficial, though often based on assessments that are far below legal levels. That is the part that falls on land values, and should be increased, thus encouraging landowners to either build and improve or to sell their lands to others who will.

The other part of the property tax is pernicious. That is the part that falls on buildings and other improvements, and should be reduced or abolished, thus encouraging people to build and improve.

This reform, now adopted by seven Pennsylvania cities as a result of permissive legislation in that state, is what all Colorado cities need in order to end urban sprawl and controversial urban annexations.

James L. Bussey  
Mantion Springs

### Rouser details won't be known

To The Editor:

In response to the letter which appeared on Nov. 5, 1985, and other editorial comments and cartoons which have appeared lately in *The Sun*, I wish to make clear the circumstances under which the Department of Social Services must operate with regard to child protection. We are all

sorry that Mya Rouser suffered and died. However, contrary to popular belief, it is rarely the system or any individual who is at fault when such tragedies occur.

A true picture of the depart-

## Colorado Springs Sun

CASCADE AT COLORADO

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