Hoffmann draws deserved 'bravos'

IF anyone has any doubts that the Australian Opera is and should remain our prestigious national company, then that person should see the rival of the 1974 production of Offenbach's 'The Tales of Hoffmann' with which the AO opened its 1980 Sydney winter season on Saturday night.

Based on Tito Capobianco's original production, and with the marvellously evocative and atmospheric settings of Jose Varona, it was otherwise a completely Australian presentation with the entire cast from the company's resident

Actually, the principals were the same as when the opera was played in Canberra in 1975; but at that time the local cast was taking over a production which had launched Joan Sutherland's association with the Australian Opera and Joan Carden and Jennifer Bermingham had just assumed the roles which had been sung by Sutherland and by the French-Canadian mezzo. by the French-Can Huguette Tourangeau

Understandably, there was a tenseness as of everyone feeling their way, and the performances lacked the magic and impact they had in Sydney with Sutherland giving a brilliant performance as the four lost-loves of Hoff-

Now, more than five years later, there is a greater maturity and assurance throughout the whole cast, and this revival is a most gripping realisation of the musical and dramatic qualities of this wonderful, but still underrated opera. Indeed if one was to see this production and hear this singing in any opera house in the world one would not be disappointed.

Joan Carden was excellent in the demanding assumption of the four soprano roles — Olympia, Giulietta, Antonia and Stella — singing with confidence, power and great beauty of tone throughout and making a fine dramatic differentiation between the

IN BRIEF

2,669mpg in

economy run

SYDNEY: A world record of

2,669 miles to the gallon was set by

a 20-year-old Perth receptionist, as

Carol Darwin broke the old record of

Her vehicle, bicycle wheels attached

to a light frame, powered by a 10cc

model aircraft engine, was entered by Ralph Sarich, of Perth, designer of the

Sarich Orbital Engine. Carol is a recep-tionist at the Orbital Engine Company

Sponsored by Shell, the mileage mar-athon was run over ten 14.5-kilometre

ALP choice

Mr John Langmore, 40, a public

servant, was selected as the second Senate candidate for the ACT by the

ACT branch of the ALP at the week

end. He is president of the Belconnen

He beat the senior vice-president of

the ACT branch, Mr Bruce O'Meagher, and Mrs Jean Olley, for

the position. Senator Ryan has been endorsed for the first position.

Car hit tree

A 19-year-old man was admitted to

the intensive-care ward of the Royal

Canberra Hospital vesterday with head

injuries, after his car ran off the Federal

Highway, north of Watson, about 1.30am and hit a tree.

accident squad, on 497444, extension 463.

Electrocuted

Blake, 32, truck driver, was elec-trocuted when an overhead arm on his

truck struck power wires at the week-

Rural Press

Mr Hugh Macdiarmid is the new

president of the National Rural Press Club A woolbuyer for most of his

ofessional life, Mr Macdiarmid, of

Hughes, has published a wool-industry

Educator

A leading US wine educator, Mr

Seminars will be conducted over four

evenings for consumers and three morn

ings for the trade and industry in each city, except Adelaide where both func-

tions will be of three days duration.

Having been a grapegrower

winemaker and wine merchandiser Me

Cass is an authoritative person to talk

CORRECTION

A picture published yesterday showed Miss Elizabeth Middleton with

her father, Mr G. Middleton, of Kaleen.

before her marriage to Mr Terence Butler. The caption named the couple as Mr and Mrs Terence Butler. This

Bruce Cass, will be conducting Califor-nia wine seminars in Sydney, Adelaide

and Melbourne this month

about California wines.

was an executive's error

newsletter, Follicle, for six years.

TAMWORTH: Mr Gregory John

Anybody who saw the accident is asked to telephone Constable Phil New-ton, of the Australian Federal Police

branch of the party.

laps at an average speed of 25km/h.

1.684mpg, set by a British entry last

Warwick Farm yesterday.

Henri Wilden sang Hoffmann with

formances; perhaps at that time he had sion. But now his voice seems to have developed greater contrast of tonal quality and power, and he gave an

outstanding performance.
Raymond Myers was always outstanding in his singing of the four fantastic characters who are the physical em-bodiment, in different guises, of Hoffmann's evil genius: he seems to be singing better than ever, and the trio which concludes the third act, where Dr Miracle, Antonia and the voice of her dead mother (sung by Rosemary Gunn) are used by Offenbach in an emsemble which is the dramatic climax of the opera, was as thrilling a piece of singing as I have heard in the opera house for

a long time.
It deservedly brought a storm of applause and bravos from the first-night

Jennifer Bermingham was also in fine voice as Hoffmann's companion. Nicklausse, and Graeme Ewer again provided four delightfully humorous cameos as the four servants.

Because this opera calls upon three of the principals to each assume four different roles, it is uniquely demanding and particularly difficult to east satisfactorily. This present production overcomes that difficulty with brilliant

Perhaps the only real criticism that could be made of the first performance on Saturday night was that the orchestra under the direction of William Reid was a little sluggish in the first act; but the later acts were quite satisfactory, and the chorus singing, particularly of the men in the Prologue and Epilogue,

It is good that this brilliantly designed production — one of the outstan-ding achievements of the Australian Opera over the past decade — has been revived, and gratifying that it has been done so well. 'The Tales of Hoffmann' is well worth a trip to Sydney to see, and is certainly a fine opening to the



Joan Carden as Olympia in the Australian Opera's production of The Tales of Hoffmann.

A woman's work is never done, survey shows

A woman's work is never done, according to a study funded by the United Nations and other agencies.

The study was published last week by the Worldwatch Institute, an independent non-profit Washington organisation which analyses and focuses attention on global problems.

'Men, Women and the Division of Labour', by Kathleen Newland, says that unless men take on more household work, equal opportunity for women will turn

out to a recipe for overwork. The division which places most men in paid labour and most women in unpaid labour is break-

ing down, the paper says.

Nearly half the world's adult women are in the labour force

a category which excludes vomen who do only unpaid work The view, never very accurate,

that employment outside the household is a secondary role for women is therefore increasingly at odds with the facts.

Awareness of the major role that women play in the labour market is slowly beginning to

make its way into the arena of public policy. "One issue remains so un-touched that one can easily con-

clude that it represents the eye of the storm: the sharing of unpaid, household labour between men and women receives only a fraction of the attention given to equality in formal employment",

"If women are to take full advantage of newly won access to the formal labour market, men must increase their share of the essential work that goes on out-

"Ginerwise, equal opportunity for women will turn out to be a recipe for overwork".

The report says the most obvious way to reduce the employed woman's dual burden of paid and greater share of the housework and child care.

"It is easy to scoff at official exhortations for men to do more work at home, but the effect of such policies over time may outweigh their often negligible short-term impact", it says.

US uranium suit 'causes Arrests after robbery industry turmoil'

The Federal Government has filed a further brief in a US court claiming that the initiation and continuation of an anti-trust suit by the Westinghouse Electric Corporation had thrown much of the world's uranium industry into turmoil and was jeopardising

MUSIC

The Attorney-General, Senator Durack, said yesterday that the brief had been filed in the

Westinghouse filed the suit against a group of uranium companies which had allegedly formed a cartel to contro

Two masked, armed men held up service-station attendant at Jamison Centre, Macquarie, early on Saturday morning.

They forced the attendant to hand over the contents of the cash register.

The amount is not known.

The attendant was not injured. Police arrested two men, aged 20 and 21, who will appear in Canberra Petty Sessions today charged with armed rob

Assembly 'has little respect'

"It's obvious to anyone even faintly connected with the Assembly that it doesn't work", the leader of the Liberal Party in the ACT House of Assembly, Mr Leedman, said

"It has little respect from the Minister, the public service or the general community", he said.

Mr Leedman was commenting on the statement by the Minister for the Capi-tal Territory, Mr Ellicott, on Friday that the Assembly had not been of great assistance to him, and changes to way it operates suggested by Mr El-

"The Minister quite properly has to ignore 90 per cent of what it [the Assembly] recommends", he said. "For example, the socialist majority in the Assembly, on being informed that previous advice is not acceptable, promptly readvise the Minister in similar terms and expect him to change his mind. "With eight votes out of 18 Mr Vallee somehow believes that the Labor

Party has a mandate to govern Canberra.
"The Liberal Government quite

rightly ignores this pretention and the assembly is then brought into public "The Liberal Party Members of the

Assembly, seeing it fall so low in public esteem, have in recent months tried cooperating with the socialists as a cure

By JOHN SMALL

Hundreds in a seemly eisteddfod

dod, final choral concert; Canberra School of Music, Satur

■ HE original eisteddfod was apparently some sort of ancient Welsh institution at which ancient Welsh bards sat around doing bardic things like swapping epies and painting one another with woad

The modern Australian eisteddfod is a more seemly and highly organised affair; the concert that concluded the choral section of this year's national eisteddfod on Saturday night featured several hundred singers in about a dozen choirs from Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra,

The exact number of participants was hard to estimate because most choirs sang more than once, some of them were subsets of others, some

choirs had more than one conductor.

one choir, so that the steady procestooked something like a crowd scene staged in a revolving door.

The audience of some two or three

hundred consisted largely of peculiar-looking middle-aged people, and was very sensibly shunted over to one of the auditorium where it wouldn't scare the performers My last active involvement in an

eisteddfod was as a competitor in a solo vocal event. There were about a dozen competitors, including one very skilled and experienced singer. one younger singer with a lot of talent, a squad of also-rans (of whom I was one), and one unfortunate tone-deaf lady whose demolition of her chosen material was listened to forbearance by everyone else there. There was general agreement among the competitors that it was

really a two-horse race. But the adjudicator took a different line, and awarded the prize not to the ex-perienced artist or the developing talent, but to one of the also-rans who had sung his number in a kind bovine stupor which the adjudicator evidently took to be the expression of deep emotion. Irritated at this manifest injustice to the two best competitors, I gave up competitive singing.

Standards of performance and adjudication have improved since then.

None of the choirs that sang on Saturday showed any sign of being tone-deaf, all of them performed in quite acceptable standards, and some of them were very good indeed. As the results of the six competitions on Saturday evening appear below and as the competitors have already

had the benefit of the sensible, goodhumoured comments of the adjudicator, Dr Paul Paviour, hardly necessary to go into detail, except to mention - rather in-vidiously, because so much was so good - how much I enjoyed the Carlson Chorale's performance of a wordless piece by Kodaly

Apart from the singing and Dr Paviour's comments, the most memorable features of the evening were: The amazing pink 1930's ball gown

worn by one of the conductors, and the way it clashed with her choristers' bright red frocks; The energetic technique of the con-

ductor who looked from the back of the auditorium as if she was

killing a snake; nd the acceptably fulsome thanks extended to this august newspaper for its support, and in particular for the highly polished cup it gave as a prize in the open championship.

five-hour choral marathon

Results

A delighted audience willingly submitted to a choral marathon at the Canberra School of Music on Saturday night when eleven senior choirs sang 50 items for the 1980 Australian National Eisteddfod in a program that began at 7pm and ended just before midnight.

As the evening advanced the ad-judicator, Mr Paul Paviour, of Goulburn, and the choirs seemed to gain in momentum rather than flag

even though many choristers had been travelling since 5am and singing since midday.

Mr Paviour said that among the

choral items there were some truly unforgettable moments. The Carlson Chorale, of Hornsby, sang 'The Last of His Tribe', written for the group by Anne Boyd; this was a hauntingly beautiful work that suited the considerable abilities of the choir and contributed to its win-ning The Canberra Times Challenge

The 'Gloria' from Britten's 'Mass in D' was beautifully sung by the Ravenswood Senior Choir and contributed to its success in the Sydney Sun Challenge Trophy for the best school choir.

scriptor for high-school choirs: Ravenswood Scnior Choir 1, Cheltenham Girls' High School Choir 2. Vocal group: Sagetarius 1, Megan and Us 2, Cheltenham Girls' High School Madrigal Group HC. Jamior choral champings. Australian-Canadian Association Challeng Trophy for high-school choirs: Ravenswood

Ravenswood Senior Choir 1, Cheltenham Girls' High School Choir 2 Ladies open choral championship: Carlson Chorale (Hornsby) I, Linnet Girls Choir (Syd-ney) 2, Cheltenham Girls High School vocal

ney) 2. Chellennam Oliva Figur Schne
Ensemble HC
The Canberra Times Challenge Trophy for
the best choir. Carlson Cherale, Linnet Girls'
choir 2. Canberra Children's Choir HC.
Sacred choral. 18 and under Ravenswood
Schior Choir 1. Chellenham Girls' High
School 2. Canberra Children's Choir and Epping Boys' High School HC
Sydney Sun Challenge Trophy for the best
school choir. Ravenswood Senior Choir.
Adult choir Carlson Chorale I. Royal Military College Chorus 2. Schola Cantorum (Canberra) HC.

HAYDEN STATEMENT

Pledge to break oil giants

called yesterday for immediate Government action to break up the power of foreign-owned oil companies operating in Aus-

The Leader of the Opposi-tion, Mr Hayden, accused the multi-national corporations of ruthlessly exploiting motorists, service-station operators and the public.

And he gave "an unqualified commitment" that a Labor Government in its first year in office would establish an independent agency with a charter to break up the power of oil multi-nationals operating in

In a statement Mr Hayden said a Labor Government would also urgently enact legis-lation to curb oil-company manipulations of petrol retail out-

The agency's functions would be directed to establishing, regulating and enforcing a crude oil rationalisation scheme. It would also attempt to

license all oil refineries, terminals, depots and service sta-

The Federal Opposition and transfer prices of crude oil and determine prices for all petroleum products sold in Australia.

> "A Labor Government also will urgently enact legislation to curb oil-company manipulation of petrol retail outlets". Mr Hayden said.

"At present, service-station operators in all States are being severely squeezed by the oil companies. They are being exploited in the most ruthless manner. Many are being driven out of business by quite massive price discrimination

"The legislation I propose would prohibit direct retailing by oil companies and price discrimination by the companies against service-station lessees or dealers.

"Such measures would protect by law service-station operators from price manipulation, and would force oil companies to compete for their business. This in turn would allow real competition among petrol retailers, and would help to bring down petrol prices to

Immediate government ac-tion was needed to break up the

power of foreign-owned oil companies operating in Aus-

"These multi-national corporations are ruthlessly exploiting motorists, service-station operators, and the general public", he said.

"I have no doubt the way they conduct their predatory business operations in this country is detrimental to the national interest.

"For more than four years, the Fraser Government has ig-nored the findings of the Collins Royal Commission into the petroleum industry, reinforced by reports from the Industries Assistance Commission and the

prices justification tribunal. "These findings produced substantial evidence that the oil multi-nationals deliberately rig petrol prices in Australia and

conceal their real profits.

"Yet the Government does nothing to check this abuse of corporate power. Its record of servility to the big oil companies is a disgrace". Mr Hayden said Liberal poli-

cies preserved continuing high petrol prices, massive petrol-tax revenue, and soaring oilcompany profits.

Shortages from oil rig dispute

MELBOURNE: Eastern Australia faces serious petrol shortages and Victorians will be short of natural gas unless the Bass Strait oil rig dispute is settled this week.

Production from the rigs was slashed

to a minimum on Friday and there is enough only to keep the oil pipelines open so they will not block. An Esso spokesman said last night that almost 80 per cent of Australia's

oil production was now stopped.

Gas supplies can be guaranteed for

a maximum of only two to three weeks.
The Victorian Minister for Minerals
and Energy, Mr Balfour, said last night he would study the position today, and if needed petrol rationing could be introduced like that during the transport

workers' stoppage.

A spokesman for the Electrical
Trades Union, Mr Ted Turnbull, said
last night there were no talks planned for this week.

The dispute is over rostering and

leave allocations for maintenance men on the rigs. Other unions involved include the Amalgamated Metalworkers and Shipwrights Union, the Federated Enginedrivers and Firemen's Associ ation, and the Painters and Decorators

The Esso spokesman said it had been producing 10,000 barrels a day since Friday — compared with the normal 400,000 barrels.

Government holds lead in NT poll counting

Country-Liberal Party was still comfortably ahead of the Australian Labor Party when counting ended yesterday after Saturday's Legislative Assembly election.

Indications were to a decisive victory for the CLP, led by Mr Everingham, but ALP hopes for at least a return to the status quo began to rise as the outback vote slightly eroded the big early lead by the CLP. All votes other than absentee

and postal votes had been counted by 6pm yesterday. Authorities estimated that this left about 6,000 votes still to be counted and it is not likely that final figures will be known for about 10 days.

Some 53,000 voters were on the election rolls but it is not yet known how many voted.

The CLP percentage of the primary votes had dropped last night from a high of 52 on Saturday night to 48. The ALP's share had risen from 37 per cent on Saturday night to 41 per cent

The CLP surged ahead early when the urban votes came in but the ALP began to whittle this lead away yesterday when the outback vote, including many Aboriginal areas, trickled in.

Last night it appeared that the Government would hold 11 seats (11 in the old House). Two seats are borderline and there is a chance that the Government can

One of the close contests involved two women in the sub-urban seat of Fannie Bay. The former Lord Mayor of Darwin, Dr Ella Stack, was trailing her sitting ALP opponent, Mrs Pam O'Neil, by only a few dozen votes. But the ALP officials were confident that Mrs O'Neill would

hold the seat. In another close contest, in the seat of MacDonnell, the ALP candidate edged in front yester-day after trailing his CLP opponent late on Saturday night

Elsewhere the CIP either

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