

Argentina's Numero Uno

'Evita' misses Juan Peron

By now you would think everything about "Evita" had been written. The music, the stars, the secondary stars, the stand-ins, the long success at the Maseo Auditorium despite the recession — those have been covered exhaustively.

But something important has been left out. Juan, Eva Peron's husband.

In the musical adaptation of Eva's life, Juan Domingo Peron comes off as a nerd. He is shown as the winner of a banana republic's game of military musical chairs.

Evita, as Eva Duarte de Peron was lovingly known, is portrayed as the brains and heart and soul of Peron's regime (1946-55). When Eva dies of cancer in 1952 at the tender age of 33, you are given the impression Juan is too inept to survive as president of Argentina without her.

It isn't quite the truth.

AS HISTORY, "Evita" is otherwise fairly close to the facts. That is surprising because it is virtually an opera — everything is sung and there are almost no speaking lines.

In opera, one concentrates on the emotions as expressed in music, rather than in the hard facts. But "Evita" is even more than opera. It is multi-media, with old newsreels and photos being flashed on screen.

As a high school student, I had done a term paper on the Peron regime and its closing of Buenos Aires' largest paper, *La Prensa*. The films were almost spooky — like learning about Abe Lincoln and then seeing his blood-stained theater chair in Greenfield Village, or reading about Prince Hal and standing next to his tomb in Westminster Abbey.

A certain artistic license is taken in "Evita." Che Guevara, Castro's pal, appears as a narrator and sort of revolutionary conscience, like Jimmy Cricket, though he and Eva apparently never met.

BUT THIS column was to be about Juan, who is

Juan was hardly a nice guy, but he was more than the strutting, puta-hunting figurehead you see in 'Evita.'

portrayed as the inept spouse.

When I saw "Evita," I made an audience check. The audience was three-quarters women. That tells you something about the appeal of "Evita."

What the highly-detailed multi-media opera didn't say about Juan Peron is revealed in his entry in *Encyclopedia Americana*:

Born in 1895, Peron entered the army at 18 and "first came to prominence as the guiding spirit of the Grupo de Oficiales Unidos, a military clique organized in 1941. In 1943, as head of the labor secretariat, Peron became labor's champion by granting long overdue reforms, and its leader by placing his supporters in key union positions.

"He became, additionally, minister of war and vice president in 1944, but was compelled to resign on Oct. 9, 1945. Within a month he returned to power, and demonstrated his strength by calling a 24-hour general strike which paralyzed the nation.

"HE WAS ELECTED president of Argentina on Feb. 24, 1946, and inaugurated a regime which was strongly nationalistic. Basing his strength on concessions to labor and a powerful army, he attempted to make the country self-sufficient, economically, and brought the judiciary, educational institutions, press and radio under strict party control."

(At this point, let us observe that Peron met Eva in 1943 and married her secretly in 1945. She died in 1952.)

"Peron was elected to another term in 1951, but political repression, economic mismanagement and conflict with the church produced growing discontent." A series of military revolts in 1955, followed by heavy fighting in several sections of the country, forced Peron to resign Sept. 16.

In 1974, Peron returned to power and died in office in 1974. His third wife, Isabel, succeeded him but was overthrown in 1976.

Juan was hardly a nice guy, but he was more than the strutting, puta-hunting figurehead you see in "Evita."

Government workings

How do you explain it?

The more I read and watch TV, the more confused I get.

I look at no less than two newspapers a day and watch several TV newscasts and most TV news programs and I sometimes pretend to be an informed citizen.

Let me confess here and now, however, that I am more confused than ever.

I need someone who can interpret the mass of facts which barrage our lives on a daily basis.

Is it necessary to build more missiles to achieve peace? Does three-feet of dirt and a kitchen door make for a good backyard bombshelter? What good would come out of your bunker do if your whole backyard, your whole city, had been barbecued while you were in the bunker?

IN THIS age of computers — gads aren't they trying to sell us a computer for every home? — isn't there some way to put an information system together which can explain to the average informed citizen what in hell is going on? In government, at least?

On one hand, I read about school deficits, Wayne County deficits, city of Detroit deficits, state of Michigan deficits, cutbacks and wage concession talks. On the other, I see where most school teachers are approaching \$30,000 a year, Detroit trash collectors are making \$14 an hour, Wayne County secretaries are making \$25,000 a year and seemingly everyone connected with government is getting pensions paying 60 to 90 percent of their working wages.

Maybe it's all right to have the taxpayers footing the bills for these salaries, but I would like to see someone explain whether \$30,000 for school teachers is the right amount, or not. The school teachers that I have talked to in the past year always seem to be surprised at that figure, as if it is a lofty sum the likes of which they never had hoped to achieve. Perhaps it can be explained in relation to inflation and other wages, but I don't see anyone doing it.

I WOULD like to have someone tell me why industry pays secretaries \$12,000 a year and county secretaries can double that and work less time to boot, and get more vacation and fringe benefits on top of that.

I would like to know why it is that every legislator who gets arrested and convicted of a felony waits until the day before his peers are ready to kick him out of the honorable body before he or she resigns from office.

Further explain, if anyone can, why it is that the legislators convicted of extortion, graft and the like can receive more than adequate pensions a few days following their disgraceful resignations. Why doesn't the legislative bodies responsible for policing these atrocities at least make them wait until after they serve their jail time?

Give me some literature too, if you will, explaining why U.S. Congressmen have to give themselves a tax deduction amounting to \$12,000 to \$19,000 a year (depending on whose account you have read) shortly before the filing deadline for income tax returns. Some of them claim that the expense of maintaining a home in Michigan and paying living expenses in Washington is too much, they need to be able to deduct D.C. expenses.

THAT MAY BE, but nobody has explained it to me and I get more than a few pieces of mail from U.S. Representatives and Senators. None of the mailings I received mentioned the problem of living in the Capitol for a U.S. Congressman, each of whom receives a host of expense accounts and perks which would make the average oil sheik envious. In fact, I have been told that only one U.S. Representative from Michigan maintains a home in Michigan.

The list of questions I have is endless, but I find there's no one to ask. Everyone I think of asking has a vested interest in maintaining the status quo, or in advocating a position or policy. We need someone neutral, a select blue-ribbon committee comprised of people who can research and come up with answers.

They have to be people who do not need a bureaucratic job or business gain, who can give their time and effort without expectation of reward, advancement or political connection. Perhaps such a select committee can explain the various components of this ludicrous way of conducting our governments and explain it to us ordinary informed citizens.

What we need is a Committee to Make Sense Out of Government, a committee which will delve into the mysteries and will report back to us exactly what is going on. Any takers? Is this how Diogenes got started?



Bob Wisler



Tim Richard

533-0916 **Christos** Take out service available

FAMILY RESTAURANT
26999 B. Mile, 3 Blocks E. of Inkster
DINNER SPECIALS
4 p.m. - 9 p.m. Sun. - Thurs.
• Fish • Veal • Chicken • Spaghetti
Delmonico Steak • Belly Buster Omelette
Includes: Potato, Salad, Cole Slaw or
Cup of Soup, Homemade Bread \$2.99
Hours: Sun. 7 am - 11 pm, Mon. - Wed. 5:30 am - 12 pm
Fri & Sat 5:30 am - 3 am

BIG NEWS ABOUT IRA ACCOUNTS!

24% Annual Yield

On your savings when compounded monthly for 5 years at 16%. Ideal for IRA rollovers! Don't lose money on your savings... call or write today!

The securities are offered by offering circular only, available at company office, which explains "insured" and "secured," are for sale only to bona fide residents of the State of Michigan, and are not intended for re-sale to non-residents.

FIDELITY
(313) 559-6840
17520 W. 12 Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48076

New in Livonia!

WELDON'S PASTRIES

"Just Like Homemade"

19161 Merriman Rd.
Livonia, MI. 48152
471-1680
Carry Out Hot or Frozen
HOURS: 10-7 pm Mon. Thru Sat.

COUPON GRAND OPENING OFFER

Buy 3 Get 1 Free
Limit 1 Per Customer

COUPON GRAND OPENING OFFER

\$3.00 OFF ON A DOZEN LARGE ONLY
Limit 1 Per Customer

discover Michigan **Bill Stockwell**

DID YOU KNOW that early automotive wheels produced by Henry Ford's friend, John Kelsey, were spoke wheels made out of southern hickory wood? Detroit has been a wheel manufacturing center ever since Kelsey started them here in 1909.

OAKLAND UNIVERSITY
Division of Continuing Education

A CAMPUS CLOSE TO YOU
Seaholm High School - Cranbrook Institute

- Sociology
- Accounting
- Area Studies
- Field Botany
- Economics
- Business & Technical Writing
- Marketing
- Organizational Behavior
- Philosophy
- Psychology
- Law & Public Policy
- Labor-Management Relations

SPRING SESSION CLASSES
START MAY 4th

- REGISTER, PAY TUITION & FEES, BUY BOOKS THE FIRST NIGHT OF CLASS
- YOU NEED NOT BE FORMALLY ADMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY TO ENROLL IN EXTENSION CLASSES
- CLASSES TAUGHT CLOSE TO YOUR HOME

CALL TODAY FOR A CLASS SCHEDULE: 377-4010

Our collection of pearl strands are classics always but this week they double as terrific values.

SAVE 30% during our PEARL STRAND SALE

Now through April 24, choose the pearl strand you've always wanted and save 30%. Our collection includes cultured, baroque and Biwa pearls. Every one of them makes a lovely gift for someone special. Choker length sale priced from \$210. Matinee length from \$316. Gift-wrapped with our compliments. Use our convenient charge or we welcome American Express, Visa and MasterCard.

CHARLES W. WARREN
JEWELRY SINCE 1902

SOMERS I SMALL TROY, OHIO
NORTH AND - EASTLAND - WESTLAND - BIRMINGHAM - FARMINGTON - FARMINGTON - FARMINGTON - FARMINGTON

What's Cookin' at Silverman's
All You Can Eat Daily Specials

MONDAY
Veal Parmigiana Dinner.....\$3.50
Choice of soup or salad, potato, vegetable, roll and butter

TUESDAY
Fried Clams & Chips.....\$3.50
Coke Slaw and roll

WEDNESDAY
Spaghetti Dinner.....\$3.50
Soup or salad and roll

THURSDAY
Liver & Onions.....\$3.50
Choice of soup or salad, potato and roll

FRIDAY
Fish & Chips.....\$3.50
Coke Slaw and roll

TOWER 14 BUILDING - SOUTHFIELD
(Corner of Northwestern Hwy. & J. L. Hudson Drive)
Mon-Thurs 7 am - 9 pm
Fri 7 am - 9 pm Sat & Sun 8 am - 3 pm
Early Parking - Guarded Always on Duty 552-8360

34410 FORD RD. - WESTLAND
(Across from Coleman Magnet Club)
Mon-Sat 7 am - 11 pm Sun 8 am - 4 pm 728-1303

10 MILE and MEADOWBROOK - NOVI
(A & P Center)
Mon-Thurs and Sat 7 am - 9 pm
Fri & Sat - 10 pm Sun 8 am - 4 pm 349-2885