

Tilt!

# Singer Relaxes With Pin Balls

By MARJORIE MAJOR

Pin ball machines, hot dogs, and afternoon movies—these are the relaxations of an opera star; at least they are Nino Martini's.

"These American salads, though, with cheese and dressing, and the marmalade, or whatever you call it, ugh," he grimaced descriptively.

"Why, yes, I'm a citizen," the tanned, smiling tenor said, "and I may be drafted any time, I don't know very well." His accent is pronounced and the words come out in strange combinations so he talks "with my hands also, too," he explained.

### Smokes

Mr. Martini relaxed in his chair and lit a cigarette. "I have smoked ever since I was 12. I'm afraid to ask if it hurts my voice." In answer to the stock question, "What is your favorite opera?" Mr. Martini replied that he likes "La Boheme" and "The Barber of Seville" because "one is all passion and fire and in the other one I can pretend to get drunk all through the second act."

"It's a funny thing about singing; sometimes I get so wrought up in a role, I could kill myself, almost, as the character I am playing." He pushed back his black hair, just frosted with silver at the temples, "and there's another thing—I don't think an artist has any business to be temperamental; when he is singing, yes, but when he is off stage he is just another person, no one special. Temperament is most evident when artists are scared, or feel inferior."

### Swing

Mr. Martini has brown eyes which seemed a little tired when the modern tendency to swing the classics was mentioned. "Oh, it's not such a very nice idea, the funny, stupid words they put to such beautiful music seem out of place to me."

Asked if he remembered his concert here five years ago for Junior Weekend, he said yes and "didn't I sing to some girl in a pink dress?" The girl was the Junior Weekend Queen, Betty Pownall, and he sang to her at the Alpha Chi Omega house.

### Potential Athlete

"I wanted to be captain of a soccer team when I was very young, in Italy; it is just fate that I am a singer. In fact, everything I have done in my life has been mostly fate. Married? Why, I might get married tomorrow; who knows?"

With one home in New York and another in California, he prefers California. "The climate is like Italy, sometimes," he said. He would like to return to Europe to "take a look," but since he became a citizen, 14 years ago, he would rather stay here. "Don't ask me what I think of Mussolini," he warned, "because I won't say."

When asked about his listeners, "I like people who are responsive, people who could kill me when I am bad, and make me God for a night when I am good. But anyway, an artist is just a man trying to sell something—good music."

S. W. Edgecomb, horticulturist on the extension staff of Iowa State college, has resigned to become associate professor in plant science at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg.

Prof. Florence Billig of Wayne university, who is supervisor of exact science in Detroit public schools, has been elected president of the National Association for Research in Science Training.

## Hopkins Will Preview Piano Recital on KOAC

KOAC will present George Hopkins, professor of music, at 8:30 this evening on the "Education Speaks" series. Mr. Hopkins will make a preview of Leone LaDuke's piano recital to take place on April 15.

Dr. Theodore Kratt, dean of the music school, was originally scheduled to appear on the radio program, but his talk was cancelled because of choral union classes at 7:30.

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