

Residents are in 'Superstar' at Clarenceville

By SHERRY KAHAN

The generation gap will dissolve this weekend in the auditorium of Clarenceville High School, Livonia, in a loud, thumping burst of rock music.

As the curtain rises on the religious rock musical, "Jesus Christ Superstar," several middle-aged members of the Redford Symphony Orchestra will be working over their strings with the same fervor the younger musicians will be bringing to their guitars and drums.

The performances, presented by a group called the New Majority, will be at 8 p.m. March 3, 4 and 5. They will be given again March 23 and 24, at the same time.

"I like the music," said violinist Carol Taylor of Southfield.

Then in what must be the musical understatement of the century, she added: "It's different from playing in the symphony. It's a different type of feeling. You let your hair down. Your foot taps. It's fun to play with the young. It keeps you young."

Celloist Carol Bracko, also of Southfield, notes that "Jesus Christ Superstar" has an exciting score, and there is great enthusiasm in the group. She has found there is nothing like having mother performing in a rock group to rivet the attention of her children on her musical career.

"They come to almost every performance," said the celloist who has played in other religious rock musicals put on by the New Majority. "But they don't go regularly to hear the symphony."

JANET CHABAN of Redford Township finds that working with this energetic group of young people is "very exciting."

She said: "I had to get used to the commotion of working on something in which young people are involved, as opposed to the structured symphony setting."

The young people are indeed involved. For six years the New Majority has been able to count on the feeling of commitment of its members to produce several musicals, including "Godspell" and "Truth of Truths." The organization includes young adults from 16-22, and is affiliated with St. Valentine Catholic Church in Redford Township.

Joan Lepper is the deanna, shepherdess and adult matriarch that holds the youthful bricks together.

For "Jesus Christ Superstar," she is officially producer. But she also could be called head seamstress—she recently whipped up a purple robe for Pontius Pilate.

"It makes him look magnificent," she said with a laugh.

Mrs. Lepper also sells tickets, attends every rehearsal and recently

roamed through town searching for a bathing suit for King Herod.

A bathing suit for King Herod? Easy there, remember this play is about as modern a version of the Bible story as you could find. Herod wears the suit in order to be suitably dressed for the challenge he flings to Jesus: "Prove to me that you're no fool, and walk across my swimming pool."

FORMER WESTLAND resident Bill Leonard, who now lives in Garden City, beat his drums several years with area bands before joining the Navy. In this play he likes the chance to read a score rather than simply play by ear.

"You have to be on your toes," he said, "and watch the conductor."

The performers have many reasons for faithfully participating in weeks of rehearsals before the show goes on. Bob Hill and Jim Bates, electric guitar and bass guitar respectively, are involved because, as Bates says, "Music is what I like, and I'm happy when I'm playing with my friends."

THE MAN WHO plays Jesus knows that many of the cast are there for the fun of putting on a play or because they have theatrical interests or ambitions.

"But we feel this is not just entertainment," said Jim Canham Jr., son of Redford Township District Judge Jim Canham Sr. "It conveys a message."

This 21-year-old former Catholic Central High School student wears a white robe and also carries on his shoulders the heavy responsibility of making Jesus believable.

"It is not the easiest role to play," he admitted. "I am playing him as just another man, with an air about him of being more than an average man."

Chuck Christian, a Redford Union graduate, is finding no trouble playing the role of Judas. He has played it in other rock musical productions.

"My friends think I have the appearance of a darker kind of character," he said. "Until they get to know me they think I'm a mean old dude."

Christian, who is also sound director, talked about why the actors are there.

"I can't say we are doing it just for him," he said, referring to Jesus Christ. "But we feel him there. We start rehearsals with a prayer."

Dennis Childs, who plays King Herod as a comic part, enjoys the chance to be singing. Dan Sereno of Livonia, not too long ago a member of the Bentley Concert Choir, is satisfied with the role he has of one of the apostles, Simon Zealotes.

"He's a rowdy apostle," he pointed out.



Dracula

Dapper Louis Jourdan takes a turn as the Prince of Darkness in "Count Dracula" at 9 p.m. Wednesday on Channel 56. The following two parts will be shown at 10 p.m. March 8 and 15. The BBC program will be shown in its entirety during the Channel 56 Festival '78 Marathon at 12:30 a.m. March 19. Veteran actor Frank Finlay also stars in the horror classic as Professor Van Helsing.

'I may be small...I'm not small to me'

By MARGARET MILLER

Doug Taylor of Birmingham is a basketball freak.

He loves to play the game with friends at Rooper school, and he's watched professional and college games on television.

But Doug knows he's never going to shoot up suddenly and become a Bob Lanier. He's 11 years old, and stands just a little taller than his 3-year-old brother.

Doug is receiving hormones, and his mother, Barbara, hopes he'll someday attain the height of five feet. Described as an intra-uterine dwarf, he has the growth problem most likely to be helped with special treatment.

Laura Chase of Westland is 7 and the size of a 3-year-old. She comes from a family of short-statured people, and there are some indications that she also has a condition known as hypochondroplasia, a long word that could mean little more growth can be expected.

But Laura has told her mother, Theresa: "I may be small to other people, but I'm not small to me."

DOUG AND LAURA are just two of

the little people in the metropolitan area whose parents have joined together in the greater Detroit chapter of the Human Growth Foundation.

The foundation wants to raise public awareness to the fact that more than half a million children in the United States are just not going to grow normally and, more importantly, with raising funds for research to help these youngsters.

Two activities coming soon point to these two goals. The chapter will sponsor, at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, in Children's Hospital of Michigan, a lecture by Dr. Eugene V. Perrin on the topic "Meanwhile, Back at the Womb—Growth Retardation."

Dr. Perrin is professor of pathology at Wayne State University and director of the Detroit hospital's histopathology department, and his talk will be open to all interested in knowing what causes retarded growth.

And a week later, on Feb. 26, the chapter will stage a fundraiser hockey game at the Royal Oak Ice Arena, with the arena and teams from the South Oakland Hockey Association and the Adam Community League donating ice and time to benefit the cause.

The organization also is looking forward to hosting a national convention for 22 other chapters around the country.

SPECIAL EMPHASIS is being given by chapter parents, President Barbara Taylor and her husband, Stanley, and Richard and Teresa Chase, vice-president and publicity chairman, to promoting awareness of a bill that State Rep. James Delfabaugh (R-Bloomfield Township) has introduced in the Michigan legislature.

"The bill facilitates the procedure for removing the pituitary glands of accident victims at the time of autopsy," Mrs. Taylor explained.

The pituitary gland is the source of the hormones of the kind Doug receives, for many short people the only hope of growth.

"But there's no way to get it except from accident victims," she said, "so there never has been enough to go around to all who could use it."

"Doug's treatments started a short time ago, because that was when the hormone was made available to him. But studies have shown that the earlier it is started, the better the chance of

success, so it's vitally important to get a larger supply."

MRS. CHASE realizes that particular hormone may never be of help to Laura, but she puts great amounts of energy into the foundation work because she wants to see other research done and public awareness raised. "It's funny to say," she mused, "but that song 'Short People' probably has done a lot in that direction in spite of its put-down tone."

"These children do well and accept their situation. We teach Laura to do her best at everything. But it's so important that more people understand the plight of these children and help them reach their potential."

Growing tall, Mrs. Chase suggested, is something usually thought of as an American norm—"like apple pie."

But for those like Doug and Laura who can't grow tall, the next best thing is knowing people care and are willing to help them in their plight.

Those interested in more information about the Human Growth Foundation, greater Detroit chapter, can write to Box 888, Madison Heights 48071, or call Barbara Taylor at 642-8626, or Teresa Chase at 728-2459.

CYO's cheerleading tournament slated

One of the happiest events on the Catholic Youth Organization's sporting calendar, the annual cheerleading tournament, has been scheduled for Saturday, March 11.

The competition, now in its 12th season, will begin with the eighth grade girls preliminaries at five arch-diocese locations. The sixth grade girls, who are planning a separate competition for the first time, will crown their champion in a single program, also on March 11.

The cheerleaders cheer for everybody else, but who cheers for the cheerleaders? This is the question that impelled the CYO to inaugurate the first cheerleading tournament in the archdiocese in 1967. The event became an overnight success and has been

widely adopted by other schools throughout Michigan.

Teams are judged on appearance, skill and snap with which they execute cheers and on the routine's difficulty and precision.

The tournament started in the 1960s with about 30 teams. Last winter, 111 squads took part, including about 20 sixth grade groups. This year sixth graders will make their one-night stand at Bishop Foley High School in Madison Heights at 1 p.m.

Preliminary eliminations for the eighth-grade teams will be at 1 p.m. at Assumption Grotto, Servite, St. Robert Bellarmine and St. Clement schools. All starting times are 1 p.m. The championship finale will be presented at Bishop Foley High School at 1 p.m.

Author slated as speaker

Harriet Sarnoff Schiff, author of "The Bereaved Parent," will speak at Congregation Beth Shalom Sisterhood's annual education day on March 27.

There will be a continental breakfast at 10 a.m. at the synagogue, 14601 Lincoln in Oak Park. The opening session will be at 10:30 a.m. Luncheon will be served at noon followed by an afternoon session of reactions to the presentation.

Reactors will be Rabbi M. Robert

Syme and Cantor Samuel Greenbaum, followed by an open forum.

"Death...How to Live with It" is the title of the annual education day. Charna Yellen, vice-president of education, is coordinator for the event, and Thelma Prussack is chairwoman.

Charge for the day will be \$5 including lunch, or \$2.50 for the morning session only.

Reservations should be made with Ms. Yellen at 968-1582 or Ms. Prussack at 855-2129.

Women invited to taste and see

The Farmington Neighbors Club repeat its "Taste and See" afternoon of luncheon, style show and card playing to benefit the Farmington Community Center. The event is set to begin at 10:30 a.m. March 15 in the center.

The format circles around the members' favorite salads and desserts, served buffet style. After tasting and seeing, guests may request the recipe. This is followed by informal card playing of fashions coming from Be Co. Lynn's Coiffures and Fashions; then a

session of card playing.

Guests who wish to play cards are encouraged to reserve tables in groups of four. Special tables will be set up for non-players.

General chairman for the event is Marilyn Yause. Her committee is made up of Jean Hoffman, Ellie Petroff, Marge Ryan, Jennifer Bailey, Jean Telford, Bern Smith, Betty Parks, Bea Haines, Connie Blazek, Shirley Thill, and Gloria Butt.

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