

# Open house launches new Womencenter at OCC

By LORAIN McCLISH

Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus will hold an open house for its new Womencenter Monday and Tuesday, Nov. 20-21. Hours are 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and 6-10 p.m. Monday, and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Tuesday. The open house will introduce the community to the new staff, Women-

center's services and its new Peer Counseling Program. Visitors are invited to browse through the resource materials, partake of free refreshments and learn about the programs offered. Peer counseling is available free to all campus and community women. The counselors are OCC students trained to assist women who are seeking to find solutions to individual

everyday problems. The philosophy is that if a woman has the chance to talk about her problem with a peer counselor and get some fresh feedback, options, and alternatives, she can begin to work out her own future. The staff is made up of Sadie Davis, a sociologist, Yvonne Robinson, a student, and Mary White, a guidance counselor.

They have access to referral information on all metro area community services.

AT 11 A.M. EACH day, and at 7 p.m. Monday, visitors are invited to sit in on the film showing of "With Babies and Banners."

Produced by the UAW, the documentary highlights women's roles in the Flint sit-down strike of 1937 and the

formation of the Women's Emergency Brigade of the UAW.

It tells about the changes which took place in the lives of the women involved as they broke out of their homes and organized in support of the strike. It will be accompanied with a talk by Jack White, a union activist.

At 1 p.m. each day, Laurie Akeros, a counselor from Womancare Health Center in Lathrup Village, will lead a

discussion following the film "Taking Our Bodies Back."

At 2 p.m. each day a film called "Rape Culture" will be shown, followed by a speaker representing Detroit's Rape Crisis Center.

All events will take place in the campus's Building J.

Womencenter's new phone number is 476-9400, ext. 509 and ext. 266.



## Farmington Observer Suburban Life

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## 'Arsenic and Old Lace' staged at Mercy High

What does an all-girl school do about casting a play that has at least some male roles?

Ronald Sill, drama coach and head of the speech department at Our Lady of Mercy High School, tried to solve the problem by posting a casting call to co-ed and all-boy schools in the area. Then he sat back and hoped for the best at audition time.

In the case of "Arsenic and Old Lace," Sill cast one girl in the role of Teddy, who as one of the leads in the 1941 Broadway hit, thinks he is Teddy Roosevelt blowing his bugle and leading his Roughriders in a charge up San Juan Hill.

Teddy is played by senior Carol Langan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Langan, of Southfield. Last year she took the lead role in "Harvey" at Mercy.

"ARSENIC AND OLD LACE" will be presented at 8 p.m. Nov. 17 and 18 in the school, on Eleven Mile and Middlebelt.

The two other lead roles in the play, that of Abby and Martha Brewster, are played by seniors, Molly Norris, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alban Norris, of Detroit, and Mary Altenburg, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Altenburg, of Farmington Hills.

Molly's former credits include "Hello Dolly," "Harvey," "Finian's Rainbow" and "Up the Down Staircase," all at Mercy, and "You Can't Take It With You" at Catholic Central. Mary appeared on Mercy's stage in "Finian's Rainbow."

Both girls are members of the school's "Actor's Workshop," a touring company which stages "Winnie the Pooh" for young audiences throughout the metropolitan area.

AT AUDITION time, three males won parts in the play. Bill Bolczuk is a member of the Dearborn Civic Players; and Chris McLean and Pete Carroll are both students at Redford Catholic Central.

But six male roles were converted to female roles.

Cast members from Farmington Hills are Marianne James, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard James, of Skye Drive; and freshman Kathy Kelen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Klein of Westmeath.

Cast members from Birmingham are sophomore Julie DePorre, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pierre DePorre, of Raven, and junior Linda Wagner, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wagner, of Wilshire.

Junior Brigit Kennedy is from Novi and sophomore Jeanne Kolinski is from Detroit. Senior Mary Jo Mittelstaedt is from Royal Oak. SHERRY ACCESTURA, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Muzio Accettura, of Farmington Hills, is the student director.

Advance tickets available at the school are \$2 for adults or \$1.50 for children. Tickets will be \$2.25 at the door.



The sweet little old ladies in old lace are Molly Norris (at left) and Mary Altenburg, who take the roles of the Brewster sisters in Our Lady of Mercy High School's production of "Arsenic and Old Lace." With them is Southfield resident Carol Langan, who thinks she is Teddy Roosevelt. The play will be produced Nov. 17-18. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

## Wanted: More Big Brothers to fill the gap

By SHERRY KAHAN

"I like to think I'm helping," said Lowell Gumbert of Farmington, who is a Big Brother to Russell Nobriga of

Livonia and Ronald Pascoe of Redford Township.

Gumbert is a bachelor retired from the Ford Motor Co. parts depot in Livonia. "In a way, they are a sub-

stitute family for me, the family I never had," he added.

"Big Brothers are not supposed to be Santa Clauses," pointed out Linda Oja of Westland. "They are not supposed to give expensive presents. They should be friends."

She is Big Sister to Karen Herrmann of Belleville. Karen feels she can talk to her big sister if she gets yelled at in school. "She's nice and we have fun," Karen said.

Dan Kennedy, who works in

Plymouth branch of the Detroit Bank and Trust, and his Little Brother, Jody McCormack of Redford Township, go back 10 years. "We've had a beautiful 10-year friendship, and it is continuing now that he is in college," said Kennedy.

U.S. CENSUS Bureau figures show that more than 11 million children under 18 reside in single-parent homes. That statistic provides a reason for being a Big Brother or Big Sister, which is seeking more volunteers and inviting those interested to an open house at 8 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 16, in the YWCA of Western Wayne County, 2279 Michigan.

The Western Wayne County division of the program, which includes in its ranks Lowell Gumbert, Linda Oja and Dan Kennedy, wants to make available to more children the benefits that come when a busy adult takes time out to care.

More than 200 boys in this area currently need Big Brothers, a spokesman for the division said, so men are especially invited to the open house. There is no shortage of big sisters at this stage, but that could change any time.

ASK SHEILA Nobriga of Livonia about the program and she'll tell you that "it's fantastic."

She is divorced, so was delighted when a "stable male image" like Lowell Gumbert came along to be a Big Brother to her 11-year-old son, Russell. "Lowell takes a genuine interest in all his activities," she said. "When he plays soccer, Lowell is there rooting for him. After soccer they come home and I make Sunday dinner. He took both my kids trick-or-treating. He is such a gentle person. I like having him around. He's a good influence on all of us."

"Russell has no grandfather in his life, so Lowell gives us a family feeling. We don't have family around here, but with Lowell we have an extended family."

"One of his friends told Russell that it's better to have a Big Brother than a father. His father doesn't do anything with him."

She believes that contact with Gumbert has made Russell more outgoing, and their jaunts together have taken him to places he wouldn't have seen otherwise.

IN RUSSELL'S OPINION it's fun to have a Big Brother.

"I bowl and he comes to watch every time," he said. "I play soccer and he's always there. If I had a

father, he'd be at work. Big Brothers are better. He's someone I can talk to."

Gumbert's other Little Brother, Ron Pascoe, who is 12, gets help with his homework from his Big Brother, and goes to hockey games with him.

"Since I don't have a father, he's like a father to me," he said. "It's been nice. If I have any troubles, I can talk to him. He always listens."

Ronald's mother has remarried, and to give his new father a chance to

make contact with the boy, Gumbert may see him a little less in the future.

"Jody and I were matched up very well," observed Dan Kennedy. "The organization hopes we all will build a relationship that will be on-going. So I filled in as his father at father and son events, and we did everything together, camping, sports and attending church and school functions."

"What did I do for him? I guess I gave him an adult male to relate to, to tell him what's wrong and right, what a man should be like."



Big Brother Lowell Gumbert is flanked by his little brothers Russell Nobriga (at left) and Ronald Pascoe. The Farmington resident will be in Western Wayne's YMCA for the open house when he and other Big Brothers will explain the workings of the program to new volunteers.

## Bowditch wins church's highest award

Kevin E. Bowditch, son of Mr. and Mrs. William A. Bowditch, 3535 Muir Cove, Farmington Hills, received the Pro Duo et Patria (God and Country) award in ceremonies conducted in Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

The Eagle Scout was given the Lutheran church's highest scouting award from Rev. Rupert A. Saint Pierre during a Sunday worship service.

Bowditch is a graduate of North Farmington High School. He is now a sophomore at Concordia Lutheran College, in Ann Arbor, enrolled in the pre-ministerial program.



KEVIN E. BOWDITCH

## Oakway opens season Nov. 19

The opening concert for Oakway Symphony's sixth season features pianist Ilse von Alphenheim in a program including the works of Handel, Haydn, Bartok, Barber and Wagner. The concert will be given at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19 in Mercy High School's auditorium on Middlebelt and Eleven Mile.

The Oakway Symphony, under the direction of Francesco Di Biasi, will conclude the afternoon program with Wagner's "Overture to Die Meistersinger," with four trumpeters in costume as they appear in the full operatic production.

Ms. von Alphenheim, who is Mrs. Antal Dorati in private life, studied under Franz Ledvinka and Winifred Wolf at Salisbury Mountain. It was there, at the age of nine, she made her first public appearance playing the Haydn D Major.

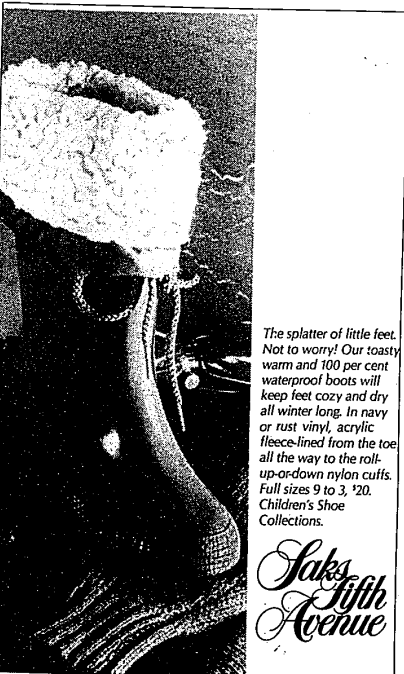
She is scheduled to appear four times with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra this season. Her specialties include Mozart and Haydn, and she is reputed to be the only pianist in the world who has performed all the Haydn concerti, which is included within her recording repertoire.

In 1975, in a world premiere, Ms. von Alphenheim performed Maestro Dorati's "Piano Concerto" in Washington, D.C.

OAKWAY SYMPHONY is supported, in part, by the Michigan Council for the Arts.

Advance tickets for the concert are available at Foxboro Northland, Westland and Oakland, Royal Music in Royal Oak and Madonna College and Hammett Music, both in Livonia.

Tickets are also available at the door. General admission is \$5. Students and seniors tickets are \$2 each.



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