

Artist draws on history, ethnicity in his work

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

Although he draws heavily upon his Armenian heritage in his work, Kegham Tazian doesn't want to be pegged as an Armenian artist.

Like Chagall who drew what he knew best, his Russian Jewish villagers, Tazian, 41, wants to use his ethnic background to illuminate universal experiences.

He uses his background because it is a part of him and influences the way he views the world.

"It's not a gimmick kind of thing," said the artist who teaches at Oakland Community College, Orchard Ridge campus.

Instead, he wants to use references to Armenian culture to enhance the aura of mystery in his paintings. He is appealing to the viewer who wants more than a cursory look at a painting or a piece of sculpture. He wants to entice the viewer into taking a while to delve into the work.

For this reason he employs such devices as pieces of the Armenian alpha-

bet and hieroglyphics. These forms are used the same as any textured object. Sometimes they are only forms without any inherent message.

"There is no particular message in the letters," admitted Tazian. Tazian is a resident of Birmingham.

"THERE ARE very obscure messages, sometimes. I want to retain the intrigue of the person who wants to delve into a work beyond its surface value."

"I want to create a sense of the un- (Continued on page 6A)



Kegham Tazian (above) uses his Armenian background and sense of history to convey his feelings about situations and thoughts which are universal. The conviviality of the trio done in clay (inset) and the majestic head (far right) transcend cultural differences while harking back to another time. Both pieces are textured but the ridged surfaces in the bust's headpiece are made up of letters from the Armenian alphabet.



Staff photos by Randy Borst

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

AHHH FALL. With colorful leaves come the annual fundraisers for high school bands. Harrison High School band and orchestra students will sell citrus fruits until Nov. 30. The sale's proceeds will go toward purchasing new uniforms for the band. The uniforms are nine years old and will need replacing within the next few years. Take off the overlay, spats, hats and plumes and voila, you have the symphony and concert band uniforms. Students will be selling tree-ripened oranges and pink grapefruits. A small box, containing between 18-22 grapefruits will sell for \$7. A small box of 40-50 oranges will be sold for the same price. Large boxes of oranges and grapefruits will contain twice as much fruit and will cost \$13. For additional information, call Ray Zale at 477-0198.

FARMINGTON HILLS residents who think their home ought to be called historic should help themselves down to the city's council chambers at 8 p.m. Nov. 14 when the city's ad hoc historical commission will discuss the plans for a historic district. If you have been contacted by letter, you're invited to ask questions.

If you haven't been contacted but feel your home should be considered for its historic significance, architecture or social significance, come to the meeting. The city assessor will be there to answer questions about the new status of your historic home and your taxes.

SQUARE DANCE NEWS: The Student Government Council of Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge campus is sponsoring a square dance from 8-11 p.m., Nov. 9. Students, faculty and staff as well as members of the community are welcome. W. Abbot of Stockbridge, Mich. will be the caller. Friday's event will be in the lower level Rathskellar area of Tirrell Hall. Admission is \$2. Popcorn and refreshments will be available. For further information call the Student Activities Office at 476-9400 extension 500.

KEEP THOSE dancing shoes on, and flit from one dance to another. At 8 p.m., Nov. 9 at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church on 12 Mile east of Farmington Road, the Fancy Farmers of Farmington will have their Thanksgiving dance. Caller Chuck McClelland will do the honors. There is an admission charge with a reduced fee for students. Square dancing guests are welcome. For further information call Marge Carter (no relation to President Jimmy) at 477-2467.

THE BEL CANTO Ensemble, a group of vocal and instrumental artists, will perform at OCC Orchard Ridge at 8 p.m., Dec. 3. The Ensemble, under the direction of Sergio Pezzetti, is in its fourth year. It will be presenting a

program of sacred music which includes Handel's "Messiah", Bach's Cantata 57 and the Marcello Oboe Concerto.

QUICK, GRAB your kite with the key on it and the kids and hurry to Ben Franklin's speech at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 14 at Flanders Elementary School. Ben will discuss his life and times to the persons assembled in the school gym. There is no admission charge for the event sponsored by the school's PTA. Ben will be at the school by popular demand. There are some nights when Ben is really Ralph Archibald of Greenfield Village. And Flanders School can always be found at 32600 Flanders, off of Farmington Road. Just take the street until the dead end. If you're on the unpaved road, you've made the wrong turn.

HOW SUITE IT IS The Michigan Ballet Theatre, a performing company member of the Mid-States Regional Ballet Association, will perform its 12th annual rendition of the "Nutcracker Ballet." Performances are scheduled for 3 p.m., Dec. 1 and 2 at Mercy High School, 11 Mile and Middlebelt in Farmington Hills. Advance tickets are available at the Farmington Community Center, 474-8404, or by calling 851-6735. Tickets will be available at the door. Adult tickets are \$4; students and seniors, \$2. Special reduced group and benefit tickets are available for scouts, church groups, senior groups, etc.

These tickets are available for the Saturday performance only. Call 851-6735. The Michigan Ballet Theatre will perform excerpts from the ballet at the following malls:

- Twelve Oaks, Nov. 6 p.m. and 7 p.m., Nov. 16 p.m. and 7 p.m., Dec. 20. No admission charge.
- Orchard Mall, 15 Mile and Orchard Lake roads: 7:30 p.m., Dec. 2. No admission charge.

CONGRATULATIONS to Margaret McConkey of Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit, Farmington, who won \$500 in the national "Tell the Teller Sweepstakes." The contest was conducted by First National City Travelers Checks. Each week five tellers names are drawn and the winners receive a Mustang. Another 10 names are drawn and these persons receive \$500. Angles salutes you, Ms. McConkey: *****

THE MORMON CHOR will give a free concert at 7:30 p.m., Nov. 9 in the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Days Saints, 23190 West Nine Mile near Telegraph in Southfield. The choir has performed in benefits for Detroit's Orchestra Hall and is scheduled to perform next year in Salt Lake City, Utah.



YOU'RE INTO NAVY NOW—SO JAMES KENROB FOR DALTON HAS CREATED KNIMATES, a collection of navy and white coord-knits designed to appeal to the classicist in you. The seasonless shades. The sensational shapes. It all combines in these career-minded collectibles that carry you through the season in style. Shown left: Pointelle sweater, \$58. Silk-front skirt, \$53. Both in white. Right: Navy and white striped cardigan sweater, \$59. Salty white blouse, \$45. Navy silk-front skirt, \$53. All of easy care polyester. Misses' sizes. In The Woodward Shops, at Hudson's.

THE
WOODWARD
SHOPS
HUDSON'S