

Livonia Youth Symphony plays season finale

The Livonia Youth Symphony Society's Spring Pops Concert and Ice Cream Social will begin at 5:30 p.m. Saturday in Churchill High School, 8900 Newburgh. Originally scheduled for 7:30 p.m., the concert was rescheduled to allow more time for audience and participants to enjoy the ice cream, lemonade and coffee in the cafeteria following the performance. This season's final concert will involve nearly 300 young musicians in three orchestras.

The concert will open with the string orchestra under the direction of Judith Callier performing highlights from "The Sound of Music" and "I Whistle a Happy Tune" from "The King and I." Both are Rodgers and Hammerstein arrangements. Other arrangements of recent favorites to be performed are "Where is Love" from "Oliver" by Lionel Bart and "The Rainbow Connection" by Paul Williams and Kenny Asber. An original composition, "Dance Conversation" by Robert Frost will also be featured.

William Benson will conduct the concert orchestra in selections from "The Wizard" by Charles Smalls and "Jesus Christ Superstar" by Andrew Lloyd Webber. Also programmed for the intermediate group are Brahms' "Academic Festival" overture and the rousing "Stars and Stripes" by Sousa.

The final segment of the program will feature the symphony orchestra under Donald Lewsader with LYSS piano competition winners Elena and Theresa Mack. The young pianists will join the orchestra in a performance of Saint-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals," which also features solos from other members of the orchestra including principal cellist Susan Lim in the popular "Swan."

Tim Rakowicz, the orchestra's principal trombonist, will be soloist in "Blue Bells of Scotland" by Pryor. Rakowicz was the first prize winner in the LYSS scholarship competition last February. The program will conclude with the "Semiramide" overture by Rossini.

Tenn. The entire orchestra will perform concerts there on June 20 and 21.

Tickets for both the spring pops concert and the ice cream social are available at the door the night of the performance and by calling 464-7813.

Admission to the concert is \$4 for adults, and \$2 for children and senior citizens. The ice cream is \$1.50 including drinks.

Author details theories on educational reforms

By Shirlee Iden
staff writer

From principals to presidents, people with power are presiding over the curtailment of educational programs.

Gladys Hansen is swimming against that tide. Hansen, an educational reformer, filmmaker, lecturer and author, believes that children should begin their formal education in public schools at age 3.

"For one thing, this would help in the detection of physical and behavioral problems that are easier to correct at any early age," she said in a Southfield interview.

Hansen, who wrote "Violence in the Sandbox," will appear at Bookpeople in the Orchard Mall in West Bloomfield from 1-3 p.m. today.

She will answer questions about her educational theories as well as the book and will show a videotape she produced on early childhood education.

"Violence in the Sandbox" is a book that took its author several years to write. The title was the product of a brainstorming session with the publisher.

"No one up to now has developed expertise in the training of preschool personnel," Hansen said.

CHILDREN ARE BORN with curi-

osity and motivation, and when they get the proper nurturing, with an avoidance of punishment and blame, they don't lose these attractive, innate qualities, she said.

"Our failure to feed and educate carries a high price," the crusading educator said. "Pregnant mothers need good food and care as much before the birth as after."

Hansen contends we all raise our children pretty much the way we were raised because that's all we know.

Parents and teacher should avoid forming their own opinions about a quarrel between children. Instead they should help one child work it out with the other, she said.

"We expect too much of young children. We expect them to think the way we do, but they don't reach that stage until they're 7 or 8."

Very young children are so egocentric that if they hear thunder, they fear they've done something wrong, she said.

Every 3- and 4-year-old should attend a preschool, she said. "They can learn to get along with other children and develop skills necessary to learn to read and learn later."

GOOD PRESCHOOLS allow children to play in sand, dough and clay and get really dirty. "Children have to learn to be messy before they can learn to be neat."

If she had one wish about today's preschools, it would be to "throw out the untrained, bad staff people."

The government should subsidize mothers with skill in raising children so that they can stay home during their children's early years, she believes.

"The early years, the first three years, are the most important. Behavior and learning patterns are all set by then."

Hansen is extremely critical of today's teacher training practices — they lead to the production of babysitters

rather than educators, she said.

After earning BA and MS degrees from the University of California, Hansen did graduate social work studies at the University of Chicago. She also served a European internship as a member of the Study Abroad Program.

She was a delegate to the White House Conference on Children and has participated in other seminars and forums on early childhood education.

She has produced films and video tapes showing small children ways to deal with their emotions without resorting to violence.

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