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Borrowed buses bring hundreds to Mercy High for musical night out

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

When Mercy High School students staged their production of "The King and I" last weekend, blocks of seats had been partitioned off for audiences coming from the inner city and a host of schools and homes for seniors and the handicapped.

Larry Teevens, head of the school's music department, estimated that anywhere from 400-500 persons who might not otherwise have been able to get out for a night of music saw the dress rehearsals, the shows last weekend, or will be seeing one of the two shows set for this coming weekend.

Teevens rattled off names such as Community Living Center's group homes, St. Francis Boys Home, Vista Maria School for Girls, the Jeffreys Project and Sacred Heart Rehabilitation Center as among those in the growing list he contacts each time the school puts on a performance.

"Any school that puts on a play can do this. Any play group, any little theater group should be doing this for those who are confined or just can't find entertainment money," Teevens said.

TEEVENS believes that while a gift of 50-100 seats would not cripple any

production, he suspects most groups that could do this haven't taken it under consideration because the gift, in most cases, has to be accompanied with transportation.

"And that is not as difficult as you might suspect," he said.

"When we started inviting people from the inner city to see our shows we used the school buses. As the invitations started to spiral we started begging from any one around who had a bus. They are easy to spot, you know. And we found those bus owners to be extraordinarily responsive when we told them why we wanted to borrow their buses.

"Some nursing homes have their own buses and all they ask is what time should they be there.

"Now if we run out of buses and the agency or home doesn't have one, we just ask and we always find one with not too many phone calls," he said.

"And if we run out of seats, we set up extra chairs.

"It turns out to be a very little work that is received with great appreciation."

TEEVENS is known throughout the state as director of the Mercyaire's, a select group of singers and dancers from the school who give 40-50 performances a year.

"The Mercyaire's are more than just music," Teevens said. "Their performances reflect a giving act that is all part of the school's philosophy."

He stressed that the philosophy of outreach-giving is not something that is merely encouraged, but a requirement of all students in the school.

"It's part of their growing up, a part of their education, a part of their being aware of what's going on with the elderly and with the less fortunate," he said.

It was this outreach Teevens was carrying on with the Mercyaire's performances in nursing homes and in the inner city that brought him to St. Patrick's Center in the Cass Corridor.

"An intrinsic part of our performance is after the formal show when the girls go down into the audience and personally visit," he said.

While Teevens had been inviting small groups from Sarah Fisher Home, or group homes, or Oakland Training Institute to his performances ever since he formed the Mercyaire's, it was after that answer that he said he got into the "bus-begging business."



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**Larry Teevens
Mercy High School**

A FEW DAYS before dress rehearsal was scheduled for "The King and I" a call went out over Mercy High School's public address system for students to sign up as hostesses for their expected guests.

"With two dress rehearsals and four shows, we try very hard to have one hostess for each guest because we want our girls to get to know these people," Teevens said.

"They escort them, buy them a pop, see the show with them, talk to them,

get acquainted. Sometimes they will ride on the bus with them coming and going if that's possible."

Scheduling guests for the dress rehearsals is important to Teevens, events that are always reserved for the mentally handicapped.

"Some have very little attention spans and very often there is a lot of noise from those audiences which doesn't bother me. We keep right on whether they are moving about or coming or going or leaving," Teevens said.

"The important thing, whether or not they are comprehending what is going on, on stage, is that they are introduced to something different, enjoying the lights, enjoying the color, getting as much enjoyment out of it as they can."

"The King and I" continues at 8 p.m. Friday and at 3 p.m. Sunday in the school on the corner of 11 Mile and Middlebelt.

Tickets are \$3.50, or \$2 for those under 12 years, at the box office. Special rates are offered to seniors.

The search begins for new Miss Farmington

Applications are now available for local women interested in entering the 1983 Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant.

The 10th Annual Scholarship Pageant is open to women 17-24 years of age who have been residents of Farmington or Farmington Hills since January 1, 1983 and have never been married. One of the most popular events of the annual Farmington and Farmington Hills Founders Festival, the winner of the Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant will advance to the 1984 Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant, and possibly even go on to compete in the Miss America Pageant.

Contestants will be judged on personality, poise, talent, swimwear and evening gown presentations by a panel of qualified judges.

The women entering the contest will participate in special workshops and seminars prior to pageant competition, receiving instruction in personal grooming, talent presentations, and modeling and interviewing techniques. Several former Miss Farmingtons and Miss Michigans will be on hand to offer tips and personal advice based on their

own experiences in the scholarship pageant.

"Note the emphasis on Scholarship," said Director Patricia Failan. "Miss Farmington 1983 will receive scholarship money and wardrobe allowance as well as an assortment of other fine gifts. The first and second runners-up, in addition to the winner of the talent competition, also will receive cash prizes and gifts."

MISS FARMINGTON 1982 Roxanne D'Ascenzo, who was selected during last year's festival, will be competing in the Miss Michigan Scholarship Pageant June 11 in Muskegon. The Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant is an official franchise of the Miss Michigan and Miss America Scholarship Pageants.

Entry forms for the 1983 Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant, which will be staged Wednesday, July 27 in Vladimir's in Farmington, are available from the Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce, 23715 Farmington Road at Grand River (474-3440). The deadline for entering the Scholarship Pageant is Wednesday, June 1, 1983.

Romance writer named adviser

Farmington resident Marianne Willman has been appointed regional adviser for Romance Writers of America (RWA) by president Bobbie Jolly. Willman, who is the president and organizer of the Greater Detroit Chapter, will fill the adviser role for members in the states of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin.

The regional adviser is responsible for recruiting and assisting members, overseeing regional elections and the judging of one category in the Golden Heart-Golden Medallion Awards presented to deserving published and unpublished writers at the annual national conference.

Last year the RWA members held their seminar aboard the Queen Mary, permanently docked in Long Beach, Calif., and this year's conference is set for Washington, D.C. June 17 in the Mayflower Hotel.

Membership in Romance Writers of America is open to both unpublished and published writers who are interested in writing romantic fiction. Agents

and editors from the major publishing houses participate in seminars and workshops during the three day conference.

WRITTEN UNDER the name Marianne Clark, "Apache Tears," Willman's next release is due out in November for St. Martin's now Rapture Romance line.

She has also signed a contract with

the publisher for two more books. In addition, Willman is also on the current ballot for a position of the national board of directors of the 1,600 member association.

Romance Writers of America is a non-profit organization, dedicated to the promotion of romantic fiction and the support of other writers engaged in the field. The Greater Detroit Chapter

of RWA holds its meetings in the auditorium of Woodland Medical Center, located at 41935 12 Mile, adjacent to 12 Oaks Mall. The facilities are provided by Woodland Medical Center as part of their ongoing commitment to public service. Those interested in joining the organization or finding out more about the group are invited to phone chapter secretary Dorothy Renks, 563-8789.

Y lists summer offerings

The 1983 "Summer Recreation" for 6-12-year-old boys and girls begins June 20 in Northwest Branch YWCA, 29940 Grand River, and will be available in weekly and two-week sessions through Aug. 25.

The program is divided into two plans: Plan A designed for those needing a daily program meets 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., with parents having the option of leaving their child as early as 7 a.m. and picking them up as late as 6 p.m. Plan B meets three days a week 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. for two-week sessions which begin June 20, July 5, July 18, Aug. Land Aug. 15.

Plan A, (five days a week) accepts enrollment on a weekly basis. The fee for both plans is \$45 plus a yearly Youth-Membership of \$11.

Other youth programs offered throughout the summer include a Fun

Factory starting July 5, meeting on Tuesdays and including movies, games and swimming for \$1.50 per session;

Drawing and painting classes for 6-8-year-olds runs Tuesdays and Thursdays for three weeks beginning Aug. 9;

Gymnastics and tumbling runs for six-week terms on Thursday late afternoons starting June 9 and July 31.

Adult classes at the YWCA beginning the first week in June include such subjects as aerobics, physical fitness, prenatal exercise, dance exercise, jazz dance, yoga and body conditioning. Summer terms for swimming and tennis for both youth and adults begins the latter part of June.

YWCA yearly membership, \$11 per year for youth and \$21 for adults is necessary before enrollment in any YWCA program. For information on any YWCA programs, call 537-8500. The YWCA is a Torch Drive agency.

Parenting classes offered

To ease the scare of parenting, Family and Children Services of Oakland offers a Parent Enrichment group beginning May 18. The six-session series runs from 7:30-9:30 p.m. in Jewish Community Center, West Bloomfield.

The series explores the behavior of children from newborns to 5-year-olds, examining stages of development,

physical and social capabilities and how parents can stimulate their children's growth and enhance their own lives.

Child care is free, and the cost of the series is based on a sliding scale, with \$35 at the top.

Registration information is given by calling 844-4004.



Marianne Willman

Volunteers are honored

Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village honored seven Farmington and Farmington Hills residents for volunteer service at an annual volunteer award dinner this spring.

Karen Brotherton, Helen Durham, Dennis Praver, Anne Mitoch, Lois Pfeiffer, Mary Potzky and David Wiers were among 149 volunteers from 32 area communities recognized for volunteering more than 50 hours of service in 1982.

Volunteers perform a number of volunteer programs, including working with curators, staffing one of the nation's oldest operating post offices and manning steam powered equipment in a 19th century machine shop.

Anyone interested in learning more about the volunteer program at Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village is invited to contact the Volunteer Program, 371-1630, ext. 218.

You probably already own the sparkling heart of a beautiful new piece of jewelry. See it come alive during our

REMOUNT EVENT

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