

# Lesson

from page A1

coach John Herrington smile.

## Dancing at WMU

"I really emphasize discipline within the group," Banks said. "And the dance they're performing is good for them. ... Dance really builds self-esteem, self-awareness and pride."

Another reason to be proud is that 19 of the teacher's 100 dance students will be participating in the Michigan Youth Arts Festival.

Harrison's dance company, directed by Banks, is the only first-year program to participate at WMU's Miller Auditorium. The company was selected after adjudicated dance sessions at Wayne State University.

"They've only been dancing together since January," said an understandably proud and elated Banks.

After the class, both Hehman and Nazak glowed with anticipation about this weekend's artistic excursion.

"It's quite a privilege in and of itself," Hehman said. "It means other people actually think I have rhythm."

Nazak said dancing on a stage "really opens up a lot of opportunities for you to be seen and maybe earn scholarships, and it's doing something fun that you like."



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

**Taking notes:** Harrison High School dance instructor Toi Banks watches her dancers' moves. She hopes student interest in the program, now concluding its first year, will continue to build.

But, more than anything, Banks views participation at Harrison, both in the regular dance classes and troupe, as a vehicle for young people to learn the educational components of dancing.

The alternative, signing up at a private dance studio, might not

be as beneficial in the long run.

"Melissa (Poli) and I are trying here to maintain the integrity of dance as an art form," Banks said. "We're really battling with the 'hip-hop' that they're doing in the dance studios."



**Practice makes perfect:** Jessica Edwards (left), Erika Hehman and Danielle Liebowitz rehearse during Dance 2 class. Erika is among 19 Harrison High School students headed to Western Michigan University for the Michigan Youth Arts Festival. The Harrison High School Dance Company, directed by Toi Banks, will perform Saturday.

## Let's party, raise money

Let the bidding begin: Prior to the Steppingstone School auction held April 7 at St. Mary's Cultural Center in Livonia, parents (from left) Ed Kucinski, Olga Fireman, Susan Kohl, Karen Niemisto, Carolyn Sohya (far right) and an unidentified friend (kneeling) prepare the banquet hall for the festivities.



## OAKLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWS BRIEFS

■ The Womencenter at Oakland Community College's Orchard Ridge Campus presents "Creating a Stronger You," a five-week seminar for women on self-esteem issues, beginning Thursday, May 17.

The seminar, facilitated by Pam Micallef, will meet in the campus' Womencenter, J building, Room 309, from 6:30-8:30 a.m. Admission is \$40, and the event is open to the public.

"Creating a Stronger You" will assist women in journeying to their "selves" through education, discussion and support. Focus is on developing self esteem and assertiveness, creating and accepting change, balancing your needs and responsibilities, and learning stress management to create a stronger "self."

This seminar is sponsored by the Womencenter, a facility that provides educational and supportive resources for area women.

For further information, call the Womencenter at (248) 522-

3642.

The Orchard Ridge Campus is located at 27055 Orchard Lake Road, just south of I-696 in Farmington Hills.

■ The Oakland Community College Symphony Band will present its spring concert at the Highland Lakes Campus on Monday, May 14. The free performance begins at 8 p.m. in the campus' Student Center Arena. The program will consist of classical and contemporary music, including pieces by Strauss and Rimsky-Korsakov. Jazz will also be featured.

Under the direction of Fred Junod, the OCC Symphony Band is made up of 60 adult and student musicians. Local residents are encouraged to participate.

For further information, call (248) 641-9229.

The Highland Lakes Campus is located at 7350 Cooley Lake Road in Waterford. Free parking is available in nearby campus lots.

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