

# Livonia-Redford Theatre Guild Is Up Against Financial Wall

By SUE SHAUGHNESSY

Ask anyone and they will admit that the problem of matching the outlay of funds to the income is a constant and recurring headache. Cultural organizations are no different from the average homeowner in this respect and each year the various local symphonies and community theater groups appeal to the public for financial backing.

The fact that the Guild has broken even or made a profit on the three other productions of the year doesn't negate the fact that an estimated \$1,400 must be raised before June if the Guild is to remain in operation over the summer and hopes to launch the 1970-71 season.

Plans for raising the funds call for a ticket sale for the group's final production that will net a profit of \$900 to \$1,000 and a rummage sale with \$400 the magic profit. The final production of the year is the sophisticated comedy, "You Know I Can't Hear You When the Water's Running." The play opens April 30 for a three-night stand in Livonia's Stevenson High School.

Tickets are priced at \$2.50 for Saturday night and \$2 for Thursday and Friday. Production costs for the comedy are set at \$950, so raising the necessary capital means that the Guild members year and "Roar's" total budget was \$3,300. However, Guild members contend that producing a musical is something that they do and usually the group manages to come close enough to their budget and make enough money on other productions to finance the annual high cost show.

None of the shows is that low cost, however. The low budget show of the season was the Guild's evening of one acts which had a budget of \$650. The annual children's show, which is staged on four different Saturdays, in different locations cost \$850 to produce.

## analysis

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ON THE LAST production of the Guild, the drama "Summer and Smoke," the budget was also set at \$950 and the ticket sales netted the organization a profit of \$450. The musical production is the high cost show of each year and "Roar's" total budget was \$3,300.

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That same children's show is the Guild's biggest money-maker and has been so during past years. This year the profit from the production was \$900, but in order to raise this the actors put on a total of 12 performances with the children's tickets priced at 50 cents. You might say that the Guild's children's production is the fine blending of the group meeting the cultural need of live theater for children and helping to balance the financial seesaw.

IN ADDITION to the \$5,000 in production costs, the Guild has fixed expenses of \$2,888 this year. This sum includes a payment on their rehearsal building in Redford Township and insurance and utility costs for the building. The Guild was forced to repair both the building's roof and furnace this year.

The biggest chunk of the costs go for royalties that any theatrical group must pay for the privilege of producing another man's work. The Guild also must pay the Livonia School District for rental of the high school auditoriums for the nights of performances and the final rehearsals that are required on the stage.

This rental is standard for any groups renting the high school facilities and is usually based to cover the district's cost in keeping the building open in the evening. However, it is a food expense which the Guild must pay in order to fulfill its function of producing community theater in the area.

THE QUESTION of whether or not the Livonia Redford Theatre Guild will raise enough funds to stay in operation will be answered until the end of May.

If the capital is raised the Guild will face the same question next year. This is probably a recurrent problem for the Guild as it is for cultural organizations throughout the country. In that the local groups are merely reflecting the national trend.



COMING -- The Schoolcraft College Masque Players will present Shakespeare's "Merry Wives of Windsor" April 7 through 11. Charlotte La Blone, Brian Hudson and James Beatin appear in this scene. Tickets to any performance may be purchased in the college bookstore (Observer photo)

## 'Industry Sings' Concert April 18 In Masonic

A chorus of 275 voices from metropolitan area industry will sing "The Creation" and "Battle Hymn of the Republic" as finale numbers of the 15th anniversary performance of "Industry Sings."

The Chevrolet Glee Club, directed by Patrick Devlin, will open the concert with male chorus renditions of "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor, Your Huddled Masses," "Yellow Bird," "This Train," "The Dead Old Woman," "Walk Hand in Hand" and "Salvation."

Softly As I Leave You" and "All Join In." Opening the final portion of the program the General Motors Chorus, under the direction of Frank Muech, will present musical selections from "Die Fledermaus," "Soon Ah Will Be Done," "Alleluia," "Gloria," "When You and I Were Young Maggie Blues," "The Computer," "Take Me Along," "Chantey, Chantey," "Sleepy Time Baby," "When You and I Were Young Maggie Blues," "The Chevrolet Glee Club, the Detroit Edison Glee Club, the Ford Chorus, General Motors Chorus and the Great Lakes Steel Male Chorus.

RAY C. KOOL will direct the Ford Chorus in such favorites as "I Can Tell the World," "Sunrise, Sunset," "Pools Rush In," "Consider Yourself," "Begin the Beguine" and "Aquareus." The Detroit Edison Glee Club, under the direction of Ken Hansen, will conclude the first segment of the program with such selections as "The Computer," "Take Me Along," "Chantey, Chantey," "Sleepy Time Baby," "When You and I Were Young Maggie Blues," "The Chevrolet Glee Club, the Detroit Edison Glee Club, the Ford Chorus, General Motors Chorus and the Great Lakes Steel Male Chorus.

## County Board Seeks Stronger Home Rule Act

Wayne County's Board of Commissioners will seek improvements in the Michigan County Home Rule Act to increase local discretion over the county's governmental structure.

Six proposed amendments to the law, Act 293 of 1966, will be introduced in the State Legislature on behalf of the county governing board. Changes in Act 293 were recommended by a special commission's committee on county reorganization which studied the act with the assistance of the Citizens Research Council of Michigan.

AS IT STANDS now, Act 293 is too restrictive. It would tie the hands of a county charter commission, said Board Vice Chairman James DeSana of Waterford. DeSana is chairman of the reorganization committee. A proposal that a Wayne County Charter Commission be established under Act 293 was defeated by voters in the November 1968 election.

County home rule would reorganize county government, but have no effect on city or township governments. Some months ago, county commissioners indicated they would put the home rule proposal on the ballot again, probably in the August primary this year.

It now appears, however, that the commissioners will try to get more flexibility written into the home rule act before placing the proposal on the ballot again. The DeSana committee recommended six changes in Act 293. Several were amended on the floor of the Board at its March 19 meeting and then all were approved for introduction in Lansing.

THE AMENDMENTS would: ● Eliminate the requirement that under home rule all existing governmental elected offices, sheriff, prosecuting attorney, county clerk, treasurer, register of deeds, land commissioner and road commissioner be retained as they are. ● Give the charter commission the option of proposing either an elected county executive or an appointed county executive. At present Act 293 indicates that the county executive be elected. Election of the executive would be by popular vote. ● Raise from five to 13 the minimum number of seats on the home rule county legislative body in counties with over 600,000 population. The commissioners considered a five-member legislative body unrepresentatively small. The permissible maximum number of seats would remain at 35. ● Amend the taxation section of Act 293 to make it clear that a home rule county would have the power to levy only those non-property taxes specifically authorized by the State Legislature. ● Prohibit public officials and employees from serving on the charter commission. An employee of official could run for the charter commission, but would have to resign in order to serve. There is a similar prohibition against city officials or employees serving on a city charter commission. ● Prohibit members of the charter commission from running for another elective office while the charter commission is in existence. This would assure "the most effective and objective services" by commission members.

IN ADDITION to DeSana's members of the committee on county reorganization are: Joseph Cardinal, Dearborn, D-4Dist. 21, vice chairman; Harvey J. Beadle, Redford, D-Dist. 10; Freddie G. Burton, Detroit, D-Dist. 15; Rude Hildebrand, Roseville, D-Dist. 18; Carl D. Pursell, Plymouth, R-Dist. 26; Eugene A. Sikora, Detroit, D-Dist. 7; Philip A. Tannan, Detroit, D-Dist. 15; Frederick Yates, Detroit, D-Dist. 9. DeSana's committee also decided to ask the State Legislature to give county boards of voters more direct power to establish an office of county executive.

Members of the northwest, southwest and east side chapters of the Emphysema Club meet on Wednesday, April 8, in the Mercy College Student Center Building, 8200 W. Outer Drive (near the Southfield Freeway.) The meeting, starting at 7:30 p.m., will feature Dr. William U. Reid, medical consultant to the Tuberculosis and Health Society of Wayne County. He will discuss various aspects of chronic obstructive lung disease, particularly methods of diagnosis and treatment. Anyone who suffers from, or is interested in, emphysema, may attend. Further information may be obtained from the Tuberculosis and Health Society, 9619.

Two Observational students will get their college education at the expense of the U.S. Army. Dennis J. Keeney, 15555 MacArthur, Redford Township, and Richard G. McAdam, 11010 Berwick, Livonia, have received four-year scholarships along with ROTC training. Each will be commissioned 2nd lieutenant and will serve four years in the Army. The two youths applied for the scholarship through the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs. Although the scholarships are not political appointments, 191st District Congressman Jack McDonald (R-Farmington) announced the awards.

## April Is Time For Festivals

Chaucer said the coming of April made folks in the west of us feel that the sun, the moon, and people today are no different. April in Michigan inspires people to travel the state and according to the Michigan Calendar of Events, the month offers a wide variety of activities and events please every member of the family.

TWO TRADITIONAL festivals that are a sure sign of spring are the National Trout Festival, Kalkaska, April 24-26, and the Maple Syrup Festival, Vermilionville, April 25. The Trout Festival will feature two parades, fishing contests, a stage show, exhibitors and canoe races. An outdoor carnival atmosphere will prevail at the Syrup Festival with day-long entertainment provided.

Antique automobiles will parade through communities along the route of the Woodland Auto Tour, Grand Rapids to Benton Harbor and back, April 6-7. Antique shows are scheduled at Detroit Fairgrounds, April 10-12, and at Lansing, April 17-19.

AMONG THE other events listed on the April Calendar are the Science Fair, Grand Rapids, April 4-12; the Home Show, Kalamazoo, April 11-18; Great Lakes SPEBSQSA Sing.

Bea Benon, risqué comedienne, exciting pianist and vocalist, returns to the 24 Karat Club in Redford Township for four weeks beginning Monday, April 6.

## Symphony Announces 10 'Pops' Concerts

An expanded schedule and the participation of familiar musical personalities is in store for the Detroit Symphony's next annual presentation of Cabaret "Pops" Concert, scheduled for May 6 to 21.

The 1970 "Pops" will consist of 10 performances -- also a benefit night for the Detroit Committee for Seven Eastern Women's Club -- rather than eight concerts as in previous years.

CONDUCTORS and soloists will include such noted pops celebrities as Arthur Fiedler and Richard Hayman, Jazz pianist Duke Ellington and the Duke Ellington Orchestra, the award-winning young Detroit conductor James Frazier, Metropolitan Opera mezzo-soprano Mildred Miller, and the 18-year-old Detroit pianist Cynthia Rain.

The schedule, and program highlights, will be as follows: May 6 - "Gala Open House" with James Frazier, conductor. The program will include a wide variety of music, from excerpts from "Fanny Hill" and theme music from "Mission Impossible" to Copland's "El Salon Mexico" and Ravel's "Daphnis and Chloe." Same No. 2. May 8 - Arthur Fiedler, conductor. Cynthia Rain, pianist, who will be featured in the Saint-Saens Concert No. 1 in G Minor, (program) to be repeated May 9 in benefit performance for Seven Eastern Women's Club(s). May 12 and 14 - "Fiesta" Richard Hayman, conductor. A festive program of familiar pops tunes grouped under such subtitles as Popular Classics, The Frick and Passion of It, Portrait of Paris, the Glory of Spain, Broadway Bouquet, Cinematic Sounds, and Fun With Music.

May 15 and 16 - "Venezuela Night," Richard Hayman, conductor. Mildred Miller, mezzo soprano. Lots of waltzes -- with works by Strauss Sr., Strauss Jr., Oscar Strauss, Franz Lehár and others. May 20 and 21 - "The Most Popular Pops." Richard Hayman, conductor. Duke Ellington, pianist soloist and conductor, and the Duke Ellington Orchestra. The program will include Hayman conducting selections from "Cabaret," "Sophisticated Lady," and other works with Ellington as piano soloist. Ellington will also conduct the Symphony in his own "Harlem." Ellington and his orchestra will be featured alone in the final portion of the program.

May 22 and 23 - "Around the World," Richard Hayman, conductor. A musical journey from Arabia to the U.S.A. -- with stops in such contrasting lands as China, Austria, Brazil, Greece and many others. ALL PERFORMANCES will be given at 8:30 p.m. in the Detroit Light Guard Armory, 4400 East Eight Mile Road. As in previous years there'll be a festive, informal atmosphere at the concerts. All seating will be at cocktail tables for four, and refreshments including alcoholic beverages may be ordered during the concerts. Tickets will be placed on public sale March 30 at Ford Auditorium Box Office, all Hudson's and Grinnell's stores. Mail orders may be sent now to the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at Ford Auditorium. Tables for four are \$16, \$12, or \$8 for Wednesday and Thursday performances, \$18, \$14, or \$10 for Friday and Saturday performances.

THE ANTHROPOLOGY program will allow student to concentrate in India, China or Africa area studies. It also gives a wider choice of students in social science or history by adding a new discipline from which they may select courses. OC officials said.

THE DEVELOPMENT of courses in sociolinguistics, language and culture and dialectology would complement the offerings in anthropology. The desperate need of teachers in inner city schools and the shortage of children for whom English is a second language

## 3 New 'Majors' Ok'd For OU

The State Board of Education has approved three new baccalaureate degree programs at Oakland University effective with the 1970 fall term. OU officials have announced. The new undergraduate majors are 1. Latin American languages and civilization, 2. anthropology and 3. linguistics.

The new major will be in linguistics and the establishment of a department of linguistics, OU officials pointed out that the number of undergraduate programs in this field are small and Oakland can make a significant contribution to the state. Only Western Michigan and the University of Michigan offer this program on the undergraduate level.

Oakland is the only Michigan school offering a major in Latin American languages and civilization. Chancellor Donald D. O'Dowd said. Oakland offers undergraduate degrees and master's degrees. Proposals for PhD programs in science and in engineering are now before the State Board of Education.

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## Emphysema Clubs To Meet

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## Art Exhibit Scheduled At Center

An exhibit of the work of metropolitan artists will be open in the community center at Northland Center beginning April 9. The exhibit will consist of paintings, sculpture, ceramics and handicraft by artists from throughout the metropolitan area. In conjunction with the exhibit, the Northland Center Merchants' Association will sponsor a series of seven art auctions for the benefit of the Organization for Rehabilitation Through Training. Original graphics by Picasso, Dali, Jack Levine and other famous artists will be exhibited and auctioned. The first auction is scheduled for 3 p.m. Saturday, April 11, in the Northland Center Auditorium. Sculptor and painter Robert Stern will speak at the April 14 meeting of the Three-Cities Art Club. The meeting begins at 8 p.m. in the Savoy Hotel. Building at the corner of Dunlap and Center in Northville. Stern's topic will be "New Ideas and Attitudes in Today's Art" and is expected to discuss what influences an artist.

## Stern Speaks

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