

briefly speaking

● MYSTERY PARTY

Tickets are still available for the mystery party 7:30-10:30 p.m. Saturday at Mill Race Historical Village in Northville. Admission of \$25 covers dinner, beer, wine and entertainment. For more information, contact the Northville Chamber of Commerce, 349-7640.

● CQUESTEAU SPEAKS

Jean-Michel Cousteau, son of explorer and environmentalist Jacques-Yves Cousteau, will speak at the University of Michigan-Dearborn Recreation and Organization Center, at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 8.

His presentation, the first in this year's Student Activities Office Distinguished Speaker Series, will consist of a short film and lecture titled, "The Rediscovery of the World," and will be followed by a question and answer session.

Tickets are \$3 for the general public, and \$2 for non-UM-D students and senior citizens. Tickets will be available at the door on a first-come, first-served basis beginning at 6:30 p.m. There will be no advance sales. The University of Michigan-Dearborn is on Evergreen Road, across from the Fairlane Town Center. Parking will be available in the lot

or parking structure north of the ROC building. For further information, call 593-5390.

● PEWABIC EXHIBITIONS

An exhibition highlighting recent work by Chris Staley, Wichita, Kan., and Don Pilcher, Champaign, Ill., will be on display at Pewabic Pottery, Oct. 16 through Nov. 14. Also at this time, work by Ann Arbor artist Tom Phardiel will be featured in the sculpture garden. An opening reception to meet the artists will be 5:30-8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16.

● "LOVE OF ART" AUCTION

"For the Love of Art '87," the popular silent write-in auction and priced sale by the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association will be conducted at its facility, 1516 Cranbrook, Evergreen at 14 Mile. Featuring donated works of art, art tools and supplies, the event will run Oct. 8-17.

Bids will be accepted during regular gallery hours of 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Final bidding and the announcement of winning bids will occur at the reception and live auction 5-8 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17. The live auction at 7 p.m. will be conducted by well-known auctioneer Frank Boos, assisted by celebrity host Bob Allison.

By Mary Jane Doerr
special writer

The fastest growing minority in America is that of the Spanish-speaking people. Yet, seldom are audiences exposed to the Spanish arts of zarzuela or flamenco.

Sunday afternoon, the Oakway Symphony Orchestra offered its followers the rare opportunity to hear a concert of Spanish music and see the spectacular dancing of Maria Del Carmen and her "Grupo Espana," a group of nine dancers, four guitarists, and one tenor.

This is why community symphonies are so important. They offer the opportunity for local talent to entertain. In this case, the dancing was of such high caliber, the only other place this reviewer has seen such artistry was in Madrid itself.

The dance troupe performed a number of Spanish masterpieces with the orchestra, such as "Malaquena" and "Andalucia" by Lecuona, the "Aragonesa" from French composer Bizet's Carmen.

review

and "Granada" by Lora.

Maria Del Carmen herself performed an unusual solo to Granados' "Goyescas," using a slower, more expressive movement style than the faster group numbers. In this dance, she used her castanets, sometimes to echo the orchestra, other times to set the rhythm.

The most fascinating aspect of the synchronized movements of the troupe was the rhythm of the dancers' castanets, always together. The flashing fans, flowing shawls, waving handkerchiefs and long-waisted brightly colored costumes only added to the beauty of the stately charm of this form of dancing. The constantly waving ruffled dresses accentuated the constantly changing beat.

Since Carmen's last appearance with the Oakway Symphony Orches-

tra, the group has grown in size and quality. At the beginning of the second half of this program, the group performed with the dancers seated in a semicircle with four guitarists and a Spanish singing tenor accompaniment. Here is where flamenco is so appealing. The dancing combined with the Spanish singing and the soft mellow guitar sounds punctuated with the castanets and the hand clapping was dazzling.

ERNEST JONES conducted the most interesting orchestra solo of the afternoon, Bizet's "L'Arlesienne Suite No. 2," a rare combination of interesting melodies, the Agnus Dei melody in Intermezzo movement, and the wonderful tambourine rhythm in the final Farandole movement.

The importance of Del Carmen

and her troupe and the emotional impact of the music selected by Oakway's conductor Francisco Di Lillo made the concert a success.

But that is not to say the setting, in Madonna College's gymnasium, is any place for a concert. The folding chairs were cold and uncomfortable. The elevation of the first violin and trumpet sections only blocked the view of the dancers for many of the ticket holders. The acoustics did not allow for the sound to get much further than the first few rows in the pianissimo sections of pieces such as Chabrier's "Espana."

It seems unfortunate to plan such a blockbuster program, rehearse at contract this unusual and outstanding dance troupe, and then present the concert in such a dismal and unpleasant setting suitable only for a basketball game.

Mary Jane Doerr is an arts and freelance writer who has been a music reviewer for the Observer and Eccentric for a number of years.

Festival presents German culture

Next Tuesday's German-American Day will be getting an early sendoff this weekend in Frankenmuth with a Harvest Days festival of German folk dancers, food, cider, other seasonal treats and all the shops and sites of this picturesque Bavarian village north of Flint.

The weekend celebration at Michigan's most popular tourist destination begins at noon and continues Saturday from 11 a.m. and again on Sunday from noon to 6 p.m.

Frankenmuth's Harvest Days and

several large Oktoberfests sponsored by Detroit-area German-American clubs will be the focal points of a Bavarian weekend in the state leading into the nation's first German-American Day the following Tuesday, Oct. 6.

The day commemorates the arrival of the first German immigrants to this country on Oct. 6, 1683, at Philadelphia. German-American Day has been designated by joint resolution of the U.S. Congress, introduced into the Senate by Michigan Sen. Donald

W. Riegle Jr., presidential proclamation and resolutions by state and local officials throughout Michigan.

A DECORATED Main Street, organ grinders and such seasonal activities as apple bobbing will await the visitor to the Harvest Days festival. The mid-Michigan town was founded in 1845 as the first of four Lutheran missionary colonies in the U.S. organized in Germany to bring Christianity to the Chippewa Indians.

Additional information on Frank-

enmuth's Harvest Days festival this weekend is available by calling the Frankenmuth Chamber of Commerce at (517) 652-6106.

Two large Oktoberfests will be held in the Detroit area this weekend.

GTEV Edelweiss, a German-American club, will be holding its Oktoberfest from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday at the Light Guard Armory on E. Eight Mile at Ryan. Admission is \$5 and information is available by calling 751-5016.

condo queries

Robert M. Meisner

Q. I just purchased a condominium and am trying to figure out the kind of coverage to get on the interior of my unit. Do you have suggestions?

A. Seek out an insurance agent who has considerable experience in condominiums since it is important that the coverage you obtain on the interior of your unit complement the coverage obtained by the condominium association so that there is neither an overlap or underlap in coverage.

Also be concerned about the amount of coverage that you have for "improvements" to your unit since it may not be covered by the association's policy. It may be, therefore, a good idea to get a copy of the association's insurance policy, show it to your agent and insure that you have adequate coverage.

Q. We have filed for an application in a cooperative but are disabled. The cooperative association, which is federally subsidized, has denied our application based on the fact

that we are not related. We think that this is a subterfuge. Do you have any suggestions?

A. A federally subsidized cooperative must comply with the provisions of the Federal Rehabilitation, Comprehensive Services and Disabilities Act of 1970 and must also comply with Michigan's Elliot Larsen Civil Rights Act and the state's Handicapped Civil Rights Act.

If you believe that their denial of your application was a subterfuge, you should consult your legal adviser in connection with your alternatives. It may result, among other things, in an award of attorney fees and damages to you.

Robert M. Meisner is a Birmingham attorney specializing in condominiums, real estate and corporate law. Questions should be directed to him at 30200 Telegraph Road, Suite 467, Birmingham 48010. This column provides general information and should not be construed as legal opinion.

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