Pacific from page B1

when he proposes marriage.

"Nellie is kind of ditry, very naive, unsure of herself. She thinks everything is one by adventure," said Merenda, a Canton resident and sophomore at Plymouth Salem High School. Merenda loves the story line and the Rodgers and Hammerstein music. She has to — otherwise where would she find the energy to join the Plymouth Theatre Guild cast four nights a week after leaving rehearsals for the Sound of Music at the high school.

"Emile deBecque is an older

"Emile deBecque is an older man," said Merenda who began acting at age 8 with the Whistle Stop Players at the Plymouth Community Arts Council. "She has to overcome her prejudice when she finds out he has two children by a Filipino woman.

She grows beyond the Little Rock background where she's come from."

A lot of work

Dedication like Merenda's is one of the key ingredients in pro-ducing a successful show.

ducing a successful show.

"It's a lot of work; musicals take a lot of time. In the first act alone there's 13 scenes, said assistant director Dennis Hubel of Plymouth. Two been involved with everything including set construction. It's the way people pitch in from advertising the production to sound. It's the tallet in front of and behind the scenes.

Kerry Plague is one of those

Kerry Plague is one of those talents. The Canton resident, who plays Emile deBecque, was a late bloomer. He first went on stage at age 41 because his son

was in a production at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, and 'they needed males.' Since then Plague's worked with the Avon Players in Rochester Hills. He's also been in the Michigan Opera Thentre's productions of Tosca and La Boheme.

Emotional

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"DeBecque is very emotional and introverted but when he commits, he commits with all his heart," said Ploque, who sings Some Enchanted Evening, one of the most popular songs in the

ongs are spread out among many principals. The barre is set high so it holps me improve. I can't wait for opening night. I hope to break a leg."

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Genesis from page B1

cccds from each show to a designated charity. Our Town will benefit the American Cancer Society.

Their first production, Godspell, presented in September and October, was a success.

"We had a sell-out on three nights. I just couldn't believe it," said Pearson. The support from the community has just been overwhelming. Even the business community has opened up their arms to us.

St. Kenneth Catholic Church offered its social hall as a performance space. Pastor, the Rev. Joe Mallia, makes a cameo appearance in Our Town as Professor Willard.

Ritter, who like Landry is a parishioner of St. Kenneth's, hasn't been on stage for 47

years. "I knew Marlene and saw a small article in the church paper that they were casting 'Our Town' and looking for peo-ple, 'he said. 'I was familiar with 'Our Town,' and interested in trying out. It's been a real experience. The troupe is won-derful. Many of us came in as strangers, now we're family."

Teaching

Teaching
Pearson smiles as Ritter talks,
and says, "that's what we hope
happens with every show. One of
the things we want to do is teach
and give people the benefit of the
skillis we've acquired over the
years. To see them bloom is such
a beautiful thing, it's very
rewarding. It's a joy to see people interested in theater become
involved in it."

Ritter, like other cast mem-bers, got interested in theater after performing in a high school

bers, got interested in theator after performing in a high school play.

"I've always enjoyed theater as a member of the audience, but in the back of my mind always wanted to be on stage," he said. Landry, who directs the show, was cast as Emily, one of the leading characters, in her high school production of Our Thum.

"It's a lot of fun stepping on the other side and seeing it happen," said Landry. "It's a timeless story about daily life, and important things like marriage. It teaches us that life is very precious, and that we should stop and examine the simple things, because these are the things that we take for granted."

Honeck from page B1

tra in fall 2000. "You have to research because the message is so important, if people would be touched by it. If the translation in one part says "my face gets red," the color in the string section must be red. The d said 'my face gets white' the strings must not be full. Even though they don't understand Latin words, they feel the music."

tropovich were eager to work with the orchestra.

Today, all of the concerts are still heard on radio including the performances in Dublin and New York.

orchestra sounding like what I have in my ears," said Honeck who began playing violin at ago 7. Honeck grew up with eight siblings who all played instruments. He decided to become a conductor at ago 13 after hearing the Vionna Philharmonic Orchestra at a New Year concert. Since studying at the Academy of Music in Vionna, Honeck's led the Zurich Opera and the MDR Symphony Orchestra in Leipzig, and guest conducted the Dresden Staatskapelle, Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra, Chicago and Houston Symphony orchestra in Leipzig, and guest conducted the BC Symphony Orchestra in London. He is also principal guest conductor of the Oslo Philharmonic Orchestra.

High standards

High standards

"From a technical side, I want to make sure that they keep high standards but go more into details and get the colors out and the message be clear."

Honeck also wants to continue performing with the Swedish Radio Choir which was founded in the 1920s. Under conductor Eric Ericson, the 33-member

choir won international awards. Ericson, who became conductor of the radio choir in 1952, has since retired but continues to make guest appearances. Ericson's considered a master in the field of choral conducting. He established the Stockholm Chamber Choir (now the Eric Ericson Chamber Choir) in 1946. The group remains his main vehicle for developing the art of a cappella singing. In addition to the Feb. 16 performance with the orchestra, the Swedish Radio Choir will join with the Eric Ericson Chamber Choir to sing the music of Strauss, Ligeti, Lidholm and Schnittke at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church Saturday, Feb. 17 in Ann Arbor.

"They're a really great choir, said Honeck. They sang with the Berlin Philharmonic the week before welfen on tur. It's a very homogeneous sound and trained by Eric Ericson. He madd the sound of Swedish Radio Choir. Im amazed how if its in with the sound of the orchestra. It's a clean but full sound. They have power."

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC MOVIES MP TRAFFIC (T)
FROME FORESTER (PG13)
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TRAFFIC (R)
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It's that attention to detail that has made the Swedish Radio Symphony Orchestra performance of Verdi's Requiem so powerful over the years. Founded in 1936 as a European radio orchestra, the ensemble has been led by accomplished conductors such as Sergiu Celibidache and Esa-Pekka Salonen, who attracted the attention of a world audience with its strong commitment to new music. Before long, musicians like Igor Stravinsky and Matislav Rostropavich were eager to work

"My goal is to make the

It's carnival time in metro Detroit. If you're tired of staying home, and looking for something fun to do, here are some options.

© Celebrate the Mardi Gras with the Brazilian Colture Club of Detroit on Saturday, Feb. 17 at the Holiday Inn on Telegraph Road in Southfield.

Begun in the 1980s to soothe homesick Brazilians, Carnaval has grown into a party that attracts partygeers from all over. The flamboyant, sometimes risqué costumes, the sound of syncopated drum rhythms, and an authentic Brazilian samba band, have carned Detroits Canaval its reputation as one of the navel its reputation as one of the biggest such festivities outside of

biggost such festivities outside of Brazil.

"It's not just for local Brazilinan," end Sergio Santos of Canton, the club's secretary. "The
public is welcome to attend. If
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shees, and be ready to dance for
five hours straight. Bo ready to
see some outlandish costumes as
well. There will be prizes for the
best costumes."

For more tickets and more
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The sixth annual Mardi
Gras Magic Party to benefit
scholarships for students in the
College of Arts, Sciences and
Letters at the University of
Michigan Dearborn, is 5;30-9
pm. Friday, Feb. 23.

The event at the Hyatt Regeny Dearborn features a silent
auction, wine tasting, appelizers,
desserts and Mardi Gras music.

cy Dearborn features a silent auction, wine tasting, appelizers, desserts and Mardi Gras music. Prizes will be awarded for best costume, or participants can attend in work attire. "Our the past five years, we've awarded more than \$14,000 in scholarships to deserving liberal arts students," said Susan Gedert, alumni officer at UM-Dear-

Catch the spirit of Mardi Gras

Jazzy: Straight Ahead performs Feb. 27, "Fat Tuesday," at Fishbone's Rhythm Kitchen Cafe in Detroit's Greek-

excellence.

The alumni affiliate is co-hosting the event with Merchant's Fine Wine in Dearborn. Tickets are \$50 per person. Sponsors who donate \$150, \$250 or \$600 will receive two tickets and special recognition. Tickets are available at Merchant's Fine Wine, 22250 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. For more information, call (313) 438-5198.

Fishbone's Rhythm Kitchen Cafe in Greektown is presenting a "Fat Tuesday," Masquerade Party 8 p.m. to midnight, Tuesday, Feb. 27.

Local jazz band Straight Ahead will perform, and costumed partygeers will compete for more than \$1,500 in cash and prizes. The celebration includes

for more than \$1,500 in cosh and prizes. The celebration includes a New Orleans buffet, and "Crustacean Station," featuring fresh crawfish and oysters. The cover charge is \$10 per person, no charge if you wear a

born. This alumni group takes great pride in helping students reach their goal of academic excellence." The alumni affilinte is co-host-4600 for details.

Cafe is at 400 Monroe St. at Brush in Detroit. Call (319) 965-4600 for details.

If you want to visit New Orleans for Mardi Gras, but can't, drive to St. Clair Shores to Jack's Waterfront Restaurant and join the party. Dixiobelle & the Dixio Jazz Cats will be performing New Orleans style jazz and blues at the seventh annual "Mardi Gras" bash. beginning at 8 p.m. on Tuesah, beginning at 8 p.m. on Tuesah, beginning at 8 p.m. on Tuesah, beginning at 6 p.m. on Tuesah Call distinct on Tuesah Call (310) 445-5080 for reservations and information, Jack at 6 p.m.

can (810) 446-8080 for reserva-tions and information. Jack's Waterfront Restaurant is off Jef-ferson, north of Nine Mile Road.

Concert showcases local vocalist

Oakland University will host a special evening with the Pontiac Oakland Symphony, featuring vocalist, Calitin Burke of Farmington Hills, 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 18 in Varner Recital Hall on the campus in Rochester Hills. Tickets are \$15 and the sundant, and the sundant performance accompanied by an orchestra. Burke will perform the Jewel Songs from Charles Gaunod's

the Outstanding Student in Vocal Performance award, the Jonnifer Scott Memoria Prano Award and the Outstan ing Student in Musical Prace Award. She is a senior double majoring in vocal and piano performance, and will be studying in Italy as the recipient of the University's Overseas Award.