

Erma Bombeck: she's as candid as ever

BY SHERRY KAHAN

"If God had wanted us to run around naked, he never would have invented the wicker chair."

That's how it goes when Erma Bombeck visits.

In the area recently, the nationally-syndicated columnist dropped many such jewels from a necklace of her own brand of social commentary.

"MARRIAGE IS OUT," she told her listeners. She explained she had heard the news from two girls in a parking lot.

She said she told them they must be kidding, and if they weren't, why didn't they tell me this before I cleaned the oven."

The Livonia audience, like audiences everywhere, loved her.

"Her life is my life," said Donna Nagy of Livonia. Everyone around nodded.

FIVE FOOT TWO, with grey eyes and wearing some very unbecoming sheer black stockings, Mrs. Bombeck declared she was not tired from a day that had her up at seven and constantly on stage ever since.

She could scarcely be unaware that her every statement would be carried back to countless dining room tables for digestion.

HER HUSBAND is a high school principal in the Phoenix school system and she likes living in Arizona.

A sightseeing bus comes by her house occasionally because Sen. Barry Goldwater and Alice Cooper, the rock star, live not far from her. (She has still not had a chance to trade recipes with Alice.)

I'd like to go out and peer at them between my seven garbage cans and wave at them," she said.

Her daughter recently went off to college, leaving the house "desolate and empty."

"She took with her all the linens, small appliances and luggage," Erma said.

SHE ASSURED her audience that she would leave her husband in a minute for Paul Newman. She then explained an involved plan under which she and another friend schemed to meet Newman while he was making a movie in Arizona.

The plan didn't work out for Erma but her friend met him and bubbled about Erma's interest in him.

"He went off and found a large picture of himself in which he looked like an unshaven, unkempt cowboy," Erma said. "In the picture he was kissing a bear. On the back of the picture he wrote a note."

It said, "Dear Erma, I waited for

you until November and when you didn't show . . ."

To which Erma added, "I just don't know if he's enjoying himself with what's-her-name."

ERMA EXPLAINED she had written all her life "except to my mother."

"I work in a room over the garage," she said. "I stick in a load of clothes and try to think in terms of areas that have humor such as husbands and children or something I have seen in the paper."

In a quiet moment she told about the exciting moment when several members of the syndicate for which she writes got on various telephones to tell her that she was now printed in 500 newspapers.

"Then someone at home asked me to iron a shirt."

Ukrainian League slates annual ball

The Ukrainian Women's League of America Annual Embroidery Ball will be held from 8 p.m. to 1

a.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, at St. Mary's Ukrainian Orthodox Hall at 21931 Evergreen Road in Southfield.

Purpose of the affair is to preserve the Ukrainian techniques of hand embroidery, to show its versatility by adapting traditional and original patterns to modern evening apparel and to raise funds to support the activities of the Ukrainian community.

The ball is co-sponsored by Chapters 63 and 96.

MRS. BARBARA KOWALENKO of Warren is chairman of the ball committee.

Participating with her are Mrs. Zirka Clark of Bloomfield Hills and Mrs. Julianna Maziak of Bloomfield Township.

Entertainment will be provided by a young vocal group, "The Sunflowers," and Mrs. Roma Kohut of Warren will preside as mistress of ceremonies.

Highlight of the evening will be the selection of the most outstanding embroidered evening dress.

Also being considered are men's embroidered ties and shirts.

A panel of judges will decide the winners.

Among the honorary guests will be Switlana Kot, Miss Ukraine of 1974, who was crowned at the Ukrainian Festival at the Detroit riverfront this summer.

For further information call Mrs. Kowalenko at 751-1557.

Cancer board meets Monday

The executive board of the City of Hope Cancer Fighters will meet at 8 p.m. Monday at the home of Mrs. Lawrence Benderoff.

so they don't know how much I write about them."

Maybe they really don't know that their mother was standing up before several thousand ladies and two men and saying things like this:

"BARBIE DOLLS look like they whipped through puberty in 15 minutes."

"Getting up to make breakfast for the kids is highly overrated. I do it once a year and tell them if they are very good I'll do it again next year."

"Mostly I keep house and read a lot," she said.

She is also on the board of the public broadcasting company in Phoenix.

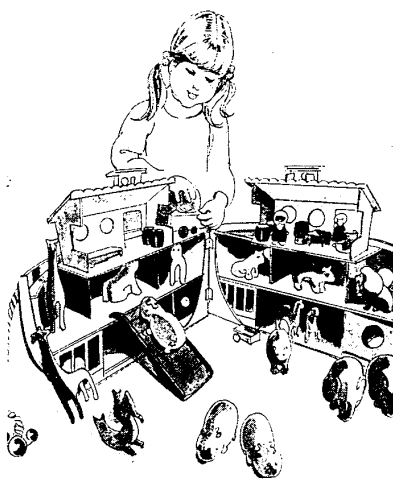
Asked how the children react to the column and to her lecturing, she said, "They know I'm not an Avon lady but they don't seem too aware of what I do. I don't think they read the column

"I thought I would do some housework last week, but I decided to wait until the kids grew up."

"I once cornered a doctor at a party to get some help with my cold. He told me to go over to a corner and slip on one of those paper gowns. Then I found out he had a doctorate in oriental art."

So listen, Bombeck kids. This you should know if nothing else.

Your mom is hilarious and millions of people are crazy about her. "She's one of us," they say.



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Center . . . Green and white jumper with white sweater. Sizes 4 to 6x . . . 13.00 Sizes 7 to 14 . . . 16.00

Right . . . Blue and white check overall top jumper with white sweater. Sizes 2 to 4 . . . 10.00

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