

# Westland Observer

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 3

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1992 • WESTLAND, MICHIGAN • 66 PAGES

FIFTY CENTS

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# Board gets to fuss over budget



The Wayne-Westland school board is expected to act on a record \$83.7 million budget Monday night. It includes the levy of a full 7.75 mill increase approved by voters last year and a \$3 million contingency fund for building improvements.

By DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

An \$83.7-million budget has been submitted to the Wayne-Westland school board and will be proposed for approval today.

The school administration also has recommended that the board continue to levy the 7.75-mill tax increase that voters approved last June, though it's possible the tax rate could spark some

debate at today's meeting.

Some board members had earlier questioned the need to levy the full tax increase for the coming year, but it remained unknown Friday how the board would vote today. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. at the school board office on Marquette between Newburgh and Wayne Road.

Voters approved the 7.75-mill tax increase for two years, but the board

could choose to levy a lesser amount. The tax will be subject to renewal next year.

The \$83.7-million budget marks a 3.8-percent increase over last year's general operating budget of \$80.6 million, said Randy Liepa, the district's finance officer. The district's fiscal year ends June 30.

The district will have a projected fund balance of \$6.9 million as of June 30. That would have been higher, but it has been proposed that the board set aside \$3 million for a contingency fund.

The \$6.9 million surplus compares to last year's \$4.4 million. The \$4.4 million, however, was reduced to \$3.7 million after money was set aside for a long-term maintenance plan.

The \$3-million contingency fund is expected to be used for such expenditures as new textbooks, building improvements and instructional programs, Liepa said.

More concrete proposals for the money aren't expected to emerge until new Superintendent Larry Thomas assumes his duties July 1 and reviews the district's finances.

Thomas also has suggested to the board that it refrain from cutting the tax rate — at least for now.

It wasn't known Friday how the board would vote today on the new budget or the tax rate. Some said they were still studying the budget.

"We'll see what happens Monday night," Liepa said Friday.

## In focus



"Westland's World?" Kelly Furtaw, public access coordinator, helps Jan Suchan with a cable-TV studio camera as part of a training workshop for volunteers. For more on the program, free to the community, see the story and photos on Page 3A.

ART EMANUELE/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

# Brother sentenced in shotgun murder

By DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Westland's Samih Saleh, accused by his dying brother in a shotgun killing, has been sentenced to five to 15 years in prison.

The sentence by Detroit Recorder's Court Judge Geraldine Bledsoe Ford came Friday — 11 weeks after a jury convicted Saleh, 38, of involuntary manslaughter in the Aug. 4 killing of his 46-year-old brother, Sami.

Ford also sentenced Saleh to two years in prison on a felony firearms charge.

Ford sent a message that Saleh "had to atone for his sins," though she could have sentenced him to 10 to 15 years in prison instead of five to 15 for involuntary manslaughter, a prosecutor said.

"I would like to have seen him get the maximum amount, because every indication is that he's very impulsive, self-centered and easily angered," said assistant Wayne County prosecutor Douglas Dwyer.

In court, Dwyer had argued for the maximum sentence by citing a psychological report that labeled Saleh emotionally unstable and warned of a strong possibility that he could commit more crimes.

"He has difficulty controlling his impulses," Dwyer said.

Saleh's attorney, Edward Khoury, could not be reached for comment Friday afternoon.

Saleh had been accused of a sudden rage that prompted him to shoot his brother at 11:48 p.m. Aug. 4 at the convicted brother's Westwood Circle apartment on the southeast corner of Joy and Hix roads.

Testimony at Saleh's trial indicated

**'I would like to have seen him get the maximum amount, because every indication is that he's very impulsive, self-centered and easily angered.'**

Douglas Dwyer,  
assistant prosecutor

the brothers had been discussing their homeland of Lebanon and their father's recent funeral when Saleh suddenly became enraged and shot his brother.

That testimony came from Naïem Zeidan, a friend of the Salehs who had been at the apartment during the shooting.

The slain brother also told police when they arrived on the scene that Saleh "got mad at me and shot me."

Testimony had indicated that neither brother had appeared upset prior to the shooting. But Saleh had claimed his brother was shot by accident after the two of them exchanged "macho" gestures.

Saleh has said he got the gun from his bedroom only because he wanted to frighten his brother and that the trigger discharged accidentally.

But Jane Saleh, the slain brother's widow, told the Observer in May that Saleh had long been considered "a time bomb."

Saleh had initially been charged with first-degree murder and could have faced life in prison if convicted. But the jury that heard Saleh's case reduced the charge to involuntary manslaughter.

# Chief cuts through haze over jail smokes

By DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

Westland police have an unlikely weapon — cigarettes — to help them keep the peace among prisoners in the city jail.

Questions about tax money being used to buy the cigarettes surfaced at last week's city council meeting.

The issue stemmed from a \$125.77 expenditure — for cigarettes and lighters — that appeared among hundreds of city bills that the council routinely approves at its meetings.

Police Chief Michael Frayer explained that police give the cigarettes to

## COUNCIL

nicotine-starved prisoners being held in the jail cell block.

The cigarettes tend to have a calming effect on the prisoners, reducing the potential for jail cell violence, he said.

Councilman Glenn Anderson suggested that withholding cigarettes from prisoners could provide an incentive for them to quit smoking.

But it appeared that Frayer didn't buy into the theory of using the jail as a stop-smoking clinic of sorts. It would

seem that most prisoners are less concerned about the long-term health benefits of kicking the habit than they are about their immediate situation — and getting out of it.

The issue sparked a good-natured debate at the council meeting. A tongue-in-cheek suggestion was made that perhaps police officers should provide prisoners with alcohol if it would keep them calm.

NOT!

On a more serious note, Anderson asked Frayer if the city gets reimbursed for the cigarettes it gives to prisoners.

No, Frayer replied.

It seems taxpayers are paying the tab for prisoners to smoke.

But Frayer stood by his opinion that giving cigarettes to prisoners is necessary to maintain calm, particularly around 3 a.m. That's the time — especially on weekends — when the cell block becomes crowded with drunken drivers who've been arrested and brought to the jail.

In summing up his position to the council, Frayer extended an offer for council members to visit the jail sometime during those early morning hours.

"It'll make you smoke," he said.

## Gets degree

Nancy Bagmasco of Westland recently received her master's degree in library science from Wayne State University. She has been a Garden City Public Library aide for three years while pursuing her degree.

## Events planned

Liberty Park, a senior citizens' apartment complex on Hunter west of Wayne Road, is planning two events for the community this week and next. The first will be a garden party, scheduled for 2 p.m. in the community room of the apartment development. The event, to feature harpist Kelly Yousoffian, is free to the public. A food drive for the Detroit Health Care for the Homeless will be held on Tuesday, June 30, starting at 9 a.m. For more information, call Karen Ellis, 728-8670.

## New officers

The Friends of the Westland Historical Museum

## PLACES & FACES

eleated new officers for the 1992-93 year. The officers are president Judith Palkoshi, internal vice president Thomas Brown, external vice president Donna Stout, treasurer Gary Stone, secretary Al Gauss, directors Denis Mehlich, Virginia Braun, Mario Busch and Jo Johnson, and resident agent Joseph Benyo. The group is a private, non-profit organization which provides financial and volunteer help for the museum, open 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, at 827 N. Wayne Road between Cherry Hill and Marquette.

## Honor student

Robert Puckett, son of Roy and Donna Puckett of Wayne, was recently inducted into Gamma Beta Phi,

national honor society and service organization, during an honors convocation at Sienna Heights College. Inductees must be in the top 20 percent of their class and be involved in community service activities.

## Preschoolers wanted

The Wayne-Westland school district is seeking preschoolers for next fall's programs. Head Start is for 3- and 4-year-olds who qualify under federal guidelines as being from low-income families. The standard is a maximum income of \$13,950 for a family of four or if parents receive public assistance. KIDS/PLUS, a state program, is for 4-year-olds (as of Dec. 1, 1992) whose parents meet income standards. There is no cost to eligible families for those two programs. The SPARKEY, which involves a tuition, provides a variety of educational experiences for 4-year-olds. Interested parents may call 595-2475 or 595-2676 to get more information or make an appointment.





Getting the picture: Public access workshop volunteers watch themselves on the monitor as coordinator Kelly Furtaw handles the studio camera. The volunteers are Matt Lenehan and Jan Suchan (seated) and Jason Suchan and Herschel Poger (standing).



STAFF PHOTOS BY ART EMANUELE

Keyboard control: Matt Lenehan, public access volunteer, gets hands-on experience in handling the cable-TV control room keyboard.



In control: The control room equipment is explained by Kelly Furtaw, public access coordinator, to workshop students.

## Cable able

### Course gives TV training

Forget "Wayne's World," the popular "Saturday Night Live" skit which depicts the personalities of two young adults who produce a zany public access cable program from their basement.

Public access is more complicated than that, based on what could be described as "Westland's World."

To learn how to use the camera, studio and related equipment, Westland volunteers are required to complete an eight-week training course covering 16 hours of instruction before they are let loose.

Kelly Furtaw, public access coordinator, is nearing the end of her third workshop for this year. She works for the city of Westland's cable-TV community relations contractor.

"The mix of students ranges from those in high school to those in their 50s, plus representatives of non-profit groups," said Furtaw, who joined the contractor's staff last November.

The classes are limited to 10 persons each, she said, so everyone in the course will gain hands-on experience with the equipment.

People sign up for the class mostly because they were just interested and they want to see what its

(cable-TV) is all about," Furtaw said.

For those who complete the course, they can take equipment to use during the week and weekend, she said.

The course covers the planning of shows, how to use a studio camera, the control room, responsibilities of the crew, use of portable equipment outside the studio, use of sets and props, and editing the tapes for final viewing on Channel 18.

In an informational sheet given to students, Furtaw points out that the public access of cable "is an outlet for the public to produce programs they feel would be of interest to other community residents."

Furtaw said she expects one more workshop this fall to handle the remaining residents on her waiting list.

The access coordinator has a telecommunications/video degree from Eastern Michigan University and previously worked as a freelancer for Maclean Hunter Cablevision system in the Downriver area and later as a public access coordinator and sports director for Omnicom Cablevision, which serves Plymouth, Canton and Northville.

Persons may contact Furtaw at 467-3198 to get more information on the workshop.

## Holmes students to get a high-tech education

BY MARIE CHESTNEY  
STAFF WRITER

Starting this fall, eighth-graders at Holmes Middle School will become the first Livonia school district students to use the latest in technological systems.

Voters agreed to pay for the systems in February when they approved a \$62.5 million bond issue.

Throughout the summer, Holmes' industrial arts wood shop will be converted to a 16-station computerized lab that will let students explore such technologies as aerospace, applied physics, electronic publishing, engineering structures and robotics.

Holmes, on Newburgh between Five and Six Mile roads, serves the northwest corner of the district which also serves the northern section of Westland.

The district's old, dying industrial arts program will be replaced by what school board trustee Pat Sari called the "new buzzword" of the 1990s: industrial technology.

"That's where the jobs in the future will be, in technology," Sari said. "This will revitalize an area that was dying in this district. Many district residents were not interested in industrial arts. It didn't relate to the real world. Now, we're hoping that a whole segment of kids will go into these fields if they get experience in real-world machines."

Throughout the 1992-93 school year, Holmes students and teacher Bob Beyer will work out the kinks in the pilot program with the hopes that similar labs can be installed next summer at Frost and Emerson middle schools.

The district's fourth middle school, Riley, on Henry Ruff at Five Mile, should get the lab technology in the summer of 1994 if school officials are satisfied with the technology and if enough students show interest in the program.

"If we run into problems at Holmes, we don't want to replicate it at the other schools," said Ken Watson, director of secondary education. "We want to make sure we're on the right track. We'll reevaluate next spring and modify if necessary. That's why we're not going full blast into the four schools. We're breaking new ground, and we don't want to rush into this."

With the launching of the lab at Holmes, the district

will become one of only a handful of school systems in Michigan to have this latest in industrial technology. In Michigan, similar systems now exist in Muskegon and Grand Rapids.

In the district's first equipment purchase under the \$62.5 million bond issue, the school board Monday approved buying the modules for the Holmes lab.

"I'm thrilled to see this starting to move now," said trustee James Watters.

The four middle school labs will cost about \$60,000 each, said Dennis Laurain, vocational education specialist and chairman of the industrial technology leadership committee.

At the 16 modular work stations, eighth-graders who sign up to take "Introduction to Technology" will get a taste of 13 different technologies. Every 10 days, two students working as a team will rotate to another station and work on another technology.

Students thus will get a better idea about which subjects to pursue in high school. The middle school technology program will lead to curriculum changes and other technological systems in the three high schools, Laurain said.

Other technologies taught at the modules are computer-aided design, computer fundamentals, drafting, electronics, hydraulics and pneumatics, materials and processes, research and development and a section called "technology of tomorrow."

By fall, Holmes' current wood shop will be closed off and sport new carpeting, acoustical tile, VCRs, work stations and MacIntosh computers.

Technology committee members who worked on bringing the new system to Holmes are Allan Herrmann, Bob Zang, Earl Robison, Beyer, Laurain and Walt Yauch.

The district recently sold the first series of building improvement/technology bonds totaling \$20.9 million through the Kemper Securities Group.

A second series will be issued in 1993 for the remainder of the bond amount.

Trustees recently named George W. Auch Co. as construction manager for phase I of the technology program.

## Broadcast from festival planned

WSDP-88.1 FM-91.1 broadcast from The Liberty Festival at Heritage Park in Canton, on Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28.

WSDP will provide up-to-the-minute details on parking, festival events and last minute changes.

WSDP will also register voters for

the elections this fall. Plymouth and Canton residents who have not yet registered are encouraged to visit the WSDP booth. Those who visit WSDP's booth will also have the opportunity to win CDs, Posters and Canton Cinema Six tickets.

WSDP will be at the festival from

noon to 9 p.m. on Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. on Sunday.

WSDP is owned and operated by The Plymouth Canton Community Schools. The station has been serving the community since Feb. 14, 1972. The station is staffed by students.

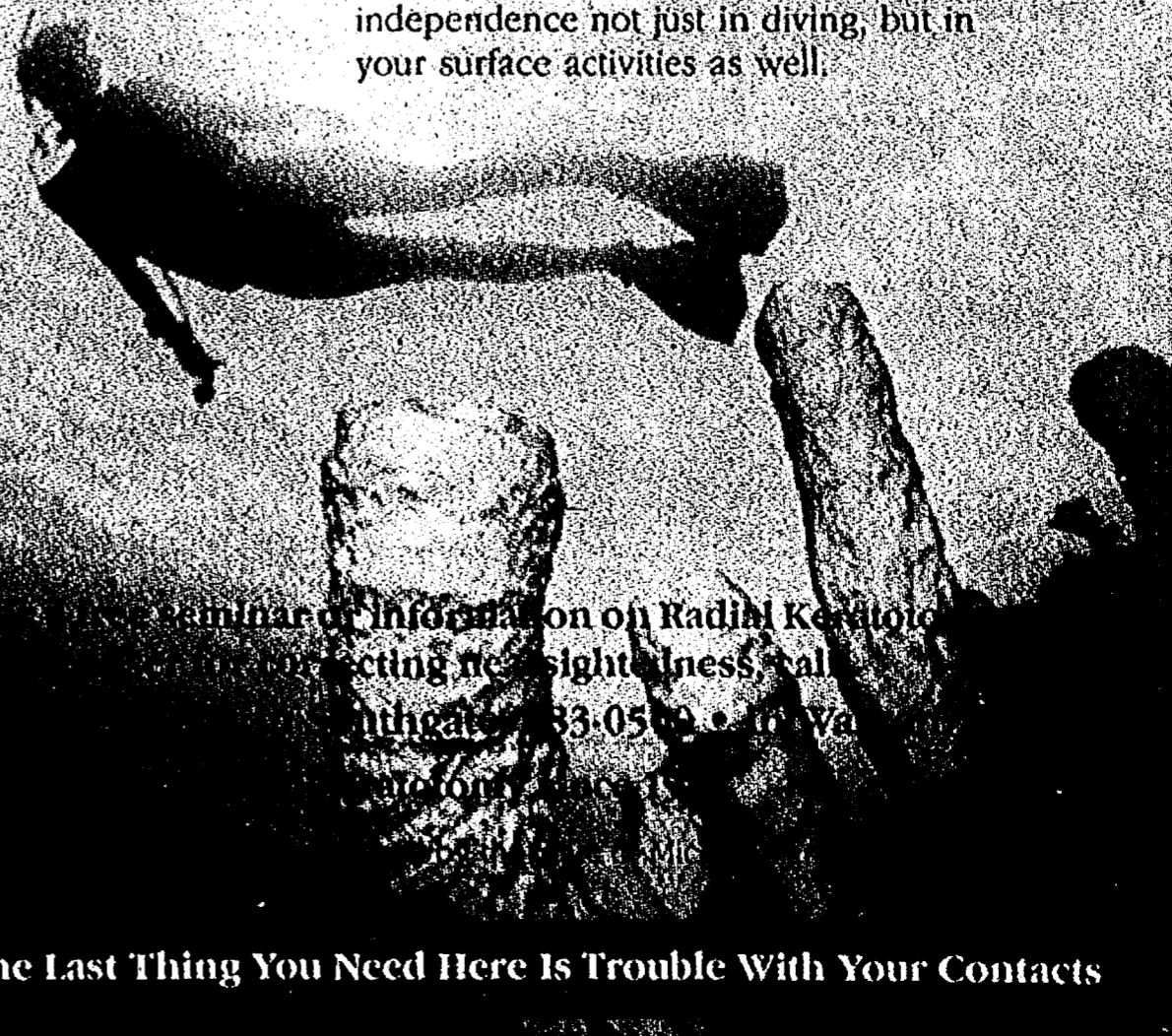
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# New books expected to improve scores

BY DARRELL CLEM  
STAFF WRITER

New science and math books will be used this fall in Wayne-Westland schools, amid hopes for improved student scores on state achievement tests.

A new math series costing \$750,000 will be implemented in kindergarten through eighth grades, and science books totaling \$132,000 will be used in junior high schools.

The new textbooks will bring to \$1.7 million the amount of money the school district has spent on new books in two years.

The new math and science books will come on the heels of a new reading book series implemented in kindergarten through sixth grade

during the past school year at a cost of nearly \$800,000.

"This is evidence that we're trying to improve the instructional program in the district," said Ronald Somers, the district's executive director for instruction and planning.

The new books, which in some cases replaced 12-year-old textbooks, were made possible by a two-year, 7.75-mill tax increase that voters approved last June, school officials said.

Educators expect the new books will help to improve student scores on the MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Program) test, but they said the improvements will

be gradual.

"I see us inching upwards the first year, then making stronger gains in later years," Somers said. "It'll take some time."

Some district residents have become concerned about what they consider consistently low MEAP scores, though educators have stressed that the test scores are only one indicator of student performance.

The new math series includes calculators and hands-on materials that help students grasp higher-level thinking skills, said Norine Blake, associate superintendent for instruction and planning.

Training workshops for both teachers and parents will take place

this fall, she said.

The new science books integrate the physical, life and earth sciences into a comprehensive curriculum, Blake said. Previously, educators had taught the three areas separately.

Somers stressed that the new books, alone, won't lead to huge advances in student performance. Different teaching strategies and parental involvement in education also are key elements, he said.

Educators hope the new textbooks will help to put the district on a regular schedule for replacing books. Typically, books need to be replaced every seven years, Somers said.

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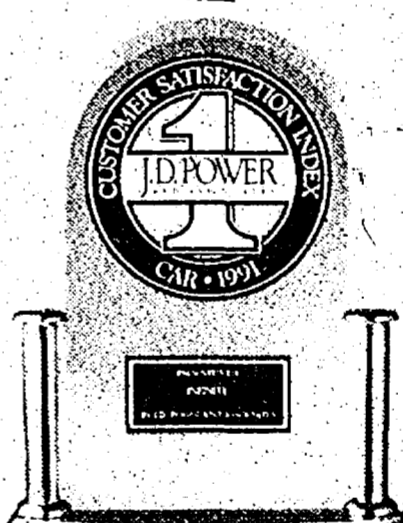
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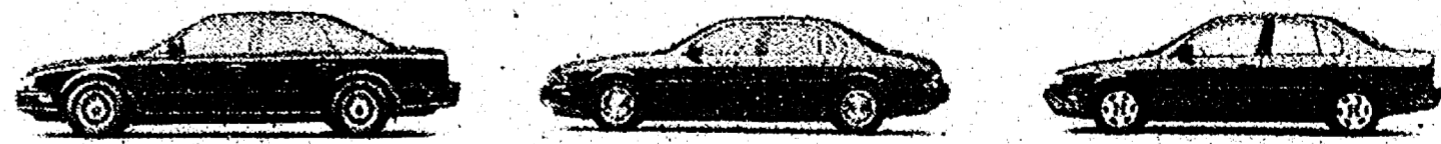
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# Suburban lawmakers say water bill will die in committee

BY TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER

They're putting up an optimistic front, but suburban politicians still are dismayed at what has happened to their bill to regionalize the Detroit water system.

House Speaker Lewis Dodak, D-Birch Run, sent the Senate-passed bill to the Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, where it has a strong chance of dying. Four of the 10 members, including chair Nelson Saunders, are from Detroit.

"I was shocked," said the bill's sponsor, Sen. David Honigman, R-West Bloomfield.

"I'm very concerned. I was left with strong assurances" it would be sent to the House Towns and Counties Committee. That panel is led by Roland Niederstadt, a Democrat whose district is in the suburbs of Saginaw. Most of the seven members are from townships and small cities. None is from Detroit.

"I spoke to Niederstadt by telephone, and Dodak was there with him. I've been trying to call Lew," said Honigman.

"Maybe it can still come out of committee," Honigman added.

Oakland County Drain Commissioner George Kuhn and his deputy, Bob Fredericks, also were unhappy.

"It was sent to Housing and Urban Affairs. But it's not a housing bill, and it's not urban affairs," said Fredericks. "It didn't seem to us to be appropriate."

"We haven't canvassed that committee and the chair. It's likely there won't be any action until after the Aug. 4 primary."

"We're very pleased it got through the Senate. The bill deserves a (House) hearing. We had several people contacting Dodak."

Both suspected that Detroit Mayor Coleman Young influenced Dodak to send the bill to a hostile, Detroit-dominated committee.

**Suburbia's case is that Detroit overcharges its customers, by loading its own general government costs into water rates; fails to collect from its own retail customers, shifting more costs to the suburbs and generally mismanages the system . . .**

Young has been vehement in his opposition to regional control of the water and sewerage system that serves more than 100 neighboring communities as far north as Flint.

Kuhn has been fighting the battle for more than a dozen years. Rep. John Bennett, D-Redford, Sen. Gilbert DiNello, D-Clinton Township, and Sen. Richard Fessler, R-Commerce, all took cracks at sponsorship.

Honigman's bill was the first to get through one chamber of the Legislature.

If it doesn't get through the House, it dies at the end of the year. And it can't get through the House until it gets through Saunders' committee.

Suburbia's case is that Detroit overcharges its customers, by loading its own general government costs into water rates; fails to collect from its own retail customers, shifting more costs to the suburbs; and generally mismanages the system, by giving contracts to political favorites rather than through competitive bidding and by stonewalling requests for information.

Detroit contends that its leadership and bonding ability made the system possible; its willingness to deal made suburban growth possible since the 1950s; and its rates are the lowest big-city rates in the country.

Detroit contends it owns the system and would have to be paid billions for it. Suburbia contends federal aid and customer charges paid for the system, not Detroit's tax money, and that Detroit's "investment" is almost nil.

Honigman expects a House panel to hold hearings this summer on his revision of a bill regulating wetlands.

Senate Bill 522 is in the House Conservation, Recreation and Environment Committee chaired by Rep. Tom Alley, D-West Branch.

That's the bill designed by Sen. Paul Wartner, R-Portage, to prevent local units from regulating wetlands at all. Wartner developed the bill in his Senate Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee.

In an unusual move, the full Senate last winter sent the bill to Honigman's Local Government Committee where the lakes area senator fashioned a compromise: state control over larger wetlands, local control under identical rules over smaller wetlands, time limits and simplified procedures.

All interest groups agreed to the compromise, but the acceptance by the environmentalist coalition, Clean Water Action, was begrudging. The so-called "piano teachers" bills are likely to get action after the primary.

Sponsored by Honigman, the bills prohibit cities, townships and counties from prohibiting music lessons and other tutoring in private residences.

## Coast guard academy seeks applicants

The United States Coast Guard Academy is accepting applications for appointment as cadet for the Class of 1997.

Men and women are invited to apply. Appointments are based on academic performance, SAT or ACT test scores, leadership potential as demonstrated by participation in high school activities; community affairs and/or part-time employment.

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to the director of admission before Dec. 15, 1992. Candidates must arrange to take the SAT or ACT test before Dec. 31, 1992.

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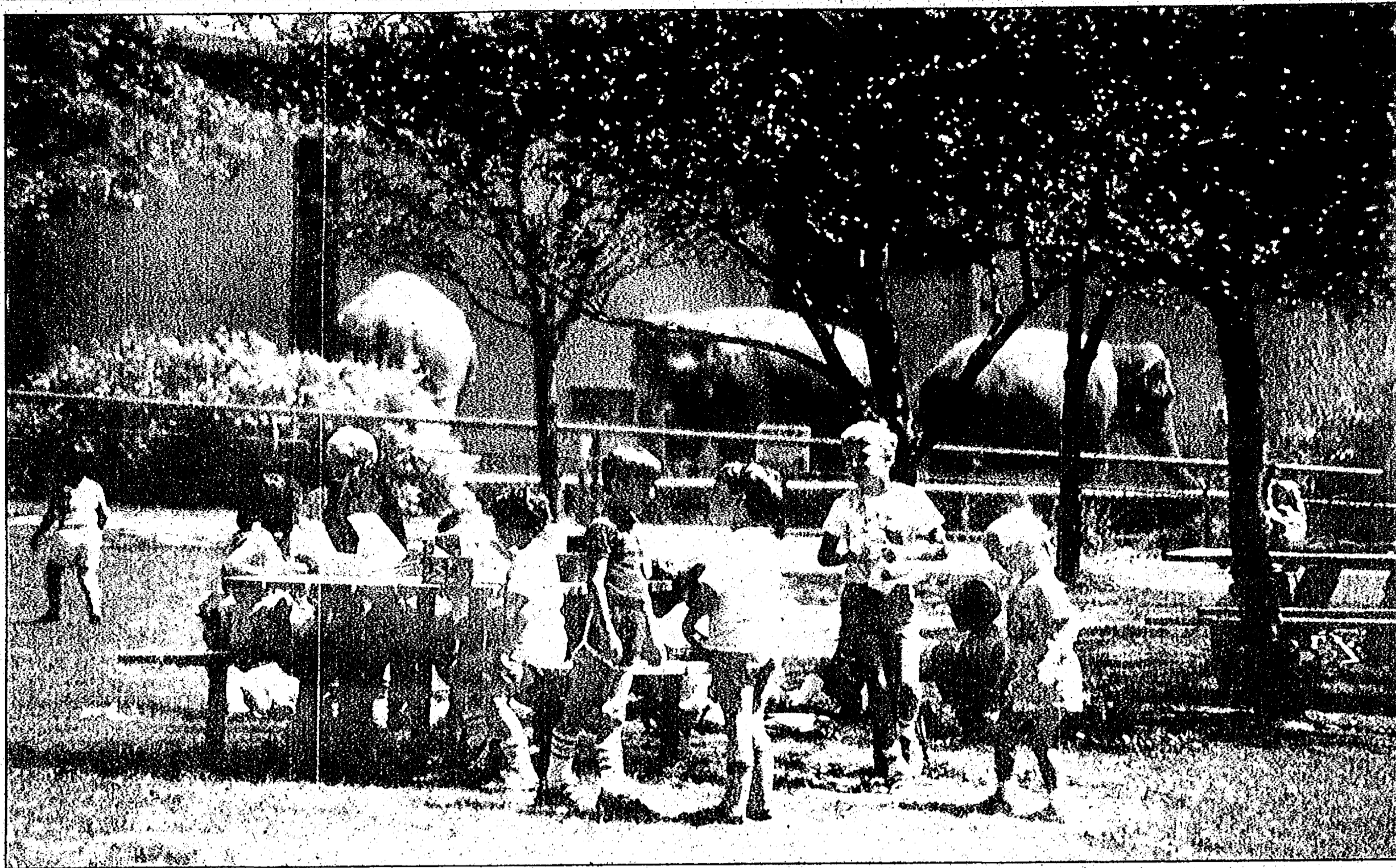
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TRAVEL



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PORTLAND VISITORS ASSOCIATION

Eat with the animals: Hundreds of people bring picnic dinners to a grassy hillside at the Metro Washington Park Zoo for special summer events such as Rhythm and Zoo Concerts.

BY THOMAS J. MEYER  
NEW YORK TIMES SYNDICATE

Doesn't it rain all the time? That is the first thing visitors usually ask about Portland, Ore.

In response residents are accustomed to proffering statistics proving that, in fact, one is likely to find considerably more precipitation elsewhere: say, New York or London or — using the proper set of calculations — Los Angeles.

From now through September, in any case, the outlook is good: mostly balmy days and cool nights, with only the occasional gloomy afternoon. The end of the winter and spring rains brings a feeling of relief combined with celebration.

The city's leafy neighborhoods overflow with residents out walking dogs, playing catch or sipping cappuccino at the growing number of sidewalk espresso bars.

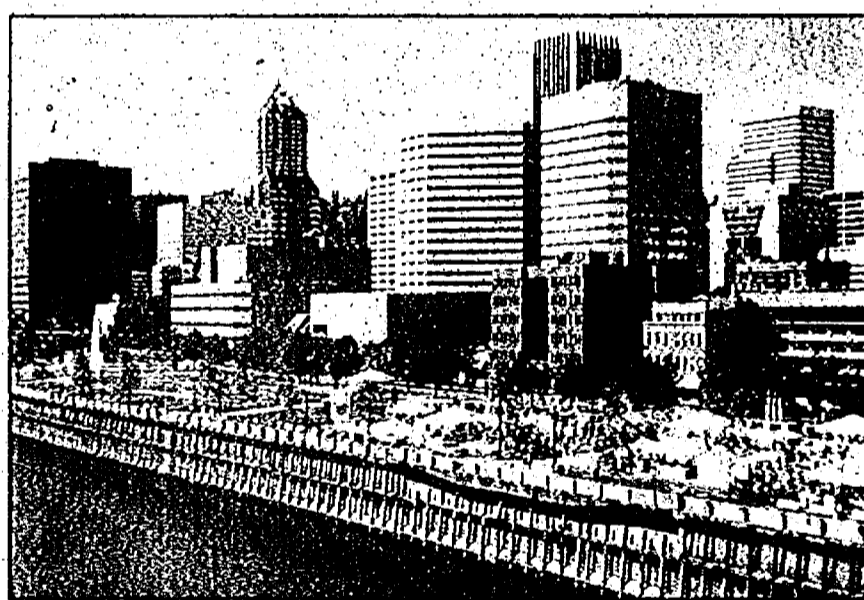
Only one Portland phenomenon is capable of transforming the city's mood and outlook as much as the annual arrival of sunshine: the National Basketball Association playoffs.

For the third year in a row the Trail Blazers, who play at Memorial Coliseum, have been contenders for the title and seemingly the topic of every conversation.

The conventional wisdom used to

# Blazing Oregon's trail

Summer sunshine brightens Portland's outlook



Cityscapes: Portland's stunning skyline is a good indication of how much the city prides itself on progressive urban planning and forward-looking architecture.

be that the Blazers' huge popularity resulted from a dearth of other night life.

Now, however, the city boasts a thriving theater community, a fine range of restaurants, an explosion of musical venues and an array of brew pubs, which serve beer and ale brewed on the premises.

Details on most of these places and events are available from the Portland/Oregon Visitors Association, at 26 Southwest Salmon St., Portland, Ore. 97204. For more information call (503) 222-2223.

## Events

On June 28, more than 6,000 participants will take part in the 15-kilometer (9.3-mile) Cascade Run-off. The course starts just east of the Burnside Bridge, turns south on Southwest Broadway and makes its way up into the West Hills on Southwest Terwilliger Boulevard, affording participants (and onlookers) sweeping views of the city and the Willamette Valley beyond, and finishes on Front Street.

Memorial Coliseum will be host to the Tournament of the Americas, a basketball competition running from June 27 to July 5 in which

men's teams from North, Central and South America will seek slots in the Summer Olympics in Barcelona.

The United States team, including Michael Jordan, Charles Barkley and Patrick Ewing, is heavily favored. Tickets, sold in packages of four, for \$50, \$75 and \$100, are scarce, especially for games involving the United States team. For more information call (800) 347-8722.

Fair summer evenings in Portland offer good opportunities to hear music. Hundreds of people bring picnic dinners to a grassy hillside at the Metro Washington Park Zoo for Your Zoo and All that Jazz (Wednesdays) and the Rhythm and Zoo Concerts (Thursdays). Admission is \$5.

This year performers include the Persuasions, Livingston Taylor, Pancho Sanchez and Kenny Rankin. The zoo is at 4001 Southwest

Canyon Road. For more information call (503) 226-1561.

The Chamber Music Northwest series offers concerts five nights a week from June 22 to July 25 at Reed College and the Catlin Gabel School. Tickets are \$9 to \$22. For more information call (503) 223-3202.

Every weekend from March through September the Saturday Market — open Sunday too — runs an open-air craft-and-food fair under the west end of the Burnside Bridge, at First Street. More than 300 booths feature works of local weavers; potters and photographers and a variety of ethnic foods.

There's also a strong contingent of wandering jugglers and magicians.

Art galleries are proliferating in the city, many of them in the Pearl District, a neighborhood of warehouse lofts just northwest of downtown.

On the first Thursday of each month nearly every gallery in the city extends its hours until 9 p.m. The event has become a sort of wandering, open-air cocktail party.

Good starting points for a round of gallery hopping are the Butters Gallery, at 312 Northwest 10th Ave., or the Jamison/Thomas Gallery, at 1313 Northwest Glisan St. For more information on the galleries call (503) 248-9378 or (503) 222-0063, respectively.

## Rail adventure: Seeing Europe by train

BY EVERETT POTTER  
SPECIAL WRITER



It's no secret that the best way to get around Europe is by train.

From remote Swiss mountain villages to the Gare du Nord in Paris, from Sicily to the shores of the Norwegian arctic, the train system that connects Europe still astonishes many American visitors.

On a continent where gasoline can cost \$5 a gallon, road tolls can be exorbitant and air travel between countries is often more expensive than a trans-Atlantic flight, train travel is still the most economical means of getting around.

For those who plan to visit a number of European countries on their vacation, a Eurailpass remains the best value for rail travel.

It must be bought in the United States before departure and allows unlimited first-class rail travel for a specified number of days on the railway systems of 17 member countries — Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy,

Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland.

A 15-day Eurailpass costs \$430 and a 21-day pass is \$550. A Eurail Flexipass, which allows five days of travel within 15 days, is \$280 and a pass allowing nine days of travel within 21 days is \$450.

The basic Eurail Youthpass, for those under age 26, is \$470 for one month of second-class travel. There is also a Youth Flexipass at \$420 for 15 days of travel within two months.

But the travel patterns of Americans in Europe are changing, according to Andy Lazarus, a spokesman for both Eurailpass and Rail Europe, which represents the rail networks of 23 European countries.

"The days of the kids with their backpacks trying to hit all 17 countries are largely gone," said Lazarus. "Americans who went as youths now return as more sophisticated travelers. They concentrate on one or two countries rather than trying to see it all at once."

For those travelers, it makes little sense to buy a Eurailpass. A more economical choice is to buy a rail pass in the country or countries where they intend to travel.

In the past, these rail passes have been available only through a country's tourist board, the U.S. office of the country's rail company or through a designated tour operator.

But trying to find out who sold what was time-consuming for consumers and travel agents.

So Rail Europe was created in January 1991, yet another aspect of the transformation of European industries as part of the move toward a Common Market.

While it is by no means complete — countries such as Ireland and Italy that are members of Eurail are not members of Rail Europe — it does offer "one-stop shopping" for rail passes for member countries.

It also allows travelers to choose between first- and second-class travel, which the Eurailpass does not.

While the "Chunnel" linking Britain and France will not be finished until late 1993 at the earliest, Rail Europe is anticipating its completion by offering the BritFrance Railpass.

For more information write to Rail Europe and Eurailpass at 230 Westchester Ave., White Plains, N.Y. 10604 or call (800) 4-EURAIL.

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STAFF PHOTOS BY GUY WARREN

**Family affair:** The Rogers family of Livonia — dad Don, mom Terry and kids Melissa, 6, and Joshua, 9, — are regulars on Saturdays during the summer when Hines Drive is closed to traffic. The Rogers say they've been riding every Saturday during the summer for about the last five years.

**Keith says Senate tinkering waters down truck riding bill**

By TIM RICHARD  
STAFF WRITER

An angry Rep. William Keith, D-Garden City, denounced the way the state Senate gutted his bill to restrict people from riding in the open bed of a truck.

"This (Senate version) would not have prevented the tragic accident which occurred in Grand Ledge last year," Keith said Thursday. He referred to the triple-fatality in which three high school students were killed in July when they were thrown from the bed of truck which hit a tree.

The Senate Tuesday amended his House Bill 5044 to apply only in cities, villages or townships with 30,000 or more population. The triple-fatality occurred on a rural Clinton County road.

Keith also objected to the Senate's narrowing the bill to "pickup" trucks, without defining them. His original bill applied to all open bed trucks.

At Keith's insistence, the House voted 93-8 to reject the Senate amendment. All area representa-

tives voted to reject.

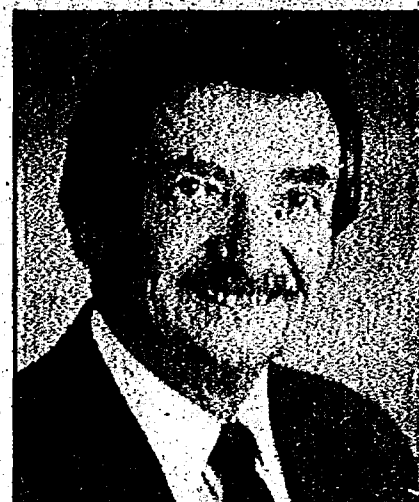
That sent the bill to a conference committee of three senators and three representatives to work out a possible compromise.

Keith, who said he had personal reasons for his interest in truck passenger safety, introduced the bill in response to the Clinton crash. He intended to make it a civil infraction for a person to ride in the open bed of a truck unless properly seated and wearing a safety belt.

"I made all the exemptions they wanted," said Keith. As passed by the House, the bill would have exempted riders in parades, the military, emergency vehicles, workers on farm equipment, hunters and hunting dog trainers.

The amendment to exclude local units of government with less than 30,000 population was offered two days earlier by Senate majority leader Dick Posthumus, R-Alto, and adopted.

The Senate passed its version 23-11. Voting yes were Michael Bouchard, R-Birmingham, Mat



**Rep. Bill Keith:** Denounced the way the state Senate gutted his bill to restrict people from riding in the open bed of a truck.

Dunaskiss, R-Lake Orion, William Faust, D-Westland, Robert Geake, R-Northville, George Hart, D-Dearborn, and David Honigman, R-Westland.


Voting no was Jack Faxon, D-Farmington Hills.

**Madonna OKs nursing pact**

Administrators and staff at Madonna University and Monroe Community College signed an agreement to enable nursing students with an associate degree from Monroe to complete a bachelor of science in nursing degree from Madonna on a more timely basis.

Similar agreements exist with Schoolcraft, Henry Ford, Highland Park and Oakland Community College.

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Certain individuals will undergo a profound experience, an unexpected catastrophe that could have killed, maimed or severely injured them. Somehow the person escaped, but not emotionally. The event sets off an internal preoccupation that shows as crippling muscle and joint aches.  
Physicians seeing such patients either are unsure that no physical ailment explains the problem, make a wrong diagnosis, or tell the patient something just to move the person on.  
When a physician explains what has occurred, more problems result. The patient considers a diagnosis of emotional disorder as one more mistake in a chain of errors. Or the person becomes alarmed at the prospect of returning with such a conclusion to friends and relatives.  
In addition, this disorder is not readily treated by present psychological therapy. Thus the person has the past hope of recovery removed, with no expectation of resolution in place.

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POINTS OF VIEW

Separate but equal on abortion, says state court

Maybe you, too, are frustrated at how broadcasters and the metropolitan papers handle major court decisions like last week's case upholding the end of state-paid abortions.

We conclude that it does not. After federal funding for Medicaid abortions was withdrawn (1976, Hyde amendment), Michigan provided 100 percent of the funds required until Sec. 109a became effective.



Tim Richard

race as intolerable.) The U.S. Supreme Court has held that the Hyde amendment and state statutes which restrict Medicaid funding of abortions do not violate the equal protection guarantee of the federal constitution.

led to support from the state under the equal protection clause. Just because a pregnant woman may have the right to choose an abortion does not mean that she has a right to have the government pay for it.

The basis of (the appeals court) conclusion is an assumption that Medicaid-qualified women have an entitlement to funds for an abortion. Even where the state has previously funded the exercise of a right, it is not required to continue such funding.

This case does not concern a woman's right under the federal constitution to choose to terminate her pregnancy (Roe v. Wade). Rather, this case concerns whether Sec. 109a (approved by voters in 1988) exceeds the limits of equal protection established by our state constitution.

Plaintiffs complain that Sec. 109a accords unequal treatment between two classes of Medicaid-qualified, pregnant women — those who choose childbirth and those who choose abortion. It is well established that even if a law treats groups of people differently, it will not necessarily violate the guarantee of equal protection.

Touring state's back country could help suburbs

It never fails to amaze me that out of all the thousands of miles of shoreline in Michigan, folks end up shoulder to shoulder in Traverse City when summer comes.

Nearby is the Seney Wildlife Refuge, for bird watchers and the Fox River for trout. While the town may seem a bit down on its heels, it has a rich literary history. Ernest Hemingway visited the town once and later wrote "The Big Two Hearted River."



Jeff Counts

It's not that Traverse City isn't a nice place, it's just that there are too many frozen yogurt stands, art galleries and gift shops. That suburban stuff.

Hotel was built by Henry Ford and later used as a setting for the film "Anatomy of a Murder." Nearby are Lake Superior and the Yellow Dog River which flows out of the Huron Mountains.

bar-gas station is still there. It's on the county road between Newberry and Deer Park in the Upper Peninsula's Luce County. It's worth the stop just to say you've been there.

Seney. It's off the beaten track in the Upper Peninsula on M-28. There isn't much to the town. The IGA store is owned by born-again Christians, so they don't carry beer.

Spike's Keg O'Nails in Grayling is the farthest you can get from yogurt. On the menu here are cheeseburgers, Stroh's, Bob Seger and bikers. And across U.S. 27 is the AuSable River, a

canoe livery and The Fly Factory, all of which deserve a visit. For the movie history buff there's Big Bay in the Huron Mountains northwest of Marquette. The Big Bay

When it comes to Lake Superior watching, the Dunes Saloon in Grand Marais is perfect. The bar is a shot and a beer away from the bay. There's a fish fry put on Wednesday night by one of the locals.

Jeff Counts is the editor of the Plymouth and Canton Observer Newspapers. He tips the scales at more than 200, and is occasionally seen eating frozen yogurt while wearing deck shoes and a Ralph Lauren polo shirt.

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# 1991 U.S. House payroll up 9 percent

BY RANDY WYNN  
SPECIAL WRITER

While many paychecks back home shrank or disappeared during the tough recession year of 1991, the House of Representatives staff payroll hit record levels.

A survey of public records by Roll Call Report Syndicate shows that House members' staff salaries totaled over \$211 million during 1991, up nine percent from the \$192.1 million spent a year earlier and 14 percent above the 1989 figure of \$183.9 million.

House members are allotted up to \$515,760 annually for personal staff payroll and can raise that cap to \$590,760 by transferring funds from their general expense allowance.

A member's unspent payroll allocation usually is shifted to other House accounts.

## Survey results

The survey revealed that no House member spent his or her full salary allotment, although several approached the cap.

Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., had the highest payroll at \$574,824, and Rep. William H. Natcher, D-Ky., the lowest at \$208,681.

Following Waxman were Democrats Tim Johnson of South Dakota (\$567,390), Barbara Boxer of California (\$559,057), Patricia Schroeder of Colorado (\$558,211) and Marty Russo of Illinois (\$555,923), and Republican James H. Quillen of Tennessee (\$553,887).

Following Natcher were Republicans Dick Nichols of Kansas (\$354,149) and Larry J. Hopkins of Kentucky (\$355,365), Democrat Jamie L. Whitten of Mississippi

(\$377,840), and Republicans Dave Camp of Michigan (\$380,333) and Toby Roth of Wisconsin (\$388,504). Lawmakers defend their payroll regardless of the level.

"I have a good staff, I pay well, and I think that they deserve it," said Quillen. "Some of them go to work at six o'clock in the morning and work until real late in the night."

"We do a lot of constituent service. We've been known for that for the past 30 years, and I'm proud of it."

Johnson noted his congressional district, covering all of South Dakota, is the nation's largest in both population and territory.

Michigan's Camp, a freshman, said of his low payroll, "I take very seriously that these are public funds and I try to spend them very carefully."

The House payroll allotment of \$515,760 has been in place since May 1991 when a \$40,760 increase was quietly put into effect. A similar increase was rejected months earlier when opponents forced a record vote on the House floor.

Also in May 1991, the amount members can transfer from office expenses to payroll was hiked from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

## Payrolls increase

Largely because of those increases, most staff payrolls rose significantly as the year progressed: For example, a look at payrolls of the top six members listed above shows the following increases between first and fourth quarter expenditures; Waxman 30 percent, Johnson

29 percent, Boxer 12 percent, Schroeder 21 percent, Russo 17 percent and Quillen two percent.

The Roll Call Report, Syndicate survey did not cover Senate staffs or House committee staffing, or examine what individuals are paid.

Each House member can hire up to 18 full-time and four part-time staffers, with \$105,000 the maximum salary. The typical lawmaker has 15 to 20 aides.

The House employs more than 7,500 aides on personal staffs, and the Senate more than 4,000. Altogether, the legislative branch has about 38,000 employees.

Lawmakers who hold leadership positions or chair committees and subcommittees preside over many more employees. The Appropriations Committee, for example, had 203 staffers at the end of 1991.

Natcher has five committee aides as a result of chairing an appropriations subcommittee. This supplements a personal staff of nine that may be the smallest in the House. "I don't have an administrative assistant, a press aide, a legislative assistant or an office manager," he said. "I don't need them."

Criticizing the congressional payroll is a tried and true way to make Congress look bloated and out of touch. But whether or not lawmakers have too much help depends on who's counting.

"We don't have room for them. We pack them in and treat them like cattle," said Rep. John Boehner, an Ohio Republican who advocates staff cuts.

"Because work expands to meet available resources, more staff means more laws, regulations and

## Cost of supporting your congressman

The figures below, from Clerk of the House reports, show the sums House members spent on personal staff salaries in 1991. The typical House member nationwide employs 15 to 20 aides.

Dennis Hertel, D	\$537,265
Sander Levin, D	\$522,648
Carl Pursell, R	\$477,248
William Broomfield, R	\$472,955
William Ford, D	\$446,017

Source: Thomas' Roll Call Report Syndicate  
TAMMIE GRAVER STAFF ARTIST

programs without regard to social needs," said Marlo Lewis Jr. of Citizens Against Government Waste.

"Idle hands have to be kept busy, so they make work for the executive branch. More executive branch staff is needed to handle congressional requests for reports few legislators ever read."

But lawmakers are quick to note that Capitol Hill staffing is tiny compared to the executive branch. The Department of Agriculture alone employs nearly 130,000.

While much staff time is spent on public business, the line between official and political activity can be easily blurred. Congressional challengers like to complain that incumbents legislate perks such as large staffs and unlimited free mailing to keep themselves in power.

# Golf outing raises \$21,000 for mental health agency

Northwestern Community Services first annual Kids Care Classic golf outing held last month raised more than \$21,000 for the western Wayne County community mental health agency.

The funds will be used to support


treatment for children from low income families. The event was held at the Grosse Ile Golf and Country Club.

Northwestern, formerly

Northwestern Guidance Clinic, provides treatment of mental and emotional illness for persons under 18 who live in Garden City, Canton, Inkster, Livonia, Northville, Plym-

outh, Redford, Wayne and Westland. In addition, its respite care program schedules temporary care for developmentally disabled persons who live in Wayne County

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Volunteers must be adult men or sterile/postmenopausal women who have asthma but are otherwise healthy. The study will take place at the Sterling Heights Medical Center, 3500 Fifteen Mile Road (at Ryan Road).

Participants will be paid up to \$225 for the six-week study (four visits). Also, study-related care and tests will be provided free to qualified participants.

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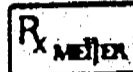
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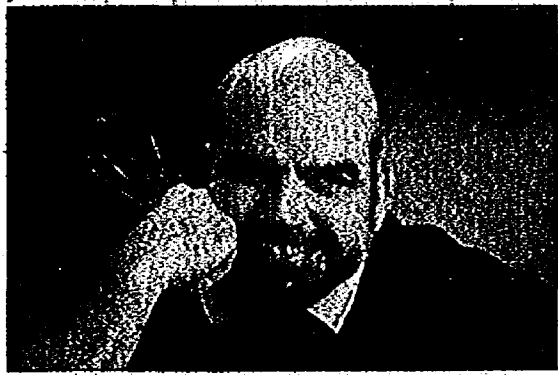
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# TASTE

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1992

# B

## TASTE BUDS



CHEF LARRY JANES

## Amazing black beans becoming user friendly

When it comes to cooking dried beans, there is one that the Janes Gang prefers that is second to none in taste and versatility.

Check out my pantry and you're sure to find the rudimentary bag of navy beans that make for a hearty soup, the pintos that always end up in a home-cooked refried state but by far, the most widely used and adored are those tiny black "turtle" beans that end up in everything from a spicy Cuban black bean soup to an equally satisfying black bean pizza.

### Dried beans

The demand for convenience foods made from dried beans has increased steadily while the use of fresh, unprocessed beans has declined, mainly because many homeowners work and have limited time for the preparation of meals at home.

In addition, money can be saved by buying dried beans. Not only do they store almost indefinitely, but each cup of dried beans will yield three times as much cooked beans.

Beans are becoming more "user friendly," especially since the introduction of a major anti-gas remedy called "Bean-O," which literally neutralizes the enzymes that produce flatulence.

### Cooking methods

Dried beans have never been a major influence in creating culinary trends, probably because of the time involved for cooking.

There are, however, a few tricks that can be used in the kitchen to drastically reduce the cooking time involved for dried beans.

With the introduction of "safe" pressure cookers that are unlike the ones of old, beans can be pressure cooked in a matter of minutes.

I can vividly remember the day my momma's old pressure cooker finally blew it's top, spewing beef stew farther than an active volcano. From that day forward, the Janes Gang dried beans were always soaked overnight. To us kids, it was an amazing sight to see that the dried beans had swollen to the top of the pot while we slept.

Of course, with the onset of hot summer weather, soaking might be preferred, but if you're in a hurry, there are alternatives.

My new pressure cooker will cook a pound of dried beans in less than 30 minutes. The precooking process for soups only takes less than 10 minutes.

Prior to my purchase of a pressure cooker, other than the overnight soak, when I wanted beans, I remember momma's other secret, dubiously dubbed the "one-hour hot soak."

When the pantry was bare and there were no cans of kidney beans for the typical Thursday night chili, momma frequently used the one-hour hot soak method which required her to place the beans in a large pot and cover with what seemed to be a half gallon of water.

When the water began to boil, momma watched the second hand tick away for no more than two minutes. The burner was diffused and a tight-fitting lid was placed on the pot for an hour. Dinner might have been 45 minutes later that night, but the beans were as tender as ever.

### Winning recipe

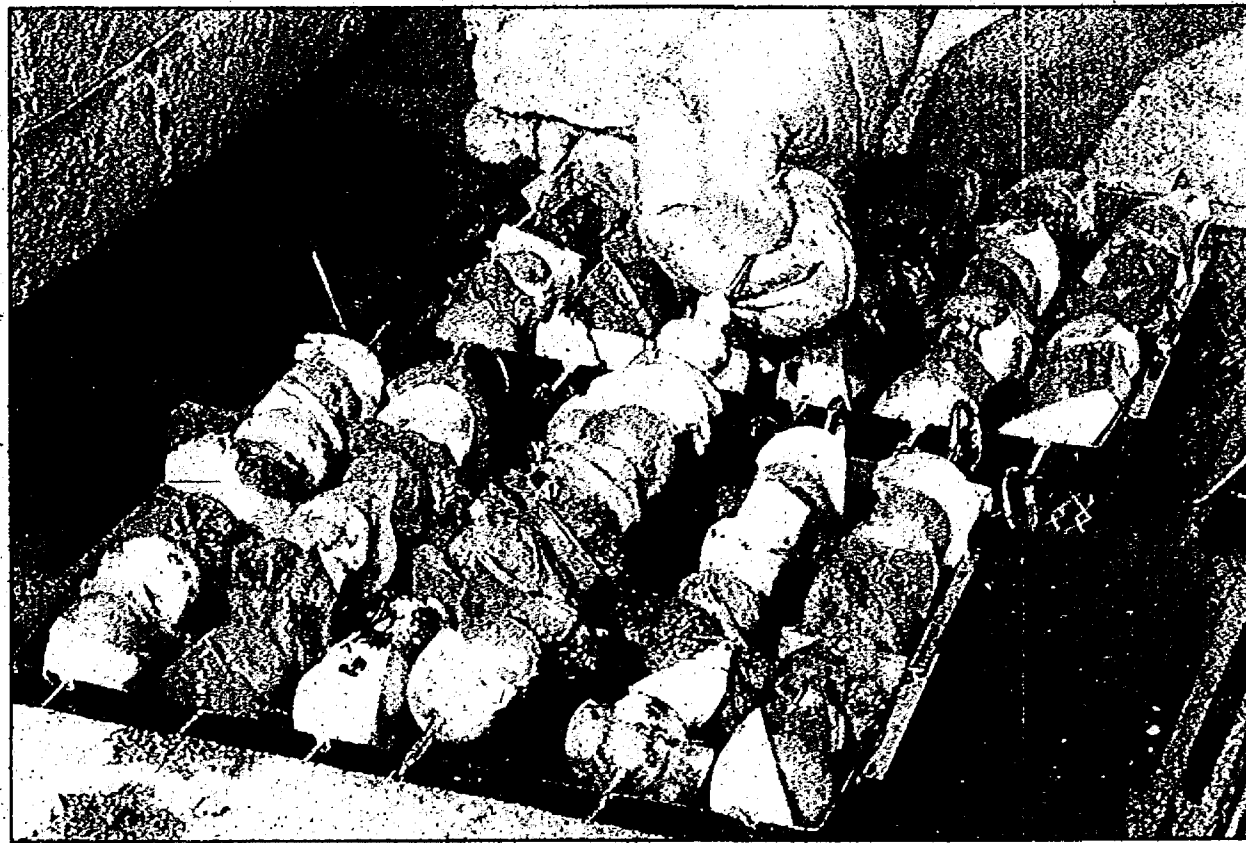
In addition to a hearty, stick-to-your-ribs black bean soup that is as out of place on a 90-degree day as an ice cream cone on Christmas, the Janes Gang has picked up another winning recipe for using black beans.

This is literally a "winning" recipe that was created by Dave Schmitt of Phoenix, Ariz., and which won him \$10,000 in the 1992 Pillsbury Bake-Off. In Dave's winning recipe, a refrigerated pizza dough is baked with a pizza-type top resplendent with black beans, fresh cilantro, plenty of vegetables and cheese.

Dubbed as "vegetarian" because Dave "wanted a recipe that would appeal to people who are health-conscious" this black bean pizza would feel right at home with the addition of pepperoni.

If you want to taste the original, you might find yourself tempted to "switch" the bean variety because as Dave says: "the black beans are unusual and you get a unique flavor that piques people's interest." The recipe piqued Dave's interest too, by \$10,000. I've tasted winning recipes before but trust me on this one, folks, you won't be disappointed.

See recipes inside.



## Veggie COOKOUT

Several times over the summer, Juliana Harrison and her friends get together for a vegetarian cookout. The meals are festive and delicious.



BY KEELY WYGONIK  
STAFF WRITER

When Juliana Harrison and her friends get together for a cookout, the menu is nutritious, colorful and meatless.

"We've won people over," said Harrison who planned a festive Fourth of July Vegetarian Cookout with her friend Sarah Penberthy of Rochester Hills.

Both are vegans, that is vegetarians who eat no animal products. They don't eat meat, fish, dairy products, or white sugar. What is there left to eat you might ask. Plenty I found out.

Harrison invited me to her home in Plymouth to try some of the recipes she and Sarah created, and to meet some of their friends who are also vegetarians. At one time, all of them were meat eaters. Some stopped eating meat for health reasons like Jeanne Poulet of Livonia. Others, like Harrison, Penber-



thy, and Mike Chiado of Plymouth, became vegetarians for ethical and environmental reasons.

"We have compassion for animals, and are making a large contribution to the environment," said Penberthy.

According to organizers of the recently launched "Beyond Beef Campaign," cattle and other livestock consume more than one-third of the world's grain

and are a major cause of deforestation. If this grain were fed to people, it would reduce the amount of malnutrition in the world.

The menu of red, white and blue corn chips, black bean dip, guacamole with salsa, Popeye Burgers, Barbecued Seitan with skewered vegetables, potato salad, colorful tossed salad, love crisps, rainbow crisp and cranraz kanten, was delicious, and satisfying.

Popeye Burgers, invented by Keith Zimmer of Milan, recently won high honors for low-fat burgers in a contest sponsored by Vegetarian Voice Magazine. Made out of spinach, chopped potatoes, and spices, these burgers are bursting with flavor. They're served on buns, just like hamburgers, and dressed up with sprouts, lettuce, tomatoes, mustard or barbecue sauce.

A vegetarian for two years, Zimmer said he did it in stages. First he eliminated fast foods, then beef, chicken, fish, eggs, milk and dairy products. "I enjoy cooking," he said.

Seitan, also called "wheat meat" looks, and tastes like meat. "It has a nice chew to it," said Harrison. It's one of the convenience foods that makes being a vegetarian easier. You can buy it in health food stores, for about \$4.23



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER

for 12 ounces. This will serve four. "I've discovered this how delicate natural foods are," said Penberthy who enjoys creating her own recipes. "You get a taste of what food is really supposed to taste like. It's pleasing to the eye and palate."

See recipes inside.

## French version of pizza worth the effort to make

WINNER DINNER



BETSY BRETHEN

There are those people for whom the process of cooking is a real joy and an integral part of their life.

For Mary Breen, this week's Winner Dinner Winner, cooking is a passion. Originally from Buffalo, N.Y., Breen has lived in Birmingham for 11 years. The mother of four grown children, she is enjoying having

more time to pursue the other passion in her life, art. Breen has been taking classes at the Birmingham-Bloomfield Art Association. She was recently invited to enter the Celebrate Life art show at Congregational Church of Birmingham.

Having grown up with a mother who is a noted cook, it was only natural that Breen should follow suit. She has enriched her knowledge and cooking ex-

pertise by taking classes throughout the years, including many sessions at the Birmingham Community House. This past spring, she attended a five-day cooking school at the Greenbrier in West Virginia, sponsored by the world-renowned French cooking school, La Varenne. The recipe for this week's Winner Dinner, is Pissaladiere, a Provençal version of pizza. She recommends serving the pissaladiere with a salad of mixed greens for a luncheon or light supper. The dessert should be a simple dish of fresh fruit.

Many thanks to all of you who have so thoughtfully shared your family's favorite summer menus.

Submit your recipes, to be considered for publication in this column or elsewhere to Winner Dinner, P.O. Box 3503, Birmingham, MI 48012. All submission become the property of the publisher. Each week's winner receives an apron with the words Winner Dinner Winner on it.

Winner Dinner: Mary Breen (left) and her neighbor El-lie Lissaladiere, the French version of pizza, mixed green salad, and brown sugar cookies.



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC

## Winner Dinner Recipes



### PISSALADIERE BREAD DOUGH

- 2 teaspoons or ¼ ounce package dry yeast
- ½ cup lukewarm milk
- 2 ½ cups flour, more if needed
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- ½ cup butter, softened
- cornmeal (to coat baking dish)

In a small bowl, crumble or sprinkle the yeast over 3-4 tablespoons of milk. Mix in enough of the flour to make a soft, sticky dough and let this starter rise in a warm place for 15-20 minutes. Sift the remaining flour on a board or marble slab and make a large well in the center. Add the yeast starter, eggs, salt, sugar and the remaining milk. Briefly mix the center ingredients, then gradually draw in the flour to form a dough. Knead the dough into a ball; it should be soft but not sticky, so add more flour if necessary.

Knead the dough by lifting it up and slapping it on the work surface for 5-10 minutes until very smooth and elastic. Pound the butter to soften it, then work it into the dough. Knead the dough again to incorporate the butter thoroughly. Transfer the dough to an oiled bowl, cover it with a damp cloth and leave in a warm place to rise until doubled in bulk, about 1 hour. The dough will be easier to shape when chilled, and it can be left to rise overnight in the refrigerator.

Knead the dough lightly to knock out the air. Lightly flour the work surface, roll out the dough to a 14-

inch circle. Roll the dough around the rolling pin and drape it over the buttered quiche pan or buttered cookie sheet which have been lightly coated with cornmeal. If using a quiche pan, gently lift the edges of dough with one hand and press it well into the bottom of the pan, pressing down to cut off excess dough. Press the dough evenly up the sides from the bottom to increase the height of the rim. If using a cookie sheet, pinch up the dough to form a collar all the way around the edge to hold the filling.

### PISSALADIERE FILLING

- ½ cup olive oil
- 8 medium onions, sliced
- 3 tomatoes, sliced
- 8 ounce package mushrooms, chopped finely
- 3 cloves garlic, chopped finely
- 5 sprigs each parsley, thyme and rosemary, chopped

Heat ¼ of the oil in a frying pan, add the onions and sauté in pepper to taste and press a piece of buttered foil on top. Cover and cook until very soft, 15-20 minutes. Take off the lid and continue cooking, stirring until golden brown. In another frying pan, sauté the chopped mushrooms, garlic, herbs and salt and pepper to taste in ¼ cup of olive oil until tender. Spread onions on bottom of dough, then arrange tomato slices on top. Sprinkle herb mushroom mixture on top. Let the pissaladiere rise in a warm place until puffed, 20-30 minutes. Heat oven to 400 degrees. Sprinkle tomatoes with salt, pepper. Bake 25-35 minutes.



# Golden Mushroom co-owner honored



**KEELY WYGONIK**  
Certified Master Chef Milos Cihelka, co-owner of the Golden Mushroom Restaurant in Southfield, has been honored by the chef's profession as the American Culinary Federation central regional chef of the year. He will represent the central region of the United States as its nominee for the national chef of the year award.

"I've won many awards in competitions, but winning this award is very special," said Cihelka. "Being

selected as the regional chef of the year means your peers recognize your efforts and appreciate the time and energy given to the future of our industry."

Cihelka won double gold medals at the "Culinary Olympics" in 1972, and was the first Certified Master Chef in America. Today fewer than 50 chefs can boast the distinction of Certified Master Chef. It is an honor, and measure of knowledge of the chef's profession. To earn the title, one must document a long history of success in the kitchen and thorough education before becoming eligible to take the 10-day exam that leads to this achievement.

"If you're looking for a way to add some zip, to your summer meals, try flavored vinegars."

"Everybody is fat conscious, and trying to reduce their intake of fats and oils," said John Jonna, merchandise manager, product development, Merchant of Vino. "Oil adds flavor, if you cut oil, you kill flavor, what I'm recommending is use less oil, add water and flavored vinegars."

Jonna gave me a quick lesson in flavored vinegars at the Merchant of Vino at 4050 Rochester Road in Troy. Three of the best known flavored vinegars are the French Orleans, Italian balsamic, and Spanish sherry.

French Orleans adds a brisk, sharp flavor to salad dressings. It is also absorbs the flavor of herbs.

"Balsamic means to improve your health in Italian," said Jonna. For nearly 1,000 years, balsamic vinegar has been made in Modena, Italy from the Trebbiano grape. "It has an amazing flavor," said Jonna. He sprinkles balsamic vinegar on vegetables, pasta, fresh fruit, and salads.

Sherry vinegar tastes like sherry, and has a nutty flavor, and natural sweetness.

One of Jonna's favorite marinades for beef and lamb is garlic, sesame seed oil, olive oil, balsamic vinegar, and a little lemon juice.

# Make a Mexican black bean pizza

See Larry Janes's Taste Buds column on Taste front.

This recipe submitted by Dave Schmitt of Phoenix, Ariz., was a \$10,000 winner in the 1992 Pillsbury Bake-Off.

## BLACK BEAN MEXICAN PIZZA

1 can (10 oz.) Pillsbury refri-

- gerated all-ready pizza crust
- 1 can (15 oz.) black beans, drained and rinsed
- 3 tablespoons olive oil or vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 teaspoon cumin

- 1 teaspoon hot red pepper sauce
- 1/2 teaspoon minced garlic
- 4 ounces (1 cup) shredded Monterey Jack cheese
- 4 ounces (1 cup) shredded Cheddar Cheese
- 1 can (2 1/4 oz.) sliced ripe olives, drained
- 1/2 cup sliced red bell pepper
- 1/4 cup sliced green onions
- 1/2 cup dairy sour cream
- 1/4 cup green or red taco sauce
- 1 cup thick and chunky salsa

one of those new Boboli shells!) Bake the dough at 425 degrees until light golden brown, 7-10 minutes.

In a food processor with a metal blade, combine beans, oil, cilantro, cumin, hot red pepper sauce and garlic; process until smooth, frequently scraping down the sides of the bowl. (Bean mixture can be mashed by hand but will not be as smooth)

Spread bean mixture evenly over partially baked crust.

Sprinkle with cheeses, olives, bell pepper and onions. Bake at 425 degrees until crust is deep golden brown and cheese is melted, about 10-12 minutes. In a small bowl, combine sour cream and taco sauce. Blend well. Serve pizza with sour cream mixture and salsa. Serves 6-8.

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Lightly grease a 12-inch pizza pan. Unroll dough and place in the greased pan.

(Chef's Note: You can make your own pizza dough, if desired, or use

*Nutrition information per serving: 268 cal., 6 g fat, 12 g pro., 42 g carbo., 729 mg sodium. RDA: 21 percent iron, 12 percent vit. C, 14 percent thiamine.*

# Cook beans fast in microwave oven

Sure, you can bake beans all day long in a hot oven. Or, you can cook them in your microwave oven in less than 30 minutes. What's even better is the cleanup. You cook, mix, heat and serve all in the same casserole. Now, that's easy summertime cooking.

## SAVORY THREE-BEAN BAKE

- 6 slices bacon
- 2 medium onions, sliced and separated into rings
- One 16-ounce can baked beans
- One 16-ounce can butter beans, drained
- One 8 1/4-ounce can lima beans, drained
- 1 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 1/2 cup chili sauce
- 3 tablespoons vinegar
- 1 tablespoon prepared mustard

In a 2-quart microwave-safe casserole arrange bacon. Cover with microwave-safe paper towels to prevent spattering. Cook on 100 percent power (high) for 4 to 7 minutes or until crisp. Remove bacon from the dish, reserving 1 tablespoon of the drippings. Drain on paper towels. Crumble and set aside. Add onion rings to reserved drippings in casserole. Cook, covered, on high for 3 to 5 minutes or until onion is tender, stirring once. Drain well. In the same casserole combine bacon, onion rings, undrained baked beans, drained butter beans, drained lima beans, brown sugar, chili sauce, vinegar and mustard. Cook, uncovered, on high for 11 to 13 minutes or until heated through, stirring once. Makes 6 servings.

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# StreetSCENE



**Music makers:** Creating the sound for *Those Who Dream* are vocalist Gary Hancock, drummer and keyboardist Michael Holden, bass guitarist and flutist Brooke Ann Ratliff and guitarist Jeff Jolly.

## It's Cat, Ash Can and compilations



**LARRY O'CONNOR**

Their intentions are wholesome, but Birmingham-based Confuse a Cat make some deviously construed music on their cassette "Ankles."

Vocals and guitars swerve, skitter and scrape the pavement, but somehow manage to avoid their predestined crash. Confuse a Cat wear the seat belts of musical restraint.

At the same time, though, the band willingly sheds the shackles of type or structure. Melody is a dirty word around this bunch, which appears to be trying to craft its own beatnik beat borne out of suburban boredom.

In their creative nadir they can whip out a swirling dervish number such as "Latin Libra." Cathy Connell's piercing guitar lines and Jim Miller's murmuring vocal persuasions make this a highlight. In "Empty" Connell's speculative guitar work is aptly showcased amid the scratchy strafe of Dave Byrd's drumming and Jenny Gabel's pulsating bass lines.

Confuse a Cat is still in the formulation stage with their sound, inciting a whole range of possible comparisons from the natty Violent Femmes to the orchestral dementia put forth by Universal Congress Of to the distorted guitars employed by Sonic Youth.

Dressed up as "Latin Libra" is with a violin or stripped down to the core as "TV Boy" is with Miller's detached vocals, Confuse a Cat succeed mainly due to their earnestness.

At their worst, they at least present a shell of a number that's worthy of further exploration.

(360 Records, 288 E. Maple, Suite No. 130, Birmingham 48009)

"Out of the Ash Can," J.C. Whitelaw — The former member of Ash Can VanGogh and Birmingham resident dealt with the breakup from his longtime girlfriend and his band the only way he knew how — he locked himself in the studio and made an album.

The pain and emotional tumult from those events are revealed in the lyrics, ironically, through 12 folk rock-tinged numbers that are brimming with life musically and, indeed, spiritually uplifting.

Listeners are initially more likely to be enamored with J.C. Whitelaw's musical adroitness. There's a lot to like.

"Dostoevsky Lose Its Flavour on the Bedpost Overnight?" various artists — This compilation is of interest locally due to the contribution from this area's Icehead whose "Goddess of Love" is a sonic breaker in a sea of aural sensations.

Side one contains some of the most brooding and cavernous musical exploration heard this side of the Atlantic from nondescript artists such as Speed of Pleasure ("Can't Sleep") and La Boulevardiers ("Hourglass") not to mention the brilliant trance-like folk number by Sean McDermott and Hugh O'Carroll "Wouldsheholdmetigherifsheloveme."

Side two stays more with convention, albeit damn fine sounding. An Irish ska band? "Limbo Police" by Freres Jackman deftly captures a bit of the blue beat spirit while Feargal is the Applejack's "Talking to Yourself" is sugary pop gloriously doused with arsenic. "Goddess of Love" by the local outfit Icehead sounds languid and detached but quickly ferments into a cascading rush of emotion wrought through Amy's vocal appeal and an excaevation of thundering guitar.

A good collection of songs from a motley crew.

(Mickey Rourke's Fridge, 66 Cushman Park, Killinarden, Tallaght, Dublin, 24, Ireland).

## Bit of this, that makes Dreams



Take a few guitars. Blend in some drums, a little keyboard, drum pads and flute. Mix well. . . It may sound like a recipe and it is, a recipe for the sound of *Those Who Dream*, an alternative pop group that maintains that their unique style gives them a cleaner sound than the competition.

**BY KRISTEN KNUDSEN**  
SPECIAL WRITER

Sitting amidst guitars, drums and bass guitars, three men and a woman try to create their special music. Sounds pretty normal, right?

But throw in some flutes. Or some drum pads with keyboard effects. Add some more sound effects off of tapes from the local library and you have the music of *Those Who Dream*.

Drummer and keyboardist Michael Holden, 24, of Royal Oak, has a simple explanation for this band's novel approach.

"After playing for so long, I was bored. I wanted to expand and I now have access to many different sounds which I couldn't get before," explained Holden, who works days in a shipping and receiving department at a Royal Oak company and gives private music lessons.

One such sound is wind blowing at the end of the song, "Stirling."

"I'd get bored, too," admits Brooke Ann Ratliff, 22, of Auburn Hills, the group's bass guitarist and flutist. "I really missed all the studio equipment I used to have, when I would go to school."

Ratliff attended the Baldwin-Wallis Conservatory for three years and now works as a bookkeeper in Auburn Hills.

"I'd get tapes of sound effects and I'd just feed them from a tape recorder into a 4-track, just

like that Beatles album, 'Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band,'" she said.

That doesn't mean, however, that *Those Who Dream* sound like the Beatles. Ratliff describes their sound as "alternative pop rock," and the rest of the band agrees. They are a cross between Toad the Wet Sprocket and King Crimson — with traces of The Cure.

"We try to do things differently," said Ratliff of their music. "We have a cleaner sound than most alternative bands."

Jeff (Jolly, the band's guitarist) uses a lot of effects. He's got some rack mount effects that he uses constantly and then the reverb and the echo effect that he uses give us kind of a wide, open sound.

Jolly, 30, of Royal Oak is a graduate of Michigan State University and an operations manager at a print shop in Royal Oak.

"I get a lot of space in our music," Ratliff said. "It's got like a larger, cleaner sound than your average, grungy bar band."

The special sound no doubt contributed to the band's victory at the 1991 Battle of the Bands at The Ritz in Roseville.

"We are four people that approach one song idea from four different points of view," said Holden. "Instead of conforming to each other, we just play what we want to play, and that's how it comes out."

Their special sound results from a drummer with influences in jazz, Latin and classical music, a guitarist influenced by the '60s, a bassist who likes Disco House music and a singer who claims no special influence at all.

"I let the music take its course and sort of just fit the lyrics in where they go," said vocalist Gary Hancock, 28, of Royal Oak.

By day Hancock sells advertising for a Royal Oak company. He also attends Oakland Community College, where he is studying computer applications.

But even with such unbridled energy, sometimes it's hard for a band to achieve recognition.

"The whole Detroit scene is based on the techno-rave dance parties every weekend," said Holden, who studied music at Wayne State University. "You go out and all the dance clubs are packed — guaranteed — every weekend, where the bars are always empty."

Those Who Dream aren't giving up, though. They enjoy playing and their special brand of music knows how to entertain. It seems that a challenge is what this band likes best.

"Musically, I like to challenge myself with every song," said Holden. "My most recent song, I play 12-string guitar on it, which is just something different."

"I also have a trumpet," he said, much to his bandmates' chagrin. "Surprise."

*Those Who Dream* will perform with Neophyte Nation Thursday, June 25, at Griff's Grill, 49 Saginaw, Pontiac, and a semi-acoustic set 8 p.m. to midnight Saturday, June 27, at Gayle's Chocolates in Royal Oak.

### IN CONCERT

- Monday, June 22**
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Featuring Charlie Sexton and members of Double Trouble at St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. Tickets are \$8.50 in advance. 961-MELT
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Cross Street Station, 511 W. Cross, Ypsilanti. 485-5050
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With Grady Hazy at 3D Club, 1815 N. Main, Royal Oak. 589-3344
  - NEOPHYTE NATION**  
With *Those Who Dream* at Griff's Grill, 49 Saginaw, Pontiac. 334-9292
  - CULT HEROES**  
With Battalion at Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-8555
  - STRAW VILLAGE**  
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 832-2355
  - Friday, June 26**
  - DEE DEE RAMONE AND THE CHINESE DRAGONS**  
The Ritz, 17580 Frazho, Roseville. 778-8150
  - THE SPLITTERS**  
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  - RUSH**  
With Mister Big at Pine Knob Music Theatre, I-75 and Sashabaw Road, Clarkston. 377-0100
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St. Andrew's Hall, 431 E. Congress, Detroit. 961-MELT
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Token Lounge, Joy Road, one block east of Middlebelt, Westland. 522-0245
  - MRAY**  
Alvin's, 5756 Cass, Detroit. 832-2355
  - KING BUNNY ADE**  
The Majestic, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit. Tickets are \$14.50 in advance. 833-9700
  - RED BOYS**  
The Ark, 637 1/2 S. Main, Ann Arbor. 761-1451
  - TRASH BRATS**  
Lili's, 2930 Jacob, Hamtramck. 875-6555
  - THE ATTIC**  
Blind Pig, 208 S. First, Ann Arbor. 996-8555
  - MISSED IN DIARY**  
With Prime Mover at Finney's Pub, 3965 Woodward, Detroit. 831-8070
  - CRABBY JACKS**  
With Acme Soul at Hamtramck Pub, 2048 Caniff, off I-75. 365-3829



**His Weirdness:** "Weird Al" Yankovic, the man who crowned his way to fame with songs like "Eat It" and "Like a Surgeon," will be at The Ritz in Roseville Sunday, June 28. For ticket information, call 778-8150.

Book probes heavy metal genre

AP — Heavy metal records consistently sell well, but the musical genre is much maligned and misunderstood.

Bands like Metallica, Skid Row, Guns N' Roses and Def Leppard have had albums make their debut at No. 1 on the Billboard charts in the last two years. Still, heavy metal draws the fire of such disparate detractors as the Parents Music Resource Center, the Parent-Teacher Association, fundamentalist religions and critic Lester Bangs.

And while Bangs and others note how the music is associated with violence, aggression, suicide, sexual perversion, alcohol and drug abuse and Satanism, heavy metal counts legions of fans.

In her book, "Heavy Metal: A Cultural Sociology," sociologist Deena Weinstein attempts to unravel the myths, misconceptions and truths about metal.

A professor at DePaul University in Chicago, Weinstein said she tried hard to maintain her objectivity. But as she pointed out: "What would objective be — saying that it's half devil worship and half not?" There's no real middle ground to take any mealy-mouthed center on.

The book takes a detailed look at heavy metal — its history, fans, dress code, the artists and themes prevalent in the lyrics. It discusses metal's detractors on the left and the right, the metal media and the phenomenon of the metal concert.

While writing the book, she would test her theories on fans, bands and record-industry people to make sure her interpretations were on track.

"I really wanted to write a scholarly book, not a fan's book," she said. "I'm into postmodernism theoretically, and one of its major tenets is that people don't have the same reading (of things). So I tried to get what a fan's reading would be and what the industry's and the artists' (reading would be)."

The term "heavy metal" has various origins. Bangs popularized the term in his writings for Creem and Rolling Stone in the 1970s, but the term was also used in William S. Burroughs' story "The Heavy Metal Kid" and in Steppenwolf's song "Born to Be Wild."

Weinstein credits two British bands, Led Zeppelin and Black Sabbath, for being the pioneers of metal and calls England its birthplace.

Heavy metal music, Weinstein said, has three dimensions — sonic, verbal, and visual — and its lyrics

fall into two categories — Dionysian themes and themes of chaos.

Metal bands can also be categorized into "lite" metal (Poison, Def Leppard), "classic" metal (Judas Priest, Iron Maiden) and "thrash-death" metal (Metallica, Slayer).

Dionysian lyrics deal with romance and sexual pleasure and the gratification found in intoxication and in the music itself, topics most beloved by the "lite" groups.

Lyrics dealing with chaos are more prevalent in thrash and classic metal and deal with "the absence or destruction of relationships, which can run from confusion, through various forms of anomaly, conflict, and violence, to death."

The typical heavy metal fan is a young, white, blue-collar male.

Even though he's commonly known as a "burnout" in school, he's an astute critic of the music and often highly knowledgeable about a band's history — no different, she said, than what "a very elite classical music audience" member is able to do.

Metal and its fans will never be hip or cool, according to Weinstein. The working class has never been hip, nor do people see them as hip. They are "retreatists from the political scene and that's not hip either," she said.

So music, particularly heavy metal, gives these people an area in which they can show their expertise and get esteem from other people, Weinstein said.

"They (metal fans) don't have any faith in school, or their parents, or the mass media, or religion to give them wisdom, and so all of the major institutions of society seem not to have anything to say to them," she said.

"They see metal as a place where wisdom and goodness, where true beauty and power, all come together."

That fan profile, Weinstein believes, is the basis behind the criticism leveled at metal.

"If heavy metal was beloved by people with college degrees who are good, upstanding members of the community with small children, then I think it would have a very different kind of criticism," she said. "Partly by damning metal, what they're doing is damning the kids."

"Heavy Metal: A Cultural Sociology," published Lexington Books, an imprint of Macmillan Inc., has a suggested retail price of \$24.95.

Clumsiness aside, see 'Defenseless'

PASS THE POPCORN



LaANNE ROGERS

A pornographic movie producer gets the tar beaten out of him by the irate father of a teenage "actress" in the opening scenes of the thriller "Defenseless." The battered man and his assailant both disappear, serving as red herrings as the plot unwinds.

Barbara Hershey is an attorney representing the wealthy businessman who is being sued over the production of the pornographic movies. Smarmily played by J.T. Walsh, the businessman owns the building where the movies were made though he denies any connection or knowledge of what his tenants were doing.

The attorney, who clearly doesn't have her act together on a personal level, is having an affair with her client, which certainly raises some questions about her professional conduct as well. He's "married in name only." Sure, and the check is in the mail.

To further complicate matters, Hershey runs into her best pal from college, played by Mary Beth Hurt, who happens to be married to Walsh. That leads to an incredibly awkward dinner with the couple and their teenage daughter in their gleaming white house.

Breaking off her relationship with Walsh, Hershey stops by his office after hours the next evening. When she discovers he has also lied to her about his involvement with the pornographic movies, she explodes and wails on him.

After she realizes she ran off without her keys, Hershey returns to find the businessman has been murdered.

The irate father is a good suspect but the dead man's wife turns out to be an even better suspect. Hershey, a material witness to the murder, is able to overcome that conflict by means the audience never sees and ends up rescuing Hurt on murder charges.

From there, the movie goes into a plot reminiscent of "Jagged Edge." I won't reveal who murdered the businessman but by this point it's pretty obvious.

Just about everyone in this picture is screwed up in some manner. I've never seen a film with so many characters whose lives are in shambles. Hershey sort of sums her character up with a comment that she often does things without thinking. That's kind of an understatement and lands her in some deep trouble. I have to give the movie credit for showing Hershey as a competent, if not somewhat glibly attorney. She even dresses like a working attorney, no skintight leather suits.

The most interesting character in the movie, although none are really examined to much depth, is a detective played by Sam Shepard. This guy is sly, he is always watching and digging, piecing things together. He uses a certain amount of personal bonding in trying to get what he wants, which is the truth about the murder.

You, and Hershey, can't be sure if he's taking a personal or professional interest in the lawyer. Watch for the scene when the two talk in a car after she has gotten a few licks in a whole cross examining him. There's a lot of stuff going on.

I've seen better suspense films than "Defenseless" but I've also seen a defenseless lawyer who can overlook some of its clumsiest plot devices, it's enjoyable. "Defenseless" is available on video cassette at your local video store.

'They (metal fans) don't have any faith in school, or their parents, or the mass media, or religion to give them wisdom, and so all of the major institutions of society seem not to have anything to say to them.'

Deena Weinstein

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"Buster Keaton Festival," 3 p.m. June 28. Several titles, some quite rare, from the work of the Great Stone Face. Among them, "Seven Chances" (1925), a feature in which Buster will inherit \$7 million, if only he can get married by 7 p.m. that evening; "One Run Elmer" (1935), in which he runs a gas station in the middle of the desert, and "The Playhouse" (1921), where he plays everything from a monkey to a complete orchestra to an entire line of dancers.

■ CENTER FOR JAPANESE STUDIES

Lorch Hall, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Call 764-6307 for more information. (Free)

"Demon Pond" (Japan — 1980), 7 p.m. June 26. In this fable, a mysterious pond houses more than just fish. The tranquility and natural beauty of the waters by day give way to bizarre and violent transformations at night. Continuing the center's series of Japanese ghost stories.

■ HENRY FORD CENTENNIAL LIBRARY

16301 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. Call 943-2037 for information. (Free)

"Mysterious Mr. Wong" (USA — 1935), 7 p.m. June 22. The 13 coins of Confucius put San Francisco's Chinatown in a state of terror, until Mr. Wong comes along. Bela Lugosi stars.

■ MAPLE THEATRE, 4135 W.

Maple, Bloomfield. Call 855-9090 for information. (\$5.50; \$3.75 twilight)

"Howard's End" (Britain — 1992). A romantic tale of two families and the inheritance of a beloved ancestral home. In the tradition of "A Room With a View," the producer/director team of Ismail Merchant and James Ivory turn to another E.M. Forster novel with completely winning results.

"Mediterraneo" (Italy — 1991). An anti-war comedy about eight misfit Italian soldiers stranded on an idyllic Greek island near the end of World War II. Some clever moments distinguish this Oscar winner for last year's best foreign

language film.

■ MICHIGAN THEATRE

603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. Call 668-8397 for information. (\$5; \$4 students and senior citizens)

"Edward II" (Britain — 1992), through June 25 (call for show times). Derek Jarman directed this bold adaptation of the Christopher Marlowe play, about a homosexual king and his 13-year affair with the commoner Gaveston.

"Voyager" (USA — 1992), through June 27 (call for show times). Sam Shepard plays Walter Faber, an engineer traveling through post-war Europe where he must come to grips with his past lives and loves. Based on the novel "Homo Faber" by Max Frisch.

■ REDFORD THEATRE

17360 Lahser, Detroit. Call 537-1133 for information. (\$2.50)

"Calamity Jane" (USA — 1953), 8 p.m. June 26-27 (organ overture begins at 7:30 p.m.). Doris Day plays the tomboyish title character who falls for Wild Bill Hickock (Howard Keel). The score includes the Oscar-winning "Secret Love."

■ STATE WAYNE THEATRE

35310 Michigan Ave., Wayne. Call 326-4600 for show times. (\$2; \$1 students and senior citizens)

"The Birds" (USA — 1963) June 24-29 (call for show times). Alfred Hitchcock takes a rare journey into pure horror as birds battle a sheltered New England coastal town. Tippi Hedren and Rod Taylor star.

"Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein" (USA — 1948), June 24-29. The boys team up against all of the famous Universal movie monsters. Bela Lugosi and Lon Chaney Jr. reprise their Dracula and werewolf roles while Glen Strange takes a turn at Frankenstein's monster. A rare chance to see this Sunday morning television staple on the big screen.

— John Monaghan

Pfeiffer steals the show as Catwoman

TICKETS PLEASE



JOHN MONAGHAN

The controversy has ended. Whether or not Michael Keaton is qualified to play the Caped Crusader hardly matters. "Batman Returns," after all, belongs to Michelle Pfeiffer's Catwoman.

The feline femme fatale slinks her way across the screen in shiny black vinyl held together by roughly sewn stitches. She downs villains with a swipe of her cat claws, then chides the victims for foolishly waiting for a man, a Batman, to save them.

Catwoman aside, "Batman Returns" falls into the same deadly traps as the 1989 mega hit. Much like its portrayal of the comic book hero, the movie is impressively massive, stylized, and outfitted with expensive toys. It also spends way too much time developing a plot that no one cares much about.

Christopher Walken, sporting the same vague European accent he used in "The Comfort of

Strangers," does another villainous turn as Max Schreck, a wealthy industrialist who tries to convince Gotham City that they need more power. Actually, he plans to suck and store energy and eventually hold the city hostage.

Meanwhile, a mysterious penguin-man has been spotted in Gotham's sewers. When he finally surfaces, the Penguin (Danny DeVito) has his own scheme to get revenge on the parents who abandoned him as a child.

"I was son number one," he says, "but they treated me like number two."

Tim Burton returns as director on this second "Batman," but his style has become too recognizable. The blue-tinged cinematography and obvious use of miniatures that distinguished his previous pictures grows almost precious here.

He has reached for something different with his set designers, who may still be the true stars of the movie. The first "Batman's" Gothic influence makes way for a touch of Germany between the wars, with variations on such New York City landmarks as Rockefeller Center and Central Park.

The German influence is felt elsewhere. Film buffs will recall that the villain's name, Max Schreck, is borrowed from the actor who played Dracula in the 1922 classic "Nosferatu."

The biggest problems with "Batman Returns" can be found in the script by Daniel Waters ("Hudson Hawk"), which relies on the hackneyed premise that the Penguin runs for Mayor. Most scenes last less than a minute, yet the movie still gets bogged down in mundane detail.

Danny DeVito's Penguin, meanwhile, is too stuffed full of pillows to be all that menacing. He borrows The Joker's thick pancake makeup as well as his devil clown henchmen.

Catwoman is the real villain to contend with Julie Newmar's Catwoman was ultra-sexy in the 1960s' TV series, but her evil side turned to mush for her unrequited love with the ever-stiff Batman. Pfeiffer's feminist version has a deleterious hatred for the Caped Crusader and his mucho flexing.

Definitely join the lines to see "Batman Returns" this summer. Enjoy the look and the rousing



Meeee-Wow: Michelle Pfeiffer steals the show as Catwoman in "Batman Returns."

Danny Elfman score. But if you're anticipating the ultimate adaptation of the comic book, look to the next installment.

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(Note to adults: This is the second in a series of activities in the Family Reading Challenge 1992 Contest. Use this page with your child and share some educational summer fun.)



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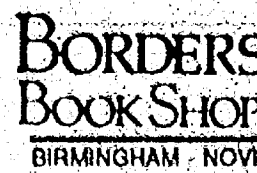
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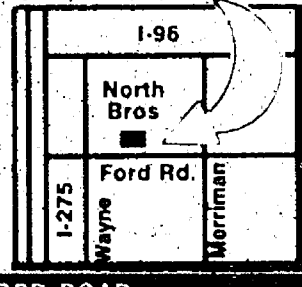
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