

open Friday at 8:00 am
after Christmas

clearance

25% to 50% off

original prices
on select merchandise



select men's microfiber jackets & down parkas

50% off original prices



select women's sweaters

50% off original prices



holiday trim, potpourri, gift wrap & boxed cards

50% off original prices



select women's sportswear coordinates

50% off original prices

social occasion
dresses
misses/petites/Clairewood
for the fuller figure woman

50% off select merchandise

women's slippers

50% off select merchandise

assorted women's
gloves, mufflers &
hats

50% off select merchandise

assorted
men's gloves

50% off select merchandise

Ms. J
sportswear
& dresses

50% off select merchandise

assorted socks,
tights & pantyhose

50% off select merchandise

assorted
women's shoes
& handbags

50% off select merchandise

men's fancy
dress shirts &
neckwear

50% off select merchandise

cotton panties
& Olga bras

50% off select merchandise

children's Timberline
fleece outerwear

50% off select merchandise

holiday tabletop
ceramics

50% off select merchandise

Christmas
foods & candies

50% off select merchandise

children's boots

50% off select merchandise

belts, hats, scarves
& fashion jewelry

50% off select merchandise

Christmas rugs,
throws & pillows

50% off select merchandise

men's wool coats

50% off select merchandise

Jacobson's

Birmingham • (248) 644-6900 Grosse Pointe • (313) 882-7000 Livonia • (313) 591-7696 Rochester • (248) 651-6000

HOLIDAY HOURS: MON - SAT 10-9 • SUN 10-7

Knollenberg rips global warming agreement

By TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

"In a word - yes or no - should the U.S. Senate ratify the global warming agreement?"

"I need two words: hell no," replied U.S. Rep. Joe Knollenberg, R-Bloomfield Township, who spent a week in Kyoto, Japan, observing the negotiations.

The third-term congressman from the 11th District which includes Redford and part of Livonia gave the usual reasons of harm to American industry, but he had some close-up comments about the United Nations-sponsored conference itself.

"I have never been in the gun-sights of so many countries. The deck was stacked against us. And it was a long time ago.

"The Green Movement (anti-industry environmentalists) was in charge. The U.S. was dead before we got to Kyoto.

"We heard, 'The U.S. has an obligation' (from the Danes and Dutch) and 'America has a burden to pick up and carry the rest of the world.'

"It exempts 80 percent of the world's (developing) nations"

like China, India and Mexico. "It gives them a license to pollute at will. Multi-national corporations would go there - and also get cheaper labor."

But it was the European Union, rather than Asia, that was trying hardest to stick the U.S. with the job of scaling back emissions to 1990 levels, Knollenberg said in an interview this week in his Farmington Hills district office.

He said Time magazine was correct in reporting that the EU will have the easiest time meeting emissions targets. Reason: "The collapse of East Germany in 1990 forced many inefficient, pollution-belching factories and power plants out of business, cutting Europe's emissions as a side benefit."

Great Britain's job is easier because Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher broke the coal miners' union in 1985, and the nation switched to natural gas.

France will have little trouble because it's reliant on nuclear energy - and Knollenberg thinks that's the way to go, even though nuclear power plants and research have been halted here.



'If you believe in global warming, this treaty won't get you there. It won't clean the environment, and it will be devastating to the American worker because the cost of energy will rise.'

Joe Knollenberg
—congressman

"The president won't send it (the treaty) to the Senate," Knollenberg predicted. "He'll use the regulatory process, the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)."

What about Vice President Al Gore's speech in Kyoto favoring a global warming treaty?

"Gore made a speech, got back on Air Force 2 and left. He would say he jump-started the reaction. There was actually a mixed reaction to Gore.

"There was heavy, heavy

press. I went to a press conference the second day. The press was enviro-laden," he said, quoting a question about alleged strong poll support for an energy tax in the U.S. "Not in my district," Knollenberg said.

Participants took it for a fact, engraved in granite, that the world is being dangerously warmed by energy emissions. "No one questioned it. It's a fact (to them).

"But the debate (in the U.S.) will center on the science. The Big Three (auto makers) and the utilities can't be all wrong. The

AFL-CIO is connected to my view."

He cited University of Michigan research - still incomplete - on pumping carbon dioxide, the chief emission, into a tented area. "We know carbon dioxide helps trees. There are more trees in the country than at the time of the Pilgrims.

"Some scientists are saying, 'Let's study this before we jump off the cliff.'

"If you believe in global warming, this treaty won't get you there," Knollenberg went on. "It won't clean the environment, and it will be devastating to the American worker because the cost of energy will rise."

Knollenberg and 13 other U.S. representatives were appointed by Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga. Knollenberg is a ranking member of the House Appropriations subcommittee on energy and water.

That panel oversees the Department of Energy, nuclear wastes, the Army Corps of Engineers, energy research and development, the Tennessee Valley Authority (now zeroed out of

the budget), and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

The feeling is bipartisan. "John Dingell (D-Trenton, and dean of the Michigan congressional delegation) and I see eye to eye. Dingell was there," Knollenberg said.

Next-door congressman Sander Levin, a Democrat, already is battling EPA air quality standards, saying, "In my view, EPA's new standards would have a negative impact on the nation's economy and the economic well-being of south-eastern Michigan."

The Kyoto Protocol, as it's known:

■ Was agreed to by 150 nations Dec. 11.

■ Requires the U.S. to cut emission of greenhouse gases to 7 percent below 1990 levels; the EU must cut emissions by 8 percent and Japan by 6 percent; 35 other countries also have quotas.

■ Allows industrialized nations to trade "emissions quotas" among themselves.

■ Asks but doesn't require developing nations to cut emissions.

County lease car proposal on hold for now

By KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Wayne County commissioners will not lease or purchase county vehicles, at least not for the time being.

Commissioner Bernard Parker, D-Detroit, had introduced an ordinance that would delete a section in an ordinance that prohibits county elected officials from purchasing, leasing or operating a county vehicle to complete his or her duties.

Commissioners referred the item Thursday to the Committee on Roads, Airports and Public Services, which is expected to study the proposal in January.

Parker's resolution would change an ordinance introduced by Commissioner Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, and approved by commissioners in October 1993 that prohibited the use of county-owned vehicles by elected officials. The ordinance itself regulated the purchase, lease and operation of county vehicles.

Parker believes his ordinance will save the county money through car leases.

"Right now the commissioners obtain up to \$350 per month for mileage," Parker said last week. "I think it would be cheaper for us to lease the vehicles at \$300 a month."

McCotter expects costs to lease vehicles may fall between \$300 and \$350 a month per commissioner. While the money may be already budgeted for commissioners, it is general fund money and taxpayers' money, McCotter said.

"It's greed and it's wrong," McCotter said.

Patterson said he would even ask County Executive Ed McNamara to veto it, if the item was ever approved by the commission. Even though Patterson has the largest district in square miles of any commissioner, he said he would not use a lease vehicle funded by taxpayers.

Patterson said he only requests and receives reimbursement for miles in his district that he drives to Sumpter or Huron townships, and not for driving within Canton or to commission meetings.

Patterson believes the commissioners who earlier expressed interest in changing the ordinance, now are backpedaling.

"You can see them trying to get it back in committee," Patterson said. "You heard (Commissioner Robert) Blackwell say that he didn't introduce it." (Blackwell had responded earlier that day to a published report incorrectly indicating he introduced the ordinance.)

Vice Chair Kay Beard, D-Westland, said she isn't opposed to some county employees using cars if their duties require them to have transportation, but she doesn't believe the county commissioners should use them.

"I don't think the commissioners need (county) cars."

Commissioner Edward Plawecki, Sr., D-Dearborn Heights, also is opposed to any lease cars for commissioners. "I can always make a claim for my mileage," Plawecki said.

**starts friday:
all stores open 9 am!
red balloon
after-christmas
clearance**

**take an
extra
300%
off**

**already-reduced
clothes, shoes,
and accessories
for men, women,
and kids**

for total savings of

45%-65%!

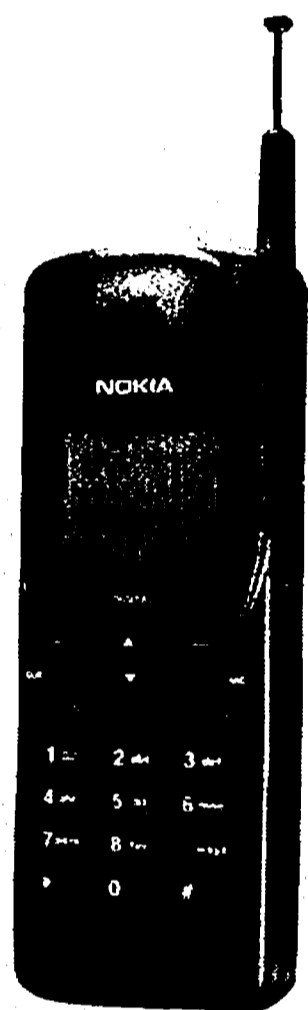
get a good look at parisian

Sorry, we can't make price adjustments on previously purchased merchandise.
CALL 1-800-424-8185 TO ORDER ANYTIME. T.D.D. USERS CALL 1-800-322-7052 Mon-Fri 8:30 am to 4:30 pm CT. SPECIAL HOURS: Laurel Park Place open Sun 11-7, Mon-Tues 9-10, Wed 8-5:30, closed Thurs., Fri. 9-9 Sat. 10-9. FOR INFORMATION call 953-7500. CHARGE IT: Parisian Credit Card, MasterCard, Visa, the American Express® Card or Discover®.
LOCATED AT LAUREL PARK PLACE IN LIVONIA, ON THE CORNER OF NEWBURGH ROAD AND SIX MILE ROAD (TAKE THE SIX MILE ROAD EXIT OFF INTERSTATE 275).



Free ClearPath Digital Phone or \$49 Motorola StarTAC Phone.

(You just finished your holiday shopping.)



Free ClearPath™ digital phone
\$25 monthly service with double free minutes for up to 3 months.

Ask about our ClearPath plans as low as 10¢ a minute.



\$49 StarTAC™
\$24⁹⁵ monthly service with double free minutes for up to 3 months.

6000e
So small, so light, it's always with you.



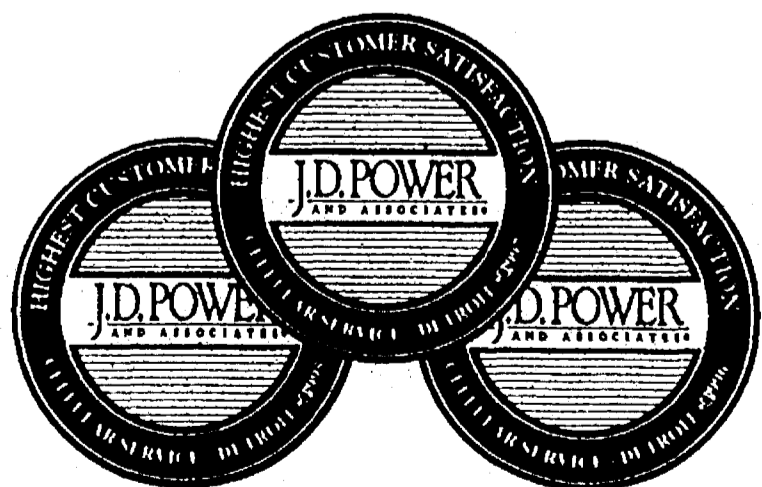
\$9⁹⁵
Monthly service with a **Free** Motorola Phone.



In a world of technology, people make the difference.™

Limited time only.

Credit and other restrictions apply. ClearTech phone may vary. Contract required on eligible plans. Normal tolls, taxes, and fees apply to free minutes. Local usage only. Supplies limited. ©1997 Ameritech Corp.



THREE YEARS IN A ROW
HIGHEST OVERALL CUSTOMER SATISFACTION
AMONG CELLULAR USERS IN DETROIT

Available at over 300 locations!
CALL 1•800•MOBILE•1®

www.ameritech.com/wireless



Appeals court on FOIA

Judicial panel says revealing gun ownership doesn't invade privacy

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

The state Court of Appeals has ordered Michigan State Police to lift the veil of secrecy from pistol records for Redford resident Fred Mager.

The court scoffed at the State Police's claim that opening records under the Freedom of Information Act would be an "unwarranted invasion of personal privacy."

"We conclude that the ownership of a gun does not reveal intimate or embarrassing details of an individual's private life," the panel said in a 3-0 decision Dec. 15.

"Defendants (State Police and FOIA officer John McCarthy) do not point to - and we are unaware of - any customs, mores, or ordinary views of the community that would lead to the conclusion that gun ownership is an intimate or embarrassing detail of an individual's private life."

It concluded: "We reverse the trial court's grant of summary disposition in favor of defendants and remand for the trial court (Ingham Circuit Judge Peter Houk) to enter summary disposition in favor of plaintiff (Mager) with respect to the information sought."

It was signed by Judges Michael J. Kelly, Maureen Pulte Reilly and Kathleen Jansen.

Will state appeal?

The state has 21 days to appeal to the Supreme Court. The odds are against the state, however, because: 1) The Court of Appeals opinion was unanimous; 2) the Supreme Court already has ruled on what constitutes an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy; and 3) the high court must grant leave to appeal.

Mager sought a record known as "MSP Form RI-11, Safety Inspection Certificate." It is issued when local police departments perform safety checks of a

pistol. A copy is sent to State Police headquarters for a central file.

Prior to Nov. 1, 1995, the forms were kept on index cards. Since then, they have been stored in a computer. Mager insisted it is a simple matter to run a copy of the computer tape.

Mager supports a bill by Rep. Alan Cropsey, R-DeWitt, to eliminate the 83 county gun boards' discretion in issuing permits to carry concealed weapons (CCWs, in police jargon). "I want to expose the records of the representatives and senators that don't support the Cropsey bill," Mager said.

He said gun owners can take some credit for the 1996 defeats of Reps. Jim Ryan, R-Redford, and Eric Bush, R-Battle Creek - defeats that helped Democrats regain control of the Michigan House.

Also on his bad list is Rep. Frank Fitzgerald, R-Grand Ledge, who has announced he's seeking the GOP nomination for attorney general.

'Politics involved'

"I'm not a hunter," Mager said. "I carried a rifle in 1967 in the boonies (Vietnam). I'm a certified instructor and a political action force."

For eight years Mager has delivered for Bob's Pizza in Detroit, a job that "pays well" but exposes him to some danger. He wounded one man who tried to rob him. The man was facing a court appearance the following Monday morning on armed robbery charges.

Mager is a member of Brass Roots, Michigan Gun Owners and the Council of Responsible Gun Owners. "I undertook this on my own," he said, without help or approval from the groups.

"There's politics involved. That's the main reason they (State Police) don't want this out of the bag," he said.

Mager said he already has

obtained some of the records by filing FOIA requests with county clerks. "About one-third completed," he said.

Complying were Macomb, Kent and Washtenaw counties.

He said Livingston, Isabella and Midland counties refused.

Wayne and Oakland counties sent him lists of names (11,000 from Oakland alone) but blacked out the addresses, making the records useless for his purpose.

School precedent

One reason Michigan State Police cited in refusing his FOIA request was that the list would contain three million names. Mager said that in Florida, a larger state, the total list was 259,000 names.

He said he sent the Indiana State Police a check and got the same kind of list promptly in the mail.

Mager started his suit early in 1996. But his case got a major boost last July when the Michigan Supreme Court defined privacy under FOIA. The high court said, "Information is of a personal nature if it reveals intimate or embarrassing details of an individual's private life."

The Supreme Court decision - cited in Monday's Court of Appeals decision - came in the cases of Bradley vs. Saranac Board of Education and Lansing Area School Administrators vs. Lansing School District.

In those combined cases, teacher Christine Bradley and the Lansing principals sought to block release to parents of their personnel records, especially disciplinary records. The high court ruled the records were public property and couldn't be exempted from a FOIA request.

Mager's attorney is Daniel G. Bamberg of DeWitt. Fighting the "privacy" argument, Bamberg's brief said the state routinely issues the same kind of information Mager was seeking on hunting licenses, fishing licenses, marriage licenses, divorce

records, motor vehicle ownership, driver's licenses, private security guards, civil service supervisory and managerial personnel, registered voters, dog owners and campaign contributions.

Courts have even held that the city of Pontiac had to reveal the identity of Silverdome stadium boxholders, Bamberg noted.

For 'criminal mind'

Defending MSP, assistant attorney general Thomas Quasarano said records of law enforcement personnel's names and addresses are exempt under FOIA; that many police officers obtain CCW permits; but that the records don't segregate names of police from others.

Quasarano said uncovering the identities of permit holders would reveal "the places and locations of firearms," handguns owned and possessed by private homeowners, gun collectors, antique gun collectors, private detectives and security guards, jewelry dealers and businesspersons generally, gun dealer inventories, gun and hunting club members, prosecuting attorneys and law enforcement officers who register their pistols as a safeguard in the event of theft, and others."

Opening the records, he said, would open "a Pandora's box by creating a virtual shopping list for anyone bent on the theft of firearms... and whatever else the criminal mind might evoke."

In contrast, he said, revealing holders of hunting and fishing licenses "does not open the doors of one's home to the public at large."

The Court of Appeals disagreed, noting that case law allows a union to obtain names and addresses of security guards, and a newspaper to obtain "mug" shots of defendants awaiting trial from the Oakland Sheriff's Department.

Commission OKs auditor general budget

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

Auditor General Brendan Dunleavy received an early Christmas gift Thursday from the Wayne County Commission.

The auditor general - along with the commission counsel - received \$240,559 after commissioners voted 14-0 to amend the county commission's budget.

The transfer of 0.2 percent from various county departments means Dunleavy can add six more employees to the auditor general's office to provide staffing levels needed to audit each county department every two years as the revised county charter mandates.

Voters approved charter changes in November 1996 to strengthen the offices of the auditor general and commission counsel.

Dunleavy's budget was the center of much discussion during budget approval in October. He received a separate budget at that time, but also pushed for appropriations through budget transfers to add staff.

Dunleavy believes he can have a greater ability to perform oversight of major construction projects, including the expansion of Detroit Metro Airport and county parks construction projects.

The Commission counsel department will add two

more attorneys to bring that department total to five.

Vice Chair Kay Beard, D-Westland, requested Chairman Ricardo Solomon, D-Detroit, suspend the rules and the commission take immediate action.

Commissioner Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, said outcounty residents perceived commission budget as "perks," and the separate line item would help define that.

"It is a clear delineation of who is spending what," McCotter said.

"Right now we don't spend the attorney general money on ourselves," McCotter said. "This will clearly show that."

After commissioners denied a motion to send the amendment to committee, they approved the line item amendment, 8-6. Beard, McCotter, Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, and Edward Plawecki Sr., D-Dearborn Heights, approved those items.

Commissioners then amended the budget, 14-0.

Beard was pleased that the amendment was approved.

"One year ago, voters amended the charter to strengthen the auditor general and commission counsel," Beard said. "Commissioners pushed to get this done to allow an increase in staffing."

DOWNSIDED AND DISCOUNTED?
• Need Five People • Focused and Teachable
• Duplicatable Support System • Expert Training
No Experience Necessary!
DRS. ELIZABETH & GLENN SISK
Call Now 313-254-9057
BODY WISE® INTERNATIONAL, INC.
INDEPENDENT CONSULTANTS

Spirit of Christmas presents
1997 Christmas Light Display
at Domino's Farms
November 21 - December 31
Open Every Night 6-10
Experience a festive drive-through light display with new animated light sets. Come indoors for activities such as the Celebration of Trees, a Winter Wonderland with a miniature electric train, a "Christmas Around the World" Creche Exhibit, a Christmas Gift Store, and many beautiful and exciting decorations. All proceeds will benefit children and charities in Southeastern Michigan this Holiday season. So, please join us and experience the gift of giving.
It Feels Good To Give
Major Event Sponsors:
Barton Mallow, Rudolph's 4th, Inc., Domino's Pizza, Inc. Stand By Power, Progressive Food and Industries Co.
Minimum donation:
\$5 Adult, \$3 Child, \$10 Seniors
Spirit of Christmas • 24 Fenk Hwy, Wixom, MI 48189 • 313-254-1222
Ann Arbor, MI 48106 • 313-930-1430
Located east of I-24 on E Plymouth Road
Spirit of Christmas is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization • www.spiritofchristmas.org



REI®

AFTER CHRISTMAS SALE

DECEMBER 26 - JANUARY 4

Terrific deals on selected items!
Sweaters • Slippers • Calendars • Games • Holiday Food • Christmas Cards
Packs • Sleeping Bags

Open 9-9 on Dec. 26!

- Quantities limited to stock on hand
- Not all items in all stores
- Sorry, no mail or online orders

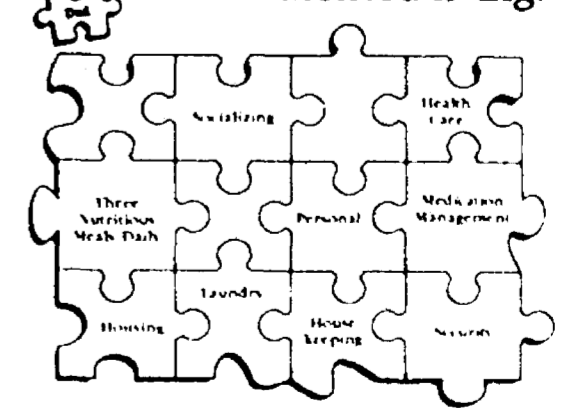
REI®
Quality Outdoor Gear and Clothing Since 1938

- No patronage refund earned on sale items
- Sale prices good through 1/4/98

17559 Haggerty Rd., Northville • (248) 347-2100
Visit us online at www.rei.com

NOW LEASING IN CANTON

Are you **PUZZLED** about assisted living?



Let Waltonwood Senior Community help you piece it together

WALTONWOOD
Redefining Retirement Living

3250 Walton Blvd
Rochester Hills, MI 48069
248-375-2500

2000 Canton Center Rd
Canton, MI 48107
313-397-8300

Speaking up

Girl encourages diversity

The Empire State Building, one of the most recognizable icons of American culture, is traditionally bathed in colored lights to celebrate various holidays and events. During the Christmas season, the lights are red and green.

A couple of years ago, on a December night, a 7-year-old Jewish girl noticed that the lights on the building were blue. She wondered if the lights were in honor of Hanukkah, the Jewish Festival of Lights. Well, no, she learned upon inquiring, the blue lights were displayed on Dec. 12 of that year to recognize the birthday of Frank Sinatra, "old blue eyes."

That was OK, but the girl, Mallory Blair Greitzer, thought that Hanukkah deserved to be honored on America's most famous (if no longer tallest) edifice. She began a campaign to try to make it so.

It took two years (and a letter to Leona Helmsley, whose management company operates the building), but this year on Dec. 23, the first night of Hanukkah, the lights on the Empire State Building were blue and white, honoring the Jewish Festival of Lights for the first time in history. Tonight, Christmas Eve, they revert to the red and green Christmas colors. A menorah will be displayed in the lobby of the building during Hanukkah and a crescent and star will be on display for USA Muslim Day.

There is no great moral to this story, but this is the time of year that is often referred to in the American Jewish community as "The December Dilemma" - a time when Christmas symbols are omnipresent while other religious beliefs and observances seem to be given short shrift. It is also a time when the message of "Peace on Earth and Goodwill Toward Men" is occasionally interrupted with protests about religious symbols on public property or in the classroom.

None of this is particularly surprising, given the diversity of American culture and the freedom we enjoy to protest that which goes against our personal convictions.

Still, there is a message in Mallory Blair Greitzer's successful campaign to balance the red and green Christmas lights on the Empire State Building with the blue and white lights of Hanukkah. She didn't ask that the Christmas lights be turned OFF, but that the Hanukkah lights also be turned ON. Good for her, and good for Leona Helmsley for listening, even if the symbolic gesture is only for one night.

A country as rich in cultures and traditions as the United States should focus on celebrating and learning from each and every one of them, not pitting one culture against another or trying to stifle those traditions that do not have equal significance for every single individual. What better time of year to recognize this than in December.

This year isn't unusual, but it is unusual, in that three celebrations - Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa - overlap almost exactly. Hanukkah, the eight-day Festival of Lights that begins on the 25th day of the lunar month of Kislev, began this year at sundown on Dec. 23; the traditional "12 days of Christmas" last from Christmas Eve on Dec. 24 through Jan. 6; and the African-American Kwanzaa begins on Dec. 26 and continues through Jan. 1.

The histories are different, the symbols are different, the customs are different. But all these holidays share one common element: They are joyous occasions celebrating various religious and cultural traditions. They are, indeed, "happy holidays." That is their message, and that is our message to all of you.

Happy Holidays!

Editorial's message timeless

(Editor's note: Exactly 100 years ago this year, what may well be the most famous editorial in history first appeared in the New York Sun. Written by Francis Pharcellus Church, the editorial was a response to a letter from an 8-year-old girl, Virginia O'Hanlon. It is as meaningful today as it was then.)

Dear Editor:

I am 8 years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Papa says "If you see it in the Sun it's so."

Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He

exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see....

No Santa Claus! Thank God, he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Reprinted from the *New York Sun*, Sept. 21, 1897

Santa writes to youngsters

Dear Kids,

I just finished reading all those thousands of letters you send me every year. I can't respond in person to every one of them, but the nice folks at the Observer said they'd publish my letter to all of you, so here it is.

I can't promise that every single one of you will get every present you asked for, but I'll do the best I can. If you get to bed early and get a good night's sleep, I'll try to be quiet and not wake you up.

Meanwhile, you could do a few things for me, if you would. If you have a fire in the fireplace tonight, please ask your mom or dad to put it out before he or she goes to bed. I come down that chimney pretty fast, and it gets mighty hot in there.

If you have any extra pet food around, the reindeer would appreciate a dish of food and maybe a bowl of water. Any kind of dog food or cat food is fine. They don't like fish food very much.

Speaking of food, I really like those snacks you leave for me. But Mrs. Claus told me to ask if you'd leave skim milk or maybe a carton

of yogurt instead of eggnog and cookies. She thinks I need to lose weight!

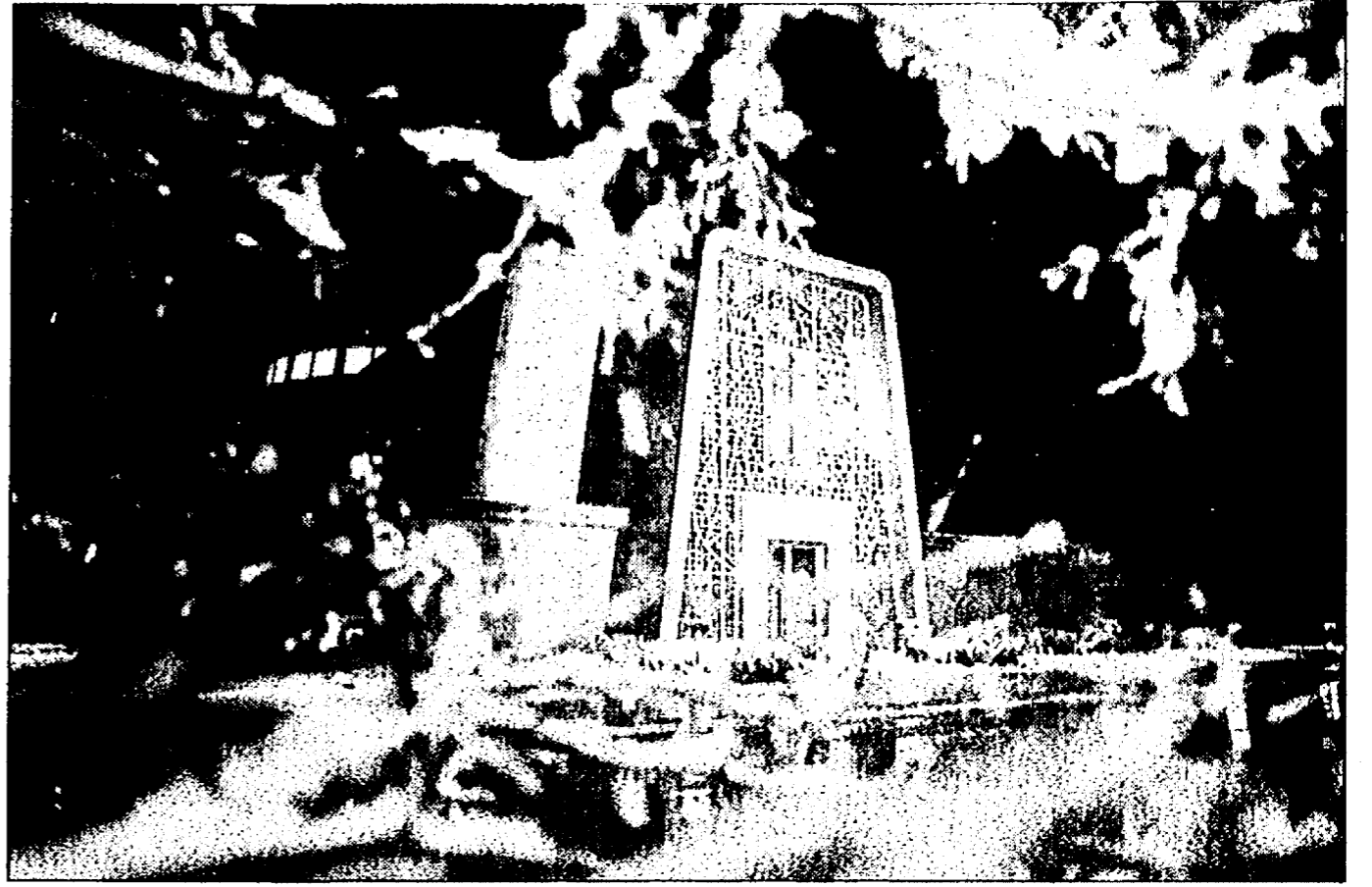
Just one more thing. Ask your parents if they can make sure there's enough room in the driveway to park the sleigh. Last year, Vixen and Dasher got tangled up in some Christmas lights on one of those steep roofs, and they're a little bit apooked about landing on the rooftop now. They'll get over it, but this year I'm trying to keep the landing spots flat and low.

Take care now, and I'll see you tonight. You won't see me, but tomorrow morning you'll know I've been there.

Love,
 Santa

Santa Claus

Seasonal scene



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

All aglow: It's a picturesque holiday scene as the new St. Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church in Westland glows through snow-laden branches on a recent evening.

LETTERS

Do it right

One of the toughest issues facing the Michigan Legislature is electric deregulation, an issue so steeped in technical jargon that most people prefer to ignore it.

But ignoring this vital issue would be a huge mistake. Michigan manufacturers - including my company, SMS Group - are high-energy users, heavily relying on power to run our businesses and make the products that we sell around the world. We not only need but demand a reliable energy source.

That's why I am personally concerned that deregulation be pursued in an orderly, fair and comprehensive manner, ensuring us the best, most reliable energy sources possible.

As a business person, I have monitored this issue closely, because the outcome will have a significant impact on my company's ability to compete, grow and create new jobs. I also sit on the board of the Michigan Manufacturers Association and have worked hard to bring all parties to the table to collectively seek a solution that ensures a reliable source of energy well into our future.

Make no mistake about it, restructuring is coming to Michigan one way or the other. Washington has put the industry next in line for restructuring, following the deregulation of the airlines, trucking, natural gas and telecommunications.

As a state, we can sit back, do nothing and let Washington set a "one size fits all" national policy that will probably fail to address Michigan's unique needs as a peninsula state. That could endanger our state's jobs, businesses, and fail to ensure that our future electricity needs are met.

Or our state lawmakers can tackle the issue by crafting a forward-thinking approach that provides a smooth transition to a more competitive marketplace while protecting jobs and businesses.

Handling restructuring at the state level offers another benefit. Our lawmakers can settle the matter before the end of this year and put Michigan's public policy on the cutting edge. That's where we need to be to help keep our economy healthy and strong.

That will also let business and electricity providers begin to plan for the future, rather than waiting to see what happens in Washington. The demand for electricity is rising in Michigan, yet no new generating plants are under construction.

Our legislators should make electricity restructuring one of their top priorities and

work to pass a restructuring plan. This can't be delayed because too many jobs are at stake and too much of Michigan's future is at risk. We need action now to power Michigan's future.

Jeffrey Clevenger
 president and CEO
 SMS Group Inc.
 Troy and Saginaw

Work together

Setting educational policy in Michigan is a huge responsibility that involves a large number of people - not just legislators like myself. One of the groups with the most knowledge and insight is teachers.

Recently, I conducted a special "listen-in" hearing in Brownstown with the chair of the Senate Education Committee, Sen. Joanne Emmons, R-Big Rapids. The purpose was to give teachers a chance to speak out on concerns they may have with the current school system, as well as to offer changes.

The teachers' responses were extremely helpful and positive. The "listen-in" meeting originated from surveys sent out to educators across the district asking for input on ways to make life in the classroom more productive and effective for teachers and students.

For many teachers, it was the first time they had been asked to speak out publicly on education in Michigan. Through the surveys and the "listen-in" meeting, we received many thoughtful, intelligent responses from teachers.

Educators responded to a wide variety of subjects, including class size, parental involvement, technology upgrades, safer schools, inclusion of special needs students, attendance, testing and funding.

The comments made will serve as the basis for legislation to improve our educational system. Already, a series of bills have been worked on in the Michigan Senate which address the issue of safety and discipline in the classroom.

Whatever changes are needed will only be made after careful and deliberate consideration with all parties involved.

Working together, we can make education in Michigan - especially in Wayne County - better than ever.

Sen. Loren Bennett
 R-Canton

Westland Observer

LEONARD POGER, COMMUNITY EDITOR, 313-953-2107
 SUSAN ROSIEK, MANAGING EDITOR, 313-953-2149
 HUGH GALLAGHER, ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITOR, 313-953-2118
 PEG KNOESPEL, ADVERTISING MANAGER, 313-953-2177
 LARRY GEIGER, CIRCULATION MANAGER, 313-953-2234
 BANKS M. DISHMON, JR., PUBLISHER, 313-953-2100
 STEVEN K. POPE, VICE-PRESIDENT/GENERAL MANAGER, 313-953-2252
 RICK FICORELLI, MARKETING DIRECTOR, 313-953-2150

HOMETOWN COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, INC.
 PHILIP POWER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD RICHARD AGINIAN, PRESIDENT

OUR MISSION: "Because we publish community newspapers, we think about community journalism in a fundamentally different way than our bigger competition. They consider themselves to be independent from the stories and communities they cover, swooping in to write the unusual or sensational and then dashing off to cover something else. We regard ourselves as both accurate journalists and as caring citizens of the communities where we work."

- Philip Power

POINTS OF VIEW

Miracle of Hanukkah offers modern lessons

Two thousand years ago, the great religious leaders of the Jewish people described the miracle of Hanukkah in astoundingly concise terms: *During the occupation of the Holy Land by the Greeks the latter entered the inner sanctum of the Jerusalem Holy Temple and defiled all the oils.* (Jewish law recognizes states of "spiritual impurity" and "spiritual defilement." The olive oil used for the daily lighting of the Temple candelabrum, or Menorah in Hebrew was required to be utterly pure.) *When the Hasmoneans defeated them, one small jug of oil was found which evidently had not been touched by the Greeks.* (The touch of an idol-worshipping pagan would defile the oil and render it unfit for Temple use.) The little jug contained enough oil only for one day. The Menorah was rekindled and the oil miraculously lasted eight days, until new oil could be prepared.

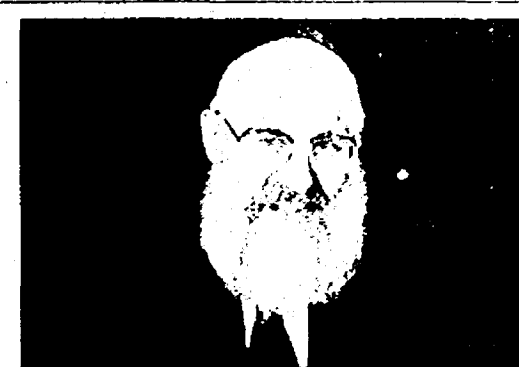
clear that the defilement of the oil was not accidental, but intentional and systematic. A question begs to be asked. If the purpose of the Greeks was to extinguish the light of the Menorah and prevent its rekindling, why did they merely defile the oil; they could have poured it all out?

Choosing their words with exquisite care, the great Talmudic sages were cleaving us in as to the true objectives of the Greeks, not to prevent the rekindling of the Menorah, but rather that it should be rekindled with defiled oil.

Like oil from an olive, we can extract from the above the essential meaning of Hanukkah, as follows:

One of the most common words in Jewish religious parlance is the "Torah." This Hebrew word, meaning literally "the Teaching," refers to the overall body of G-dly wisdom given to the Jews, beginning with the Bible.

The Greeks were willing to recognize the Torah, or even accept it as a



RABBI Y.M. KAGAN

perfect and beautiful literary creation, a work of poetry, wisdom, profound philosophy, etc. - provided it was considered as a human creation - like their own mythology (for sure a human invention - with the deities represented in human shapes and forms, with human characteristics and passions.) As such, the essential core principles of the Torah could be and ought to be changed and modified from time to time, so as to be politi-

cally correct, to harmonize with the character of the ruling class and the novel ideas of the period. Such an approach, as planned by the Greeks, would gradually do away with the permanence and immutability of such well-known Jewish religious practices as the Sabbath, circumcision, and other commandments.

In a word, the Greeks did not aim at the suppression of the Torah, but at its acceptance as the G-d given word, as G-d's Torah.

Similarly, the Greeks were not adverse to the moral and ethical values contained in Torah, but they prohibited the so-called "supera-rational" precepts - such as keeping kosher - which, more than any other, distinguish the Jewish way of life and make it specifically Jewish, holy and pure.

Hanukkah reminds us that the greatest danger to the Jewish way of life lies not in the threat of extinguishing its light completely, but rather in the tendency to defile it by

feeding contaminated "oil" to its "Menorah." This tendency expresses itself in many ways: in the worship of materialism and material success; in the presentation of one man-made ideology after the other as the panacea of all human ills; in the idolatry of science and technology; in the tendency to measure everything by the yardstick of human reason.

Such attitudes do not necessarily rule out "religious experience," but either confine it to a narrow domain or worse still, produce a sort of pseudo-religiosity, where consecration and commitment are sacrificed to convenience and compromise.

Hanukkah teaches Israel and us that the sanctity and purity of Jewish life must, can, and will be preserved at all costs.

Rabbi Y.M. Kagan is with the Lubavitch Foundation in Farmington Hills.

Messiah's magic found on the road with strangers

The bus pulled out of New York City's Port Authority 10 minutes late. It was a cold, wind-swept Christmas morning with no traces of snow to cover the litter-strewn city. The streets were virtually empty, a rare sight at any time of the year in New York.

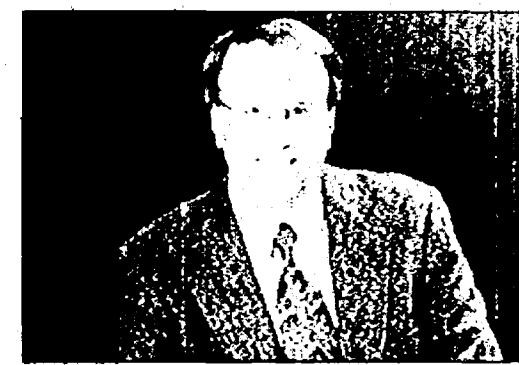
The bus, too, was nearly empty. An elderly couple in the front who would later get off in Westchester County; a young man, military looking, who immediately fell asleep; a middle-aged woman and her young daughter, who did not seem to belong on a Greyhound bus at 8:10 a.m. on Christmas.

The driver made no acknowledgment of my entry. He, in fact, made no sound until another driver relieved him in Rochester. Even the little girl was remarkably quiet for the entire trip.

It was the first Christmas in what was then for me 24 Christmases in which I did not awake in my childhood home. I must confess a part of me felt free and very adult. Another part, however, felt very alone. Christmas dinner was a hamburger and some cardboard-like French fries in the bus station in Albany. The waitress was cheerful. She was in her late 40s or early 50s and widowed, she told me. Her only child was a son who could not get home for Christmas. That is why she decided to work. Everyone who comes in today will be my family, she said.

She gave me a big hug when I left and wished me a Merry Christmas. It was a genuine, motherly hug.

Between Albany and Rochester, I struck up a conversation with the middle-aged woman. She too was headed for Buffalo and her family



REV. RICHARD MARTZOLF

■ Rather than alone and forlorn, I began to feel peacefully present with Christ. It is a feeling I would later identify as Immanuel: God with us.

home. She had to work Christmas Eve and hated that her daughter would spend Christmas on a bus, but she had no other choice.

We spoke of past Christmases, our best and our worst. We weren't sure where this one would fall, but we knew it wouldn't be the best.

It was a 12-hour bus trip. Somewhere on the journey I realized I was both connected to and now disconnected from my family in a new way. I would, in fact, spend only one more Christmas Day in the home of my birth. While something was lost on that trip, something new began to emerge. As I stared at the miles of frozen upstate New York farmland, I began to feel a unique sense of my own identity.

Rather than alone and forlorn, I

began to feel peacefully present with Christ. It is a feeling I would later identify as Immanuel: God with us.

What I will never forget about that trip is that for the first time I saw Christmas as being transcendent of time and place. Christmas was not only in family, trees and presents. It was also in strangers, aloneness and memory. While circumstances may vary and one may say this Christmas was better than that, the real power of Christmas is not in the circumstances. It is the inner experience of the God who is with us.

Peace to all, the angels proclaim. For unto you is born a Messiah. Peace to all.

The Rev. Richard Martzolf is the pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church on Farmington Road in Livonia. He is a Livonia resident and a former newspaper reporter.

Traditions of yuletide endure

When I was growing up, way back in the pre-television days of the '40s and '50s, the favored entertainment for my parents and their circle of friends was to get together and sing Christmas carols.

Each Christmastime, they would gather at a different house, sing for an hour or so, have a drink, sing again and finally break for a buffet supper.

And everybody had favorites. My mother's was the dramatic tale told in "The Coventry Carol." Mine was and still is "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming," calling up such intense associations of the burning faith of the Middle Ages. Who could resist that soaring tenor line from "The First Noel"?

One family in the group was German in origin, so at the end of the evening we always sang a verse of "Silent Night" in German, "Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht" ringing in our ears as we walked through the snow to the car.

Everybody knew the words; most knew the parts.

Why? Because they were taught to every kid in elementary school. Back when I was in school, we always had Christmas trees and the Creche, complete with animals and Wise Men.

Nobody thought much about whether kids who were not Christian were made to feel uncomfortable by the practice. Most people back then simply assumed that Christian observances of Christmas were the appropriate expression of the dominant culture of America. And if Jewish kids who celebrated Hanukkah or black kids who followed Kwanzaa felt left out or put down, that was just too bad.

Of course, it was precisely that unthinking assumption of a dominant religious culture that led to the wholesale application of the First Amendment to state-supported schools and to the consequent elimination of religious practices such as Christmas carols from the school curriculum.

And although some may regret the way the First Amendment has now been interpreted so as to ban entirely all forms of religious practice from the schools, that may be a satisfactory tradeoff in a diverse America that seeks to respect all forms of religious commitment.

I found myself reflecting on this over the weekend because my wife, Kathy, and I have resurrected the old practice of my parents' generation and make our big annual holiday party a Christmas sing. We invite lots of friends, Christian and not, with the clear understanding that we will be singing carols from 5-6:30 p.m., when we stop and have cocktails and nibbles.



PHILIP POWER

I suppose all this is politically incorrect, but I don't much care. It's a lovely celebration of the season. It's consistent with my family's culture. And if some people don't want to sing Christmas carols, they can come after 6:30.

In fact, it turns out that a lot of the people most happily singing at our party this year were Jewish.

How did they learn the carols? Just the same way I did - in elementary school back in the '40s and '50s.

But that mechanism certainly isn't available to our kids.

Does that mean that Scott and Nathan, our children, will never enjoy Christmas carols in the way my parents did and I do? Or that the only way they will learn them is through the pre-masticated Christmas pop culture propagated by radio and TV?

No. It means that Kathy and I will have to teach them, include them in our caroling parties, talk with them about how much the carols and our tradition mean to us as a family. It means that we will urge our church to include carol singing as a regular part of Sunday school.

It means that the ways by which the particular culture of our family will be carried on from generation to generation will be up to us to build and develop as a family. We won't be able to rely on the all-too-easy assumption of my parents' day that the schools are going to do it for us.

It's harder. But it's better. Because it requires us to go to the conscious effort of identifying those parts of our family culture that we feel are of such value as to take the time and trouble to pass them on to our children.

Including singing "Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht" at the end of caroling parties.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (313) 953-2047, Ext 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@xconline.com

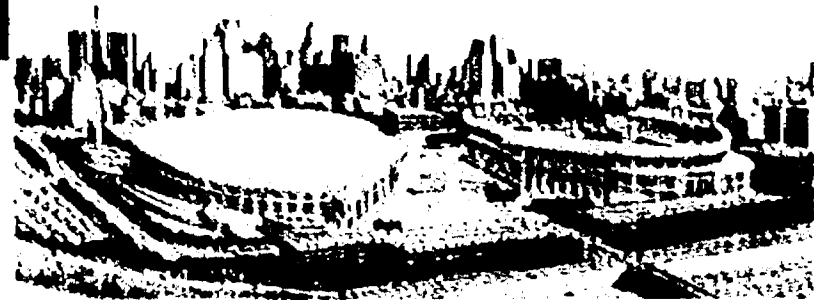
Wayne County Wants You

- If you are a:
- Minority-owned
- Women-owned
- County-based
- Small Business
- or
- Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

Wayne County wants you to become a prime or sub-contractor for county projects.

WAYNE COUNTY...

Getting

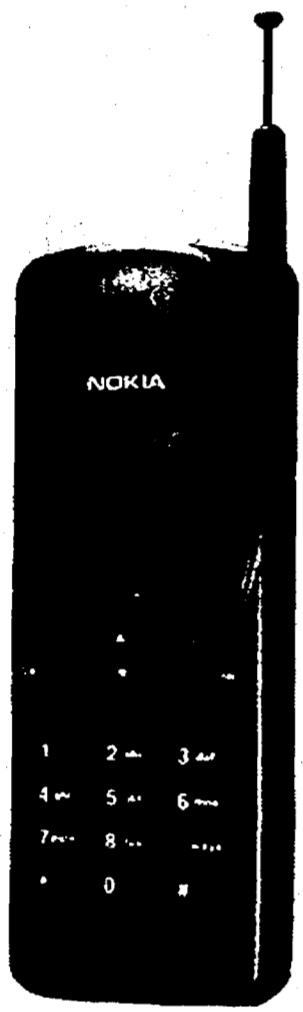


For information on registration, certification and compliance regulations call or write:

Ronald G. Miller, deputy director
Wayne County Human Relations Division
600 Randolph, 5th floor • Detroit, MI 48226 • 313-224-5021



Great gift ideas from Pagetec



Free ClearPath™ digital phone
\$25 monthly service with double free minutes for up to 3 months.



6000e
So small, so light,
it's always with you.

FREE StarTAC™
\$24⁹⁵ monthly service with double free minutes for up to 3 months.



\$9⁹⁵
Monthly service with a **Free** Motorola Phone.

Ask about our ClearPath plans as low as 10¢ a minute.

PICK-UP & GO CELLULAR®

- No contracts
- No credit checks
- No monthly bills

Phones AS LOW AS \$99

Includes 30 minutes of FREE SERVICE. Free gift with every purchase.



PICK-UP & GO CELLULAR® CARDS

Cellular airtime available in \$30 increments.



CIGARETTE ADAPTER



Great gift idea! Many accessories to choose from.

CLEARPATH™

- Free phone
- \$45 per month service
- 125 free minutes



PAGETEC

Michigan's Largest Ameritech Dealer...24 Metro Area Locations!
CALL 1-888-PAGETEC for a location near you!

ANN ARBOR
200 E. Washington at 4th
(313) 332-0000

CANTON
49200 Ford Road
(313) 455-5100

DETROIT
Corner Of Grand River & Telegraph
(313) 794-8000

GARDEN CITY
31335 Ford Road
(313) 421-8000

GARDEN CITY
27419 Warren
Corner of Inkster Rd.
(313) 458-6000

INKSTER
21528 Michigan
(313) 359-6400

INKSTER
1040 Middlebelt
(313) 595-7100

SOUTHFIELD
26064 W. Twelve Mile
(248) 827-3000

WALLED LAKE
103 E. Walled Lake Rd.
Corner of Pontiac Trail
(248) 960-4446

WESTLAND
Corner of Ford & Wayne
(313) 641-8888

WESTLAND
Corner of Michigan & Merriman
(Inside Krogers)
(313) 728-5000



Authorized Cellular Dealer

All offers: restrictions apply. See participating locations for details. May be subject to credit approval. Products and prices may vary and are subject to change. Free minutes offers: Contract required. Local usage only. Normal tolls, taxes, and fees apply. Pick Up & Go: Subject to terms and conditions at point of sale. Nonrefundable. Ameritech not responsible for loss, theft, or unauthorized use. Phone offers: Supplies limited. Contract required on eligible plans. Phones may vary.

COMMON SENSORS



JACQUE MARTIN DOWNS

Teen moms benefit from giving time

Samuel is just 1 year old. His little eyes show unconditional love for his mommy as she holds him tightly. But when he's placed into the arms of the child care worker, his dancing eyes stop dancing as he realizes that he's being transferred from loving arms to a stranger.

His mom has just turned 15, is not married, and has a quasi-boyfriend in the wings. Her tempestuous relationship with her mom and a non-relationship with her stepdad make life miserable, but she knows that finding a place of her own is out of the question.

Samuel's family worries that she's going to ask for child support; she worries that he's going to disappear. Finishing high school seems "iffy" at this point ... her future looks dim.

Samuel and all of the babies like him belong to the adolescent mothers and fathers who participate in our program known as Young Mother's Assistance Program (Y-MAP). Our most recent Y-MAP function involved our prevention team putting on our annual holiday monthly support group and party for the teen parents and their babies. This particular night's presentation was on alcohol, advertising and how large companies lure teens into drinking.

Our speaker masterfully captured the 85 teens' attention as he enthusiastically conveyed the point that every teen is being sucked in by the alcohol industry to buy alcoholic beverages.

We are very proud of our Y-MAP program because it services a population of unmarried teens who don't get a lot of support. Unmarried teen moms aren't a crowd who have made smart choices. They know it, their parents know it and their babies are a product of those choices.

Our job is to advocate for the babies. This includes helping the parent by steering him or her toward resources he or she is in need of (food, housing, baby formula, diapers). It includes teaching them parenting skills, about the hazards of substance abuse and abuse and advocating for them to finish school.

All of this is done to ensure that they will be the best parents they can be. It's to the taxpayer's advantage, too, because we hope to keep these single parents clear of substance abuse, off the welfare rolls and give their children a jump-start to begin preschool and kindergarten with the same skills as their peers.

A time to give thanks

We are particularly grateful this holiday season to all the unsung heroes who contributed gifts to the young mothers.

The Newburg United Methodist Church in Livonia donated their church for our support group meeting. Their members (from children to adults) participated in a drive to give sleepers and books to the "newborn babe" which were ultimately given to the teens and babies.

We also appreciate all of the Hegira staff who contributed gifts (Livonia Counseling, Northville Counseling, Romulus Help Center, Westland Counseling, Next Step, Oakdale Treatment Facility, Hegira House, Psychiatric Intervention Center and Hegira's fiscal and administration).

We thank the Canton Target Store for the donated Christmas tree, Sears Portrait Studio for the coupons for photographs, a Euchre Club and a group of Moms of Toddlers donations, Schellhase, Rekiel and Mitcham of Livonia for their sleepers and books and an individual donation of toys and personal hygiene products.

But mostly, as a prevention director, I am most proud of the prevention team. The dedication of these young ladies is extraordinary. Every member of the team participates to make the support group evenings fun. Each

Please see **SENSORS, B2**

ENTHUSIASTS DISCOVER *Magic* IN THE CARDS

Interested in visiting dark magical lands? One way is through *Magic: The Gathering*, a trading card game that has cornered 70 percent of the games market since coming out in 1992.

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

As a wizard, Shelby Lincoln has no mercy. She is, shelving, having just drained the life from her friend and fellow wizard Garrett Brink.

"I always beat him," Lincoln said enthusiastically with the emphasis on "always."

Lincoln and Brink, both Canton Township residents, are visiting dark, magical lands where wizards roam, fight off each other's spells and hope to end their rivals' lives.

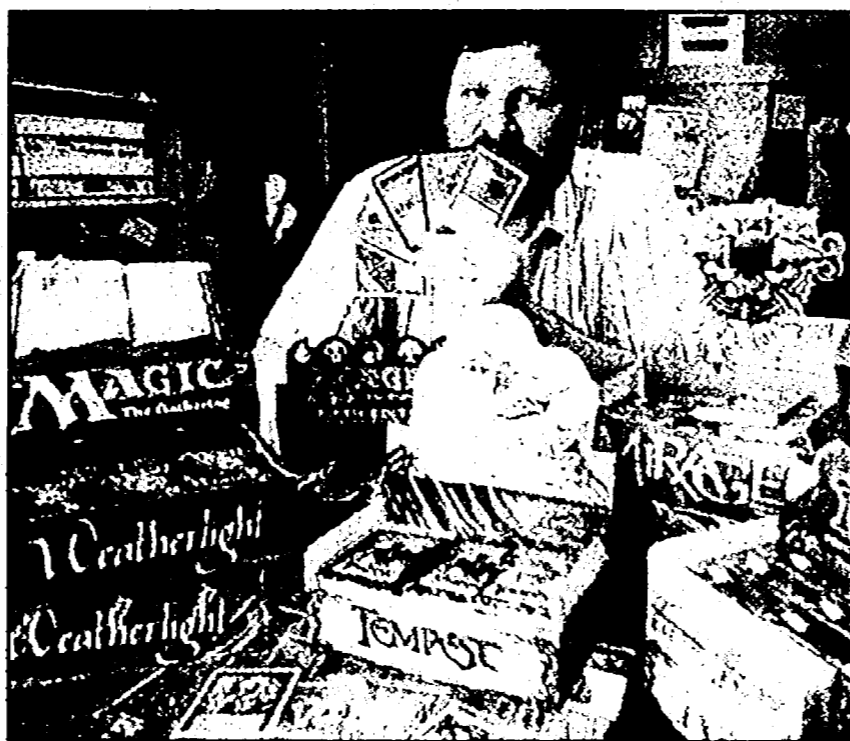
Their fascination is with *Magic: The Gathering*, a trading card game so hot that kids - and adults - will pay upward of \$160 for a card that's out of print. The alternative rock festival Lollapalooza even had a booth devoted to *Magic* at its stop at Pine Knob last summer. There's a \$1 million pro tour, and the finals were televised on ESPN 2 this fall.

Since Bo Milbank of Westland picked up *Magic* three to four years ago, the game has "continued burning its way through the current games. It's kind of taking over the market."

"It's put a lot of companies out of business; 70 percent of the market for games was being eaten by Wizards of the Coast (the makers of *Magic*)," said Milbank, who runs a Friday night gaming league at the Bailey Recreation Center in Westland. "Companies like TSR have actually filed for bankruptcy. Since 1992, over one billion cards have been sold. These guys are rich beyond their wildest dreams at this point."

Jason Freese of Rider's Hobby Shop

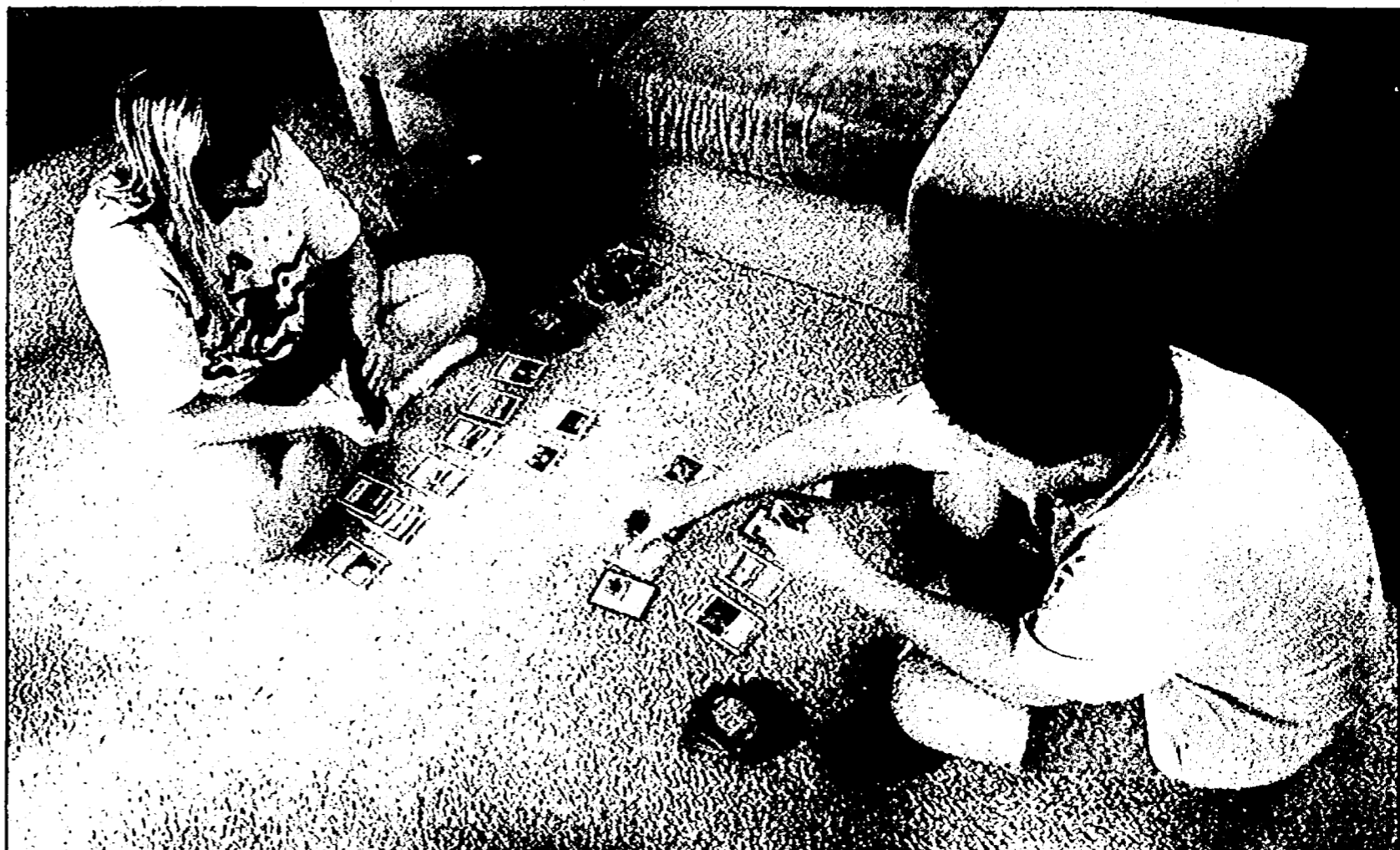
Variety: Mike Wroblewski, owner of Merri-Seven Coins in Livonia, shows off the Black Lotus card as well as the decks, priced at \$8.95, and some of the 2,731 individual cards players can buy for *Magic: The Gathering*.



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Duelling wizards: Female players like Shelby Lincoln, who challenges fellow Canton resident Garrett Brink to a game of *Magic: The Gathering*, are few and far between, according to league organizers. For players like the Canton Township youths, the Black Lotus card (top photo, center), is a very rare card that makes it possible for a player to win in the opening hand.

in Canton Township said that marketing has upped the status of *Magic*.

"It's picked up considerably especially after the commercials started airing," said Freese, standing in front of a wall of shelves holding different boxes of *Magic* cards.

Freese himself is an avid player having been introduced to it two years ago.

"I enjoy the challenge and all the different cards," the 21-year-old music student from Belleville said. "There's tons of different expansion sets, and there's thousands and thousands of

cards. The game's never the same."

Game of strategy

The object of *Magic* is to reduce your opponent's score from 20 to 0 by strategically playing cards that among other things cast spells and attack.

Cards are sold in decks, which cost about \$8.95. Players build their decks by purchasing multiple decks or any of the 2,731 individual cards from dealers. They must have a minimum of 40 cards to play *Magic*, although Freese and Milbank suggest 60.

Players begin by shuffling their decks and drawing seven cards. They alternate taking turns. Each turn is made up of a series of actions, such as playing cards and attacking their opponent.

The cards are of five different backgrounds - white, blue, black, red or green - each of which is a spell. The remaining colorless cards are either artifacts (another type of spell) or lands.

Mike Wroblewski of Merri-Seven Coins in Livonia, explained that there are also five different branches or lands of *Magic* - forest, island, mountain, plains and swamps. Lands create the energy (mana) needed to play spells.

The basic strategy of *Magic* lies in choosing when to play your cards and when to use your creatures to attack your opponent or protect yourself. More complex strategies involve combining your cards to make them more

powerful and choosing which cards to use in your deck to make it most effective.

"We like to say that *Magic* is a combination of the strategy of chess, the bluffing ability of poker and just the luck of the draw," Wroblewski said.

A child's version of the game called Portal spells out the game using a paper game board.

"They have portals for little kids and ignorant people," said Lincoln, as she pulls it out to teach the basics of the game.

While Shelby and Garrett played a game, Lincoln's mother, Pam, explained why her daughter enjoys *Magic*.

"Shelby likes imagination and fantasy things. She reads a lot of fantasy books," said Pam Lincoln of her daughter, a student at Plymouth's East Middle School. Garrett attends Lowell Middle School.

According to Milbank, Shelby Lincoln is in the minority.

"We see usually male (players)," Milbank said. "We do have a couple of gals who show up; a lot of teen-agers. It's hard to have an average player. We have a lot of high school kids, college kids, adults in their 40s. It runs the full spectrum."

"My wife calls it the 'Geek Fest' and I'm the 'Lord of the Geeks.' Truthfully, there are some geeks there, but for the most part it's non-geeks who have

Please see **MAGIC, B2**

Guide has the answers to parental questions

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

Most parents would love to have thousands of pediatricians at their fingertips, available to answer questions about their child's growth problems, allergic reactions, coordination deficiencies and countless other concerns.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics Guide to Your Child's Symptoms" offers caregivers insights into the 100 most common childhood symptoms. Topics include fears, frequently ill children, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, irritability, posture defects and temper tantrums as well as learning, speech and vision problems.

"I think it will be a very good book for working parents when their child wakes up and they don't know whether to go to work or to the doctor's office," said Dr. George L. Blum, a pediatrician who shares his Southfield practice with his son, Robert, Dr. Celeste Lopez and Dr. Penny Coin. "They will get very good advice from this book."

Released last month, the book is a quick reference guide, allowing the reader to flip to specific areas according to symptoms.

"It covers a lot of health issues that parents worry about," said Blum, who is immediate past president of the Michigan chapter of the AAP.

Blum also works on its national committees and is newsletter editor of the "Michigan Pediatric Update" and a clinical associate professor at Wayne State University's School of Medicine.

The AAP is an organization of more than 53,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children and young adults.

The book is designed to give parents reassurance about common health problems and

Please see **GUIDE, B2**

American Academy of Pediatrics

THE OFFICIAL, COMPLETE HOME REFERENCE

GUIDE TO YOUR CHILD'S SYMPTOMS

BIRTH THROUGH ADOLESCENCE

ILLUSTRATED, STEP-BY-STEP

Volunteerism nets nonprofits grants from Ameritech

Eight nonprofits are on the receiving end of contributions from the Ameritech Foundation, recognizing their employees' volunteerism.

The foundation has contributed a total of \$189,000 in grants to 161 eligible nonprofit organizations in Michigan through an employee program designed to increase support for volunteerism and community service.

The Ameritech Pioneer Program for Employee Volunteerism and Community Service, now in its third year, provides contributions of up to \$1,000 to organizations for which Ameritech employees have volunteered eight hours a month for at least six months in 1997. There were 201 employees in the

state who participated in the program this year.

"The program's goals are threefold - to recognize Ameritech employees who volunteer their time to community service, to provide an incentive for other Ameritech employees to donate their time, and to link the Ameritech Foundation's grant making with employee involvement," said Lisa Hamway, director of corporate contributions for Ameritech in Michigan.

Kathleen Tell of Livonia landed a grant for the Girl Scouts for her volunteerism. Tell, who works in product management at Ameritech, has been a troop leader for 11 years for senior scout troops at Novi, Livonia

Stevenson and Redford Thurston High schools.

Ameritech engineer Robert Desoff of Plymouth was recognized for his efforts with the MacTechnics Ann Arbor Computers Users Group Inc., where he serves as the newsletter editor and on the community service project team in addition to being an all-around volunteer.

Benefiting from Thomas Napolitano's volunteerism was the Southeast Michigan Returned Peace Corps Volunteers Inc. A Livonia resident and Ameritech software engineer, Napolitano currently is its treasurer. The group works with other organizations on such things as World Medical Relief, Motor City Blight Busters and

Habitat for Humanity.

Two organizations have benefited from the work of Al Calille of Plymouth. Cub Scout Pack 1532 has enjoyed his help with its Pinewood Derby, overnight campouts and other activities. And the Plymouth Family YMCA receives pro bono legal counsel from Calille, an Ameritech attorney.

Sharon Waite of Redford, an Ameritech engineer, has been devotee her time to the Huron Forest Camp Cherith Inc. She is a vice-president and member of its Board of Directors and technology committee. She also has been involved in weekend projects, hands-on events and served as a tent counselor at the camp.

Angela Hospice Home Care Inc. is the beneficiary of Elaine Stewart of Westland's volunteerism and a recipient of a foundation grant. Waite is a human resource specialist at Ameritech and volunteers in patient care at the Angela Hospice Home. She also helps train volunteers for the agency's bereavement team and coordinates the Angela Hospice Choir.

And Joseph Dluzniewski of Livonia has been giving his time to the Metro West District of the Boy Scouts. A customer service specialist, he has served as an assistant pack leader and in organizing trips for the Boy Scouts.

Ameritech has a tradition of giving back to the communities

it serves. Last year, the company contributed more than \$25 million to 2,000 nonprofit organizations and Ameritech Pioneers - 25,000 employees and retirees throughout the Midwest - volunteered 332,500 hours of community service.

"The heart of any corporation can be measured by how enthusiastically its people give back to their communities," Hamway said. "Day in and day out, the men and women of Ameritech increase the size of Ameritech's heart through cheerful giving."

"They have a long-standing desire to strengthen their communities and empower their neighbors, and they willingly offer their time and talent to make a difference."

Magic from page B1

other interests outside Magic."

Taking it seriously

Merri-Seven is one of eight or 10 "arena stores" in the area which hold monthly tournaments under the auspices of Wizards of the Coast. Wroblewski and his store's assistant manager, Ramon Moore, serve as judges.

The new season begins in early January when Merri-Seven will move to Merriman and Five Mile roads. It costs \$3-\$5 for the season.

"If you join the arena here you can go to any other arena in the country," Wroblewski said. "It's being played all over the world."

Occasionally, Milbank will hold a "tournament illegal," where the rules are "considerably different" than arena play, at the Bailey Center.

"They can build a deck anyway they want; all the standard rules for Magic are dissolved for that night," he said. "You're not allowed to have more than four of any particular card, but on our night, if you want to run 25 lightning bolts, you can do it."

On Friday, Dec. 19, Milbank hosted a tournament where players had to use "Christmas decks." All the decks had to include red and green cards or any other artifact with a Christmas motif to it.

Besides selling the cards, which Wroblewski and Moore have done since 1993, and judging tournaments, the duo teaches adults and children how to play.

"There's a lot of parents who come in here with their children who want to get involved," Wroblewski said. "They like to know

that when their kids get into it, there's someone to answer questions. The game is not totally self-evident. Parents like that option because they don't want to learn the game."

Wroblewski and Moore said they get a lot of "gun slingers" who come in to the store, thinking they can beat them at Magic. One high school student strutted into Merri-Seven with an entourage and said he wanted to play Ramon. He wasn't available, so Wroblewski offered to play.

"I had one absolutely silly deck, but it was for jokes and one that was a tournament level deck," he said. "I asked him which deck he wanted to play. He picks the silly deck. To make a long story short, he got me down to seven or eight points. He thought he was doing really

good and stuff. His buddies were all slapping him on the back."

"The big guy," Wroblewski, pulled out a Eureka card which allows the player to play all the permanent cards in his or her hand.

"Because of the way the kid was playing, instead of having seven cards in my hand, I had 20-21 cards in my hand," he said. "I attacked him with just enough stuff, so he couldn't defend himself. No matter how he did it, he was going to lose. He looked down there and it looked like he had a tear in his eye."

"He picked up his cards and walked out. His little entourage had their heads down following him. As he was walking out the door, I asked him, 'You want to play my good deck next?' I didn't see him for about a month."

Leagues cater to fans

Magic: The Gathering leagues are held in at least two locations in this area:

■ Bo Milbank hosts The Battlefield, a gaming night for Magic: The Gathering, Warhammer 40K, Warhammer Fantasy and Necromunda, 6-10 p.m. Fridays at the Melvin G. Bailey Recreation Center, 36651 Ford Road (half mile west of Wayne Road, behind City Hall), Westland.

The cost is \$3 per night. Those ages 12 and older are admitted. For more information, call (734) 722-7620.

■ Merri-Seven Coins hosts a Magic league, held under the auspices of Wizards of the Coast, the makers of Magic. The next season begins in January when Merri-Seven Coins will move from 19159 Merriman Road to its new location at Merriman and Five Mile roads.

The \$3-5 cost allows players to participate in tournaments in any arena store in the United States. For more information, call (248) 474-5372.

Guide from page B1

possibly calm them down, if they're overreacting to something that really isn't serious.

"Or, it could alert them to something that they hadn't thought about," Blum said referring to warnings listed on each page, highlighting symptoms that should be taken seriously and warrant calling a doctor for more information.

The second part of the book is an illustrated first aid manual, which covers lifesaving techniques and how to treat less serious situations such as bites, stings, cuts and scrapes. Safety issues concerning playpens, bathtubs and what to do in poisoning situations also are addressed.

"Most all of the publications of the American Academy of Pediatrics are well-written and well-received," Blum said. "They're a good source of information and quite accurate."

Previous AAP books include "Caring for Your Baby and Young Child" and "Caring for Your School Age Child," which combined have more than 1 million copies in print. Both books were selected by Child magazine as one of the best parenting books of the year.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics Guide to Your Child's Symptoms" is available at Borders Book Stores and other major outlets for \$25.

"It's a comprehensive book and, if someone is buying one book for the care of their child, this certainly would be the book to get," Blum said. "I think it's a very good book for parents of children of different age groups."

The AAP was founded in 1930 by 35 pediatricians who met in Detroit in response to the need for an independent pediatric forum to address children's needs. The group tackles drug,

tobacco and alcohol problems, learning and behavioral disorders, issues concerning disabled children, sports medicine, nutrition, child-health financing, public education, professional education and advocacy for pediatricians.

"These are all things that we learn from our academy and our readings," Blum said. "Doctors are always studying. We're always trying to get better at what we do and we try to keep one step ahead of the parent who reads a lot, too."

During 30 years of practicing medicine, Blum said the most common question he hears is from mothers asking if their newborns are healthy.

"That's the most important thing we can tell the parent of a new baby, but unfortunately we can't tell that to everybody," Blum said.

The holidays have arrived ... so has the parties, gifts of food and even more parties.

If you're like most Americans, you will gain 7-10 pounds this holiday season. So should you succumb to the temptations of the season and vow to diet in the New Year?

"No," says Lorraine Stefano, founder and director of Think Trim. You can enjoy the holidays without gaining weight and she has a few healthy tips to help you out.

(1) Go through the buffet line twice. Start by going through the line without your plate. Look over the entire buffet and make some choices. Then go through with your plate, remembering you can have some but not all.

(2) Stuff your turkey, not yourself. Stuffing is truly only for turkeys. Sample some of the holiday food but remember moderation is the key.

(3) Don't be fooled by the gift wrap. Many holiday foods are around all year long. The red and green foil-wrapped chocolate Santa tastes the same as the chocolate pumpkin you ate a few months ago.

(4) Choose healthy alternatives. This is the perfect time of year to redo that old family recipe by making some healthy substitutions.

(5) Stay active. With the holidays schedules become busier,

but plan time to exercise. Remember any exercise is better than no exercise and you can even make exercise a part of your holiday celebration with family and friends. Take a long walk in the neighborhood to see all the holiday decorations.

(6) Start now. Think of how much further along you'll be in Jan. 1.

For more information about the Think Trim program, call (248) 589-3283.

Sensors from page B1

of them shows a tireless commitment which does not go unnoticed by the teens. So if you ever run into Jan Yuergens, Connie Moore, Ty Madge, Sherri Fick or Sue Beck, give them a pat on the back. They work relentlessly to get these teens back on track.

They, too, are holiday heroes. If you have a question or comment for Jacque Martin Downs, a prevention specialist and the director of Hegira Prevention Programs, write her at The Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

Join the 3-2-1-SOLD! club.

How often have you been out in the garage, down in the basement or up in the attic and said to yourself, "Gosh, I'd love to get rid of some of this stuff, but it would cost too much to advertise it?"

Our 3-2-1—SOLD! offer is just what you need when you have things to sell for under \$200. Here's how it works:

1. You get 3 lines to describe your item (remember, you have to be asking less than \$200)
2. You get to run your ad for 2 days (one week)
3. You get 1 low price—just \$19.26. That's only \$3.21 per line!

You could say our 3-2-1 plan is as easy as 1-2-3!

Call us today.

Observer & Eccentric *It's all about you!*
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

WAYNE COUNTY: 313-591-0900 Fax: 313-953-2232 OAKLAND COUNTY: 248-644-1070
Clarkston, Lake Orion, Oxford: 248-475-4596 Rochester-Rochester Hills: 248-852-3222

WEDDINGS AND ENGAGEMENTS

Shepherd-Gaudreau

Fred Shepherd of Livonia announces the engagement of his daughter, Alison Kathleen, to Jon Paul Gaudreau, the son of Ray and Barb Gaudreau of Livonia.

The bride-to-be, the daughter of the late Kathleen Shepherd, is a 1993 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School and is pursuing a degree in chemical engineering at Michigan State University. She will graduate in May 1998.

Her fiancé also is a 1993 graduate of Livonia Churchill High School and a 1997 graduate of the Center for Creative Studies. He is employed as a designer for Chrysler Corp. in Auburn Hills.

A May 1998 wedding is planned in St. Aidan Catholic



Church in Livonia.

Mokanyk-Jensen

William Theodore Mokanyk of Greensburg, Ind., and Julie Elizabeth Jensen of Plymouth were married July 4 at Old St. Patrick's Catholic Church in Ann Arbor by the Rev. Terrence Dumas.

The bride is the daughter of John and Arlene Jensen of Plymouth. The groom is the son of John and JoAnn Mokanyk of Greensburg, Ind.

The bride received a bachelor's degree from Indiana University and a secondary teaching certification from Eastern Michigan University. She is currently teaching at Northville High School.

The groom earned a bachelor's degree from Indiana University. He is employed by National Specialty Services.

The bride asked Katie Randlett to serve as her matron of honor with Julie Rohrig, Christine Kelly, Erin Flanagan, Tammy Ho and Claire Goff as bridesmaids.



Darren Mokanyk served as the best man with Erik Jensen, Chris Chapman, Ryan Schutte, Travis Snyder, Kevin Foster and Mike Greiwe as groomsmen.

The couple received guests at the Mayflower Meeting House in Plymouth before leaving on a honeymoon trip to Grand Cayman.

Miller-Whitmore

Michael William Miller of Livonia and Rachel Suzanne Whitmore of Plymouth were married Oct. 25 at Our Lady of Orchard Lake Church by the Rev. John Sullivan.

The bride is the daughter of David and Irene Whitmore of Plymouth. The groom is the son of Regis and Kathy Miller of Livonia.

The bride is a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School, Michigan State University and Madonna University. She is currently employed with a Detroit law firm.

The groom is a graduate of Wayne Memorial High School and Michigan State University. He is currently employed with Isuzu Motors of America.

The bride asked Jan Hartford to serve as her matron of honor, with Jennifer Graskewicz, Jennifer Mankarious, Marcie Bilesimo, Lea Anna Brunsman and Elizabeth Kuehne as bridesmaids. Toni Bilesimo was the flower girl.

Glenn Moore served as best man, with Mark Miller, Dave



Darrow, Scot Steiber, Jerry Smart, Terry Desselles, Bob Graskewicz and Dave Bilesimo as groomsmen. Michael Bilesimo was the ring bearer.

The couple received guests at the Forest Lake Country Club before leaving on a honeymoon trip to California and Maui. They are making their home in Livonia.

Carlisle-Harrison

Jim and Cyndi Carlisle of Livonia announce the engagement of their daughter, Karin Anne, to Stephen Russell Harrison, the son of Greg and Judy Harrison of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a 1994 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School. She expects to graduate from Grand Valley State University in April with a major in psychology/special education and a minor in elementary education.

Her fiancé also is a 1994 graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School and a 1997 graduate of Grand Valley State University with a degree in biomedical sciences. He is interviewing for acceptance to medical school.

A July wedding is planned at Memorial Church of Christ in Livonia.



Fournier-Stark

George and Nita Fournier of South Deerfield, Mass., announce the engagement of their daughter, Leslie Karen, to Douglas Thompson Stark, the son of Tony and Loretta Stark of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in exercise physiology. She is employed by Diagnostic Ultrasound Corp. as a territory manager.

Her fiancé also is a graduate of Michigan State University with a bachelor's degree in building construction management. He is employed by the City of Royal Oak as a firefighter and as a real estate appraiser by Heritage Appraisal Services in Livonia.

A November wedding is being



planned.

Beardsley-Porter

Ken and Mary Beardsley of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Kelly Threse, to John Randal Porter, the son of Frank and JoAnn Porter, also of Canton.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and Sally Esser Beauty School. She currently works as a cosmetologist at Shear Madness in Livonia.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Westland John Glenn High School. He currently works at Elite Communications as a supervisor of the Prime Star Division.

A February wedding is planned at St. Thomas A' Becket



Church in Canton.

VideoMagic holds seminar

Merchants specializing in weddings can get help educating brides about shopping for a particular service through a seminar being organized by Mark Salloum of VideoMagic Productions in Livonia.

more information, call Salloum at (734) 591-1652.

Salloum is organizing "How to Shop for Your Wedding Day," two two-hour seminars on Feb. 8 at the Dearborn Inn. It is designed to educate couples about what they should look for in a good DJ, photographer, baker, bridal dress and the like.

In addition, couples will have an opportunity to speak with participating businesses one-on-one to answer questions or book services.

Each seminar will have seating for 40 couples. There will be short lectures of about 10 minutes by individual businesses, followed by the "open house."

Businesses interested in participating in the seminar can secure an exclusive place in the seminar with a \$50 deposit, payable to VideoMagic Productions, is due by Dec. 31. For

CRAFTS

Listings for the Crafts Calendar should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (313) 591-7279. For more information, call (313) 953-2131.

SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE

Applications are being accepted for the spring craft show March 7 at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia. The fee is \$90 for a 12-by-12-foot space, \$55 for a 10-by-10-foot space and \$40 for a 8-by-9-foot space or an 8-by-4-foot hallway space. There is an additional \$15 fee for electricity. Applications must be received by Jan. 9 to be eligible for the first jury round. To receive an application, call the department of marketing and development at (734) 462-4417.

MADONNA UNIVERSITY

Madonna University is accepting applications from crafters for its 13th annual spring arts and crafts showcase 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 28 in the Activities Center on campus, Schoolcraft and Levan, Livonia. Booth space measuring 9 feet by 6 feet with two chairs and one 6-by-8-foot table is \$50. Booths with electricity are limited and are an additional \$5. Exhibitors may purchase up to three spaces. Crafters will receive a \$5 discount if their forms are received by Feb. 1. For more information, call the university at (734) 432-5493.



A thousand little ways to show we care

A reassuring smile. A good ear. A kind voice. Caring has always been essential to curing, and that is especially true when it comes to our young patients. We care about children so we know how to care for them. At the University of Michigan Health Centers, we believe the only way to know your child and understand all of his or her health needs is to be in your neighborhood. It's the easiest way to help your child the most. Here's what else makes us ideal for your whole family:

- We have plenty of pediatricians, ob/gyns, family practice physicians and general internists in your community.

- Many sites offer extended hours, including Saturdays.
- We have all the services you need to stay healthy. Many locations offer laboratory tests and X-rays, too.
- If you ever need a specialist, you're already linked with the U-M Medical Center and our hundreds of experts.
- Finding the right doctor close to your home is simple, and making an appointment is easy. Just call the number below and we will help you select a physician and even schedule your first appointment.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
Health Centers
1-800-211-8181

Because world-class health care shouldn't be a world away.

*Reasons to Choose
University of Michigan
Health Care*

Insurance

For your convenience we accept most major insurance plans, including:

- M-CARE
- Blue Care Network
- Blue Cross / Blue Shield of Michigan
- Aetna Managed Care
- OmniCare (not available in Livingston County)
- Selectcare (available in Oct 1997)
- Medicaid
- Medicare
- And Others. Call to make sure your health plan is accepted.

We're In Your Neighborhood

Call 1-800-211-8181 for information about hours and providers.

Canton

- Joseph G. Jender, M.D. & Assoc.
8524 Canton Center Road

Farmington Hills

- Middlebelt Pediatrics
21000 Middlebelt Road

Livonia

- Livonia Internal Medicine
17316 Farmington Road

Plymouth

- Plymouth Health Center
9398 Lilley Road

Woodcarvers' talents brighten up child care center

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

It sure does look like Christmas in the lobby of the St. Mary Hospital Child Care Center, and the elves doing the work are the Livonia Woodcarvers.

A Christmas in the center's lobby is filled with the carvers' handiwork, close to 200 handmade and handpainted wooden ornaments members have been making for two years.

"I knew it would be a two-year project," said Tony Pietrzak, toy chairman for the 200-member club. "When the center opened a year ago, we wanted to do something nice and we came up with the idea of the handmade ornaments."

"We're extremely grateful," said center director Sister Joyce Marie Van de Vyver. "We've been able to have someone to go to for help. They're a real resource."

The club members provided about 65 ornaments last year, and Pietrzak expects at least that many more to add to the tree this year.

Club members begin working on the ornaments in October. Pietrzak buys the lumber, which is trimmed down and patterns applied by members with craft saws. The blocks of wood are then given to members to be carved and painted.

Additions to the tree this year

include 6-inch-tall wooden soldiers and the head of Santa surrounded by a Christmas tree, the winner of an ornament contest the group holds, according to Pietrzak.

"We use the whole club for this," he said. "And the ornament doesn't have to be just Christmas stuff. We have one guy who's going to carve some little cars for the tree."

The ornaments are only small part of what the group has done for the center. The front of the reception counter in the lobby showcases their talents. Sister Van de Vyver came up with the idea to make the center appealing to both adults and children.

The interlocking blocks are done in different colors of stain as are the numbers which are also puzzles. The number one is in one color, two is in two pieces and two colors and three in three pieces and three colors.

"It took a lot of interaction with Sister Joyce to get something appropriate for the lobby," Pietrzak said. "Any ideas she comes up with, I help. If I can't do it, I find someone who can."

"We wanted it to be child-like but something adults could relate to," Sister Van de Vyver added. "We wanted it to be tasteful and appealing to adults and children alike."

The shake-style awnings over windows facing on the indoor play area, the sky room, also

were Sister Van de Vyver's idea, executed by Pietrzak.

She wanted the room to resemble a neighborhood. The windows, painted in different pastel colors, flank doors leading to the different child care rooms that surround the play area on three sides.

Pietrzak made the shakes and took about two weeks to make the awnings that were installed just before the center's grand opening in July 1996.

"They really help make it nice, not institutional," said Sister Van de Vyver.

The center is one of several organizations that benefits from the woodcarvers' talents. Members have been making wooden toys to give to children placed with Spectrum Human Services and for young patients at Children's Hospital of Southeast Michigan for about 10 years.

At the hospital, the toys are given to children or placed in waiting rooms to be played with while children wait for treatments. In addition to wooden cars and trucks, the woodcarvers have come up with a brightly painted children's rocker made to look like an airplane.

And like Santa Claus, Pietrzak has made a list of things to make for the center. The future projects includes cradles, a rocking horse, small business-style signs for the doors and more ornaments, if neces-



PHOTO BY JERRY MENDEZA

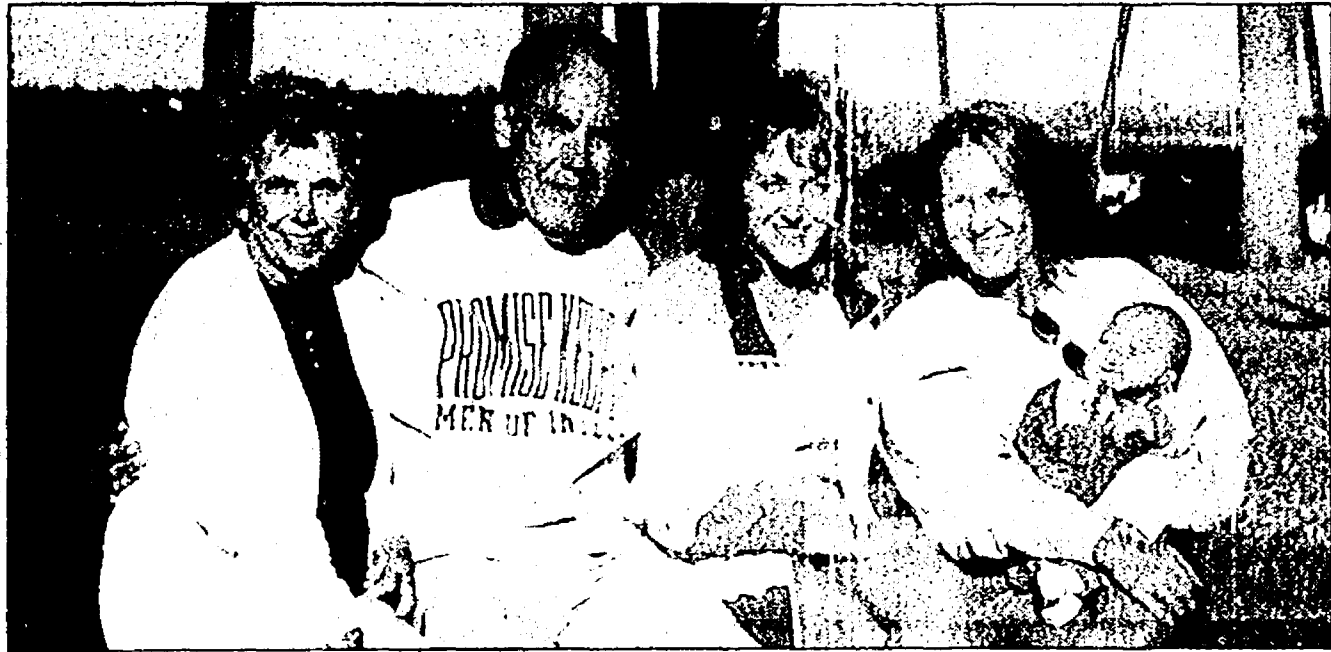
Holiday cheer: Thanks to Livonia Woodcarvers like Tony Pietrzak (from left) the Christmas tree in the lobby of the St. Mary Hospital Child Care Center is filled with handmade wooden ornaments, eye-catching for 19-month-old Sarah Bates of Livonia and center director Sister Joyce Van de Vyver.

sary. "I had cancer three times and I beat it three times," he said. "This is my chance to give something back, my chance to return

something. "The guild members do a lot of nice things for people. They enjoy doing it, especially this." "This is a big help to the cen-

ter, especially the specialty items we wouldn't be able to purchase or obtain in any other way," added Sister Van de Vyver.

And then there were ...



Five generations: Marie Flowers of Allen Park decided to sit down with a few of her relatives this past summer, all five generations. Joining the great-great-grandmother (from left) was great-grandfather Brian Mastaw of Northville, grandmother Janet Mastaw of Redford, mother Michelle Frush of Redford and her infant son, William.

Museum celebrates Kwanzaa

The Museum of African American History will observe Kwanzaa daily Friday, Dec. 26, through Thursday, Jan. 1.

An African American holiday, Kwanzaa is celebrated to reaffirm the commitment to family, community and the black struggle.

The Kwanzaa celebration will start at noon each day with a Kwanzaa ritual, followed by a dance performance. From 1-3 p.m., visitors will be treated to a range of Kwanzaa performances, activities and workshops offered throughout the building.

The tradition of Kwanzaa was created out of the philosophy of Kwaiba by Dr. Maulana Karenga, a black studies professor and black activist. It was first celebrated by his family and friends on Dec. 26, 1966.

Derived from Kwanzaa, a Swahili word meaning "first fruits of the harvest," Kwanzaa celebrates the minimum set of

principles by which African Americans should live - Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa, (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity) and Imani (faith). Each day, one of the seven principles (Nguzo Saba) is featured to clarify its significance.

At the museum, the Kwanzaa daily ritual will consist of the lighting of the candles, clarification of the day's principle and the pouring of libations. Representatives and families from the community, such as Gregory Guice of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Dr. Robert Bland of Lewis College of Business, Nkenge Abi of the Shrine of the Black Madonna and Baba Ademiwole, will lead the ceremony.

The ritual will take place in the Dr. Charles H. Wright Theater. Seating will be available on

a first come-first served basis. The workshops, activities and performances throughout the day will correlate with the day's featured principle.

For children, there will be workshops where they will make a collage in celebration of Detroit, create self-portraits and design spirit bottles and African masks with Detroit artists Adrienne Edmonson, and Donald Calloway. The workshops will emphasize creativity, purpose and self-determination.

The museum will be open 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., including Monday, Dec. 29. Kwanzaa activities are free of charge with museum admission - \$3 for adults and \$2 for children.

The Museum of African American History is at the corner of Warren and Brush streets in Detroit. For more information, call the museum at (313) 833-9800.

INTERNET ADDRESS DIRECTORY

Find these sites on the World Wide Web - Brought to you by the services of O&E On-Line!
To get your business On-Line!, call 313-953-2038



ON-LINE!

- ACCOUNTING**
Kessler & Associates P.C. <http://www.kesslercpa.com>
- ADVERTISING PROMOTIONAL PRODUCTS**
Monograms Plus <http://oeonline.com/monoplus>
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Legal Notice <http://oeonline.com/legal>
- APPAREL**
Hold Up Suspender Co. <http://www.suspenders.com>
- ART and ANTIQUES**
Haig Galleries <http://rochester-hills.com/haig>
- ART GALLERIES**
Elizabeth Stone Gallery <http://esgallery.com>
The Print Gallery <http://www.everythingart.com>
- ART MUSEUMS**
The Detroit Institute of Arts <http://www.dia.org>
- ASSOCIATIONS**
ASM - Detroit <http://www.asm-detroit.org>
Society of Automotive Engineers <http://www.sae-detroit.org>
Suburban Newspapers of America <http://www.suburban-news.org>
Suspender Wearers of America <http://oeonline.com/svaa>
- AUDIO VISUAL SERVICES**
AVS Audio <http://www.avsaudio.com>
Slidemasters <http://www.slidemasters.com>
- AUTOMOTIVE**
Huntington Ford <http://www.huntingtonford.com>
John Rogin Buick-Isuzu-Suzuki <http://www.johnrogin.com>
Ramchargers Performance Centers <http://www.ramchargers.com>
Universal Bearing Co. <http://www.unibearco.com>
- AUTOMOTIVE MANUFACTURERS**
- REPRESENTATIVES**
Marks Mgmt. Services <http://www.marksmgmt.com>
- AUTO RACING**
Milan Dragway <http://www.milandragway.com>
- BAKING/COOKING**
"Jiffy" Mix - Chelsea Milling Company <http://www.jiffymix.com>
- BASEMENT WATERPROOFING**
Mr. Sponge <http://www.mrsponge.com>
- BICYCLES**
Wahul Bicycle Company <http://rochester-hills.com/wahu>
- BOOKKEEPING PRODUCTS**
BIG E-Z Bookkeeping Co. <http://www.bigez.com>
- BOOKS**
Apostolate Communications <http://www.apostolate.com>
- BUSINESS NEWS**
Insider Business Journal <http://www.insiderbiz.com>
- CERAMIC TILE**
Stewart Specialty Tiles <http://www.specialtytiles.com>
- CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE**
Livonia Chamber of Commerce <http://www.livonia.org>
Birmingham Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce <http://www.bboc.com>

- CHILDREN'S SERVICES**
St. Vincent & Sarah Fisher Center <http://oeonline.com/svst>
- CLASSIFIED ADS**
Advillage <http://advillage.com>
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers <http://observer-eccentric.com>
- CLOSET ORGANIZERS/HOME STORAGE**
Organize-It <http://www.organize-it.com>
- COMMERCIAL PRINTING**
ColorTech Graphics <http://colortechgraphics.com>
- COMMUNITIES**
City of Livonia <http://oeonline.com/livonia>
- COMMUNITY NEWS**
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers <http://observer-eccentric.com>
- COMMUNITY SERVICE**
Sanctuary <http://rochester-hills.com/wecare>
Wayne Community Living Services <http://www.wcls.org>
- COMPUTER GRAPHICS**
Logix, Inc. <http://www.logix-usa.com>
- COMPUTER HARDWARE/PROGRAMMING/SOFTWARE SUPPORT**
Applied Automation Technologies <http://www.capps-edges.com>
BNB Software <http://www.oeonline.com/bnb>
Mighty Systems Inc. <http://www.mightysystems.com>
- COMPUTER PRODUCT REVIEWS**
- HORSERACING HANDICAPPING SOFTWARE**
CyberNews and Reviews <http://oeonline.com/cybernews>
- CONSTRUCTION**
Frank Rewold Construction <http://rochester-hills.com/rewold>
- CORPORATE VIDEO/WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT**
NetWorth Internet Marketing <http://netvid.com>
- DUCT CLEANING**
Mechanical Energy Systems <http://www.mes1.com>
- EDUCATION**
Fordson High School <http://oeonline.com/fordsonh>
Global Village Project <http://oeonline.com/gvp.htm>
Oakland Schools <http://oakland.k12.mi.us>
Reuther Middle School <http://oeonline.com/rms>
Rochester Community Schools Foundation <http://rochester-hills.com/rcsf>
The Webmaster School <http://rochester-hills.com>
Western Wayne County Internet User Group <http://oeonline.com/wwcug>
- ELECTRICAL SUPPLY**
Caniff Electric Supply <http://www.caniff.com>
Progress Electric <http://www.pe-co.com>
- ELECTRONIC SERVICE AND REPAIR**
ABL Electronic Service, Inc. <http://www.ablerv.com>
- EMPLOYEE LEASING COMPANY**
Genesis Group <http://www.genesisgroup.com>
- EMPLOYMENT SERVICES**
Employment: Presentation Services <http://www.epsweb.com>
- ENVIRONMENT**
Resource Recovery and Recycling <http://oeonline.com/rrasoc>
Authority of SW Oakland Co
- EXECUTIVE RECRUITERS**
J Emery & Associates <http://www.jemeryassoc.com>
- EYE CARE/LASER SURGERY**
Greenberg Laser Eye Center <http://www.greenbergeye.com>

- FLOOR COVERING**
The Floor Connection <http://www.floorconnection.com>
- FROZEN DESSERTS**
Savino Sorbet <http://www.sorbet.com>
- HAIR SALONS**
Heads You Win <http://www.headsyouwin.com>
- HEALTH CARE**
Family Health Care Center <http://oeonline.com/ehrmann>
- HERBAL PRODUCTS**
Nature's Better Way <http://oeonline.com/nbw>
- HOME INSPECTIONS**
GKS Inspection <http://www.gks3d.com>
- HOSPITALS**
Botsford Health Care Continuum <http://www.botsfordsystem.org>
St. Mary Hospital <http://www.stmaryhospital.org>
- HYDRAULIC AND PNEUMATIC CYLINDERS**
Hennells <http://www.hennells.com>
- HYPNOSIS**
Full Potential Hypnosis Center <http://oeonline.com/hypnosis>
- INDUSTRIAL FILTERS**
Elixare Corporation <http://www.elixare.com>
- INSURANCE**
J. J. O'Connell & Assoc., Inc. <http://www.oconnellinsurance.com>
- INTERACTIVE CD ROM PUBLISHING**
Interactive Incorporated <http://www.interactive-inc.com>
- JEWELRY**
Haig Jewelry <http://rochester-hills.com/haig>
- MORTGAGE COMPANIES**
Mortgage Market Information Services <http://www.interest.com/observer>
Village Mortgage <http://www.villagemortgage.com>
- NEWSLETTERS**
GAGGLE Newsletter <http://oeonline.com/gaggle>
- NOTARY SERVICES**
Notary Service & Bonding Agency, Inc. <http://www.notaryservice.com>
- NURSING EDUCATION**
Michigan League for Nursing <http://oeonline.com/mln>
- PAINTING**
Al Kahn Painting <http://oeonline.com/alkahn>
- ORIENTAL RUGS**
Azar's Oriental Rugs <http://www.azars.com>
- PARKS & RECREATION**
Huron-Clinton Metroparks <http://www.metroparks.com>
- PERSONAL GROWTH**
Overcomer's Maximized Living System <http://www.overcomer.com>
- PLANNING AND TRAFFIC CONSULTANT**
Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc. <http://www.birchlerarroyo.com>
- POWER TRANSMISSION**
Bearing Service, Inc. <http://www.bearingservice.com>
- PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR**
Profile Central, Inc. <http://www.profile-usa.com>
- PUBLIC AND INVESTOR RELATIONS**
Rea Norm & Associates, Inc. <http://www.profile-norm.com>
- REAL ESTATE**
REALnet <http://oeonline.com/realnet.html>

- Birmingham Bloomfield Rochester South Oakland Association of Realtors <http://www.justlisted.com>
- Chamberlain REALTORS <http://www.chamberlainrealtors.com>
- Cornwell & Company <http://www.michiganhome.com/cornwell>
- Marcia Gies <http://s0a.oeonline.com/gies.html>
- Hall & Hunter Realtors <http://s0a.oeonline.com/hallhunt>
- Langard Realtors <http://www.langard.com>
- Mary Ferrazza <http://www.milistings.com>
- Max Brook, Inc. <http://www.maxbrook.com>
- Sellers First Choice <http://www.slcreators.com>
- Bob Taylor <http://www.bobtaylor.com>
- Western Wayne County Association of REALTORS <http://www.michiganhome.com>
- REAL ESTATE APPRAISAL**
BBRSOAR Appraisers Committee <http://justlisted.com/appraisal>
- REAL ESTATE - COMMERCIAL INVESTMENT**
Property Services Group, Inc. <http://www.propserve.com>
- REAL ESTATE EDUCATION**
Real Estate Alumni of Michigan <http://www.ramadavantage.org>
- REAL ESTATE-HOME WARRANTY**
HMS Home Warranty <http://oeonline.com/hms>
- RELOCATION**
Conquest Corporation <http://www.conquest-corp.com>
- REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**
Midwest Fertility and Sex Selection Center <http://www.mfss.com>
- RESTAURANTS**
Steve's Backroom <http://www.stevesbackroom.com>
- RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES**
American House <http://www.american-house.com>
Presbyterian Villages of Michigan <http://www.pvm.org>
- SHOPPING**
Birmingham Principal Shopping District <http://oeonline.com/birmingham>
- SURPLUS FOAM**
McCutough Corporation <http://www.mcfoc.com>
- SURPLUS PRODUCTS**
McCutough Corporation <http://www.mcsurplus.com>
- TOYS**
Toy Wonders of the World <http://www.toywonders.com>
- TRAINING**
High Performance Group <http://www.oeonline.com/hpg>
Virtual Reality Institute <http://www.vrinstute.com>
- TRAVEL AGENCY**
Cruise Selections, Inc. <http://www.cruiseselections.com>
- UTILITIES**
Detroit Edison <http://www.detroitedison.com>
- WELD GUN PRODUCTS**
C.M. Smilie Co. <http://www.smilie.com>
- WHOLISTIC WELLNESS**
Roots and Branches <http://www.reikplace.com>
- WOMEN'S HEALTH**
Asghar Afsan, M.D. <http://www.gyndoc.com>
PMS Institute <http://www.pmsinst.com>
- WORSHIP**
St. Michael Lutheran Church <http://www.stmichaellutheran.org>

RELIGION CALENDAR

Listings for the Religion Calendar should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to Sue Mason at 3625 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (313) 591-7279. For more information, call (313) 953-2131.

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church will have its family service at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at the Canton campus, 46001 Warren Road, and at 7 p.m. at the Livonia campus, 14175 Farmington Road. The 11 p.m. candlelight service will also be at the Livonia campus. Worshipers will be given a votive candle to raise during the singing of "Silent Night." The Choir of Christ Our Savior, Handbell Choir and instrumentalists will unfold the story through song, scripture and prayer. A pre-service concert of organ, handbell and instrumental music will begin at 10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25, worship with Communion will begin at 10 a.m. at the Livonia campus. It will feature uplifting music with the choir and instrumentalist.

For more information, call the church office at (734) 522-6830.

St. John's Lutheran Church of Redford will have Christmas Day worship with Holy Communion at 10 a.m. at the church, 13542 Mercedes, east of Inkster Road and south of I-96. For more information, call the church at (313) 538-2600.

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit will have a service with the Holy Eucharist at 10:30 a.m. Christmas Day at the church, 9083 Newburgh Road, Livonia. For more information, call the church at (734) 591-0211.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK

St. Aidan Youth Group is raising funds in December by selling the Entertainment Ultimate Book which contains discounts on dining, travel, shopping, movies, special events and sports. The books cost \$40 with a portion of the proceeds going to help fund youth conferences and workshops. For more information, call (313) 425-5950 or (248) 474-1396.

St. Matthew United Methodist Church is also selling the 1998 Entertainment book. The cost is at \$40 with \$8 going to the church's Mission Committee. To order, call Dick Horie at (313) 522-4856.

SUNDAY LESSONS

"Lessons Learned" will be the lesson at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, at Church of Today West in Village Oaks Elementary School, 23333 Willowbrook (between Haggerty and Meadowbrook roads), Novi. The church also offers youth education, a course in miracles at 7 p.m.

Tuesdays and others courses in 4T, meditation and unity basics. For more information, call (248) 449-8900 or at its Web site, <http://www.cotw.com>.

DIVORCECARE

DivorceCare, a special video seminar and support group, has begun a 13-week session, 7:15-9:15 p.m. Sundays at St. Michael Lutheran Church, 7000 Sheldon Road, Canton Township. The series features nationally recognized experts covering such topics as "Facing Your Anger," "Facing Your Loneliness," "Depression," "New Relationships," and "Forgiveness." Child care is available. Call (313) 459-3333 for more information.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

The radio series, "What is This Christian Science and Who Are These Christian Scientists?" is being broadcast at 1:30 p.m. Sundays of WQBH-AM 1400. The topic will be "Just what is a Christian Science practitioner?" on Dec. 28.

"The Christian Science Sentinel-Radio Edition" also can be heard at 9:30 a.m. Sundays on WAAM-AM 1600. The conversational program discusses current public topics as well as shares healing through prayer from people all over the world.

TEAMKID

TeamKid, a unique club which blends activity with interactive learning, discipleship and Bible memory, meets 5:45-8 p.m. Sundays at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City. The program is for children in grades 1-6 and provides practical Biblical answers in a fun and interesting setting. For more information, call the church office at (313) 421-0472.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Men Who Make a Difference, a small group of Christian men dedicated to the biblical principles of building a "Godly Man," meets at 7:30 p.m. Mondays at Merriman Road Baptist Church, 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City. The group is open to men of all denominations who wish to diligently seek the face of Jesus. For more information, call (313) 421-0472.

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Ward Presbyterian Church will celebrate New Year's Eve with an evening of fellowship, beginning at 9 p.m. with a sacred Christian concert, featuring Dale Hicks, at the church, 17000 Farmington Road, Livonia. A buffet is available at 10 p.m. by advance reservation only. The evening will conclude with a Watch Night service at 11 p.m. Chimes will ring in the New Year and close the service just after midnight. For more information, call (734) 422-1826.

WATCH NIGHT

A Watch Night Holy Communion service will be held at 7

p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31, at Salem National Evangelical Lutheran Church, 32430 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. For more information, call the church at (313) 422-5550.

ROSE BOWL PARTY

Merriman Road Baptist Church's Men Who Make a Difference will host a Rose Bowl Party on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, at the church, 2055 Merriman Road, Garden City. The party starts 30 minutes before the kickoff. Participants will enjoy the entire Rose Bowl game on a big screen television while munching a variety of snacks. The party is open to all. For more information, call the church at (734) 421-0472.

BETHANY SUBURBAN WEST

Bethany Suburban West, a Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance divorced and separated Christians, will have a dance at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 3, at St. Robert Bellarmine Church, West Chicago and Inkster roads, Redford. The cost is \$8 and includes refreshments. For more information, call Roase at (734) 464-3325.

The group also meets on Sundays for breakfast and Mass - 10 a.m. at the Redford Inn, Five Mile Road west of Beech Daly Road, Redford, and at 11:15 a.m. at St. Aidan's Church, Farmington Road north of Six Mile Road, Livonia - call Val at (734) 729-1974; for coffee and conversation at 7 p.m. Tuesdays at Archie's Restaurant, Plymouth Road east of Merriman, Livonia, and for pinocle at 7 p.m. every other Friday - call Rose at (734) 464-3325.

QUEST SPEAKER

Journalist Jack Lessenberry will speak on the issues of race in America at 9:45 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 4, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia.

Lessenberry is a member of the journalism faculty at Wayne State University and Madonna University. He also is a consultant, editorial adviser and freelance writer for many national and regional publications, including Vanity Fair, Esquire, George, New York Times and Boston Globe. He received and Emmy Award for a "Frontline" documentary on Dr. Jack Kevorkian. Locally, he is a contributing editor and columnist for The Metro Times, Oakland Press and Toledo Blade.

For more information, call the church at (313) 422-1470.

TAI CHI CLASSES

The Taoist Tai Chi Society of Michigan will offer beginning and continuing Tai Chi classes 7-9 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 5, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Tai Chi is a series of gentle turn-

ing and stretching exercises that have been practiced by the Chinese since the 11th century. For more information, call (248) 332-1281.

BIBLE STUDY

The Ladies Bible Study of Detroit First Church of the Nazarene, will host a morning Bible study 9:30-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 6, at the church, 21260 Haggerty Road, Northville. Women of the Word, which will meet in the lower level, will use the "Joy of Living" interdenominational series with lessons on the books of 1-II Corinthians. The teachers will be Nona Kelly of West Bloomfield and Debbie Stottele of Novi. The semester registration fee will be \$12 which covers necessary materials. Child care will be provided. For more information, call (248) 348-7600.

NEW BEGINNINGS

New Beginnings, a grief support group held year-round at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile Road, east of Merriman Road, Livonia, continues with its monthly speaker series on Thursday, Jan. 8, with "Moving On." There are no fees. Anyone may attend any or all sessions as they feel the need. For more information, call the church office at (313) 422-6038, Marilyn Wilkinson at (248) 380-7903, or Rosemary Kline at (313) 462-3770.

PARENTING TODAY

Having trouble communicating with your kids? Find out how to really talk to your children by attending the Active Parenting Today classes offered at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, 27475 Five Mile Road, Livonia. The 6-week course will be offered 6:30-9 p.m., beginning Thursday, Jan. 8.

The cost of the course is \$15 (spouses are free) and includes a parent's guides. Preregistration is preferred. Child care will be available for a nominal fee, but only open to those who call and request it at least one week before the first meeting.

For more information or to register, call the church at (734) 422-1470.

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

Worldwide Marriage Encounter offers a weekend experience for married couples to improve their communication skills, learn the value of intimacy and renew their love for each other Friday through Sunday, Feb. 13-15 and March 20-22, at St. John's Family Life Center in Plymouth. For more information or to register call (248) 528-2512 or (810) 286-5524.

PERSONAL ENRICHMENT

The Rev. Gerald Flannery of St. Aidan's Parish in Livonia is inviting the public to join him on a journey of personal enrichment to Fatima (Portugal), Lourdes

and Lisieux (France) from April 24-May 7. The price is \$2,895 per person in a double room. A single supplement is \$280. For more information, call Carlson Wagonlit Travel in Plymouth at (313) 455-5810.

HISPANIC CHURCH

The Hispanic Pentecostal Church conducts worship services at 2 p.m. Sundays at the Open Door Church, 33105 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia. The Rev. G. Diaz officiates. For more information, call (248) 471-5282.

FROM THE HEART

Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church offers From the Heart Cancer Support Group at 7 p.m. the second and fourth Mondays of the month in Rooms B2 and 4 at the church, 17000 Farmington

Road, Livonia. Family members, those with cancer and friends are invited to share, encourage and support one another in a loving, hopeful God-focused environment. For more information, call the church at (313) 422-1826.

LITURGY ON TAPE

The Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom is available on videotape for a cost of \$15, plus \$3 postage, from Holy Transfiguration Orthodox Church, 86075 W. Seven Mile, Livonia 48152. The tapes make a great gift for a shut-in or those unable to attend the liturgy. The tapes also can be given to those people who are either seeking or expressing an interest in the Orthodox faith.



Children have many special needs... and because parents don't always have a lot of time, the Observer & Eccentric has created this unique directory to make life just a little easier.

For more information about advertising Call June at: 313-953-2099



'97 Children's Directory

Activities

FREE

ONE FREE ADMISSION WITH ONE PAID ADMISSION AND THIS COUPON AT THESE SPECIAL HOLIDAY MATINEES: MON. TUE. WED & FRI 1:00 PM-3:00 PM. SATURDAY & SUNDAY 2:00 PM-5:00 PM. EXPIRES JAN. 5, 1998 - RENTALS EXTRA

RIVERSIDE ARENA

36635 PLYMOUTH ROAD, LIVONIA CALL 421-3540 FOR INFORMATION

Child Care

New St. Mark **Montessori Educational Center**

12 mos. - 5 yrs. 7 am - 6 pm

(313) 541-4410 • 24331 W. Eight Mile Latchkey Available: January 5, 1998

BASKETBALL AMERICA Sports Complex

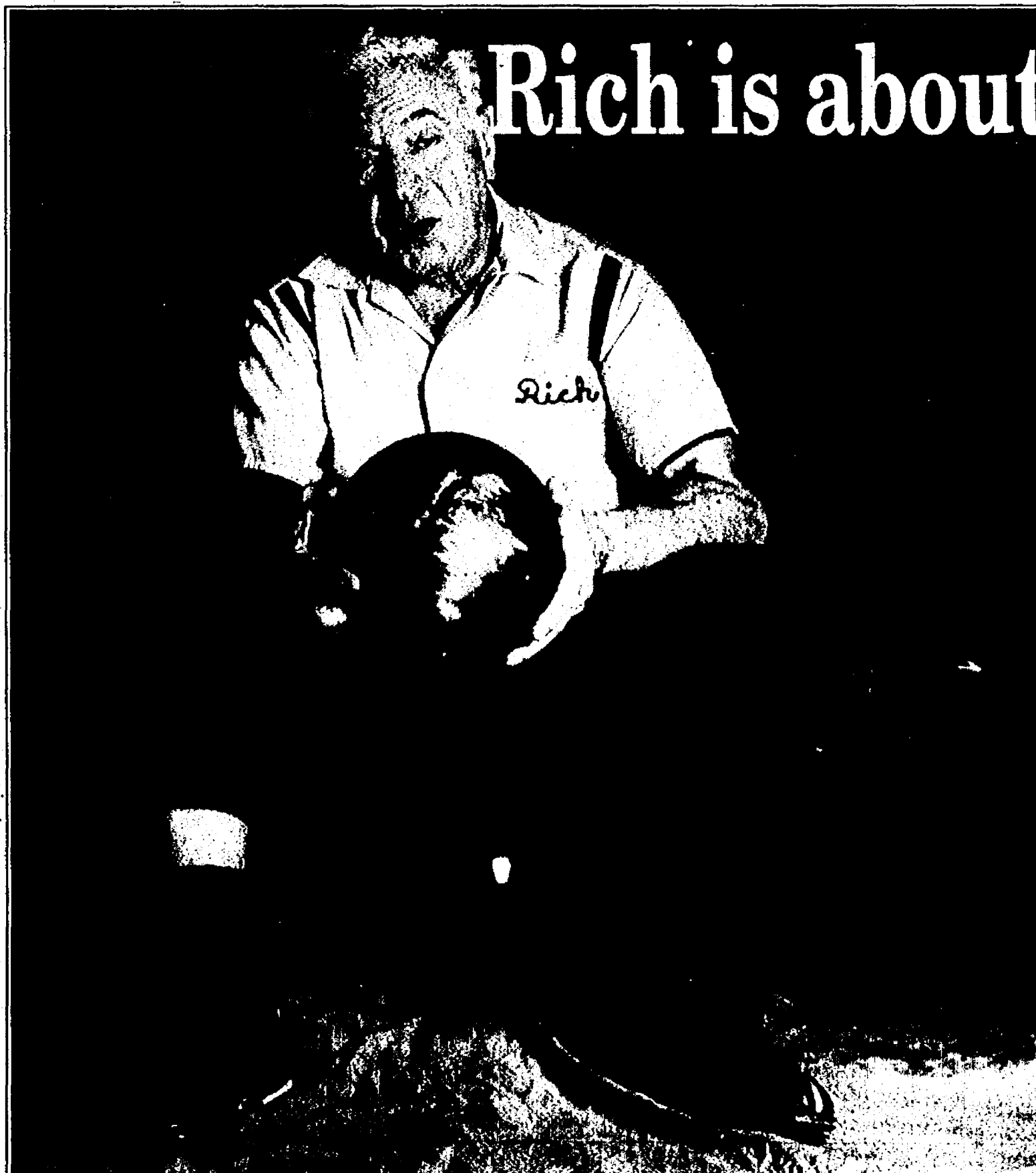
YOUTH LEAGUES

257 W. Clarkston Rd. • Lake Orion

248-693-5858

Visit our Pro Shop Great Christmas gifts

Space is limited sign up today!



Rich is about to join the 3-2-1-SOLD! club.

Rich was up in the attic the other day and saw his old bowling gear. He'd like to sell it along with his wife's Vaughn Monroe record collection and a couple of other things, but doesn't want to spend a lot on an ad. Who does?

Our 3-2-1—SOLD! offer is just what you need when you have things to sell for under \$200.

Here's how it works:

1. You get **3** lines to describe your item (remember, you have to be asking less than \$200)
2. You get to run your ad for **2** days (one week)
3. You get **1** low price—just \$19.26. That's only \$3.21 per line!

You could say our 3-2-1 plan is as easy as 1-2-3!

Rich did.

Observer & Eccentric
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

It's all about you!

WAYNE COUNTY: 313-591-0900 Fax: 313-953-2232 OAKLAND COUNTY: 248-644-1070
Clarkston, Lake Orion, Oxford 248-475-4596 Rochester-Rochester Hills: 248-852-3222



BRAD EMONS

SC men's hoops is something to talk about, but does school care?

As much as I love holiday shopping at the last minute, I certainly had my fill late Saturday afternoon at crowded Twelve Oaks Mall.

Venturing south on I-275, I decided to pull off the Seven Mile exit ramp and catch the second-half of the Schoolcraft-Kellogg Community College men's basketball game.

Turned out to be the best bargain of the day and a great stocking stuffer.

I was more than curious to get my first look at the Ocelots, who have been turning a few heads under first-year coach Carlos Briggs, a former Schoolcraft All-American player.

And after what I witnessed Saturday night, I'll be back for more.

Schoolcraft pulled out a mung-bogging 75-74 victory on Kevin Melson's basket at the buzzer.

Briggs, who led SC to its best season ever in 1984 (since then there have been 13 straight losing seasons), called timeout with just 45 seconds remaining (after the ball had been knocked out of bounds) to set up a desperation play.

The 6-foot-6 Melson, who has got to be one of the midwest's top JUCO players, showed his Scottie Pippen-like qualities by scoring the game-winner on a layup off an inbounds pass from Jimar Eddins at the buzzer.

Needless to say, Schoolcraft men's basketball, off to its best start in school history (10-2), could be Observerland's best kept secret.

But it's not the way the Ocelots won it, but the way they played which impressed me more than anything else.

Briggs, who led the nation in scoring during his days at SC, averaging 30 points-plus before going on to star at Baylor, has the Ocelots playing unselfish hoops, for sure.

He runs a disciplined offense and his players seem to have a commitment toward defense.

Melson, who does it inside and outside, is certainly a diamond in the rough after sitting out his first year at SC with an injury.

The word is leaking out. Division I coaches are migrating to Six Mile and Haggerty in droves to see this kid.

Briggs, a fourth-round pick of the San Antonio Spurs who later played professionally in the Philippines, came to SC's battered program in August with virtually no players (with the exception of holdovers Melson, Garden City's Pete Males and Jose Bru) just two weeks prior to the start of the first semester.

Briggs, who is widely known throughout Detroit basketball circles, left his full-time high school teaching job in Texas to become a part-time coach at SC.

He held three tryout sessions, finding starters Emeko Okonkwo and Jimar Eddins, both from Ann Arbor Pioneer; along with back-up point-guard Mario Montgomery.

Throw in Westland John Glenn's athletic David Jarrett late into the mix (he signed just a week prior to classes) and you have a remarkable transformation of a perennially pitiful junior college basketball program.

And he has quickly transformed the Ocelots into an Eastern Conference contender — unheard of in these parts.

Ironically, Western Conference teams in the Michigan Community College Athletic Association used put SC on the schedule for a sure win.

But after beating Kellogg, Grand Rapids (twice) and Lansing, SC is becoming a team to be reckoned with.

And if SC had not lost two close games in a New Jersey tournament, they'd be mind-boggling 12-0 at this point.

Briggs has a plan and is just getting started. He keeps close tabs on his players academically, and does his homework recruiting and scouting despite having only one paid assistant coach, (Andy Coleman).

Of course, keeping his players eligi-

Please see EMONS COLUMN, C2

Ocelots win on Melson shot, 75-74

MEN'S COLLEGE HOOPS

With a flare for the dramatic, the Schoolcraft College men's basketball team pulled out a miracle 75-74 victory over Kellogg Community College Saturday night at home.

Kevin Melson's basket with no time remaining gave the Ocelots, now 10-2 overall, the win.

The 6-foot-6 forward from Detroit Communication & Media Arts, led Schoolcraft and all scorers with a game-high 32 points.

Melson, who ranks third in the country in scoring at 28 points per game, was 14 of 18 from the floor and six of eight from the free throw line. He also grabbed eight rebounds.

Schoolcraft trailed 40-34 at halftime and by as many as 11 against the hot-shooting Bruins in the second half before staging a furious comeback.

Cat-quick point-guard Mario Montgomery (Detroit) came off the bench to spark the defense.

He also hit a key three-pointer during the surge.

SC took a five-point lead with just over two minutes remaining, but Kellogg rallied back to gain a two-point advantage, 74-72, on a basket by point-guard Antonio Jones (23 points) with just under 30

seconds to go.

Melson then split a pair of free throws with nine seconds to play, pulling SC to within one, 74-73.

SC, however, had two fouls to give in order to put Kellogg in the bonus situation. The Ocelots fouled quickly at seven and five seconds.

With just five seconds remaining, Jones missed the front end of a one-and-one.

SC's Jimar Eddins grabbed the rebound, but a sideline pass was batted out of bounds in the Ocelots' front-court with only .45 seconds left.

Ocelot coach Carlos Briggs called timeout to set up a final shot and his set-play worked to perfection against Kellogg's man-to-man defense.

Isolating two players on the perimeter and sending Derek McKelvey to the corner for a possible three-point try, Eddins lobbed the ball into Melson, who found himself isolated one-on-one in the post against a Kellogg defender.

Melson caught the pass and wheeled inside for the winning two — just beating the buzzer.

David Jarrett (Westland John Glenn) added 15 points for the winners. Emeko Okonkwo (Pioneer) contributed 11, while Eddins had eight.

Terry Curtis and Larry Daily chipped in with 18 and 15, respectively.

Kellogg (8-6 overall) hit 12 three-pointers on the night.

NORTHWOOD 97, MADONNA 65: The Fighting Crusaders fell to 1-12 on the season Saturday with a road loss to Northwood.

Damon Coleman scored 28 points and grabbed six rebounds to lead Northwood (7-1) to the win.

For Madonna, Mark Hayes had 23 points, Narvin Russaw 13 and Nick Hurley (Plymouth Canton) had eight points.

Poor shooting had a hand in Madonna's setback. The Crusaders shot just 40.4 percent for the game while Northwood made better than 50 percent of its shots.

Brzezinski thrives once again for BC

Livonian makes All-Big East team

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

The 1996 football season for Boston College offensive lineman Doug Brzezinski was nothing short of a disaster.

It was more like a scene from the movie "Titanic." He was treading water.

But the 6-foot-4, 305-pound left tackle from Redford Catholic Central survived the year of turmoil to earn All-Big East honors in 1997.

Although BC finished 4-7 for the second straight year, Brzezinski was one of four Eagles named to the All-Big East's first team.

"It was a relief more than a surprise," said Brzezinski, a senior from Livonia with one year of eligibility remaining. "Last year was a horrible year for me. I got benched in the Pitt game. There were a lot of problems within the team."

These were just not small problems, but BIG problems for BC, which was rocked by a gambling scandal where three Eagle players bet against their own team.

"It was kind of blown out of proportion by the media," Brzezinski said. "College athletes all over bet, but this whole thing was idiotic. These guys were calling their bookies from the hotel."

The national media scrutiny which followed turned out to be a huge distraction and the school's football program had been sullied.

Dan Henning, former San Diego Chargers head coach and Detroit Lions offensive coordinator, stepped down following the probe after three seasons as BC's head coach. (Henning is now the offensive coordinator for the Buffalo Bills.)

"Things just got out of control," Brzezinski said. "He was a good coach, but he trusted the players too much. With Henning, the players always pushed the envelope."

"Guys were just dogging it and going through the motions the weight room, and some weren't even showing up. A lot of guys, who were used to being coddled in high school, claimed they were hurt and were getting out of practice and not playing when they could have."

"There was a lot of stress and it was a bad situation. Things were tough all the way around. And it was no person in particular."

After a 4-7 season in '96, BC went with Tom O'Brien, the offensive coordinator at Virginia as its new head coach. His offensive coordinator and offensive line coach was Jeff Jagodzinski from East Carolina.

The two new coaches ditched Henning's one-back set. And the offensive line gave up only 21 sacks after allowing 53 the year before.

"Doug and the whole offensive line progressed," O'Brien said. "Our center, Damien Woody, and Doug are both built about the same. Both very good players, with pro potential. They give us a formidable middle."

"Doug has a very good work ethic. Off the field he worked to better himself and we'll do what we can, as coaches, to make sure we can better him on the field."

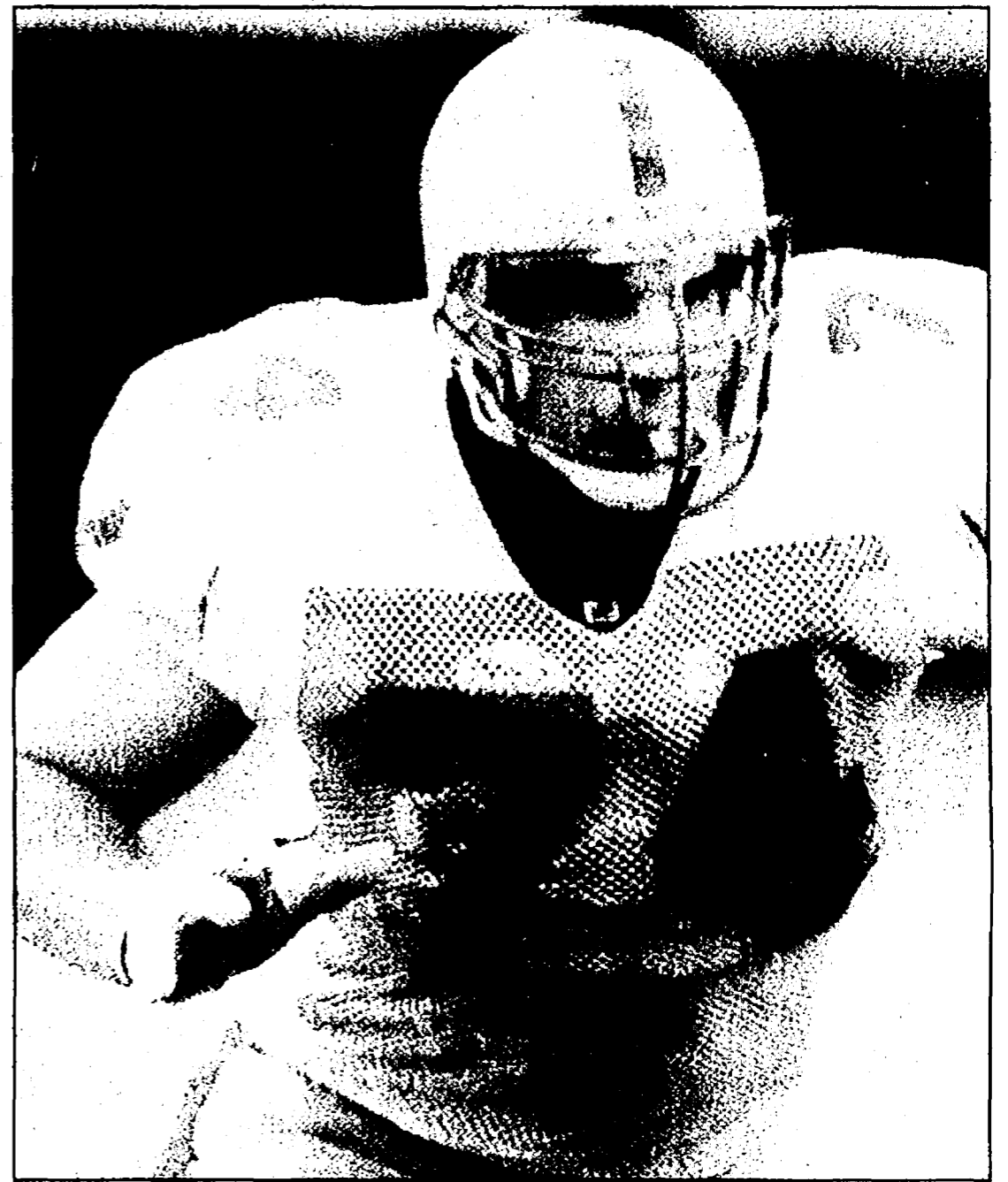
"He never gets flustered, but what I'd like to see — and we've talked about it during the off-season — is him get a little more fiery on the field. We'd like him to be a leader on this team and show a lot of enthusiasm his senior year. And he has the talent to be some type of All-American player."

The blocking schemes stressed fundamentals and the approach was much the same when Brzezinski played for Tom Mach at CC. (Brzezinski was a junior starter on CC's 1992 state championship team.)

"I liked our offense a lot more because it was simplified," said



Doug Brzezinski
All-Big East pick



Block of granite: Redford Catholic Central High product and Livonia native Doug Brzezinski starred this year for Boston College Eagles.

Brzezinski, a former soccer player who didn't play football until the ninth grade. "Under Henning, we had five different ways of blocking. Things got confusing. We went back to a more basic set. It was a lot more physical. It was a lot better, more fun. It just made more sense."

And the discipline was also Mach's style.

"He (O'Brien) addressed the problems right away, he stressed team unity right away," Brzezinski said. "Nobody was putting up with any guff. He threw two or three guys off the team right away. It was all business. There was no gray area."

This fall, the Eagles lost several close Big East games, including a double overtime loss to Miami. They beat West

Virginia, a top 25 team, which turned out to be Brzezinski's top game.

"Coach O'Brien had been in the Marines, and he said don't look for any sympathy," Brzezinski said. "He knows what it takes. I like it a whole lot better. Things are getting better now."

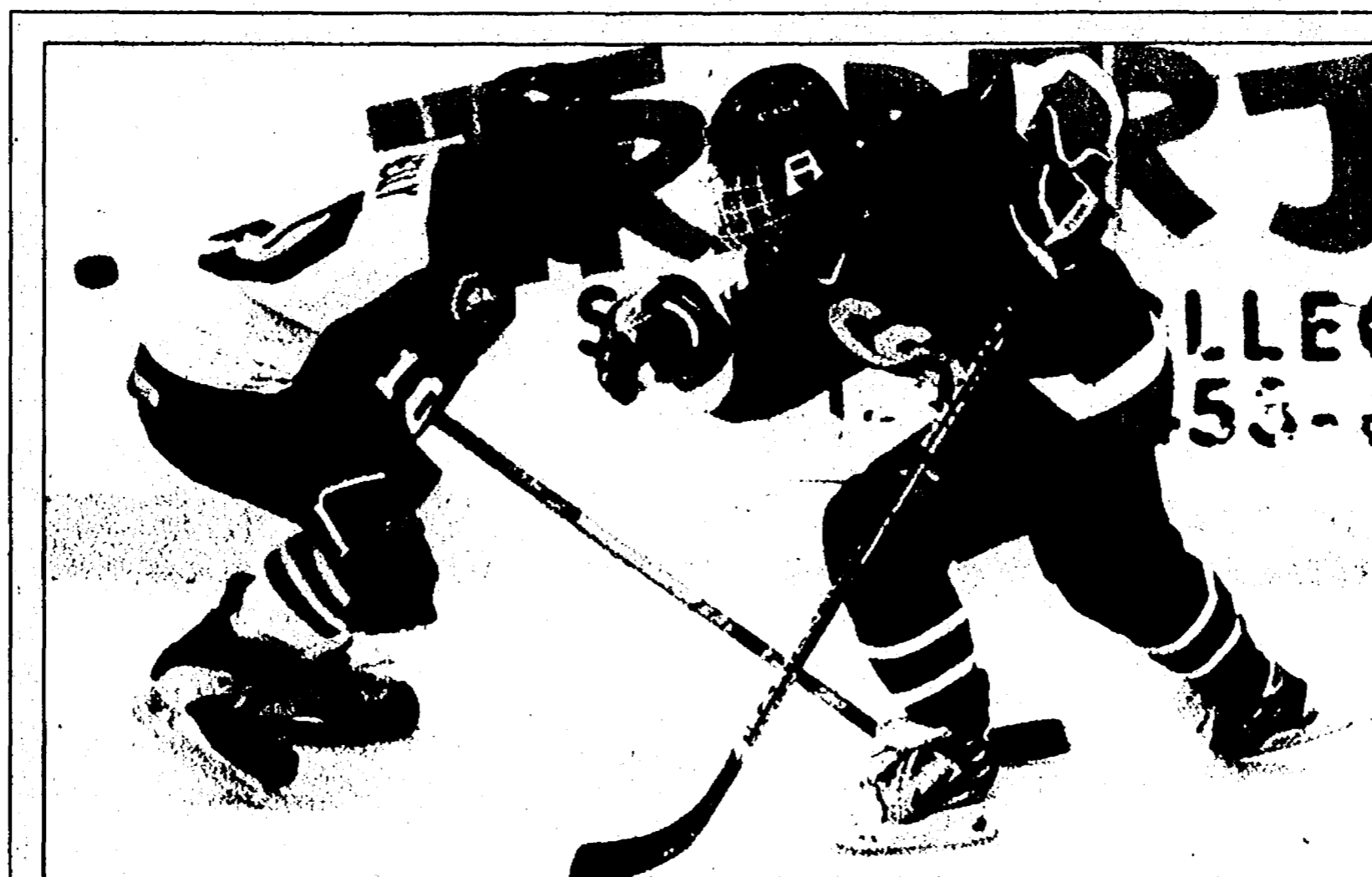
This year the Eagles racked up nearly 5,000 yards in total offense with an even balance of rushing and passing.

A three-year starter, Brzezinski, a Sociology major, is looking forward to his final season in a BC uniform.

But there was a time when he felt bewildered.

The BC coach that recruited him out of high school, Tom Coughlin, left shortly after Brzezinski signed his

Please see BRZEZINSKI, C3



Metro rivals deadlock

Sliding through: Redford Catholic Central's Dave Turner (right) tries to flip the puck around Birmingham Brother Rice's Mike Healy, who lines up to place the check, during Saturday's Michigan Metro High School Hockey League battle played Saturday afternoon at the Plymouth Township Compuware Arena. CC, the defending state Class A champion, rallied from a 3-0 deficit to earn a 4-4 tie with the Warriors. See high school hockey roundup on page C3.

STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JAGOWELD

Stevenson surprises field

BY C.J. RISAK
STAFF WRITER

Some things don't change. Some things do. In reference to the Western Lakes Activities Association Relays swim meet, hosted by Plymouth Salem last Saturday, what didn't change was that Salem — winner of the last five WLAA league titles — could not find a way to win the Relays championship. It marked the third-straight year the Rocks have failed to claim the crown, in large part due to their own mistakes. What did change? Well, there's a new power in town: Livonia Stevenson. It isn't a major surprise that the Spartans emerged as the Relays champion. Once Salem put itself into a hole by getting disqualified in the first relay, the 400-yard medley — an event the Rocks had finished first in, but were DQ'ed for a jump start — the impetus shifted to Stevenson. From then on, it was the Spartans' meet to lose. And they didn't. Stevenson finished with 242

BOYS SWIMMING

points, with Salem second (224) and two-time defending Relays champ Plymouth Canton third (212). Northville was fourth (184). "It was a fun meet," said Stevenson coach Doug Buckler, admitting that finishing first added to the enjoyment. "It's been awhile since we won it. We went into the meet with the attitude that we can't win it, so let's just have fun and do what we can." There were a couple of reasons Buckler doubted his team could emerge on top. First and foremost, there was Salem, which was expected to be even better this year than last. Also, the Spartans were a tired team, swimming their third meet of the week. "I haven't had three meets in one week in my life," said Buckler. It apparently didn't harm them much. They won four of the 10 relays; for that matter, so did Salem. The only events to evade capture by the

league's two heavyweights were the 200-yard breaststroke relay (won by Livonia Franklin's Chris Supplee, Erik Koppin, Dave Bosman and Jody Gomez) and the 400-yard individual medley relay (won by Canton's Aaron Reeder, Kurtis Hornick, John Cook and Mike Dempsey). There was one other significant occurrence that impacted on the meet and its final results: North Farmington. The Raiders — one of the league's top teams — were no-shows, for reasons as yet undetermined. "This is the first time it's ever happened, so I don't know what the consequences will be," said Salem coach Chuck Olson. "That's up to the administrators." Without doubt, the opening event was the difference in the meet. When Salem was disqualified, the team that took over first place in the 400 medley was Stevenson (Joe Bublitz, Kevin VanTiem, Mark Sgriccia and Mike Malik). "We did our typical relays thing," said Olson, noting that in each of the previous two

years the Rocks' disqualifications in the 200 backstroke relay cost them a meet title. "Only we got DQ'ed in the first relay this time." "(Stevenson) swam real well and didn't run into as many problems as we did." The Spartans' other relay wins came in the 200 butterfly (Steve Domin, Brad Feathers, Sgriccia and Keith Falk); the 500 crescendo freestyle (George Earhart, Jacob Varty, Malik and Falk); and the 200 medley (Bublitz, VanTiem, Domin and Brad Buckler). Salem won the 400 free (Dan Kelly, Dan Jones, Mike Kilgore and Brian Mertens); 200 back (Aaron Shelton, Brent Mellis, Matt Casillas and Nick Corden); diving (Chris Cameron and Mike Belvitch); and 200 free (Corden, Tim Buchanan, Jones, Locke). The Rocks set the only new meet record in the 200 free relay, winning in 1:29:70 (former record, 1:31.81, by Northville in 1991).

Emons from page C1

ble is the true test, especially at SC, which annually promotes its Student Athletic Support System program, but in reality is no more than a public relations sham. And it's a shame the men's basketball program faces so many obstacles, especially from an administration that cares little about athletics in general. Believe me, athletics at Schoolcraft College is a necessary evil. The coaches win in spite of the school's indifference. If athletics were important, then they'd have a full-time athletic director in place and not a registered nurse with a masters degree overseeing the program. It's too bad President Richard W. McDowell, Dean of Instruction Lou Reibling, VP Conway Jeffress or a Trustee or two couldn't have seen the jubilation

in that gym following the miracle finish. It was, however, good to see a pair of faculty members in attendance (but I won't mention their names to protect the innocent). I just hope Briggs is around long enough to see this thing through. He's brought excitement and an awakening to a sleeping program. It's something former SC coach Glen Donahue envisioned doing before he left to take an assistant's job two years ago at Central Michigan. SC returns to action this Saturday and Sunday for its holiday tournament. It would sure be nice to see some support this weekend — administrative, that is. Anyway, shopping can take a permanent break.

Madonna women's team trips Kalamazoo College Hornet '5'

Katie Cushman scored 20 points and Chris Dietrich added 13 as Madonna University rolled to a 91-61 women's college basketball home victory Sunday over Kalamazoo. The Crusaders jumped to a 51-30 halftime lead and were never challenged in the second half. Madonna improved to 8-4 while the Hornets dropped to 2-7. Cushman nailed four three-pointers on her way to scoring 20. She added five assists and a pair of steals. Dietrich had six assists to go with her 13 points. Dawn Pelc had six rebounds to lead the Crusaders.

On Saturday SC met Kellogg CC, and the outcome was even worse: This time the Ocelots trailed from the start and were crushed, 67-32. In the loss to Edison, the biggest difference came at the free throw line. The Ocelots, who led 40-37 at the half, were a poor 13-of-29 at the stripe (44.8 percent) compared to Edison's 23-of-32 (71.9 percent). SC also had more turnovers (28 to Edison's 24) and was outrebounded (35-31).

Theresa Cooper's 19 points and 10 rebounds topped the Ocelots. Amber Tackett added 14 points, six steals and five boards; Crissy Harmon had 12 points and four assists; and Jenny Talbot got 10 points. Best for Edison was Rachel Brugger, who nailed 15-of-19 floor shots en route to scoring 38 points. Angie Benham scored 12, with Jamie Bridge and Shiyvonne Garland each contributing 11 points. Bridge also had 11 rebounds and seven steals; Garland dished out five assists. The loss to Kellogg was SC's worst offensive performance of the season. The Ocelots trailed 29-14 at the half and never did recover. They connected on just 12-of-42 shots from the field (28.6 percent), while Kellogg made 26-of-64 (40.6 percent). SC's woes at the free-throw line also continued; the Ocelots made just 6-of-15 (40 percent); Kellogg wasn't much better (15-of-32, 46.9 percent).

In addition, SC was outrebounded by a wide margin (40-30) and committed a whopping 30 turnovers (Kellogg had 15). Talbot was the only Ocelot to reach double-figures in scoring; she had 11 points and seven rebounds. Kellogg was led by Cari Pacey's 17 points, Kendra Yeo's 13 and Niki Sullivan scored 11 and grabbed 10 boards.

WESTERN LAKES ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION BOYS SWIM RELAYS RESULTS

WLAA SWIM RELAYS Dec. 20 at Plymouth Salem

Team finishes: 1. Livonia Stevenson, 242; 2. Plymouth Salem, 224; 3. Plymouth Canton, 212; 4. Northville, 184; 5. Walled Lake, 158; 6. Farmington Harrison, 130; 7. Livonia Franklin, 127; 8. Livonia Churchill, 114; 9. Farmington, 105; 10. Westland John Glenn, 100; 11. North Farmington (did not show).

FINAL RELAY RESULTS

400-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Joe Bublitz, Kevin VanTiem, Mark Sgriccia, Mike Malik), 3:52.28; 2. Canton, 3:59.34; 3. Northville, 4:11.49; 4. Farmington, 4:17.42; 5. Churchill, 4:19.34; 6. Walled Lake, 4:30.13; 7. Franklin, 5:06.02.
400-yard freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Dan Kelly, Dan Jones, Mike Kilgore,

Brian Mertens), 3:34.45; 2. Walled Lake, 3:35.88; 3. Canton, 3:36.90; 4. John Glenn, 3:39.07; 5. Stevenson, 3:43.56; 6. Harrison, 3:53.93; 7. Northville, 3:54.58; 8. Churchill, 4:47.35; 9. Franklin, 5:23.71.

200-yard breaststroke relay: 1. Franklin (Chris Supplee, Erik Koppin, Dave Bosman, Jody Gomez), 2:06.55; 2. Farmington, 2:08.79; 3. Northville, 2:10.28; 4. Canton, 2:11.80; 5. Stevenson, 2:13.13; 6. Salem, 2:15.40; 7. Walled Lake, 2:15.90; 8. Harrison, 2:34.93; 9. Churchill, 2:44.69.

200-yard backstroke relay: 1. Salem (Aaron Shelton, Brent Mellis, Matt Casillas, Nick Corden), 1:48.05; 2. Northville, 1:50.71; 3. Canton, 1:56.24; 4. Franklin, 2:19.02; 5. Stevenson, 2:22.09; 6. Churchill, 2:25.01; 7. Harrison, 2:29.79; 8. Walled Lake, 2:33.72; 9. John Glenn, 2:46.68.

200-yard butterfly relay: 1. Stevenson

(Steve Domin, Brad Feathers, Mark Sgriccia, Keith Falk), 1:42.94; 2. Salem, 1:58.47; 3. Canton, 2:00.99; 4. Walled Lake, 2:10.70; 5. Northville, 2:20.00; 6. Churchill, 2:23.49.

One-meter diving relay: 1. Salem (Chris Cameron, Mike Belvitch), 3:44.45 points; 2. Farmington, 3:19.05; 3. John Glenn, 3:01.05; 4. Franklin, 2:53.15; 5. Stevenson, 2:48.95.

400-yard individual medley relay: 1. Canton (Aaron Reeder, Kurtis Hornick, John Cook, Mike Dempsey), 4:10.55; 2. Harrison, 4:11.27; 3. Salem, 4:13.09; 4. Franklin, 4:18.60; 5. Stevenson, 4:24.79; 6. John Glenn, 4:48.48; 7. Northville, 4:51.32; 8. Walled Lake, 5:07.94; 9. Churchill, 5:11.21.

500-yard crescendo freestyle relay: 1. Stevenson (George Earhart, Jacob Varty, Mike Malik, Keith Falk), 4:29.44; 2. Northville, 4:39.33; 3. Walled Lake, 4:39.78; 4. John Glenn, 4:44.77; 5.

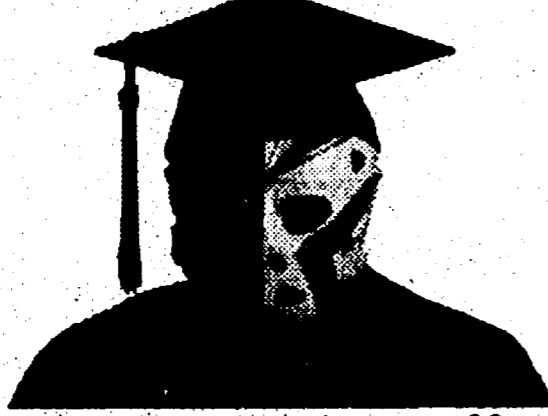
Salem, 4:44.81; 6. Canton, 4:51.82; 7. Churchill, 4:56.80; 8. Harrison, 5:43.43; 9. Farmington, 5:50.98; 10. Franklin, 6:33.41.

200-yard medley relay: 1. Stevenson (Joe Bublitz, Kevin VanTiem, Steve Domin, Brad Buckler), 1:46.87; 2. Harrison, 1:48.36; 3. Salem, 1:51.19; 4. Farmington, 1:55.06; 5. Canton, 1:56.63; 6. Northville, 1:57.69; 7. Walled Lake, 1:59.63; 8. John Glenn, 2:18.22; 9. Churchill, 2:23.43; 10. Franklin, 2:47.00.

200-yard freestyle relay: 1. Salem (Nick Corden, Tim Buchanan, Dan Jones, Andrew Locke), 1:29.70 (new Relays record; old record 1:31.81, Northville, 1991); 2. Harrison, 1:43.00; 3. Stevenson, 1:44.08; 4. Canton, 1:46.70; 5. Walled Lake, 1:48.25; 6. Northville, 1:51.42; 7. Farmington, 1:57.31; 8. Churchill, 2:02.08; 9. John Glenn, 2:03.88; 10. Franklin, 2:23.47.

33rd ANNUAL GREAT LAKES INVITATIONAL

Saturday, December 27
Michigan vs. St. Lawrence • 3:00pm
Michigan State vs. Michigan Tech • 6:30pm
Sunday, December 28
Third Place Game • 1:30pm
Championship Game • 5:00pm



COLLEGE HOCKEY AT "THE JOE"

Family Pack
Bring the family
for only \$35.
4 General admission tickets,
4 hot dogs or 4 pizza slices,
4 Cokes. To order call:
(313) 396-7575

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!
Tickets are \$22.50, \$16, \$12
and \$8. Tickets are
available at the Joe Louis Arena
Box Office and all Ticketmaster
locations.
Charge by phone:
248 645-6666.



WIN DETROIT RED WINGS TICKETS!

Check Out Today's Classified Section For More Information!

MICHIGAN DEKHOCKEY CENTER

45109 Michigan Ave. • Canton • 2.2 Miles W. of I-275
Now Registering for
WINTER LEAGUES!

DEKHOCKEY (Street Hockey)
"The Fastest Game On Two Feet"
For Individuals and Teams
Include:

- Games plus playoffs
- Trophies for Division Winners
- All age divisions (ages 4 and up)
- Family Rates Available
- Sign-Ups Begin Now thru Jan. 2, 1998
- Games Begin Week of Jan. 5, 1998

Play Your Best, Be Your Best, Make the Challenge!
(313) 397-8900

BURTON'S Plumbing & Heating

BATH and KITCHEN REMODELING

- Licensed Master Plumber
- Ceramic Tile Installed
- Quality Materials and Workmanship



FREE ESTIMATES
Visit Our Full Kitchen and Bath Showroom

(Same location since 1975)
34224 Michigan Avenue
Wayne, Michigan 48184
722-4170

WEEK AHEAD

- BOYS BASKETBALL**
Friday, Dec. 26
(River Rouge Tournament)
Redford CC vs. DePorres, 6 p.m.
River Rouge vs. Ecorse, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 27
Rouge Tournament, 6 & 7:30 p.m.
Wayne at Brother Rice, 7:30 p.m.
Bishop Borgess vs. Detroit Finney at Ferndale High School, 7:30 p.m.
(Grosse Ile Tournament)
Salem vs. A.P. Cabrini, 6 p.m.
Riv. Richard vs. Grosse Ile, 8 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 29
Grosse Ile Tourney, 6 & 8 p.m.
MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Dec. 27
Madonna at Findlay (Ohio), 6 & 8 p.m.
(Schoolcraft Holiday Classic)
Owens Tech vs. Durham (Ont.), 5 p.m.
S'craft vs. George Brown, 7 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 28
Schoolcraft Holiday Classic, 3 & 7 p.m.
Madonna at Findlay (Ohio), 1 & 3 p.m.
WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL
Saturday, Dec. 27
(Schoolcraft Holiday Classic)
Lakeland CC vs. Windsor, 1 p.m.
S'craft vs. George Brown, 3 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 28
S'craft Holiday Classic, 1 & 5 p.m.
PREP HOCKEY
Saturday, Dec. 27
RU at U.D. Jesuit Tourney, 5:30 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 28
U.D. Jesuit Tourney, TBA
ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Saturday, Dec. 27
Pif. Whalers at Windsor, 2 p.m.
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL
Saturday, Dec. 27
Ypsi Lincoln Tourney, TBA
UM Dearborn Tourney, TBA
TBA — time to be announced

HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY ROUNDUP

CC, Churchill icers fit to be tied

Redford Catholic Central's hockey team is idle until Jan. 10 and you can't fault coach Gordie St. John for thinking the Shamrocks started their holiday break after the first period of Saturday's game against Birmingham Brother Rice.

The Shamrocks jumped to a 3-0 lead after one period only to allow Rice to score three unanswered goals in the third and earn a 4-4 tie before a small afternoon crowd at Compuware Arena in Plymouth.

"It was a holiday type crowd," St. John said. "Everyone was out shopping."

If that's the case, someone should have purchased a hat for Rice's Joe Kustra, whose hat trick sparked the rally.

CC's Tony Keshishian was equally impressive, scoring two goals with an assist.

"It was a night for the K men," St. John said. "It was Tony's best game by far and that Rice kid is a good player."

The tie left the Shamrocks at 3-0-2 overall. The defending Class A state champions haven't lost since a mid-season game last year against Bloomfield Hills Cranbrook.

"After a good first period we kind of fell apart," St. John said. "Rice played much better hockey. We didn't carry out our assignments and took stupid penalties. It showed us what we have to do to be good."

Nathan Lewarne and Ian Devlin had the other CC goals. David Moss, Greg Berger and Jim Melton picked up one assist each.

Rice freshman defenseman Andy Mechigian assisted on three of the Rice goals. Kevin LeFere, who missed some games early with a shoulder injury, scored one goal. Chris Cassidy assisted on two goals.

Mechigian has been seeing as much ice time as veteran defenseman Eric Bryant, Ryan Dettloff and Dan Pszenyczny.

"Mechigian's learning on the fly, doing a good job," Rice coach Mike Brown said. "We've been throwing him right to the wolves."

Rickey Marnon was the CC netminder. Rick Bartley started in goal for the Warriors before being relieved by last year's No. 1 netminder Aaron Smith.

Bartley was coming off a 3-0 shutout victory over Ann Arbor

Pioneer. The Warriors, 4-0-3 overall, are idle until Jan. 7. Saturday's game was the first the Warriors have played at full strength, according to Brown.

"We have two weeks off to lick our wounds," Brown said. "We're a little knicked up and need time away from the rink. I believe the holidays are time for family anyway. Believe me, I played a few times on Christmas Night in the I (International Hockey League).

"It's a good way to end 1997 on a positive note. It's not the way you want to start out that game but we fought back and it was a good learning experience for our younger players."

The third period collapse isn't going to ruin St. John's Christmas, either.

"If we continue to improve as we have in the first month, we'll be tough in March," St. John said.

CHURCHILL 3, DEARBORN 3: Matt York scored three times Saturday for host Dearborn, including the game-tying goal with 6:45 remaining.

Churchill is now 4-1-2 overall and 4-0-1 in the South Division of the Suburban High School Hockey League. Dearborn is 4-4-1 and 2-2-1

SUBURBAN HOCKEY STANDINGS

SUBURBAN HIGH SCHOOL HOCKEY LEAGUE STANDINGS (as of Dec. 22)

SOUTH DIVISION: 1. Livonia Stevenson, 7-0-0/14 points; 2. Livonia Churchill, 4-0-1/9; 3. Dearborn, 2-2-1/5; 4. Northville, 2-4-0/4; 5. (tie) Livonia Franklin, 1-2-1/3; Walled Lake Central, 1-3-1/3; 7. Redford Union and Walled Lake Western, 1-4-0/2 each.

Overall records: Stevenson, 7-3-1; Churchill, 4-1-2; Franklin, 4-3-1; Dearborn, 4-4-1; Northville, 3-4-0; W.L. Western, 3-5; Redford Union, 2-7; W.L. Central, 1-6-2.

Leading scorers: Ryan Sinks (Stevenson), 7 goals-7 assists/14 points; Darin Fawkes (Stevenson), 5-8/13; Jeff Lang (Stevenson), 7-5/12; John May (Stevenson), 6-5/11; Bill Marshall (Stevenson), 4-7/11; Brandon Martoia (Churchill), 3-7/10; Kevin Boone (Northville), 5-4/9; Matt York (Dearborn), 6-3/9; Joel Halliday (RU), 6-2/8; Justin Robinson (Western), 6-2/8; Dan Cieslak (Stevenson), 3-5/8; Mike Radakovich (Stevenson),

3-4/7; Matt Grant (Churchill), 1-6/7.

NORTH DIVISION: 1. Clarkston, 5-0-0/10; 2. (tie) Royal Oak, 4-0-0/8; Waterford Mott, 4-2-0/8; 4. Birmingham, 3-1-0/6; 5. (tie) Bloomfield Hills Andover, 2-2-1/5; Waterford Kettering, 2-3-1/5; Troy, 2-3-0/5; 8. Bloomfield Hills Lahser, 1-4-0/2; 9. Southfield, 0-6-0/0.

Overall records: Royal Oak, 7-0-0; Clarkston, 5-1-1; Mott, 5-2-0; Troy, 5-3-1; Birmingham, 4-3-0; Andover, 3-4-1; Kettering, 2-5-1; Lahser, 1-6-0; Southfield, 0-6-0.

Leading scorers: Bret Postal (Clarkston), 6-9/15; Anthony Facione (Clarkston), 10-4/14; Darin Egerer (Birmingham), 9-3/12; Fern Kidder (Troy), 8-3/11; Rob Adham (Troy), 7-4/11; Scott Epstein (Andover), 7-4/11; Joe Tigay (Andover), 5-6/11; Damien Lewis (Royal Oak), 6-4/10; Mike Beether (Mott), 5-5/10; Nick Luxon (Royal Oak), 3-7/10; Tim Atkins (Royal Oak), 6-3/9; Josh Del Dotto (Birmingham), 4-5/9; Adam Leech (Clarkston), 3-6/9; Bill Kulush (Clarkston), 3-6/9.

Whalers have eye on 1st place

The Plymouth Whalers moved to within two points of first place in its division Saturday with a 2-1 home victory over North Bay.

Kevin Holdridge and Harold Druken scored for the Whalers and Julian Smith added a pair of assists. Plymouth improved to 43 points, just two behind London in the Ontario Hockey League's West Division.

Holdridge opened scoring in the first period as Troy and Julian Smith assisted. Druken's game-winner came at the 7:05 mark of the second period on a power play.

North Bay's lone goal was also via the power play, at 9:17 of the second period.

The Whalers (20-9-3) play Sat-

OHL HOCKEY

urday at Windsor and Monday, Dec. 29, at home against Erie.

Whalers transaction

The Whalers made a major trade Dec. 19 that involved four teams and 12 players.

Plymouth acquired defenseman Paul Mara from Sudbury and left wing Rick Smith from Windsor. In exchange, defensemen Luc Rioux and Mark Ridout, right wing Andy Burnham and 1998 second-round draft choice were dealt.

In Mara, the Whalers acquire a former OHL all-star defenseman. A 6-foot 4-inch native of

Massachusetts, he recorded nine goals and 34 assists for Sudbury in his rookie year. Mara has eight goals and 18 assists this year for the Wolves.

Left wing Smith is a 19-year-old Brighton native. He had eight goals and five assists for Windsor this year.

"Mara is one of, if not, the best defensemen in the Canadian Hockey League," Whalers Associate Coach Greg Stefan said.

"There's no doubt in my mind he will add to our already strong defensive unit. With the addition of Mara and Smith, we believe we have an opportunity for a successful playoff bid."

King thumps Borgess, 70-57

World renowned musician Kasuku Mafia, the self-proclaimed "Greatest One Man Band In The Land," performed at Monday's boys basketball game at Redford Bishop Borgess.

The Blues would have been an appropriate theme for his post-game routine as the host Spartans lost a non-league game to Detroit Martin Luther King, 70-57.

King turned the game into a rout by outscoring Borgess 17-6 in the second quarter and 21-11 in the third for a 55-31 lead.

The Spartans made the final margin respectable, outscoring the Crusaders, 26-15, in the fourth quarter.

King's James Thuus led all scorers with 25 points, includ-

PREP HOOPS

ing three baskets from three-point range. Keenan Weir had 18 points and Kefentse Booth scored 10.

Sam Hoskins led Borgess with 15 points. Teammate Aaron Jessup added 14.

King, fresh off a 48-46 loss to Detroit Northwestern, improved to 2-3 overall.

"The guys played harder," King coach Benny White said. "We didn't have any keys to winning, stopping anybody."

"We had a humiliating loss the last game and the guys took the resolve to come out and fight today."

The Spartans return to the

court at 7:30 p.m. Saturday to play Detroit Finney in a holiday tournament at Ferndale High School.

"They're very good and that's why we played them," Borgess coach Roosevelt Barnes said of King. "They were far more aggressive than we were. I'm disappointed."

Despite an 0-2 start to the season, the Spartans remain optimistic.

Remember, they were 7-8 at one point before winning 12 straight en route to the Class C state title.

"It doesn't matter where you start, it's where you finish," assistant coach Chuck Gregory said.

Spartans win Delta tourney

Surprises aren't something volleyball coaches generally like.

But Livonia Stevenson's Kelly Graham got one she didn't mind Saturday — namely, a Delta College Invitational championship.

"It was really a surprise," she said. "We're usually all over the place in our first match."

"It's like going in blind. You never know what's going to happen."

A total of 10 schools competed in the tournament. Teams were divided into two pools of five.

The Spartans swept all four pool matches to garner the top spot for the championship rounds.

Stevenson started with a 15-8, 15-5 romp over All Saints Central of Bay City. The Spartans then beat Bay City John Glenn (15-5, 15-5), St. Charles (15-8, 15-12) and Saginaw Michigan Lutheran Seminary (15-8, 15-4).

Livonia moved on to the semifinal to face the other pool's second place team, Lin-

VOLLEYBALL

den. Stevenson beat the Eagles in three games, 4-15, 15-6, 15-7.

The Spartans faced Saginaw Heritage in the finals and prevailed 17-15, 15-11.

The Stevenson coach said the tournament victory will help her team gain momentum for the rest of the season.

"It's definitely a plus," Graham said.

A number of Spartans played well at the Delta College Invitational.

Stephanie Dulz recorded 60 kills, 17 solo blocks and nine aces. Lindsey Pfeifer notched 13 kills and seven aces.

Sarah Wittrock finished with 26 assists and eight aces. Czech Republic exchange student Irena Bicankova added 21 assists, eight kills and five serving aces.

Becky Peterson connected on 43 of 44 serves, including four aces. Katie LeBlanc totaled 15 kills and seven blocks.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Brzezinski from CI

NCAA National Letter-of-Intent to take the head coaching position with the NFL expansion Jacksonville Jaguars.

"I was still committed to the school and I said to myself that I had to stick it out," he said. "But it (1996) was like a nightmare. It reminded of a book I read, 'Heart of Darkness.' I thought about transferring."

He is now home for the holidays with his family, including brother Nick, a junior tight end who caught touchdown pass in CC's 23-6 state Class AA championship win over Ann Arbor Huron.

But he would rather be away at a bowl game.

"I get nervous sitting around at home, I always have to be doing something," said Brzezinski, who works out regularly at Gold's Gym on Eight Mile Road.

A big year could put Brzezinski high in the NFL draft, but he isn't thinking about the pros just yet.

He's just trying to keep the Boston College ship from sinking and steering it back on course.

TRUCK TIRE SAVINGS!

PICKUPS SPORT UTILITIES LIGHT TRUCKS

 <p>STEEL RADIALS</p> <p>P205/75R-15 B P215/75R-15 B P235/75R-15 B</p> <p>4 \$100 FOR</p> <p><small>TIRE SHOWN IS FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY</small></p>	 <p>STEEL RADIALS</p> <p>P205/75R-14 B P205/75R-15 B P215/75R-15 B P225/75R-15 B</p> <p>4 \$150 FOR</p> <p><small>TIRE SHOWN IS FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY</small></p>
 <p>STEEL RADIALS</p> <p>LT215/75R-15 C P235/75R-15 B P265/75R-15 B P225/70R-14 B P225/70R-15 B</p> <p>4 \$200 FOR</p> <p><small>TIRE SHOWN IS FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY</small></p>	 <p>STEEL RADIALS</p> <p>P235/75R-15 XL LT235/75R-15 C 30-950R-15 C 31-1050R-15 C</p> <p>4 \$250 FOR</p> <p><small>TIRE SHOWN IS FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY</small></p>

BF Goodrich Tires

Radial All-Terrain T/A

\$75

LT235/75R-15 RWL 84 99 31-1050R-15 C RWL 86 99
30-950R-15 C RWL 95 99 LT265/75R-16 D RWL 128 99

MICHELIN

BECAUSE SO MUCH IS RIDING ON YOUR TIRES!

LTX M/S

CHECK OUT OUR LOW LOW PRICES!

 <p>4 FOR \$90</p> <p>WHITE SPOKE 15X7 15X8</p>	 <p>4 FOR \$140</p> <p>CHROME MOD 15X7 15X8</p>	 <p>\$80 EACH</p> <p>ALUMINUM MOD 15X7 15X8</p>
---	--	--

GOOD YEAR #1 in Tires

RTS

\$70

P265/75R-16 94.99 P265/70R-17 W 99.99

WRANGLERS

H/T

\$70

P235/75R-15 XL P235/75R-15 XL W 72.99

 <p>A/T</p> <p>\$90</p> <p><small>31 1050R 15 C OWL</small></p>	 <p>A/P</p> <p>\$90</p> <p><small>P255 70R 16 B</small></p>
---	--

AMERICA'S LARGEST INDEPENDENT TIRE CO. Legions Welcome

DISCOUNT TIRE CO. INC. FINANCING AVAILABLE ON APPROVED CREDIT

90 Days Same As Cash

PROUDLY SERVING YOU WITH OVER 330 STORES NATIONWIDE! ASK ABOUT OUR "Free Replacement" CERTIFICATE

HOURS: MON-FRI 8:00-6 SAT 8:00-5

TAYLOR • 374-6888 22048 Eureka Rd. • Taylor, MI 48180	FARMINGTON HILLS • 737-7812 30720 W 12 Mile Rd. (E of Orchard Lake Rd.)
WATERFORD • 681-2280 4301 Highland Rd. (E of Plymouth Lake Rd.)	CLINTON TOWNSHIP • 790-1600 33633 Gravel Ave. (Bel. 14 & 15 Mile Rd.)
TROY • 686-8081 3433 Rochester Rd. (North of 12 Mile Rd.)	NEW BALTIMORE • 949-0280 28366 23 Mile Rd. (North of 99)
STERLING HEIGHTS • 939-9790 26025 Van Dyke Rd. (Corner of 18 Mile Rd.)	CENTERLINE • 810-754-1850 26821 Van Dyke
NOVI • 347-1501 42996 Giv. • Hwy. Ave. 1 • 48162	LIVONIA • 615-4210 18775 Middlebelt • 2 Boxes South of 12 Mile

PORT HURON • 436-2474 • (810) 385-8640

STATE OR LOCAL TAXES AND, WHERE REQUIRED OR CHARGED, STATE ENVIRONMENTAL OR DISPOSAL FEES ARE EXTRA

"TWO THUMBS UP!"
"THE BEST BOND FILM EVER!"
"ABSOLUTELY INCREDIBLE!"

ALBERT R. BROCCOLLI'S FOX PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS
 PIERCE BROSNAN AS IAN FLEMING'S JAMES BOND **007**
TOMORROW NEVER DIES

ALBERT R. BROCCOLLI'S FOX PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS
 PIERCE BROSNAN AS IAN FLEMING'S JAMES BOND **007**
 IN "TOMORROW NEVER DIES" JOHANNAN PRINCE MICHELLE YEOH TERA HATCHER JOE DOY BAKER AND JUDY DEVER
 MUSIC BY DAVID ARNOLD WRITTEN BY BRUCE FEMISTEY PRODUCED BY MICHAEL G. WILSON AND BARBARA BROCCOLLI
 DIRECTED BY ROGER SPOTTISWOODE
 TITLE SONGS PERFORMED BY SHERYL CROW

NOW PLAYING	AMC AMERICANA WEST	AMC BEL AIR 10
AMC EASTLAND 2	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY
AMC STERLING CTR. 10	BIRMINGHAM 8	RENAISSANCE 4
RENAISSANCE 4	QUO VADIS	SHOWCASE DEARBORN
SHOWCASE DEARBORN	SHOWCASE TOWN	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK
STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR TAYLOR
STAR WEST OAKS	STAR WEST RIVER	NO PASSES OR DISCOUNT COUPONS ACCEPTED

FOR MOVIES & SHOWTIMES CALL 800-235-4343

MOVIES
 Most kids would help others if they had 'royal' power

Kids - what would you do if you were a princess or prince, and had the power to do anything? Would you try to help others, or buy a lot of toys?

Readers who responded to our question won an activity book from "Anastasia," Fox's first full-length animated feature film, now playing at metro Detroit movie theaters. They also received a T-shirt.

"If I were a princess I'd want all the children in the world to get as many dolls as they wanted," wrote 5-year-old Veronica (Roni) Allen of Livonia. If he

were a prince Roni's brother Evan, who is 7, "would have a train drive me wherever I'd want to go and for all the children to have rides on it."

If Stephanie Kasimieski of Rochester, age 5, was a princess she would "help people, and get presents for the whole world so no one would be sad or left out."

"If I had the power of a princess I would make myself a member of the W.B.A. team for Detroit," wrote Amie King of Redford. "I play basketball for my school team and the R.T.J.A.A. and the A.A.U. If I was

GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINEE
 BEST PICTURE (Drama) BEST ACTOR (Drama) BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR BEST DIRECTOR

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 FREEMAN AND HOPKINS ARE SHOO-INS FOR ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS.
 TERRY LAWSON, DETROIT FREE PRESS

"TWO THUMBS UP."
 SISKEL & EBERT

A STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM
AMISTAD

MORGAN FREEMAN ANTHONY HOPKINS DJIMON HOUNSOU MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY

DREAMWORKS PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH HBO PICTURES
 "AMISTAD" NIGEL HAWTHORNE DAVID PALMER PETE POSTLETHWAITE
 STELLAN SKARSGARD AND WALTER PARKES LAURIE M. DONALD
 PRODUCED BY STEVEN SPIELBERG DEBBIE ALLEN COLIN WILSON
 DIRECTED BY DAVID FRANZONI
 WRITTEN BY STEVEN SPIELBERG

NOW PLAYING	AMC MAPLE 3	AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY
BEACON EAST	BIRMINGHAM 8	RENAISSANCE 4
SHOWCASE DEARBORN	SHOWCASE DEARBORN	SHOWCASE PONTIAC
SHOWCASE WESTLAND	SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE
STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS	STAR SOUTHFIELD
STARTING DEC. 25	AMC BEL AIR	STAR TAYLOR

WATCH THE GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS ON ABC ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 18TH

Look What The Yuletide Brought In!

"One of Disney's greatest masterpieces is back on the big screen where it belongs."

"Two most enthusiastic Thumbs Up."

Disney's **THE LITTLE MERMAID**

Only Disney. Only In Theatres. Only For The Holidays.

IT'S TIME TO UNWRAP THE HOLIDAY SURPRISE OF THE YEAR.

HOME ALONE 3

TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX PRESENTS A JOHN HUGHES PRODUCTION "HOME ALONE 3" ALEX D. LINZ HATLAND MORRIS
 WITH NICK GLENNIE SMITH AND BRUCE GORDEN AND MALCOLM CAMPBELL AND DAVID HENRY BRUMSTEAD
 DIRECTED BY JOHN HUGHES
 WRITTEN BY JULIO SANCHEZ AND RICHARDO MESTRES
 PRODUCED BY JOHN HUGHES HILTON GREEN AND JOHN HUGHES
 DIRECTED BY JOHN HUGHES
 www.ha3.com

NOW SHOWING	AMC ABBEY
AMC AMERICANA WEST	AMC EASTLAND 5
AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC SOUTHFIELD
AMC STERLING CTR.	GCC NOVY TOWN CTR.
STAR GRATIOT	STAR SOUTHFIELD #1 & TRUCKWAY
STAR WINCHESTER	UNITED ARTISTS WEST RIVER

SORRY NO PASSES ACCEPTED DURING REGULAR ENGAGEMENT

ALL-ABOARD FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

ANASTASIA

"THE FAMILY FILM EVENT OF THE SEASON"

2 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
 BEST ORIGINAL SONG

MAKE THE DISCOVERY TODAY!

AMC BEL AIR ★	AMC EASTLAND 5 ★	AMC LAUREL PARK ★
AMC OLD ORCHARD ★	AMC SOUTHFIELD ★	AMC STERLING CTR. ★
AMC WONDERLAND ★	BIRMINGHAM 8 ★	GCC NOVY TOWN CTR. ★
QUO VADIS ★	SHOWCASE ALLEN HILLS ★	SHOWCASE PONTIAC IS ★
SHOWCASE STRONG HILLS ★	STAR GRATIOT ★	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE ★
STAR LINCOLN PARK ★	STAR SOUTHFIELD ★	STAR TAYLOR ★
STAR WINCHESTER ★	UNITED ARTISTS FAIRLANE	UNITED ARTISTS WEST RIVER ★

SORRY NO PASSES DURING REGULAR ENGAGEMENT

4 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS
BEST PICTURE

BEST ACTOR Matt Damon
 BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR Robin Williams
 BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY Ben Affleck, Matt Damon

Joe Morgenstern, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
 "Astonishing and Thrilling Entertainment!"
 Matt Damon delivers the year's best performance while Robin Williams gives the finest performance of his career. What a wonderful gift for Christmas or any time of the year - "Good Will Hunting" gives movies a good name!"

Janet Maslin, THE NEW YORK TIMES
 "Smart and Touching With a Very Warm Heart!"
 "Good Will Hunting" is passionately acted by Robin Williams and Matt Damon and directed with style and shrewdness by Gus Van Sant!"

David Ansen, NEWSWEEK
 "Rich, Funny and Filled With Emotional Truth!"
 Matt Damon is sensationally appealing. Ben Affleck is funny and touching... Minnie Driver is terrific!"

WINNER
 National Board of Review
 Best Actor in a Film
 For Matt Damon

ROBIN WILLIAMS MATT DAMON
GOOD WILL HUNTING
 BEN AFFLECK MINNIE DRIVER STELLAN SKARSGARD

THE NEW FILM BY GUS VAN SANT
 STARTS THURSDAY DEC. 25TH
 SHOWCASE WESTLAND STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE STAR SOUTHFIELD #1 & TRUCKWAY

MOVIES

Quirky movies highlight holiday weekend

TICKETS PLEASE



JOHN MONAGHAN

Hollywood has long made Dec. 25 a high-profile opening date for end-of-the-year movies. Far from a dumping ground, many of these films need to open before New Year's to qualify for Oscar nominations.

The eight movies bowing today run the gamut from quirky comedy to numbing tragedy. Three of them, "Jackie Brown," "Deconstructing Harry" and "The Sweet Hereafter" feature between them so much maverick moviemaking that you hope other filmmakers use them as the basis for their New Year's resolutions.

In his first film as director since "Pulp Fiction," Quentin Tarantino has assembled a few of his favorite things and rolled them together into something called "Jackie Brown." The movie is based on a novel by Elmore Leonard, stars '70s action heroine Pam Grier, and features a soundtrack of vintage soul.

At well over two hours, the combination grows unwieldy to say the least. Grier plays an airline stewardess collared for drug and money smuggling who promises to play ball with ATF agents to bring down the murderous gun salesman Ordell (Sam Jackson.)

The plot thickens (and sometimes coagulates) when she makes a side deal with Ordell to smuggle more money under the Feds' noses. The most interesting thing about the payoff is the way Tarantino plays with one of his trademarks: non-linear time.

Ultimately, this is more an Elmore Leonard movie than a Tarantino one. The kinetic qualities and bizarre twists that made "Pulp Fiction" such a blast are replaced here by characters and twists of fate that probably worked far better on the page before Tarantino got hold of it.

Still, you have a fascinating cast, including '70s TV actor Robert Forster as an aging bail bondsman, Robert De Niro as Ordell's right hand man and Bridget Fonda as a "surfer girl" whose self-confessed ambitions consist of smoking pot and watching television.

Bizarre casting continues to be a staple of Woody Allen movies and "Deconstructing Harry" is no exception. His best film in

years stars Kirstie Alley, Demi Moore, Elisabeth Shue, Richard Benjamin, and Julia Louis-Dreyfus in another intensely personal story of a self-absorbed writer (Allen, of course) whose complex relationships fuel his fiction.

The movie poises between real-life and the writer's short fiction, adding up to a reminder of how clever Allen truly is as a short story author. In one, a young man uses the bachelor pad of a dying friend to date a prostitute. When the doorbell rings, a black-cloaked vision of death insists that, despite the man's pleas of mistaken identity, it's time to meet his maker.

How Allen juxtaposes these stories with real life is consistently clever. Who else would

cast scratchy-voiced Demi Moore as the fictional equivalent of Kirstie Alley?

In yet another homage to favorite directors Ingmar Bergman and Federico Fellini, Allen references the former's "Wild Strawberries" when the writer makes a long, flashback-filled trek to his old school's awards ceremony. By the end, he is in a Fellini version of hell, with naked writhing women and an office for Satan with central air. And doesn't anyone else find it funny that the nearly 60-year-old Allen has wooed some of the screen's most beautiful women in recent years? Julia Roberts and Helena Bonham-Carter have recently succumbed to his charms and now there's Elisabeth Shue, as a fan-turned-lover

who the writer warns (à la "Manhattan") not to fall in love with him.

These inside jokes are only frosting on the cake for a truly inspired movie that defines the nature of the artist as loner, loser, lover, misanthrope and hedonist. With Woody Allen, you get all of the above.

"The Sweet Hereafter," the latest from Canadian Atom Egoyan, won the top prize at Cannes this year. But don't let that, or the film's depressing content, scare you away.

In one of the richest film experiences this year, Ian Holm plays a lawyer who descends on a small Northern Canada town after a bus accident has killed virtually all of the town's chil-

dren. While some welcome his promise that justice will be served, others rightly see him as a money-hungry shyster profiting from misery.

Yet it's difficult to see Holm's character strictly in terms of villain. Throughout the proceedings, he is constantly reminded of his own heroin-addicted daughter, who constantly rings his cellular phone with sweet talk but inevitably tries to squeeze him for drug money. What Holm and the townspeople need to realize is that fate doesn't play by the rules. And despite the human need to lay blame on

senseless tragedy, sometimes none can be found.

Egoyan, known for complex (often pretentious) studies of family politics, gets it right this time. With his clever use of wide screen, he creates at least one image that will be burned forever into your mind: a bright yellow school bus carefully negotiating turns on icy mountain roads, surrounded by an endless expanse of heavenly white snow.

John Monaghan welcomes your calls and comments. To leave John a voice mail message, dial (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, mailbox 1866.

"AN EPIC FILLED WITH ADVENTURE, EXCITEMENT AND HOPE."
David Sheehan, KCBS-TV

"BREATH-TAKING!"
Maria Salas, CBS-TELENOTICIAS

"A MOST EXTRAORDINARY FILM. AN UNFORGETTABLE ADVENTURE."
Ron Rosenbluth, AMERICAN URBAN RADIO NETWORKS

"A TRIUMPH FOR KEVIN COSTNER."
Don Mottler, ENTERTAINMENT TIME-OUT

KEVIN COSTNER
THE
POSTMAN

WARNER BROS. PRESENTS
KEVIN COSTNER AND TIG PRODUCTIONS PRESENT "THE POSTMAN" WILL PATTON LARRENZ TATE OLIVIA WILLIAMS JAMES RUSSO AND TOM PETTY
CASTING BY JAMES HEWITON HOWARD COSTUME DESIGNER DAVID BRAIN EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS ERIC ROTH AND BRIAN HELGELAND PRODUCED BY JIM WILSON STEVE TISCH AND KEVIN COSTNER DIRECTED BY KEVIN COSTNER

STARTS THURSDAY DECEMBER 25TH

AMC BEL AIR	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC SOUTHFIELD	AMC AMERICANA WEST
AMC STERLING CTR.	AMC WONDERLAND	BEACON EAST	GCC NOVI TOWN CTR. +
SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS	SHOWCASE DEARBORN	SHOWCASE PONTIAC 1-12	SHOWCASE STERLING HEIGHTS
SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR GRATIOT *	STAR JOHN R *	STAR LINCOLN PARK *
STAR ROCHESTER *	STAR SOUTHFIELD	UNITED ARTISTS WEST RIVER *	STAR TAYLOR

8 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS

BEST PICTURE

BEST DIRECTOR - JAMES CAMERON
BEST ACTOR (DRAMA) - LEONARDO DICAPRIO
BEST ACTRESS (DRAMA) - KATE WINSLET
BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS - GLORIA STUART
BEST SCREENPLAY - JAMES CAMERON
BEST ORIGINAL SCORE - JAMES HORNER
BEST ORIGINAL SONG - "MY HEART WILL GO ON"

*** ONE OF THE TOP TEN FILMS OF 1997 ***
NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW

"TWO ENTHUSIASTIC THUMBS UP!"
"TITANIC HAS THE SHEEP AND SCOPE OF THE GREATEST EPICS EVER MADE."
"A CINEMATIC SPECTACULAR"
"LUSH ROMANTICISM AND SWEEPING EMOTIONAL FORCE"
"PREPARE TO BE BLOWN AWAY!"

"IT'S THE MOVIE EVENT OF THE YEAR."
"TITANIC IS GRAND."
"AN OVERWHELMING JOURNEY THAT TAKES YOU FROM ROMANTIC DELIGHT TO TRAGIC DRAMA."
"IT'S A BLOODSLUR!"

titanicmovie.com

AMC BEL AIR 10	AMC EASTLAND 2	AMC LAUREL PARK
AMC OLD ORCHARD	AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC STERLING CTR. 10
BIRMINGHAM 8	GENERAL CINEMAS CANTON	GENERAL CINEMAS NOVI TOWN
RENAISSANCE 4	SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS	SHOWCASE DEARBORN
SHOWCASE STERLING HEIGHTS	SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE
STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8	STAR ROCHESTER HILLS
STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR TAYLOR	UNITED ARTISTS FAIRLANE
UNITED ARTISTS WEST RIVER	FOR THEATRES & SHOW TIMES CALL 810-77-FILMS 313-88-FILMS	

NO PASSES OR COUPONS ACCEPTED

ROBIN WILLIAMS
DISNEY'S
FLUBBER
THE ABSENT MINDED PROFESSOR

WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS A GREAT GUY FILMS PRODUCTION A ROBIN WILLIAMS "FLUBBER" LES WINTFIELD AND WANDA GAY HADEN
CASTING BY CHRISTOPHER WOODWARD COSTUME DESIGNER CLAYTON BARRY EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TED LEVINE PRODUCED BY DANNY FELDMAN AND DAVID ANKSKY
SCREENPLAY BY JIM HENRICHES AND RICKALDO MESTRES DIRECTED BY LES WINTFIELD

AMC AMERICANA WEST	AMC BEL AIR 10	AMC EASTLAND 5
AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY	AMC SOUTHLAND 4
AMC STERLING CTR. 10	AMC WONDERLAND	BIRMINGHAM 8
GENERAL CINEMAS NOVI TOWN	SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS	SHOWCASE DEARBORN
SHOWCASE PONTIAC	SHOWCASE STERLING HEIGHTS	SHOWCASE WESTLAND
STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MI.	STAR JOHN R AT 14 MILE	STAR LINCOLN PARK 8
STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR WINCHESTER 8	UNITED ARTISTS WEST RIVER

FOR THEATRES & SHOW TIMES CALL 810-77-FILMS 313-88-FILMS

Have Yourself A Hairy Little Christmas

An American
Werewolf in Paris

Soundtrack Available On Featuring
Bush, The Refreshments, Better Than Ezra, Cake, The Suicide Machines

STARTS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

AMC ABBEY 8	AMC AMERICANA WEST	AMC BEL AIR 10
AMC EASTLAND 2	AMC LAUREL PARK	AMC SOUTHFIELD CITY
AMC STERLING CTR. 10	GENERAL CINEMAS CANTON	GENERAL CINEMAS NOVI TOWN
SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS	SHOWCASE DEARBORN	SHOWCASE PONTIAC
SHOWCASE STERLING HEIGHTS	SHOWCASE WESTLAND	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE
STAR LINCOLN PARK	STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR TAYLOR
STAR WINCHESTER	UNITED ARTISTS WEST RIVER	NO PASSES OR COUPONS ACCEPTED

YOU'LL LAUGH SO HARD YOU'LL SEE DOUBLE!

LESLIE NIELSEN
Disney's
Mr. Magoo

STARTS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

QUO VADIS	SHOWCASE AUBURN HILLS	SHOWCASE DEARBORN
SHOWCASE PONTIAC	SHOWCASE STERLING HEIGHTS	STAR GRATIOT AT 15 MILE
STAR SOUTHFIELD	STAR TAYLOR	STAR WINCHESTER 8
UNITED ARTISTS OAKLAND	UNITED ARTISTS 12 OAKS	NO PASSES OR COUPONS ACCEPTED

FOR MOVIES & SHOW TIMES CALL 810-77-FILMS 313-88-FILMS

Outdoor Calendar

DATES/DEADLINES

BASS
Bass season ends statewide on Dec. 31.

DEER
The second archery season runs through Jan. 1 statewide. A special late antlerless only firearms season runs through Jan. 4 on private land only in Zone III.

GOOSE
The special late Canada goose season runs Jan. 2-Feb. 1 in southern Michigan. The boundaries for the late hunt have been changed this year and are now the same as those for the South Zone of the regular waterfowl season. The entire south zone is open during the late hunt with the exception of the five GMU's.

SQUIRREL
Fox and gray squirrel season runs through Jan. 1 statewide.

RABBIT
Rabbit season runs through March 31 statewide.

CLASSES

FLY TYING
The Challenge Chapter of Trout Unlimited and Birmingham Continuing Education will offer a 10-week fly tying class beginning at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 19, at Birmingham Seaholm High School. Registration begins Jan. 5. Call (248) 203-3800 for more information.

ARCHERY

JUNIOR OLYMPICS
The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays. Call (810) 623-0444 for more information.

JUNIOR ARCHERS
A weekly program for junior archers begins at 9 a.m. Saturdays at Detroit Archers in West

Bloomfield. Call (248) 661-9610 or (313) 835-2110 for more information.

OUTDOOR CLUBS

SOLAR
The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation, a non-profit organization interested in promoting the appreciation of outdoor activities, meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at the Colony Hall in Southfield. Call (248) 988-6658 for more information.

FISHING CLUBS

CLINTON VALLEY BASS ANGLERS
Clinton Valley Bass Anglers is seeking new members (boaters and non-boaters are welcome.) The club meets monthly at Gander Mountain in Waterford. The next meeting is slated for 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 11. Call Mike Daly at (248) 666-8910 for more information.

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS
Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School. Call Dominic Liparoto at (248) 476-5027 for more information.

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Junior High School. Call (810) 478-1494 for more information.

FOUR SEASONS
The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Senior Citizen's Center in the Livonia Civic Center. Call Jim Kudej at (313) 591-0843 for more information.

FISHING BUDDIES
Fishing Buddies Fishing Club meets monthly in Rochester Hills. Call (248) 656-0556 for more information.

BASS ASSOCIATION
The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Dearborn Civic Center. Call (313) 676-2863 for more information.

SHOOTING RANGES

BALD MOUNTAIN
Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Lake Orion has shotgun (skeet & trap, sporting clays, 5-stand), rifle, pistol, and archery shooting facilities. Range hours are noon to sunset on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursday's and Friday's and 10 a.m. to sunset on Wednesdays. On Saturdays and Sundays the rifle and pistol range is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and the sporting clays course is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Bald Mountain is located at 1330 Greenfield Rd. (three miles north of the Palace of Auburn Hills). Call (810) 814-9193 for more information.

PONTIAC LAKE
Pontiac Lake Recreation Area in Waterford has rifle, pistol, shotgun, and archery ranges. Range hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. Pontiac Lake Recreation Area is located at 7800 Gale Rd. Call

(810) 666-1020 for more information.

ORTONVILLE RECREATION
Ortonville Recreation Area in Ortonville has rifle, pistol and shotgun shooting facilities. Range hours through Dec. 22 are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. The Ortonville Recreation Area is located at 5779 Hadley Rd. Call (810) 693-6767 for more information.

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS
Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs. Call the respective parks, toll free: Stony Creek, 1-800-477-7756; Indian Springs, 1-800-477-3192; Kensington, 1-800-477-3178.

1998 PERMITS
The 1998 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark offices. Vehicle entry permits are \$15 and \$8 for senior citizens. The annual boat launching permits are \$18 and \$9 for senior citizens. Call 1-800-47-PARKS for more information.

DEER THROUGH THE SEASONS
Explore the world of the park's

largest mammal, the whitetailed deer, through slides and a short walk during this program, which began Sunday, Dec. 21, at Kensington.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Advanced registration is required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks. Call (810) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

RECYCLE CHRISTMAS TREES
Ten Oakland County Parks will be recycling Christmas trees Dec. 27-Jan. 11. Trees may be dropped off 9 a.m.-4 p.m., seven days a week. Independence Oaks and Orion Oaks will remain open for Christmas tree recycling through Jan. 25.

FULL MOON CROSS COUNTRY SKI
Experience an evening of cross country skiing under the light of the full moon during this program, which begins at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at Independence Oaks.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS
Maybury State Park, Proud Lake Recreation Area, Bald

Mountain Recreation Area, Highland Recreation Area and Island Lake Recreation Area offer nature interpretive programs throughout the year. A state park motor vehicle permit is required for entry into all state parks and state recreation areas. For registration and additional information on the programs at Maybury call (810) 349-8390. For programs at Bald Mountain call (810) 693-6767. For programs at Proud Lake and Highland call (810) 685-2433. For programs at Island Lake call (810) 229-7067.

Sunday Rec story ideas?

The Observer publishes a Recreation News page each Sunday and is looking for feature ideas. If you have a story idea about a local outdoorsman, club or group of unique athletes, write to: Brad Emons, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Mi. 48150; or send via fax to (313) 591-7279.

Correction Notice

Due to unforeseen demand, the Pentium® 166MHz computers and the Hewlett Packard 3100 computer package advertised in our December 25 insert may not be available at all stores.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.



INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE
Viking Collectibles, Inc.
Gift Certificates Available
Hours: Mon-Fri. 10 A.M.-4 P.M.; Sat. 9-12
30175 Ford Rd. • Garden City • 421-5754
Between Middlebelt & Merriman Roads

STOREWIDE SAVINGS 20-75%

LOOSE LOWER DENTURES? PARTIALS?
PERHAPS IMPLANTS ARE THE ANSWER!
LIVONIA VILLAGE DENTAL ASSOCIATES
HERBERT GARDNER, DDS
(248) 478-2110

IN A CLASS BY ITSELF CONSIDER THE AFFORDABLE!
AMERICAN HOUSE
RETIREMENT RESIDENCES

- Suites, efficiencies, one and two bedroom apartments
- Delicious meals prepared daily by our staff
- Convenient laundry and linen service
- Scheduled transportation in American House buses
- 24-Hour emergency response system
- Impeccable housekeeping service
- Complete social, cultural and recreational activities
- Beauty and barber shops
- Exercise program
- Independent Health Care Professional available
- Month to Month rental

IN WAYNE COUNTY
There is an American House Near You

Livonia	Westland	Westland II
14285 Middlebelt Rd. Livonia, MI 48154 (313) 261-2884	1660 Venoy Rd. Westland, MI 48185 (313) 326-7777	39201 Joy Rd. Westland, MI 48185 (313) 454-9838
Dearborn Hgts.*	Lincoln Park	
26600 Ann Arbor Trill Dearborn Heights, MI 48127 (313) 278-6430	1901 Southfield Rd. Lincoln Park, MI 48146 (313) 386-3600	

*Individual Rates Available at Dearborn Hgts.

Sears Outlet Store
Furniture & Appliances
20% - 60% OFF
Original Retail Prices

New Shipments arriving EVERYDAY!

One-of-a-kind, out of carton, discontinued, floor samples, dented, used, scratched and reconditioned merchandise. Items pictured are just a few examples of the hundreds of great values. Merchandise shown is representation only. Actual merchandise varies by store.

SEARS
Furniture & Appliance Outlet

SEARS WAREHOUSE OUTLET
12001 SEARS AVE
LIVONIA
1 MILE WEST OF MIDDLEBELT
OFF PLYMOUTH RD
PHONE: 422-5700
Now more ways to buy at Sears

Open 7 Days
Mon & Fri 9:30 am - 9:00 pm
Tues, Wed, Thurs & Sat 9:30 am - 6:00 pm
Sunday 12:00 Noon to 5:00 pm

PREVIOUSLY SELECTED MERCHANDISE NOT INCLUDED

Complete and Return for More Information: And Our Affordable Rates. Thank You For Your Interest.

Name.....
Address.....
Phone.....

THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



"The Living Nativity," is part of *The Radio City Christmas Spectacular at the Fox Theatre*, 2211 Woodward, Detroit. Call (248) 433-1515 for tickets, and performance times.

SATURDAY



19 Wheels performs at the 7th House, 7 N. Saginaw, Pontiac. Doors open at 8 p.m. for the 18 and older show. Tickets are \$6. (248) 335-8100.

SUNDAY



Meadow Brook Theatre presents "A Christmas Carol," 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 28, at Oakland University, Rochester. Tickets \$23, (248) 377-3300.



Hot Tix: Toy & Hobby Expo '97, Friday-Sunday, Dec. 26-28 at the Novi Expo Center, 43700 Expo Center Dr., Novi features art work by Paul Adams, the world's largest mobile train display, new and used model railroad and toy trains, antique toys, collectible dolls and more, call (248) 348-5600.



PHOTO BY TOM HOFFMEYER

Go cat go: When not touring the United States, the local rockabilly band Twistin' Tarantulas packs them in on Sundays at Fifth Avenue Billiards in Royal Oak. The band is, from left, drummer Alex "The Thrilla From Manila" Trajano, bassist/singer "Pistol" Pete Midtgard, and guitarist "Gorgeous" George Friend.

Twistin' Tarantulas:



O & E Band of the Year

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER

Feeling jovial, a teenage Pete Midtgard popped Humble Pie's "30 Days in the Hole" into his eight-track player. "I had this speaker on the floor in my room that really was a cardboard box with just a round speaker tied into it (sitting) on a hardwood floor," Midtgard recalled. "I cranked it up really loud and when the bass came in, the speaker started skating around on the floor like one of those little football guys. That's when I said, 'Man, I want to be that guy. I want to be the guy who makes the speaker rattle across the floor and shake the glass.' I wanted to be the bass player." Midtgard's bass playing abilities have undoubtedly improved since then as he's now known as "Pistol Pete," the lead singer and upright bass player for the rockabilly band Twistin' Tarantulas. Bass gripped tightly and sweaty hair flapping with the beat, Midtgard and his band attract dancers like flies to fly paper.

An amalgamation of rockabilly, swing, blues, R&B and rock 'n' roll, the Twistin' Tarantulas play constantly and still the clubs are invariably standing room only.

The Twistin' Tarantulas were on the cusp of the rockabilly/swing revival long before others jumped on the now trendy bandwagon. Like rockabilly or hate it, the Twistin' Tarantulas rock.

The Twistin' Tarantulas are The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers' 1997 Band of the Year.

Side project

Midtgard grew up in Pontiac attending Pontiac Central High School. He graduated, what he calls, "Phi Beta Drop Out."

"I was in a hurry to go to a new school - school of hard rocks. I got a PhD from the hard knock school of adolescent rage. I can't push the first button on a computer, but I still remember binary codes."

While he was in school, he played multiple instruments including the tuba and trombone. It was at age 16 or 17 that he plopped in the aforementioned Humble Pie tape.

Who: Twistin' Tarantulas, Mudpuppy and Nobody's Business
What: Performs
When: 9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 31
Where: Upstairs at Fifth Avenue Billiards, 215 W. Fifth Ave., Royal Oak.
Why: It's New Year's Eve
How: Tickets are \$35 which includes a complimentary glass of champagne, or \$60 per couple which includes a complimentary bottle of champagne. Both ticket prices include a light buffet and party favors. Only those 21 and older will be admitted. For more information, call (248) 542-9922

Other shows:

Twistin' Tarantulas perform at 10 p.m. Sundays throughout December and January at Fifth Avenue Billiards in Royal Oak. They also perform at 10 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Kodiak Grill, 45660 Mound Road, Utica. For more information, call (810) 731-1750. Twistin' Tarantulas play Saturday, Jan. 31, at the Blind Pig, 206-208 S. First St., in Ann Arbor. Doors open at 9:30 p.m. for the 19 and older show. For more information, call (734) 996-8555. To sign up for the Twistin' Tarantulas' mailing list, write "Pistol" Pete Midtgard at 2748 Vermont, Detroit, Mich., 48216

"I was into Humble Pie, Kiss, Led Zepelin, Black Sabbath, Deep Purple, all the big arena bands. Back then I had a lot of the cultural habits that were real common in the '70s."

Harkening back to his high school days, Midtgard and the Twistin' Tarantulas cover Misfits songs and Motorhead's "Ace of Spades."

"What else? It's one of the greatest songs ever written as far as I'm concerned. I've done that song in every band I've been in. When I started playing the upright I wasn't about to change."

Midtgard honed his skills in a variety of acts including the Frantic Flattops and Flying Saucers. In December 1993, the Twistin' Tarantulas were created as a side project

Please see **BAND**, E2

NEW YEAR'S EVE

Plan an informal, fun-filled New Year's Eve at home

What's On TV

New Year's Eve College Football Bowls
 ■ Sun Bowl, El Paso, Texas - 2 p.m. CBS (WWJ), Arizona State (8-3) vs. Iowa (7-4)
 ■ Liberty Bowl, Memphis, Tenn. - 3:30 p.m. ESPN, Pittsburgh (6-5) vs. Southern Miss. (8-3)
 ■ Fiesta Bowl, Tempe, Ariz. - 7 p.m. CBS (WWJ), Kansas State (10-1) vs. Syracuse (9-3)
 Countdown to 1998
 ■ Tonight Show, broadcast live - 11:35 p.m. NBC (WDIV)
 ■ Dick Clark's Rockin' Eve - 11:30 p.m. ABC (WKY2) after the local news
 ■ When New Year's Attacks - 11 p.m. Fox (WJBK) - live from Reno, 90 minute show counts down to new year, features top musical performances, comedians, fireworks, Top 10 Scariest Moments of 1997, and a midnight stunt to bring in the New Year.

Sip champagne

BY ELEANOR AND RAY HEALD
SPECIAL WRITERS

You did it! You copped out and didn't get reservations for New Year's Eve! Don't fret, you have a week and can either plan to max out at the peak of hedonism or cheap out.

Champagne and hedonism pair nicely. In the category of magnificent, indulgent, unforgettable, extravagant maxing out for around \$145 a bottle, you can get the world's best, 1989 Champagne Krug or the 1985, to usher in the new year. You have the champagne idea; now for the caviar.

If you've not purchased caviar before, here are the basics. Russian caviars are identified by the species of



Please see **SIP**, E2

View a video

BY JOHN MONAGHAN
SPECIAL WRITER

Rest assured there are other ways to ring in a New Year than simply watching Dick Clark drop that silly ball in Times Square. Your local video store is more than happy to meet your needs, whether you're spending the holiday with friends, a lover, or just by yourself.

■ **Throw Your Own Premier** - it's easy to have your own premier with major movies that for some reason never made it to area screens. One that's getting decent notices is "Traveler," starring "Titanic's" Bill Paxton and "Boogie Nights" Mark Wahlberg as gypsies who traverse the rural South, bilking people out of their money.



Please see **VIDEO**, E2

Play a game

JOHN MONAGHAN
SPECIAL WRITER

For awhile there it seemed like parlor and board games were all just derivations of Monopoly and Charades. That's not true anymore as stores have whole aisles of clever ways to liven up New Year's Eve parties.

Here's just a sample:

■ **Outburst** - In a game that promises "common knowledge and uncommon hilarity!" you are given a topic like "Canine Commands" and must come up with all 10 desired responses in only 60 seconds. Other categories: "Dances of the Sixties" and "Parts of the Body that Come in Pairs."
 ■ **Planet Hollywood** - Is the official game of the Tinsel



Please see **GAME**, E2

STREET SCENE

The waiting is over for Irish rockers The Devlins



CHRISTINA FUOCO

It seems appropriate that Peter Devlin is waiting. Leaning up against a phone booth at JFK Airport in New York City, Devlin - who handles bass, sampling, programming, and vocals for Irish pop band The Devlins - is talking about his band's latest disc "Waiting" (Radiouniverse).

The Devlins and its fans are hoping that "Waiting," produced and engineered by Pierre Marchand (Sarah McLachlan), and mixed by Tom Lord-Alge (The Verve Pipe, Oasis), will produce the superstardom that the band deserves. "We felt that the record company didn't do our first album justice in the States. We didn't have management at the time to realize that. We just hooked up with really good management and they negotiated our way off our label and onto another label." "With our old label, all the staff changed and still is chang-

ing. We had four A&R people on one record. ... They were just looking for the next Green Day or ska/punk band. They were trying to get us to make a record we didn't want to make." The Devlins now call Radiouniverse home which is also where Black Grape, Live, and Angelfish, the project by Garbage's Shirley Manson, answer. The Devlins, which also includes drummer/percussionist/vocalist Sean Devitt, is to classical music. The quiet hum of Colin Devlin's guitars embrace his moody, atmospheric vocals backed by simple tones of a grand piano and drums. Intimate lyrics like "Tell me your secret, what you desire. I will still be there for you ... You light up my dreams, light up my skin, you're so far away, you're holding it in" in "World Outside" draw listeners into Colin Devlin's world. "Colin's words I think are more sort of outward looking on this record. For the first one all the lyrics were written in his bedroom. They were very introspective and all about relationships," Peter Devlin said of his brother. "This one there are some very personal songs about relationships. This record deals more with what we've been going through the last three years - getting a record deal and traveling all over the world and touring, all the promotion and waiting around. It is a bit more outward looking." The Devlins' tour schedule for its debut "Drift" included shows with Sarah McLachlan. Among those dates was a show with McLachlan at the Music Hall in Detroit. "People were standing up at the end of us. We got a half standing ovation which is better than none," Devlin said with a laugh.

Dave Wagner accepts end of good run



ANN DELISI

'Tis the season for giving, acceptance, peace on earth and goodwill toward men. Unfortunately, it's also the season for busy malls and parking lots, slow mail delivery and office parties at which more than a few employees will do and say things they'd regret if they could only remember them. It's the time of year newspaper and magazine columns recap the year that was, too. And why should this one be any different? Besides, with Backstage Pass pre-empted to make way for special holiday programming on Detroit Public Television, we have time and space. Speaking of having time on one's hands, one of our crack Backstage Pass correspondents has found himself with a dubious temporal windfall: Dave Wagner was victimized by a format change after 18 years at classical radio station WQRS-FM. Even when he says it himself, the number surprises Dave. "18 years? Wow, that's a long time. I wonder what that is in radio years?" He doesn't wait for Lorne Green to do the math, saying,

"That's a heck of a good run. Not too many people in the radio business get to do the same show on the same station for such a long time." What? Here I am ready to hunker down and get small about corporate radio's abandonment of classical music, and Dave's already over it! "The past is gone. I've taken a Zen sort of attitude on all this. When you buy a house and it's a colonial and it's white and it's your house, and you paint it pink, you have the right to do that." Assuming the loss of that venerable format is the nadir of the year in classical, I asked Dave for his 1997 highlights. "Back in February, there was a great recital by violinist Cho-Liang Lin. The concert was in Ann Arbor with the Ars Poetica Chamber Orchestra. It's a highlight because he's such a brilliant player. And I love that orchestra, because it's made up of top players from Detroit, Cleveland and Dallas, who they fly in to put on these fabulous concerts." I asked Dave to predict a high point for 1998. "The ongoing Pro Musica series at the DIA. They always bring great arts - up and coming artists - into a very intimate setting. Every program has been spectacular, and you're close to the performer. So often

classical concerts are such a formal presentation, with the orchestra elevated on stage, and they perform and the audience watches and then leaves. I mean, people leave uplifted, but they leave. It's not like, say, going to see a reggae band. "For the Pro Musica series, the DIA always has an afterglow where you can actually talk to the performer. I don't know who gets a bigger kick out of it, the audience or the musicians. And that's because classical musicians are used to sort of being secondary to the music itself. They're conduits - they play the music, but the music is the star. That's what's special about the Pro Musica series, it's so different from the typical classical music setting. People get to connect with the musicians, much like what you hear that all the time in country music - the stars connecting with their fans. I think that's a good thing." Bringing a touch of Twitty to Tchaikovsky is what makes Dave special. "The best thing is connecting with people. The great thing about radio is all those people enjoying what you do. I didn't realize how much people enjoyed that radio station, but since I've left I've had all these people telling me how much they valued it. It's touching really."

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

Grid of movie listings for various theaters including General Cinemas, Scream (R), Amistad (R), Flubber (PG), Titanic (PG-13), and others across multiple locations like Canton 6, Novi Town Center 8, Keego Twin Cinema, etc.



Winter 1988 Courses taught by Robert Schefman

Drawing - All Levels - In this class held on Tuesdays from 9:00 - 12:00 noon, students will explore a variety of drawing media, techniques, and subjects with an emphasis on drawing as our most immediate and fundamental means of expression. Oil Painting - All Levels - Students will work from the model in this class held on Thursdays from 9:00 - 12:00 noon or 12:30 - 3:30 to breathe life into their painting. The class will study the formal concerns of value, color, and composition; going beyond into subject matter. A good drawing foundation is essential. Level 3 Painting Studio - This course is team taught with Leslie Masters on Tuesdays from 12:30 - 3:30. The goal of this class is to provide serious, advanced painters with a group venue to examine their direction in painting, participate in discussions, and move ahead in the art process. Class members will be expected to work outside of class and approval from the instructors must be received to enroll in this class.



Robert Schefman received his BFA from Michigan State University and his MA from University of Iowa. He has participated in a wide variety of group shows including Interventions at the Detroit Institute of Arts in 1995. He has completed numerous commissions in painting and sculpture for schools such as Wayne State, University of Iowa, and Cooley Law School in Lansing, and for restaurants such as Stelline at Somerset and at Tribute in Farmington Hills. His most recent mural commission was for Dearborn's 19th District Court Building.

You can register for these classes and more by signing up for the Winter Semester at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association. Classes start January 5 through March 28. Call (248) 644-0866 The BBAA is a Community Supported Regional Art Center. Sponsored by The Observer & Eccentric Newspaper

