

Westland Observer

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Local festival: *WinterFest continues today in Westland. Events include a children's midway, kids' art activities, Mayor Robert Thomas' chili dinner, Westland Villagers Exhibit, classic rock band music, magic by Randy Shaw, a story hour, Just for Kicks dancers and Josh Gracin./A3*

MONDAY

Study session: *The Westland City Council will hold a study session beginning at 6 p.m. at Westland City Hall, Ford Road, west of Wayne Road. Topics include an audit, recreational projects and local road funds and projects.*

School board: *The Wayne-Westland school board meets at 7 p.m. at the school district administration building on Marquette, east of Newburgh.*

TUESDAY

Lunch and crunch: *The next chamber business luncheon will be at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday at Joy Manor. To help plan chamber activities, programs and services, members will be asked for their input. Each table will be a focus group. Luncheon spots are \$14.*

Friends of library: *The Friends of the Library will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Administrative Conference Room of the library, on Central City Parkway between Ford and Warren. The public is invited to attend. Those interested in joining the friends are asked to attend this meeting or to fill out a membership application available at the Library Reception Desk.*

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'50s fun



Hooping it up: Karen Gleneski of Westland, a clerk at the Garden City Post Office, Hula Hoops as part of the U.S. Postal Service's promotion for voting on a new '50s stamp. Postal workers dressed up at several area post offices, including in Westland, to launch the "Celebrate the Century" stamps. The public can vote on the stamps through Feb. 28 at local post offices.

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Secretary: Others used rec money



Former Westland Parks and Recreation Director Charles Skene is on trial on embezzling charges in Wayne County Circuit Court.

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

Fired Westland Parks and Recreation Director Charles Skene wasn't the only employee who took department money and replaced it with personal checks, his former secretary testified Thursday.

"We had several people in the department who would come and cash checks out of the revenues," parks and recreation secretary Nora Herbert said. "I've done it myself."

Herbert conceded that Skene cashed more personal checks than other employees, and she said she told a Westland police lieutenant that Skene's actions "could be considered unusual."

But she vehemently denied telling police that Skene borrowed parks department money from a safe without replacing it.

"I never said he borrowed money," she said in court. "I said he cashed a check."

Herbert's statements surfaced Thursday in Wayne County Circuit Court as witnesses testified during the third day of Skene's jury trial on five felony embezzling charges.

Skene is accused of taking as much as \$10,000 between Aug. 7, 1996, and April 11, 1997, to support a gambling habit, prosecuting attorney Tom Dawson has told jurors.

Please see TRIAL, A3

Incident prompts tips from police

BY RENEE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER

An unfortunate incident that happened to a Westland senior citizen who gave her phone number to a stranger has prompted safety tips from police.

A local senior didn't expect problems when she gave her phone number to an elderly man she met at Westland Center in January. Then he showed up at her door recently, and now she's missing \$60.

A Feb. 3 police report said the man approached the woman in the mall and asked for her name and phone number. He said he wanted to call her sometime.

The woman said he attempted to call several times (she has an answering machine) before appearing at her apartment at 2:30 p.m. Feb. 3.

She said she let him in, and he asked for coffee and water. She alleges that he stole \$60 from her purse while she pre-

Please see TIPS, A2

Site to house library for blind, handicapped



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JAGDFELD

New home: Pat Klemans, Wayne County librarian, and Fred Howkins, regional librarian for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, stand outside the new Westland site on Michigan Avenue of the Wayne County Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

BY RENEE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER

This spring, if renovation plans go according to schedule, the Wayne County Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped will move into its new quarters on Michigan Avenue in Westland.

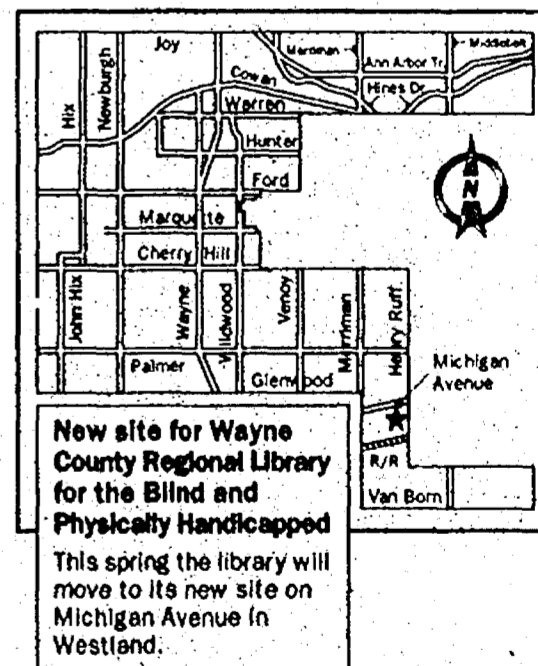
Pat Klemans, Wayne County librarian, said the library is one of only two in Michigan that serve the blind and handicapped. It has occupied its current location on Van Born and Venoy roads in Wayne for almost 40 years.

"It's the first time we'll be in a building all our own, which gives us the separate identity so vital to our image. We'll also be on a major artery where people will see us," said Klemans.

She said the county searched for a new library location for more than a year. A major criterion was the site's access to public transportation. "This place was deemed totally suitable," she said.

The 7,200-square-foot, one-story building formerly was a federal credit union. Only the building's interior needs to be reconfigured.

Klemans said what wouldn't be excit-



New site for Wayne County Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

This spring the library will move to its new site on Michigan Avenue in Westland.

ing to the public, is "totally exciting to us." The proposed interior design includes several private rooms for using visual aid technology. "Privacy is a serious issue for people who are visually impaired," she said, citing as examples needing someone to read

Please see LIBRARY, A2

Fruit sale

The John Glenn High School Instrumental Music Department students are selling grapefruit and oranges to help raise funds for new instruments and uniforms. The cost of the fruit is \$13 a case. Depending on the size of the fruit, each case will contain 24 to 48 pieces of fruit. The sale ends Friday, Feb. 13. Please call the Instrumental Music Department at (734) 595-2350, if you are interested in purchasing fruit to help the music program.

PLACES & FACES

Holiday closings

The 18th District Court will be closed on Monday, Feb. 16, to observe the Presidents' Day holiday. There will be no evening probation on Monday, Feb. 16, and there will be no work program scheduled on Saturday or Sunday, Feb. 14-15. The court will be open for regular business at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Tulip festival trip

The Friendship Center Travel Group is offering a trip to Holland, Mich., on Wednesday, May 13, for \$115, with all meals included. The trip departs promptly at 7 a.m. A continental breakfast will be served on the bus. In Holland, the group will see tulips, shop, eat lunch and attend the parade, then go on to Saugatuck for dinner and a boat cruise. Arrival time back at the center is about 11 p.m. Call the Friendship Center for more information, (734) 722-7632.

Tips from page A1

pared the coffee. The woman has no proof, but the report said she eventually learned the man approached three other women in the Greenwood Villa apartment complex. The woman could not be reached for comment.

Westland police Sgt. David Hooper said it's a hard truth that seniors are more vulnerable to smooth talkers.

"Seniors in general are a bit more trusting," he said. "They come from a generation that's less cynical."

He also said loneliness fuels vulnerability and may make some women less hesitant to give out their phone numbers.

"Don't give your phone number to someone that you meet casually," he cautioned, adding that it's easy to find out an address from a phone number.

Hooper gives several seminars a year on safety tips for seniors at the Friendship Center, from avoiding fraud to personal safety in the home.

Sylvia Kozorosky-Wiacek, director of the Friendship Center, said the seminars are well-publicized and well-attended.

She agrees with Hooper that some seniors, especially women who live alone and go to malls to socialize, are vulnerable.

"A lot of women are looking for companions," she said.

Hooper offered the following safety tips when visiting malls:

- Always go in pairs, even when using the restrooms.
- Park in well-lighted areas.
- Do not leave packages in the car. Lock them in the trunk.
- If possible, do not carry a purse. Carry a wallet in a well-secured pocket. If you must carry a purse, make sure it's a shoulder bag worn diagonally across your chest.
- Do not give your phone number to casual acquaintances.

Hooper's last word of advice: "If something seems too good to be true, it probably is." That goes for people, as well.



Clarinet duet: Leslie (left) and Julie Reichert play a duet with clarinets before the Renaissance Program at John Glenn High school began. Leslie was one of the recipients to receive a certificate.



Award winner: Nicolas Brown receives his certificate for being one of the Renaissance recipients at John Glenn High School. Handing out the awards were Sheri Smith (left), drama teacher and assistant principal Lorraine Brickman.

Glenn students receive awards

Scores of John Glenn High students showing significant improvement in academics, attendance and citizenship have received awards through the school's 1998 Renaissance Program.

In all, about 200 students were honored by educators during a Jan. 22 ceremony marking the program's fourth year,

assistant principal Lori Brickman said.

Students received their awards and also qualified for drawings for prizes such as dinner certificates, movie passes, flowers, duffel bags and radios, Brickman said.

Local businesses donated the prizes as part of a school-business partnership that pays for the Renaissance Program.

The latest awards ceremony is one of several components of a larger program. Other honors include:

- Bumper stickers for students earning a 3.0 grade point average or better.
- A breakfast for students

with a 4.0 GPA.

- A Wall of Fame plaque that includes names of students who maintain a 4.0 GPA for an entire school year.
- Businesses or individuals who want to become partners in the Renaissance Program may call the school at 695-2304.

Westland Observer

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CITY OF GARDEN CITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
February 23, 1998

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Mayor and Council will hold a Public Hearing on February 23, 1998, at 7:20 p.m., in the Council Chambers, at the Civic Center, 6000 Middlebelt Road, Garden City, Michigan on the following proposed ordinance:

To solicit public comments pertaining to the Parde/Hartel Special Assessment Estimates.

All persons interested in the above are hereby invited to attend this Public Hearing and be heard.

STEVEN J. SMITH
 Interim City Clerk-Treasurer

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 Publish: February 8, 1998

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THE Observer
 NEWSPAPERS

1996 General Excellence Award

Library from page A1

your bills and personal papers. The adaptive technology already in use at the current location includes closed circuit television with a screen enlarger; computers with screen enlargers, voice output, and

print-out in Braille; and a Kurzweil reader, an instrument that scans printed material and reads it back.

However, because the current location in Wayne is not accessible by public transportation,

most of the library's 4,000 registered users do not make personal visits. They receive and return materials through the U.S. Postal Service free of charge.

Klemans said her staff is looking forward to welcoming readers at the new site. They'll soon be packing the library's 150,000 volumes - comparable to other mid-sized public libraries, except for being audio instead of visual - for the short trip north.

"We hope Westland will be as excited to have us as we are to be there," said Klemans.

Mayor Robert Thomas welcomes their presence. "The quality of life continues to grow and improve in Westland. The addition of the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped is not only needed but another improvement for our fine community."

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by Josephine Finazzo, D.M.D.

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Today at WinterFest: Art, music

Westland's fourth annual WinterFest continues today at the Bailey Recreation Center and other sites.

- Today's schedule includes:
- 1-4 p.m. Children's Midway, 10 and under
 - 1-4 p.m. Art activities for children, for ages 4-12, \$1 for one project, \$3 for five projects. This is sponsored by Westland Therapeutic Recreation at Bailey Center.
 - 1-4 p.m. Mayor Robert Thomas' chili dinner, \$2. All proceeds donated to WinterFest.
 - 1-4 p.m. Westland Villagers Exhibit, free.
 - 2 p.m. Story hour, free, sponsored by the



Friends of the Library at the Bailey Center.

- 1-5 p.m. free showcase, Bailey Center sym
 - 1-2 p.m. Classic rock band music
 - 2-3 p.m. "Magic by Randy Shaw"
 - 3-4 p.m. "Just for Kicks Dancers" line dancers
 - 4-5 p.m. Josh Gracin, local singing personality
- Concessions include: popcorn, tacos, pop, and beef stew.
WinterFest sweatshirts are available for \$20 in adult sizes and \$15 for children's sizes.

Crowned



STAFF PHOTOS BY JIM JACFIELD

Sweet success: Above, King and Queen of Hearts Ed Turner and Helen Henri were crowned Friday as part of a Valentine's Day celebration at the Westland Friendship Center. At right, dancing the afternoon away are Betty Mull and Don Riggins.



Trial from page A1

Skene, fired last April '22 by Westland Mayor Robert Thomas, could face a maximum 10-year prison term if a jury convicts him. His trial resumes Monday in front of Judge Timothy Kenny and is expected to continue through Wednesday.

Social ties

Herbert conceded under questioning from Dawson that she and her husband - former Westland Personnel Director Kent Herbert - consider Skene a friend and occasionally socialize with him. She also confirmed having lunch with Skene during the trial and riding with him from court.

"We don't see a lot of each other. We're not like best of friends," she said.

Under questioning from Skene's attorney, Stephen Boak, Herbert denied she was covering up for Skene.

"Would you lie for Mr. Skene?" Boak asked.

"No, I wouldn't lie for my best friend. I would stand by him, but I wouldn't lie for him," Herbert replied.

Former Westland Finance Director Michael Gorman has testified that parks money was missing for six days spread over four months in late 1996. Gorman said money collected from recreational programs at the Bailey Recreation Center never got turned over to his City Hall office.

Gorman said the city had no formal written policy against cashing personal checks from department funds.

"It's a verbal policy that had been in effect for a long time," he said.

Herbert, still a parks secretary, said she became upset when city directors and police began investigating her department.

"I was very upset that they would accuse the parks and recreation department of stealing any money," she said.

April 14 events

Herbert recalled last April 14 - the day Gorman and Budget Director Elizabeth Duggan came to her office accompanied by police Lt. Gary Sikorski and confiscated the contents of a safe. Directors said Skene had raided the cash and left personal checks that weren't dated or made out to the city.

Herbert accompanied Sikorski to the police station for questioning and, when she returned to her job, found that Gorman and Duggan had taken the safe contents with them.

"They were gone, and when I looked in the safe they had taken everything with them," Herbert said. She added that she had no inventory of what they took.

Earlier in the day, Herbert testified that on days she took parks department revenues to City Hall for processing, cashiers often were busy and set the deposits aside.

"The cashiers would leave them on their desk in a basket ... where many, many people would pass by," Herbert said. She said she noticed one day

Another parks employee, recreational program supervisor Margaret Martin, testified that Skene cashed personal checks from revenues for a therapeutic program that sends disabled children to summer camp.

that "a very huge pile" of revenues had been piled in a walk-in vault that, by other witnesses' accounts, was accessible to 18 people.

Herbert's testimony implied the city had a double-standard for using parks money. She said money was borrowed without question to buy city Christmas lights and, on one occasion, to buy hot dogs for a picnic sponsored by Mayor Robert Thomas. She said several months lapsed before the picnic money was replaced.

Another parks employee, recreational program supervisor Margaret Martin, testified that Skene cashed personal checks from revenues for a therapeutic program that sends disabled children to summer camp. The revenues came from fund-raisers and were kept in the same safe as parks and recreation monies.

Martin oversees the program and said she didn't give Skene permission to take the money, although she said she didn't object to his actions because she viewed him as her boss and believed he had such authority.

Skene's checks weren't even made payable to the therapeutic program's booster club.

"Did he ever replace those checks?" Dawson asked.

"No," Martin replied.

No deposit

Martin conceded she didn't deposit any booster club earnings for months because Skene's checks remained in place of cash.

Meanwhile, investigators said Skene took booster club money again following another fund-raiser, taking more than \$1,000 from an envelope and replacing it with personal checks.

Westland police seized the checks as evidence, but Martin said Skene replaced the money last July - three months after he was fired.

"He gave me a check that rectified the checks that the police were holding," she said.

Martin said Skene didn't want children to miss summer camp. "He wanted to correct the problem."

Attorneys Dawson and Boak have disagreed over whether the city had oversight over the therapeutic program money. Dawson believes it did; Boak doesn't.

Regardless, Martin said a city official, Skene successor Bob Kosowski, threatened to fire her unless she supplied copies of certain documents for the investigation.

Firetruck to be custom-made

BY RENEE SKOGLUND
STAFF REPORTER

With few reservations, the Westland City Council has approved the sole bid for a new firetruck at \$316,970 from Halt Fire Inc. of Northville.

"My concern is we only had the one bid, and it's a pretty expensive item. I'll only approve it because it takes a long time to have it manufactured," Councilman Charles Pickering said.

Fire Chief Mark Neal, offering an explanation for the sole bid, said the number of fire engine manufacturing companies throughout the country has declined.

"Many companies are now priced out of the market because of the expense of building custom engines."

Jill Runkle, the city's purchasing agent, later confirmed there is no written policy on sole bid-

ders.

"Single bids are up to the council and administration," she said. She added that the city's collective bidder list should increase when the city upgrades its Internet capabilities, perhaps by July.

Six companies initially showed interest in the engine; however, only three requested additional information, said Runkle. Of the three, only one - Halt Fire Inc. - responded with a bid.

Neal said this was not uncommon because of the engine's specifics, which are configured to "the size and depth of each compartment."

The new engine will be customized to fit under under Station No. 2's limited height.

"It was hard enough to find a manufacturer to build a short enough engine and still have all the features of a full pumper," Neal said.

The new truck will replace the current front-line engine, which will be used as a spare.

He anticipates at least a nine-month delivery date. "That's pretty fast. Usually it takes a year."

Pickering also asked Neal if the price was fair.

Neal said his department did a one-year study of comparable communities and the bid "came in at a very competitive price."

Runkle said the city planned to finance the engine's cost, which was figured into the fire department's \$6.8 million total 1997-98 budget, for five years at \$70,000.

"It came in less than what we anticipated," she said.

The Westland Fire Department's 77 firefighters serve a 22-square mile area from four stations. The department currently has four engines, four rescue units and one ladder truck.

Area dog catcher's dog gone

A family dog turned the tables on one of Livonia's animal control officers Monday.

Max, a 2-year-old whippet, jumped the fence at Vickey Steier's house on Northfield, north of Joy, just after 7 p.m.

He was spotted a short time later on Ravine in neighboring Westland, but as of Friday afternoon was still missing.

Max is white and gray, stands about 2 1/2 feet high and weighs 35 pounds.


He wears a purple nylon choker-type collar with Livonia dog license (No. 2) and Michigan Humane Society tags.

Steier said Max should not be dangerous and will likely shy away from people.

Anyone who may have spotted him can call her at (734) 466-2655, or reach her through the Livonia Police Department at (734) 466-2470.



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OBITUARIES

ROBERT J. FREHSE
Funeral services for former Garden City resident Robert Frehse, 67, of Rose City will be 2 p.m. today, Feb. 8, in John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home, 1139 Inkster Road, Garden City, with burial at Norway Township Cemetery, Norway, Mich. Officiating will be Deacon Michael Markulike, St. Dunstan Catholic Church.
Mr. Frehse, who died Feb. 4 in Garden City, was born in Norway, Mich. He was a U.S. postal carrier.
Surviving are: wife, Rita; sons, Jeff and Rob, daughters, Debbie Mullins of Westland and Denise Frehse.
Memorials may be made to Ogemaw Nature Park and American Diabetes Association.

JAMES L. HALLIWELL
Funeral services for former Garden City resident James Halliwell, 66, of Quincy were Saturday, Feb. 7, in John N. Santeiu & Son Funeral Home with burial at Glen Eden Memorial Park. Officiating was the Rev. Steven K. Bieghler of Good Hope Lutheran Church.
Mr. Halliwell, who died Feb. 4 in Coldwater, was born in Highland Park. He was a truck driver.
Surviving are: sons, Dale, Douglas, Paul of Westland, Robert, James of Westland and David; sister, Joyce Brown; and 12 grandchildren.
Mr. Halliwell was preceded in death by his wife, Loretta.

HELEN E. TAYLOR
Funeral services for Helen Taylor, 71, of Wayne were Wednesday, Feb. 4, in Uht Funeral Home with burial at Cadillac Memorial Gardens West, Westland. Officiating was Brother James Roberts. Mrs. Taylor died Feb. 2 in Livonia. She was a homemaker.
Surviving are: son, Robert; daughters, Brenda Welliver and Phyllis Smith, both of Westland; six grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.
Mrs. Taylor was preceded in

death by her husband, Garland, and son, James.

JOHN HAFLER
Funeral services for John Hafler, 74, of Romulus were Friday, Feb. 6, in Uht Funeral Home with burial at Michigan Memorial Park, Flat Rock. Officiating was the Rev. Luther Stanley.
Mr. Hafler died Feb. 3 in University Hospital. He was an assembler.
Surviving are: son, John; daughters, Carolyn Morgan and Donna Korp of Westland; sister, Emma Loading; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.
Mr. Hafler was preceded in death by his wife, Winifred.

MARK R. MORLEY
Funeral services for Mark Morley, 35, of Sitka, Alaska, were Friday, Feb. 6, in Uht Funeral Home with burial at Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth. Officiating was the Rev. Larry Rowland.
Mr. Morley died Jan. 31 in the Gulf of Alaska, near Yakutat. He was a fisherman.
Surviving are: parents, Charles Morley and Edna Fantozzi; brothers, Jeff, David, William and Scott Papke; sisters, Robin Varney, Donna Cameron, Sherry Stott, Krista and Julie Fantozzi, all of Westland; and grandmother, Dimple Hartley.

RICHARD H. JARVIS
Funeral services for Richard Jarvis, 66, of Westland were Friday, Feb. 6, in Uht Funeral Home with burial at Glenwood Cemetery, Wayne. Officiating was the Rev. Robert Millar.
Mr. Jarvis died Feb. 3 at his home. He was a carpenter.
Surviving are: wife, Vera; sons, Kevin, Ricky, Keith, Dennis and Rick; daughters, Pamela and Tammi; brother, Bill; sisters, Mary Johnson and June Stewart; 13 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Music fest highlights talent

BY DIANE HANSON
SPECIAL WRITER
Sweet music poured from nearly every door at Livonia Franklin High School recently as more than 3,500 middle school musicians gathered to showcase their talents at the District 12 Solo & Ensemble Festival.
This is the 20th year Franklin has hosted the festival.

"It has grown just about every year and that's really a tribute to all the band directors in our District 12 that work so hard to encourage the kids to play at both the junior and senior high level," said Kristi Jasin, Franklin's band director.
From Livonia, more than 150 students from Emerson, Riley, Frost and Holmes middle schools participated in the festival. The two-weekend event, with the senior high students performing Feb. 7, is the largest district festival in the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association.

District 12 includes Wayne, Washtenaw and Monroe counties.
"It's an opportunity for students to play by themselves or in small groups for a professional judge and to play against a standard rather than against other students," said Jon Holtfreter, band and orchestra director at Emerson Middle School.
"It's wonderful because they know that the only person they're competing against is themselves and their own ability to prepare and work with their teachers."

And spending time to prepare is something they must be willing to do, according to Holmes Middle School Band Director Sam Galate. "Some of them have been working on this for several months," he said. "The end result is that hopefully they will be better musicians after taking part in this."
That practice discipline is something that Remmy Brim, Frost Middle School cellist, is familiar with. She said she started practicing her part in September.
"We have to practice all on our own after school," she said. "It takes a lot of effort to put into something like this." The Frost seventh-grader performed in a quartet along with fellow seventh-graders Karen Kudelko on viola and Leigh Soltis and Tania Morkert on violin.
"It's a little nerve-wracking," admitted Kudelko in the warm-up room shortly before their performance.
Alyson Patrash, Emerson Middle School seventh-grader, admitted she wasn't too nervous about playing a solo as she waited outside the performance room door. She started playing the flute through a community education program two years ago. Although it was her first time performing at the festival, "I've been practicing for two months," she said.
The student musicians are judged on things like timing, tone, rhythm, correct notes and musicianship and given division ratings from one to five, with one being the best. Medals are awarded for first and second division ratings.
Holtfreter pointed out that there are many opportunities to achieve top division ratings. "This is the difference between a festival and a competition," he said. "In a competition you have one team or individual that wins first place but in a festival, anybody who attains the standard could win a first division."
The Franklin Band Boosters helped contribute to that festive atmosphere with food, pho-

tos and flowers offered at reasonable prices along with buttons and sweatshirts.
Jasin said that each of the 125 students in the music program at Franklin does something during the two-weekend festival. Among other duties, the students manned the check-in tables, direction stations, and moved the students

and their instruments from warm-up rooms to performance rooms and back.
"It really is my students who run it," said Jasin. "They are my leaders. They're in charge."
More than 4,500 student musicians were expected for the senior high Solo & Ensemble to be held at Franklin High School Saturday.

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PHOTO BY DIANE HANSON

Musical kudos: After performing her music solo Saturday, Emerson Middle School student Alyson Patrash accepts flowers from her little sister, Mallo-ry.

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School board elections

Senate OKs bills to move voting to November ballot starting in 2002

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Voters would see school board elections on the November general election ballot beginning in 2002 under three controversial bills passed by the state Senate and sent to the House.

Annual school elections on the second Monday of June would be gone.

The results, everyone agrees, would be higher voter turnouts and fewer special elections.

But critics said school board candidates would get lost in the shuffle of media attention in even years to presidential, congressional, gubernatorial, legislative, county and township candidates.

"I was a township clerk. We have too many elections," said Sen. Loren Bennett, R-Canton, sponsor of one of the bills. "We have turnouts of 30,000 for presidential elections and 1,500 for school elections."

Bennett saw no problem with mixing nonpartisan school board candidates with partisan national, state, county and township candidates on the same ballot. "We already have nonpartisan candidates on that ballot — judges," he said during the Feb.

4 debate.

"I nearly fell off my chair," said Sen. Joanne Emmons, R-Big Rapids, "when a school board member, who shall be unnamed, said in our hearing, 'We don't want all those people voting in our election!'"

School elections would be consolidated on Tuesday following the first Monday in April, August and the November general election.

Schools also could hold elections with city elections in odd-numbered years, but there would be a price: They would have to pay 105 percent of the cost to the city. That price is expected to discourage special elections, said the lead bill's sponsor, Sen. George McManus, R-Traverse City.

The lead bill Feb. 4 was passed on a 31-5 vote. Supporting it were Bennett, Bill Bullard Jr., R-Milford, Michael Bouchard, R-Birmingham, Mat Dunaskiss, R-Lake Orion, and John Schwarz, R-Battle Creek.

Area senators opposed were Robert Geake, R-Northville, Alma Wheeler Smith, D-Salem, Gary Peters, D-Bloomfield Township, and Dianne Byrum, D-Onondaga.

All others voted yes except

Mike Rogers, R-Brighton, who had an excused absence.

Smith, a former South Lyon school board member, said, "In June, the newspaper can focus on the school board. In November, they are focused on the president and governor. Where do you think we're going to get coverage of some quality and quantity?"

"I have problems mixing the school board with the general election," added Peters. "It gets lost on the ballot, and school boards don't get the same kind of attention."

McManus said such fears are groundless. "I ran four times for the community college board in a November election and had no problem," he said.

If a school district chooses to run an election in an odd year, said Peters, there would be confusion between city and school issues. Running elections would be complicated by the fact that city and school district boundaries are rarely the same.

"There's too long a lead time (between a November school election and Jan. 1 when new board members take office). A school board could take some dramatic action even if they've been voted out of office," Peters

said.

On one matter, both sides were agreed: reducing the number of special school bond and millage elections.

The bills require all elections to be conducted by cities and townships. Voters would always go to the same precincts. Currently, many school districts conduct their own elections and use different precincts from the cities and townships in which they're located.

Michigan has 555 K-12 school districts and 57 intermediate (county) districts, sometimes called "regional service agencies." In 1994, they held 1,074 millage elections followed by 641 in 1995, according to a Senate Fiscal Agency analysis.

The House has worked on its own, quite different version of conducting elections. The last plan called for four elections per year, in February, May, August and November. School boards would be elected in May. Millage and bond elections would be confined to those four scheduled elections.

Refer to Senate Bills 202, 207 and 224 when writing to your state representative, State Capitol, P.O. Box 30014, Lansing 48909.

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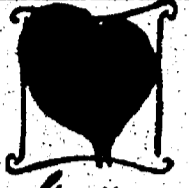
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Families may qualify for tuition tax credit

State Treasurer Douglas Roberts reminds families paying college tuition for their children that they may be eligible for the Michigan College Tuition Tax Credit Program. The credit is taken on the state income tax form MI-1040.

Parents or guardians with adjusted gross income of \$200,000 or less who have children attending qualified educational institutions (listed below) are eligible to receive a tuition tax credit of up to \$250 per student. The tax credit will be applied to their 1997 income tax

liability.

"Michigan families providing higher education for their children will save about \$13.7 million this year, thanks to the tuition tax credit," Roberts said. "I encourage eligible parents or guardians to take advantage of this opportunity to recoup a portion of their college or university expenses."

Eligible schools are those which did not increase both their tuition and uniformly applied fees by more than the 1996 inflation rate of 3 percent.

The following schools are certified by the Department of Treasury as qualified under the provisions of the program:

- Public universities: Central Michigan University, Grand Valley State University, Lake Superior State University, Michigan State University, Michigan Technological University, Northern Michigan University, Saginaw Valley State University, University of Michigan, University of Michigan-Dearborn and Wayne State University.

■ Detroit-area community col-

leges: Oakland Community College, Schoolcraft College, Washtenaw Community College and Wayne County Community College.

- Private colleges: Alma College, Aquinas College, Cleary College, Concordia College, Davenport College, Detroit College of Business, Great Lake College, Hillsdale College, Kendall College of Art & Design, Northwood University, Olivet College, Reformed Bible College, Spring Arbor College and William Tyndale College.

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Foster care board seeks volunteers

The State Court Administrative Office of the Michigan Supreme Court is seeking volunteers to serve on the Foster Care Review Board in Wayne County.

The five-member board meet one day each month to review a representative sample of cases of children who have been removed from their homes and placed in foster care due to abuse or neglect.

At the reviews, board members interview parents, foster parents, caseworkers, attorneys and other interested parties who may be involved in planning for the child.

Advisory recommendations

are formulated and mailed to the court, child welfare agency, prosecuting attorney, parents and other interested parties. The purpose of the review is to ensure that all agencies, including the court, have established a plan for the ward and progress is being made toward achieving permanency.

The Foster Care Review Boards are comprised of those who reflect a broad cross section of their communities.

The program is seeking volunteers who have demonstrated leadership in other settings. Employees of the Family Independence Agency, court or private child placement agencies

are prohibited by law to serve on Foster Care Review Boards.

Each volunteer who is selected must attend a two-day orientation training in the Detroit area May 14-15. This training is a requirement to serve on the board.

Expenses for training are reimbursed.

Citizens interested in volunteering for a Foster Care Review Board should call (517) 373-1956 for an application. The deadline for receiving applications is March 31. Interviews with prospective candidates will take place in April 1998.

Engler applauds SEMCOG focus to curb urban sprawl

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

After decades of talk, Michigan may be edging toward an "urban policy," say regional and state leaders.

There's no hard definition of "urban policy," but it's usually used in discussions of stopping urban sprawl, resurrecting abandoned industrial brownfields, and encouraging investment in older cities.

"We're forming a group of communities. We've met four or five times," said Paul E. Tait, deputy executive director of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG).

"Alpena has some of the same problems Detroit has. Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo are actively participating," he told SEMCOG's Jan. 30 executive committee meeting.

"Two weeks ago, the House urban caucus met with an urban core mayors' group," said Tait.

The urban caucus is co-chaired by Reps. William Byl, R-Grand Rapids, and Michael Hanley, D-Saginaw. Among its founders last year was Rep. Patricia Godchaux, R-Birmingham.

"Our bedfellows include the Michigan Association of Realtors, which gave the most active support to our policies," Tait added.

"We've had no urban policy in this state or in this country," added John Amberger, SEMCOG's executive director who will retire at the end of March.

"For 30, 40, 50 years, we've needed an urban policy," added guest speaker Mel Ravitz, who this year retired from the Detroit city council and chaired SEMCOG in 1970-72.

'I applaud the focus of this (urban) summit and the sincerity of those attending.'

Gov. John Engler

the Build Michigan I was state takeover of the Davison Freeway in Detroit.

State to 'back off'

Meanwhile, SEMCOG's Amberger reported that Engler and James DeSana, director of the Michigan Department of Transportation, "will back off at this particular time" on their plan to take over 9,000 miles of previously county and municipal roads.

That plan, part of Engler's road repair plan since May of 1997, had raised strong fears from local officials and some behind-the-scenes opposition in Republican legislative caucuses. They fear MDOT 1) won't maintain the roads to previous standards and 2) will local traffic control and curb-cut policies.

SEMCOG, representing local units in the seven-county southeast region, has coordinated talks with state officials in what DeSana calls "route rationalization." Focus of discussion is that prospect that maybe some county and municipal routes should be taken over by MDOT and vice-versa.

"We have walked in with a clean sheet of paper," said Amberger. He acknowledged the region has differences with DeSana, adding, "He's very direct. He has a great deal of respect for this part of the state."

"Some of the scar tissue from two years ago (when the Engler administration tried to soak up all available federal aid) remains. But we're very hopeful for cooperation."

Carmine Palombo, SEMCOG's manager of transportation programs, said MDOT's proposed 1998 construction program contemplates 50 percent more money for southeastern Michigan.

appears to have hopped on board the environmental and urban policy express train.

"I applaud the focus of this (urban) summit and the sincerity of those attending," Engler said in mid-January remarks to the group.

The governor followed it up in his Jan. 29 state of the state address by recommending an environmental bond issue of \$500 million, 80 percent of which would be used to clean up old city industrial "brownfields" and to discourage paving over of "greenfields."

Engler cited his administration's moves towards helping "our cities to achieve their potential." Among them:

■ Renaissance zones - "Since their creation in 1996, the state's 11 tax-free renaissance zones have attracted 43 projects ... Seven of the 11 zones are in urban areas ..."

■ MEGA - The Michigan Economic Growth Authority since 1995 has approved 39 projects, "several of which are in urban areas. The projects will invest more than \$1.1 billion in the state..."

■ Housing loans - more than 13,000 low-interest housing loans worth \$633.5 million since 1991 made by the Michigan State Housing Development Authority.

■ Urban offices - opening a Department of Environmental Quality office in Detroit.

■ Road repair - first project of

Engler hops on

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Duggan upholds state term limits

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Voters can look forward to a packed August primary ballot after U.S. District Judge Patrick Duggan upheld the validity of Michigan's state term limits.

His ruling means 65 of the 110 state representatives elected in 1992 have served the three terms allowed under a constitutional amendment passed that year. It added sec. 54 to the legislative article.

Term limits won't affect state senators, the governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state and attorney general until 2002.

"In sum, the court concludes that sec. 54 imposes an insubstantial, content-neutral and non-discriminatory burden on the voting rights of plaintiffs," Duggan wrote.

He disagreed with every contention of the challenging plaintiffs - Citizens for Legislative Choice, Michigan Handicapped Voters' Rights Association, and individual constituents of two Detroit Democratic representatives. They contended the Michigan Constitution violated their rights under the U.S. Constitution.

'Does not agree'

Duggan wrote he "does not agree that sec. 54 imposes a severe restriction on plaintiffs' voting rights. While sec. 54 narrows the field of candidates for whom plaintiffs may vote, it

does so only slightly. Plaintiffs remain free to vote for any candidate who has not served three terms in the state House since Jan. 1, 1993...

"Plaintiffs are not 'guaranteed the right to vote for a specific candidate,'" he said, citing a 1989 federal decision upholding Ohio's right to prohibit judges from being elected after age 70.

The complaint said sec. 54 doesn't "favor a so-called 'novice' viewpoint of representative democracy over an 'experience' viewpoint," Duggan noted. But he ruled that Michigan's term limits section "does not distinguish between candidates on their political beliefs or point of view and does not violate plaintiffs' voting rights."

Other cases

He relied on a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision in San Francisco decided Dec. 19 that California's even tougher term limits don't violate the U.S. Constitution. That circuit rejected 9-2 the claim of Assemblyman Tom Bates that term limits violated his constitutional rights and were unfair to voters who wanted to choose their own leaders.

Duggan disagreed that the burden of term limits falls on racial minorities. "This is scant evidence from which to conclude that minority and inner-city voters are unfairly disadvantaged by sec. 54. White and suburban voters would lose the ability to gain political power through seniority to the same extent as

would minority and inner city voters..."

Who's in, out

Term limits will affect 29 Democrats and 36 Republicans in the state House. It starts at the top with Speaker Curtis Hertel, D-Detroit, and minority leader Ken Sikkema, R-Grandville, and covers Appropriations Committee veterans Morris Hood, D-Flint, and Don Gilmer, R-Augusta.

Here is a list of who's in and who's out:

19th - Lyn Bankes, R-Redford - eighth term; plans to run for Wayne County commissioner.

21st - Deborah Whyman, R-Canton - third term; announced for state Senate vacancy.

Unaffected: Gerald Law, R-Plymouth, who is in his second term after serving from 1983-91; Eileen DeHart, D-Westland, second term; Tom Kelly, D-Wayne, second term; Bob Brown, D-Dearborn Heights, first term.

Duggan noted the federal government has imposed term limits (on the president) and many states also have imposed them.

Plaintiffs said there was sufficient turnover in the last six House elections so that term limits were unnecessary. Duggan didn't buy that: "So long as there is a rational basis for term limits, the court should not substitute its judgment for the Michigan voters on this matter..." (T)he court expresses no

view as to whether or not term limits are a 'good idea.'

Appeals are probable:

California Assemblyman Bates said he will appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. He contends voters didn't understand that California Proposition 140 of 1990 contained lifetime bans.

The losing attorneys in Michigan - Wayne State University law professors John Mogk and Robert Sedler - say they will carry their case to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati.

But Patrick Anderson, who was involved in the petition drive through Taxpayers United for Term Limitation, said Mogk and Sedler should give up, accept the judgment of the voters and Duggan, and not waste court time and state resources with a further appeal.

Duggan, a Livonia resident appointed to the federal bench by President Reagan 11 years ago, on Oct. 29 denied the plaintiffs' request for a preliminary injunction to block term limits until the court case is finally settled. His ruling Friday dismissed the case entirely.

Term limits generally have been favored by conservatives. They contend a turnover in office is necessary to keep a fresh, citizen-oriented outlook among lawmakers.

Voters approved sec. 54 by 2.3 million to 1.6 million, an approval rate of 59 percent. It was placed on the ballot by an initiatory petition.

Rivers hosts district 'coffee'

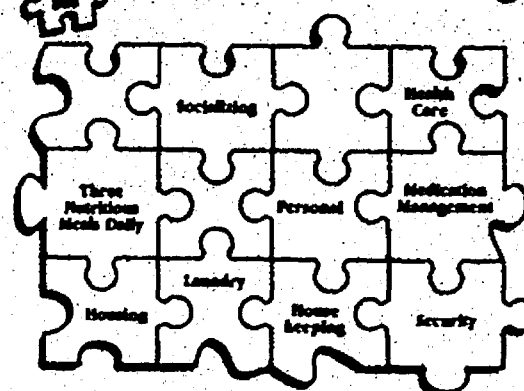
U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers, D-13th District, has scheduled "coffee hours" to meet constituents in Wayne on Monday, Feb. 16. Rivers will be at Alex's Garden Patch, 38910 Michigan, 7:30-9 p.m. All constituents are encouraged to

drop by, have a cup of coffee, and discuss their concerns with her.

For directions or further information, please call Rivers' district offices in Ann Arbor, (734) 741-4210, or Wayne, (734) 722-1411.

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Experts address trade issues

U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers, D-13, will host a forum on "International Trade: Economic Boom or Bust?" 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18 in the Friendship Center, 1119 N. Newburgh Road, in Westland.

A panel of experts will discuss the effects international trade has on the economy. Topics include, but are not limited to, trade deficits, open markets, exports, imports and NAFTA.

The panel includes Neil Hesse of the Detroit Export Assistance Center, Robert Stern of the University of Michigan, Peter Echstein of the AFL-CIO, Judy Fernside of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Center at the University of Michigan's School of Business.

For more information, contact Michelle Heikka, at (734) 741-4210 or in Wayne at (734) 722-1411.

S'craft offers equine classes

Making Your Own Chaps/Horse Blanket Repair is the newest class in Schoolcraft College's equine arts and sciences program which offers a variety of courses taught by veterinarians, trainers and respected equine professionals.

The class meets 9 a.m. to noon for three weeks. Participants must bring a sewing machine to the second class. Fee is \$68.

Other courses in the series include: Legal Transactions in the Horse Business, beginning Feb. 10 for a \$75 fee; Choosing Your First Horse, offered Feb. 15 for a fee of \$65; Form and Function of Horse and Rider, offered March 1 for a \$48 fee; and Grooming Techniques, Halter Presentation and Showmanship, offered April 18 for a \$65 fee.

For information, call (734) 462-4448.

Sign of the Beecarver locations:

Allen Park Southfield Rd. (between Dix and Allen) 02/11 at 2:30 PM 02/18 at 2:30 PM 02/25 at 2:30 PM 03/04 at 2:30 PM	Mt. Clemens Gratiot and 16 Mile Rd. 02/05 at 2:30 PM 02/19 at 2:30 PM 03/05 at 2:30 PM
Bloomfield Hills Woodward Ave. (north of Square Lake Rd.) 02/11 at 2:30 PM 02/18 at 2:30 PM 02/25 at 2:30 PM 03/04 at 2:30 PM	Madison Heights 14 Mile Rd. (across from Oakland Mall) 02/10 at 2:30 PM 02/17 at 2:30 PM 02/24 at 2:30 PM 03/03 at 2:30 PM
Dearborn Michigan Ave. (east of Outer Drive) 02/10 at 2:30 PM 02/17 at 2:30 PM 02/24 at 2:30 PM 03/03 at 2:30 PM	Royal Oak Woodward (north of 11 Mile Rd.) 02/05 at 2:30 PM 02/12 at 2:30 PM 02/19 at 2:30 PM 02/26 at 2:30 PM 03/05 at 2:30 PM

Med Max locations:

Farmington Hills 02/02 at 1:00 PM 02/09 at 1:00 PM 02/14 at 11:00 AM 02/16 at 1:00 PM 02/23 at 1:00 PM	Orchard Lake 02/02 at 1:00 PM 02/09 at 1:00 PM 02/14 at 11:00 AM 02/16 at 1:00 PM 02/23 at 1:00 PM	Taylor 02/04 at 1:00 PM 02/11 at 1:00 PM 02/14 at 11:00 AM 02/18 at 1:00 PM 02/25 at 1:00 PM
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Other locations:

Farmington Hills Kerby's on Haggerty/8 Mile Rd. 02/05 at 10:00 AM 02/10 at 10:00 AM 02/12 at 10:00 AM	Southfield Big Boy Restaurant Grodan/Telegraph 02/11 at 3:00 PM 02/18 at 3:00 PM 02/25 at 3:00 PM
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Macomb Hospital Center 12000 E. 12 Mile Rd., Warren
Executive Office Bldg. Auditoriums A and B (12 Mile Entrance)
02/10 at 10:00 AM Auditorium A
02/17 at 10:00 AM Auditorium A
02/24 at 10:00 AM Auditorium A
03/03 at 10:00 AM Auditorium A

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CLASS REUNIONS

As space permits, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers print, without charge, announcements of class reunions. Send the information to Reunions, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Please include the date of the reunion and the first and last name of at least one contact person, and a telephone number.

ANN ARBOR PIONEER
Class of 1978
July 18 at the Crowne Plaza.
(810) 465-2277 or (810) 263-6803

SELLEVILLE
Class of 1988
Sept. 19 at the Marriott, Ypsilanti.
(800) 677-7800

BARBOUR HALL
The Nazareth Association will have a reunion for former students and graduates of the all-male academy for Feb. 21 at the Nazareth Center in Kalamazoo.
(616) 342-1191

BLOOMFIELD HILLS LAHSER
Class of 1987
March 21 at Doubletree Guest Suites, Southfield.
(248) 360-7004, press 2

Class of 1978
Aug. 1 at Somerset Inn, Troy.
(248) 366-9493, press 3

CHERRY HILL
Class of 1983
Reunion and alumni family picnic is planned for August.
(734) 729-6783

CHIPPEWA VALLEY
Class of 1978
July 24 at Zuccaros' in Chesterfield.
(810) 465-2277 or (810) 263-6803

DEARBORN
All classes
A western Caribbean cruise for alumni and friends aboard Royal Caribbean's Majesty of the Seas will sail from Miami on Oct. 25.
(800) 545-0435

DETROIT CASS TECH
Class of 1968
Looking for classmates for a reunion.
Pam Yee Gianola, 1243 Smith Road, Beulah, Mich., 49617-9493 or e-mail at mie-nai@aliens.com

Class of 1988
Is looking for names and addresses of classmates.
(313) 896-0736, (313) 859-0261 or (313) 882-1632

Class of 1978
Is planning a reunion.
(248) 442-9320, by fax at (248) 442-8830 or Sharon Law-Williamson, 28479 W. Seven Mile Road, Livonia 48152

Class of 1958
Oct. 10 at the Detroit Golf Club, Detroit.
(313) 882-4626 or (248) 548-5384

DETROIT CHADSEY
Classes of 1948 and 1949
Oct. 3 at St. Clement Hall, 19600 Ford Road, Dearborn.
(313) 266-4129 or (313) 383-2343 for 1948, or (313) 273-1589 for 1949

DETROIT COOLEY
Class of 1948
A reunion is planned for Oct. 9-11.
(248) 473-4437

DETROIT KETTERING
Class of 1978
Is planning a reunion.
Send name, address and telephone number to Chrystal Esaw, 27930 Berkshire Dr., Southfield 48076, or call (248) 368-5236, (313) 526-8667, (313) 839-9858 or (313) 372-3159

DETROIT MACKENZIE
January-June classes of 191948
A reunion is planned for Sept. 18.
(248) 553-4033 or (734) 464-3793

DETROIT PERSHING
Classes of 1949-53
Are planning a reunion.
(248) 471-5609 or P.O. Box 530-244, Livonia 48153-0244

January-June classes of 1952
A fall reunion is being planned
(248) 623-2454, (810) 771-9810 or (810) 979-4594

DETROIT ST. THERESA
Class of 1948
A September reunion is planned.
(248) 879-8173 or (517) 546-0903

DETROIT SOUTHEASTERN
50th anniversary
May 30 at the Somerset Inn, Troy, 560.
(248) 628-0018 or (313) 881-5927

DETROIT WESTERN
Class of 1949
Is planning a reunion.
(313) 274-3214

FARMINGTON
Class of 1988
A reunion is planned for July 25.
(313) 866-0783 or (313) 394-0649

Class of 1968
Aug. 7 at the Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi.
(810) 465-2277 or (810) 263-6803

FARMINGTON HARRISON
Class of 1968
A reunion is planned for July at the Hawthorne Valley Country

Club, Westland.
(248) 442-2862

GROSSE POINTE SOUTH
Class of 1978
Aug. 8 at the Lochmoor Club, Grosse Pointe Woods.
(800) 677-7800

HAZEL PARK
Class of 1978
Is planning a reunion in 1998.
(800) 677-7800

HIGHLAND PARK
Class of 1969
Is planning a reunion.
(313) 864-5943, (313) 583-5418

or (313) 867-3201
Class of 1978
Is planning a reunion for July.
Fax info to C. Jones (313) 836-6302 or write to HPCHS reunion committee, c/o P.O. Box 760484 Lathrup Village, MI 48076.
January-June classes of 1948
April 24 at the Troy Marriott Hotel.
(248) 594-4546 or (248) 546-1736

HURON
Class of 1988
Is planning a reunion in 1998.
(800) 677-7800

LINCOLN PARK
June Class of 1973
A reunion is planned for Aug. 16.
(313) 928-4575, (248) 551-9146 or P.O. Box 1323, Lincoln park 48146

MADISON
Class of 1948
Is planning a reunion.
(248) 548-5470 or (810) 264-9191

NORTH FARMINGTON
Class of 1978
Aug. 7 at the Novi Hilton Hotel, Novi.
(810) 465-2277 or (810) 263-6803

OAK PARK
Classes of 1957-59
Is planning a reunion for November.
(248) 559-1746 or (248) 354-0092

PLYMOUTH CANTON/SALEM
Classes of 1988
A joint reunion is planned for June 20.
CEP Class of '88, P.O. Box 5356, Plymouth 48170

REDFORD THURSTON
Class of 1973
Nov. 28 at St. Mary's Cultural Center, Livonia.
Donna Erndt, 33466 Vargo Dr., Livonia, or call (734) 522-9405 or

(313) 536-4000, Ext. 412

WARREN WOODS TOWER
Class of 1988
Is planning a reunion.
(810) 790-4214 or (810) 771-7328

WATERFORD KETTERING
Class of 1968
Is planning a reunion.
(248) 628-3926, (248) 681-1768 or (248) 623-6057

WAYNE MEMORIAL
Class of 1983
Sept. 26 at the Roma Banquet Center, Garden City.
(248) 360-7004, press 1

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2 UNIQUE



KELLI LEWTON

Food for love casts a spell

On Feb. 14, untold numbers of Americans will observe Valentine's Day by presenting a symbol of their love. Some in the form of cards or jewelry, but the most popular form is chocolate.

By giving gifts of chocolate we will be paying unwitting homage to the power of food as a part of the mystic and magic of love.

Food nourishes our body, soul, mind and spirit. It can also be an instrument to demonstrate intentions such as the love that goes with making chicken noodle soup for a beloved sick one, or the suggested passion of chocolate covered strawberries and champagne on a nightstand.

Food has a long history as a tool of sorcery and spell casting - many in the name of love! Throughout the centuries there are numerous accounts of the sorcerers of the stove. Witches and their supernatural counterparts in other cultures were often the purveyors of hidden wisdom.

This is accompanied by the traditional image of witches busily stirring, brewing and simmering over their caldrons. Tales tell of women who would hold and cuddle their bread dough in a romantic fashion while chanting the name of their would-be husband or lover. After baking, a woman would share the bread with this man in hopes that he would ingest her feelings and love with the grain and be forever "under her

Please see 2 UNIQUE, B2

Hearts Afire - Dinner for 2

Celebrate Valentine's Day with someone special. Indulge yourselves with a simply romantic dinner to go - to be reheated in your own kitchen. The students of the Schoolcraft College Culinary Arts program, and chef/owner Kelli Lewton of 2 Unique Caterers, Inc. with Breadsmith Bakeries present this specially prepared menu.

A ROMANTIC PRELUDE

- Citrus marinated shrimp served with a tropical passion fruit salsa
- Brie kisses garnished with fruited chutney in phyllo cups
- Young baby field greens tossed with dried cherries and walnuts presented with a savory heart shaped crouton and a raspberry vinaigrette dressing

GETTING HOTTER

Chicken or Salmon Wellington, folded with fresh herbs, spinach and wild mushrooms wrapped in puff pastry. Served with aromatic winter vegetables and accompanied by hearth baked rolls from the Breadsmith Bakery.

BE MINE

Our special chocolate chambord heart dessert
The cost per couple is \$35.95. A portion of the proceeds will go toward the Schoolcraft College Culinary Arts program Student Fund and the Beaumont Pediatric Cancer Survivor Scholarship Fund. Please have a credit card number for reservations. Cash or check welcome at time of pick up. Orders must be placed by Thursday, Feb. 12. To fax your order, send your name, daytime phone number, home phone number and choice of entree - Chicken Wellington or Salmon Wellington - to 2 Unique Caterers (248) 642-0803 or call (248) 642-5240.

LOCATIONS AVAILABLE FOR PICK-UP

- All dinners must be picked up between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14. Please indicate the pickup location when you place your order.
- 2 Unique Caterers - 1250 Kensington Road, (between Big Beaver and Long Lake Road) Bloomfield Hills - (248) 642-5240
 - Breadsmith of Bloomfield - 3592 W. Maple, (northeast corner of Maple and Leher), Bloomfield Hills - (248) 540-8001
 - Breadsmith Cafe of Farmington Hills - 32990 Middlebelt (southeast corner of 14 Mile Road and Middlebelt) - (248) 855-5808
 - Breadsmith of Troy - 5069 Livernols (northwest corner of Long Lake and Livernols) Troy - (248) 879-8997
 - Schoolcraft College (Waterman Building) - 18600 Haggerty (corner of Haggerty and Eight Mile Road) - (734) 462-4400 Ext. 5423 or (734) 462-4491.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Taste next week:

- Focus on Wine



BY PEGGY MARTINELLI-EVERTS
SPECIAL WRITER

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, the grocery stores are filled with chocolate hearts, cakes, gooey desserts, and other irresistible sweets. But if you, or someone you love, is at risk for heart disease, the damage that those wonderful confections can cause may not be worth the moment of pleasure.

February is a month we celebrate love and matters of the heart. It is also a good time to think of our own heart, and the hearts of those we love.

Our cardiovascular system performs the amazing task of delivering oxygen and nutrients to every cell in our body. Our heart adjusts to changes in our activity level, exposure to cold, anxiety and eating. Even our ability to love and feel emotions is ascribed to our heart. The heart is a powerful muscle, but if diseased, can cause the most life-threatening of illnesses. Heart disease is the number one killer of men and women in this country.

Some of the risk factors for heart disease are beyond our control. These include increasing age, family history and race. African Americans have a three- to four-fold increased risk of developing heart disease than white Americans because they have higher blood pressure levels.

Other risk factors are directly under our control. If you have any of the "unchangeable" risk factors, it is even more important to reduce your risk from the "changeable" factors.

The four major changeable risk factors for heart disease are: smoking, high blood cholesterol, high blood pressure and physical inactivity.

To focus on cholesterol, it is important to understand that our body makes, stores and uses all of the cholesterol we need. Some of us are very efficient at keeping cholesterol (from the foods we eat) out of our arteries. Others need to control food choices to help our body control blood cholesterol levels.

There are two main types of cholesterol. LDL cholesterol is like a garbage dump and deposits its cholesterol onto artery walls. This increases the build up of plaques, and increases your risk of heart disease.

HDL cholesterol is like a garbage truck that carries cholesterol away from your arteries and back into storage in your liver. Exercise can help you raise your "good" cholesterol. Controlling the amount of saturated fat you eat can help you lower your total cholesterol.

Other things we can do to promote a healthy heart include controlling our salt intake, specifically sodium as in sodium chloride or table salt.

Salt is one of the most abundant food additives. Salt helps cure meats and fish, is used in pickling vegetables such as olives and sauerkraut, enhances the leavening of baked goods and makes just about everything we eat taste better.

Americans eat about nine pounds of salt per person per year, nearly two times the amount our body needs to be healthy. Many people are salt sensitive and all this excess salt contributes to their susceptibility to high blood pressure. (The precursor to a stroke). If you are not salt sensitive now, it doesn't mean you won't be in the future. So it is prudent to try to keep your salt intake at a reasonable level. Plus, if you are currently eating a lot of sodium rich foods, you're probably not eating enough fruits and vegetables.

Changing eating habits is never easy, but sometimes it's a matter of life and death. A friend has a husband with heart disease. To help him eat correctly, and make the right choices, she has learned new cooking techniques. She continually experiments in the kitchen to find the best tasting low-fat, low-sodium recipes. Although her husband laments for a huge 12 ounce, juicy steak with a butter and sour cream-filled baked potato, he knows that the food she serves is a far better way to show her love.

So this Valentine's Day, light the candles, put on some soft music and enjoy an intimate meal with that special person. But instead of high fat foods, enjoy each other's company today and for years to come, with a sensible, heart-healthy diet.

Peggy Martinelli-Everts of Clarkston, is a registered dietitian and director of clinical operations for HDS Services, a Farmington Hills-based food service and hospitality management company. Look for her story on the second Sunday of the month in Taste.

See recipes inside.

TAMMIE GRAVES/STAFF ARTIST

HEALTHY HEART CHART

To lower fat and cholesterol:

- Enjoy fat-free or low-fat milk and dairy products.
- Use low-fat sandwich meats.
- Remove the skin from poultry before eating. Choose lean cuts of meat (look for "loin" or "round" in the cut).
- Choose vegetarian toppings for pizza, and eat vegetarian meals as often as possible.

- Eat commercially prepared cakes and cookies in moderation because they are usually made with saturated fats such as hydrogenated vegetable and tropical oils.

- When using more than one egg in a recipe, replace every other egg yolk with a teaspoon of polyunsaturated vegetable oil.

- Blend low-fat cottage cheese with a

- little lemon juice and skim milk for a great tasting sour cream substitute.

- Enjoy ice milk and sherbet rather than full-fat ice cream

To lower salt and sodium:

- Cook foods without added salt or don't salt foods at the table.

- Watch out for the salt in processed foods such as noodle and rice mixes, stuffing mix, frozen dinners, and

- canned vegetables. Choose fresh or home prepared more often.

- Tenderize meats with seasoning and vinegar rather than meat tenderizer.

- Try the lower sodium versions of some of your most commonly eaten foods. There are dozens of items on the market today.

Holy mackerel! Fat fish are good for you



MURIEL WAGNER

It's no secret that substituting fish or shellfish for meat helps to lower your intake of saturated fat. That's the kind of fat that has been associated with increased risk of heart disease and various cancers.

Even fat fish such as salmon and sardines have a lower saturated fat content than the lowest fat cuts of beef.

But fat fish such as salmon, mackerel, albacore tuna, herring or sardines have another health benefit. They're high in Omega-3 fatty acids. Unlike saturated fat, the Omega-3 fatty acids lower both cholesterol and triglycerides.

To help my patients take advantage of these health benefits of fish, I modified a favorite recipe for salmon loaf to preserve the low saturated fat content of the salmon.

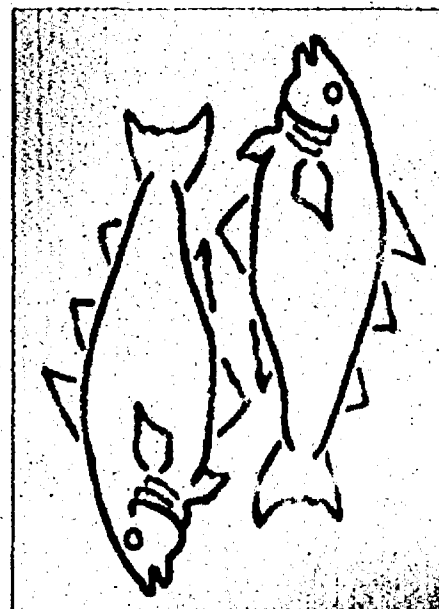
Evaporated skim milk and egg whites were substituted for the whole milk and eggs in the original recipe. Rinsing the canned salmon several times with water substantially lowers the sodium content. You might want to

make rinsing other canned fish standard procedure if sodium is a concern.

One of my favorite accompaniments, with salmon loaf used to be a creamy egg sauce that had lots of butter. Instead of this fat and cholesterol-laden addition, my revised recipe includes two fat-free versions of traditional tartar and dill sauce. These sauces make interesting taste contrasts, and can be served either singly, or side by side with salmon loaf. As you know, regular tartar sauce, substantially increases the fat content of any fish or seafood dish because of the high fat content of the mayonnaise it contains.

Serve salmon loaf with unpeeled, steamed new potatoes, fresh asparagus, and a squeeze of lemon juice for a taste of spring.

Speaking of spring, have you entered your favorite main dish salad recipe in



the contest being sponsored by the American Heart Association of Michigan?

The recipe should contain no more than a 3 ounce portion per serving of protein such as lean meat, chicken, fish, legumes or soy, and a fat-free, or reduced fat dressing, which is within American Heart Association dietary guidelines.

Recipes must be typed or clearly written. Include your name, address and a daytime phone number where you can be reached.

Send recipes to: American Heart Association of Michigan/Recipe Contest, 16310 W. 12 Mile Road, Southfield, MI 48076, or fax (248) 557-8533.

Deadline for entry is Monday, Feb. 25. Five finalists will be chosen, and asked to prepare their salads for judging at the "Ask a Nutrition Expert - The Registered Dietitians," a free educational event noon to 4 p.m. Sunday,

March 8, at Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield.

The winning recipes will be featured in the Observer & Eccentric Taste section on Sunday, March 15, and in a brochure to be produced by the American Heart Association of Michigan.

First prize is a gift certificate for two for lunch at the Golden Mushroom in Southfield. Second place is two cookbook selections from the American Heart Association. Third place is one cookbook from the American Heart Association.

All five finalists will receive a subscription to my "Eating Younger" newsletter, which is filled with tips, recipes and nutrition information. If you have questions, call me, (248) 350-1190.

Muriel G. Wagner is a registered dietitian and nutrition therapist with an office in Southfield. She publishes "Eating Younger," a quarterly newsletter filled with recipes and nutrition tips. To subscribe, send a check or money order for \$13.50 to Eating Younger, P.O. Box 69021, Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069.

Look for Muriel's column in Taste on the second Sunday of the month. See recipes inside.

Follow the Italian example when you use ricotta

BY DANA JACOBI
SPECIAL WRITER

The next time you pass the dairy case in your supermarket, look at the ricotta cheese and picture a misty morning over rolling hills. Hear tinkling bells punctuate the sound of bleating sheep. Smell the damp earth and the fresh scent of hay on the farm mingled with smoke from a wood fire.

In Sicily last October, I encountered exactly this scene when I went to watch the Printere brothers turn the foamy milk from their herd of sheep into pecorino cheese.

But the main attraction for me turned out to be the silky, smooth dairy byproduct of this process called ricotta.

Ricotta, which means recooked, is made from whey left after the curds have been separated.

For Italians, ricotta is an ingredient commonly found in many dishes. As breakfast and as a dessert, Italians eat ricotta topped with honey or a sprinkling of sugar. Most Americans know ricotta as the creamy layer in lasagna, the pleasantly bland filling in ravioli and manicotti, and the rich body of cheesecake.

Following the Italian example, you will also want to use it in pasta maritata, which is

spaghetti topped with marinara sauce and a dollop of ricotta. This tomato-cheese sauce makes a delicious, satisfying meal in about the time it takes to cook the pasta.

Virtually all ricotta in Italy is made by skilled manual workers, using sheep's milk. Even though it's now being made in the United States, sheep's milk ricotta may still be hard to find. Your best bet may be a cheese department in a gourmet store or via mail-order.

More common in the U.S. is commercially-produced ricotta made from cows milk. It is more moist, milk and sweet tasting than the Italian product, which tastes like fresh milk and is fluffy enough to cut with a knife.

The reduced-fat or part-skim ricotta found in American supermarkets is often closer to the Italian version than whole milk varieties. For the best texture when cooking, avoid fat-free and "lite" ricotta made with fillers.

Cannoli Cream is the filling for one of Sicilians' favorite desserts and a simple way of using ricotta. Serve Cannoli Cream in small cups, like a sublime pudding, or buy cannoli shells at an Italian bakery.

CANNOLI CREAM

- 15 ounces reduced-fat ricotta cheese
- 1 cup confectioners sugar
- 2 tablespoons chopped dark chocolate
- 1 tablespoon raisins, coarsely chopped
- 1 tablespoon golden raisins, chopped
- 1 teaspoon finely minced orange zest
- Cinnamon, for garnish
- 4 teaspoons chopped shelled pistachios, for garnish (optional)

Using a wooden spoon, press the ricotta cheese through a fine sieve into a medium bowl, making the cheese as smooth as possible.

Mix in the chocolate, raisins, golden raisins, and orange zest.

Divide the cream among 4 dessert dishes. Sprinkle some cinnamon over each serving and top with the pistachios, if using. Cover the dishes with plastic wrap and refrigerate at least 1 hour, or up to 24 hours before serving.

If you freeze it for later, let the Cannoli Cream sit at room temperature for 15-20 minutes before serving.

Each of the 4 servings contains 285 calories and 10 grams of fat.



AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Easy dessert: Serve Cannoli Cream in small cups with chopped, shelled pistachios. This easy dessert keeps 2-3 days in the fridge.

Recipe and information written for the American Institute for Cancer Research by Dana Jacobi, author of "The Best of Claypot Cooking," and "The Natural Kitchen: SOY!"

Heart-shaped cakes special dessert for sweethearts

AP - Just like the miniature candy hearts that are so popular for Valentine's Day, miniature heart-shaped chocolate cakes spell out your sentiments for the ones you love.

It takes just one bowl to prepare the batter for Chocolate Conversation Heart Cakes. Use a heart-shaped cookie cutter to create the individual serving cakes. The cakes are topped with a delectable buttercream frosting. Use decorating gel to add loving messages to the frosted cakes.

CHOCOLATE CONVERSATION HEART CAKES

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup packed light brown sugar
- 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons cocoa
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup water
- 1/4 cup plus 2 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 teaspoon white vinegar

- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Creamy Frosting (recipe follows)
- Red Decorating Gel

Heat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease and flour a 13- by 9- by 2- inch baking pan.

Stir together flour, granulated sugar, brown sugar, cocoa, baking soda and salt in medium bowl.

Add water, oil, vinegar and vanilla; beat with whisk or spoon until smooth. Pour batter into pre-

pared pan. Bake 18 to 20 minutes or until wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 10 minutes; remove from pan to wire rack. Cool completely. Transfer to cutting board. Using 3 1/4-inch heart-shaped cookie cutter, cut cake into 8 to 10 hearts.

Prepare Creamy Frosting. Spread desired color on top on top of each heart.

Write a "message" on each with decorating gel.

CREAMY FROSTING

- 1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter, softened
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 cup sifted powdered sugar
- 2 teaspoons to 4 teaspoons milk
- Food color

In medium bowl, beat butter and vanilla until blended. Gradually add powdered sugar, beating well. Beat in milk until frosting is at desired consistency. Divide

frosting into two or three parts (depending on desired number of colors wanted to frost hearts). Add few drops food color to each part. Makes about 3/4 cup frosting.

Nutrition facts per serving: 260 cal., 11 g fat, 4 g saturated fat, 15 mg chol., 180 mg sodium, 16 mg calcium, 17 g carbo., 2 g pro.

Recipe from: Hershey's Cocoa

Butternut Squash Soup a honey of a winter warmer

(NAPS) - When the days are shorter and the frigid air nips at your nose, there's nothing like a hot bowl of homemade soup to warm you from the inside out. Like rubber rain boots and earmuff, soups are an important part of the winter season. Fortunately, preparing homemade soups does not have to be time consuming or difficult. Just a squeeze of honey turns butternut squash, carrots and potatoes into Butternut Squash Soup - a honey of a winter warmer.

Honey's wholesome taste is a perfect addition to a variety of traditional recipes, and soups are no exception. Honey adds a

subtle rich flavor to savory soups without being overly sweet. Served alone or with fresh baked bread, Butternut Squash Soup will chase away those winter chills.

There are approximately 300 varieties of honey produced in the United States. For Butternut Squash Soup try a mild, medium bodied variety like clover or orange blossom. Cooking with honey is easy and caring for it is a snap. Store it at room temperature, never in the refrigerator. The countertop or pantry shelf is ideal. If honey turns cloudy or crystallizes (a natural process), simply place the honey jar in

warm water and stir until crystals dissolve. Or place the honey in a microwave-safe container and microwave it on HIGH, stirring every 30 seconds, until crystals dissolve. Be careful not to boil or scorch the honey.

Seeking that perfect dish for any time of year? Try one of more than 100 delicious low-fat recipes from the new cookbook "Sweetened Naturally With Honey." To order, send a check or money order for \$2.95 to: National Honey Board, Dept. NPR, PO Box 125, Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54495. Allow 6 to 8 weeks for delivery.

BUTTERNUT SQUASH SOUP

- 2 tablespoons butter or margarine
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 3 carrots, diced
- 2 celery stalks, diced
- 1 potato, peeled and diced
- 1 butternut squash, peeled, seeded and diced*
- 3 cans (14.5 oz each) chicken broth
- 1/2 cup honey
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme leaves, crushed
- Salt and pepper, to taste

In large pot, melt butter over medium heat. Stir in onions and garlic. Cook and stir until lightly browned, about 5 minutes. Stir in carrots and celery.

Cook and stir until tender, about 5 minutes. Stir in potatoes, squash, chicken broth, honey and thyme. Bring mixture to a boil; reduce heat and simmer 30 to 45 minutes, or until vegetables are tender.

Remove from heat and cool slightly. Working in small batches, transfer mixture to blender or food processor; process until smooth. Return puréed soup to pot.

Season to taste with salt and

pepper. Heat and serve. Makes 6 servings.

■ Butternut squash is available nearly year round. However, if you can't find it, this soup is equally delicious using other varieties of squash such as acorn or hubbard squash.

Nutrients per serving: Calories 292 (13 percent calories from fat); Total Fat 4.5 G; Protein 4.8 G; Carbohydrates 65.3 G; Cholesterol 10.4 mg; Sodium 858 mg; Dietary Fiber 9.6 G.

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Where can I find?

This feature is dedicated to helping readers locate sources for hard-to-find merchandise in the marketplace. If you've seen any of the items in your retail travels (or basement) please call Where Can I Find? (248) 901-2555. Slowly and clearly, leave your name, number and message, and you should see your input in the following Sunday's column.

(248) 901-2555

Here's what we found:

- **Chez dresses** are at Amy's 3750 Woodward (north of Mack across from Orchestra Hall) at (313) 832-2466.
- **Shiny Sinks Plus** can be ordered through the mail for information, 1-800-433-5818.
- **Refills for a bean bag** can be found in the JC Penney spring catalog, two cubic feet for \$10.99.
- **Raggedy Ann dolls** were sold through the JC Penney Christmas catalog. We found someone who make a 36-inch doll for \$50.
- **Music Search** is a 900-number and that is not toll free. It is 1-900-737-6647.
- **Mennan shaving tale** is no longer in production, a tip from a reader, check around at small drug stores, they might carry it. (Or try Clubman, it works just as good, he opined.)
- **Bronner's, Frankenmuth** has the white Hummel nativity set for Pat.
- Several readers offered Pit games.
- **All might try Rence Camera Service and General Repairs**, Little Mack, St. Clair Shores, (810) 772-8344 for the Bell and Howell Slide Cube projector #977Q.
- **Beanie Babies** can be found at Susan B. Ashley Co. in Livonia (313) 422-8700, each \$8.99.
- **Solid color borders** including black, were spotted at Office Max, 10 Mile and Southfield. Sharon of Canton said she saw some at Wallpaper Outlet, 3500 Lilley, south of Ford Road. "They will make cuts from solid-color paper," she advised.
- Several distributors offered sources for **therapy magnets**: Dr. Leonard's catalog has a set of 20 for \$7.99 at 1-800-455-1918; Dr. Morrow's in Berkeley at (248) 399-7575; they are in the Harriet Carter catalog 1-800-377-7878 on page 84;
- Frank Wright sells them at (313) 459-4639; Bonnie Walton sells them at (313) 836-5467; Brian Barker sells them at (248) 545-5917; Eleanor Radke sells them at (248) 474-1068; E.W. Allen & Co. sells them at (248) 540-9246 - read the Alternative Medicine Digest for more sources.
- **Chestnuts in a jar** were purchased during the holidays at Williams Sonoma stores - Laurel Park, Twelve Oaks, Somerset South.
- **Lenore Ewald** of Livonia has three years worth of Reader's Digests from the '70s she wants to deliver to any local agency that would like them. Many of the magazines have never been opened.
- **Barb Wojick** has a 20-something-strong collection of Fannykins, the brown and tan statuettes from Hallmark, purchased back in the '70s. She would like to find a good home for them with a collector.

We're still looking for:

- A bunch of **plastic bow tacks** for the Wham-O Bowmatic for Connie Jordan. "I know they don't make this anymore, but I still make the bows and I need the tacks!"
- 1986 Mother's Day plate by Avon.
- Al is looking for **Wood to Wood**, (similar to Liquid Gold,) purchased through Family Circle about five years ago. It is a self polisher for cabinets.
- Douglas is looking for old home **Jeopardy** game from the '60s, '70s and '80s.
- Susan wants the old board game **Go to the Head of the Class**.
- Deb is looking for **Ivory Snow flakes** for a Girl Scout project.
- A **lapdesk** with a formica top and beanbag base for Carol.
- A long-sleeve button-down **cardigan** of short length, to wear under a waist-length jacket for Cassy of Livonia.
- The **Littlefoot** toy figure from The Land Before Time.

- Marilyn is looking for a book **Star Fish** by Irv Furman.
- John called saying **Tric Trax**, the game from the '60s, a race car set, it is not made by Brio. He is still looking for it.
- Jerry wants **Flamingo bathroom accessories**.
- Winnie wants a recording or a videotape of the **1998 Rose Bowl Parade**, to buy or copy.
- Toddler plastic pocket bib (by Kangaroo) and **Thank You Ruled Bib** (by Family Concepts) used to buy at Baby's R Us, and also for June, **Smuckers Marshmallow topping**.
- Toddler book of **Sound Presses Page First Words** by Publications International Ltd. for Evelyn.
- Kathy wants a **Baby Dear** doll designed by the Golden-books illustrator Eloise Wilkin, manufactured by Vogue.
- Margaret is looking for **Chupa Chups suckers** in a #1 bucket.
- Lynn needs the Revlon natural herb cleanser (makeup remover) in a 10 oz. plastic jar. It is discontinued.
- Clare Redding hopes to locate a set of **genuine ebony and ivory keys** for a grand piano she inherited which was built in 1936. She does not want plastic.
- Irene is looking for **Milk Plus cleansing cream**.
- Edith wants 10-inch tapered **slim candles** made by Colonial Candle of Cape Cod.
- Serena of White Lake is looking for **Battle Troll dolls**, action figures.
- An **adjustable single edge blade safety razor** for Ron.
- Dustin is looking for an autographed **Barry Sanders game used jersey**.
- Walt Disney animated "101 Dalmatians" movie.

- Men's one- or two-piece **pajamas with feet** for Carol of Westland.
- **Nail products** by Mavala found in drug stores.
- A 1953 **McCall Giants Golden Make-It** books and a game Survivorshot for Barby.
- **Bodycology Cool Blue Eye Gel** for Chris.
- Fine **crochet cotton**, size 30, 40 or 50, for Gerri.
- A 1960 board game **WA-HOO**, similar to the game Trouble, it has an Indian theme for Cheryl.
- The song **J.P. McCarthy** used to play on his radio show, "Charge of the Lite brigade and the Bugler," for John, he's willing to donate to the J.P. Foundation.
- Need a pattern for a **Red Wing afghan**.
- **Uncle Dan's Potato Chips** for Laura of Livonia.
- Sharon would like **Night Spice cologne** by Old Spice.
- The game **Hotel**.
- **Edwin Jeans** for girls and **Big Ben jeans** for boys for Karen.
- Looking for a **book/record** from the 60's **Shy Trunky**, about an elephant.
- Debbie is looking for a **Mary Mag power doll house** from the 60's on magnetic stilts, in its entirety.
- A **Miss Piggy doll** for a Westland reader.
- A shop that sells the **Puffe-hze underwear** that used to be available at Kmart stores for a Redford reader.

Compiled by Sandi Jarackas

RETAIL DETAILS

Retail Details features news briefs from the Malls & Mainstreets. For inclusion, send information to: Retail Details, c/o The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, or fax to (248) 644-1314.

Sears will test market Gilda's Club merchandise

Sears, a national sponsor of Gilda's Club, will test sales of special logoed merchandise for the non-profit, cancer support organization named in honor of comedian Gilda Radner. The merchandise will be available from Sunday, February 8 through Sunday, March 22 in the Twelve Oaks Mall store in Novi. The signature Gilda's Club red door and signage will alert shoppers to the "Gilda's Club Shop" which will be located in an area adjacent to the Men's department. The merchandise will include: T-shirts, sweatshirts, tote bags, baseball caps, mugs, mouse pads, and Sears' exclusive Gilda's Club neckwear collection, designed by celebrity friends and members of Gilda's Club. Ten percent of sales will be donated to the local clubs. Gilda's Club provides free social and emotional support to people living with cancer, and their families and friends, in a non-residential and home-like meeting place.

Hudson's offers grants

Hudson's 1998 Community Giving Guidelines are now available to non-profit organizations seeking funding for programs involving children and youth. The CGP focuses on agencies that nurture youth with emphasis in three areas: Preventing Child Abuse, Developing Self-Sufficiency and Education Through the Arts. Organizations interested in applying for a grant should obtain guidelines from their local Hudson's store executive office, or call (248) 443-6219.

Godiva treasure promotion set

A ruby and emerald bead and diamond necklace once owned by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis (purchased for \$156,000 in 1996 at the historic Sotheby auction of her estate) will be presented to one lucky buyer of Godiva chocolates this Valentine's Day. A winning certificate for the necklace has been hidden in specially marked boxes of Godiva's 1998 "Romantic Designs" Valentine's Day Collection, priced at \$20 or more. The candy is available at Godiva boutiques and finer department stores, 1-800-9-GODIVA.

Colorist earns accreditation

Carole LaBute of The Mane Connection salon in Farmington Hills, has earned a board

certification as a hair colorist specialist. She is one of six to receive the distinction in Michigan. The title "Certified Master Haircolorist" comes after a day-long test which strives to standardize hair color concepts, language and procedures offered by the American Board of Certified Master Haircolorists established in 1996. There is a toll-free hotline for certified master colorist listings, 1-888-425-6578.

Shop offers promotion

The Shirt Box (formerly of Southfield) is celebrating its first year anniversary at Courtyard Center, 32500 Northwestern in Farmington Hills. To mark the occasion, the store is offering shoppers free monogramming, socks and toiletry bags with each purchase made throughout the month. Owner Ron Elkus said he is also hosting a month-long contest where customers must guess the number of buttons in a jar to win a \$100 merchandise certificate. The winner will be announced Feb. 28. The store has a 16-year tradition selling men's sportswear, shirts and ties and supporting the arts in the community. For more information call (248) 851-6770.

Valentine gifts from The Zoo

Just in time for Love Day, The Detroit Zoo offers a \$50 Wildlife Preservers Valentine's Day package. It includes sponsorship of an animal for a year, a photo of the animal you're adopting, an adoption certificate suitable for framing, a biannual newsletter, a fact sheet about the animal, a box of Gayles chocolates and a bean-bag replica of the animal you selected. Adoptees include a red panda, polar bear, Siberian tiger, zebra, the dart poison frog, a rockhopper penguin, a river otter can be adopted for \$55. All sponsorships are completely tax deductible. For more details call (248) 541-5717 or E-mail info@dzo.org. The zoo is open 362 days a year from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through the winter. Admission is \$7.50 for adults and \$4.50 for kids 1-12. Some adoptions start at \$25.

Deli originates pita wrap

Dan and Kerr Sarb claim to have introduced the grilled pita wrap sandwich (a new deli sensation) a year ago at the Harvey's Olde Village Deli on 696 North Mill St. in Plymouth. They explained that their famous entree in "grilled to perfection and served with an array of side dishes for less than \$5." The deli is open Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Saturday until 4 p.m.) For more information call (734) 453-3705.




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- 696 North Mill St., Plymouth, MI 48170

World Wide Web

ARTISTIC EXPRESSIONS



LINDA ANN CHOMIN

Painter puzzles over words

The longer Nancy Hopper talks, the more detailed a portrait she paints of herself, and her art. Visitors can talk to the Birmingham artist, as well as read into her paintings, Sunday, Feb. 8, at a reception to open her one-woman exhibition in the Livonia Civic Center Library Fine Arts Gallery.

Words dominate the newest of Hopper's 38 paintings in "Sharing My Heart." Hopper began creating the designerly paintings late last summer. But long before painting, words were Hopper's game.

Background

Born in Portland, Ore., Hopper graduated from Oregon State University with a degree in journalism and home economics. She worked briefly for the food section of The Oregonian before becoming a full-time wife and

mother. Her background as a journalist, and the fact she is an admirer of Frank Lloyd Wright, Mondrian and Tiffany is evidenced in the jewel colors and architectural nature of her wordy art works.

"I realized I'm always intrigued with the design and lettering quality, but I don't want it to be the focus of the piece," said

Sharing My Heart

What: An exhibition of paintings and mixed media by Nancy Hopper of Birmingham.

When: Through Monday, March 2. An opening reception to meet the artist takes place 2-4:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8.

Where: Livonia Civic Center Library Fine Arts Gallery, 32777 Five Mile, (east of Farmington Road), Livonia.

Hopper. "I want the focus to be the overall design. I'm doing this instead of painting something from life or a photograph. It's not copying something. It's more creative."

Art has always been a part of Hopper's life. As a young girl, she admired the art work of her mother, a graphic designer. Through college, she took art classes but never considered the subject seriously.

After the birth of her first child, Chuck, she took a watercolor class "to get out of the house."

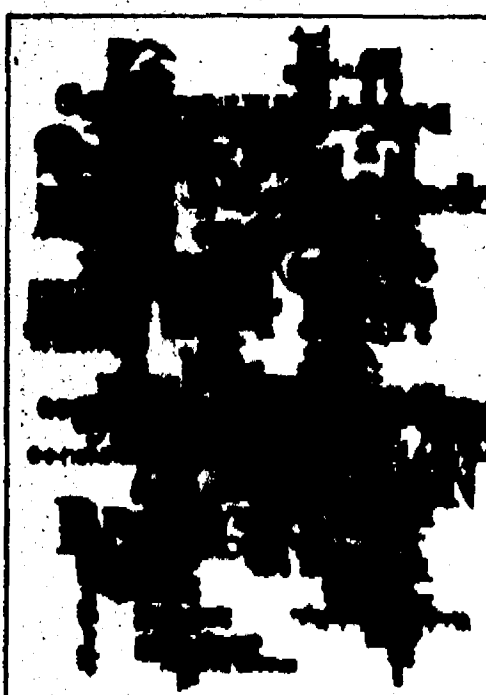
When Chuck died suddenly before his fourth birthday, Hopper's husband encouraged her to take a class at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association. Becoming engrossed in painting helped ease the pain and encouraged healing.

"Thinking back now to when I was in school, I used to draw circles and fill in the letters of words in the newspapers," said Hopper. "In middle school, I went to a show of van Gogh's work and thought this is such an ugly subject, just a pair of old boots, and look how beautiful he made it."

On tour

One of Hopper's pieces, "Ritual Sticks" is currently on tour as part of the Michigan Water Color Society's 50th Annual Exhibition which debuted at the Detroit Institute of

Please see EXPRESSIONS, C2



Wordy: Nancy Hopper used text to create "Open Paris Market," one of her newest paintings.

Lovers: (Right) Edvard Munch created this provocative lithograph printed by Auguste Clot in 1896. Retour de Russie: (Below) In 1818, Theodore Gericault recorded the defeat of the Napoleonic army.



Lithography exhibit

A 'PRINTS' OF A SHOW

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

"The Jockey" by Toulouse-Lautrec and Honore Daumier's image of a slain man lying on the floor in his night cap and bed clothes are two of the most recognizable lithographs in the world of art. To commemorate the 200th anniversary of lithography, the Detroit Institute of Arts is exhibiting both prints in the first of two exhibitions organized by Nancy Sojka, associate curator of graphic arts.

"A Celebration of Lithography: 19th century Invention and Innovation" focuses on European artists who pioneered the medium and draws primarily from the museum's permanent collection with additional lithographs lent by Bloomfield Hills collectors Marianne and Alan Schwartz and the Toledo Museum of Art.

To give viewers a detailed look at the complete process, Madonna University art professor Doug Semivan will give a demonstration Saturday, March 14, in the printmaking studio on the Livonia campus for Graphic Arts Council members. Semivan will take the audience through the various stages from drawing the image on stone to printing.

Invented in Germany by Alois Senefelder in 1796 and perfected by him in 1798, lithography enabled printers to produce written text faster and more economically. Shortly thereafter, printers began to encourage artists to adopt this new process.

"Artists were looking for an opportunity to work more spontaneously than they could in intaglio," said Semivan. "The fluidity of materials and the ability to work larger in size influenced their choice. Color was a big draw. It was much easier to print color in lithography than intaglio and you can get larger editions. Lithography had then as it does now the ability to become a public image."

Hardships caused by the Napoleonic Wars and Senefelder's secrecy about the process made fine art lithography scarce before 1815. The arrival of peace and publication of detailed technicals in 1818, permitted artists such as Daumier, Degas, Manet, Delacroix, and Toulouse-Lautrec to work in lithography. Fortunately, one of the strengths of the DIA's collection are the 19th century French prints given to the museum in the 1970s by Bernard F. Walker, a former Detroit resident now living in Florida. The gift allows almost an entire wall to be devoted to Theodore Gericault.

"Lithography had its ups and downs in the 19th century," said Sojka. "In the early part of the 1800s, French artists made the greatest strides in creativity. America and Germany were more commercial. Gericault was a terribly important artist, a part of this pioneering group."

Throughout the last 200 years, lithography has documented history. In 1818, Gericault's "Retour de Russie (Return from Russia)" illustrated the tremendous national pride after the Napoleonic army was defeated. One of the most prolific lithographers of all time, Daumier during the period between the 1830s and 1850s, roasted the legislative body and

Please see LITHOGRAPHY, C2



Posters color 19th century Paris

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Accompanying "A Celebration of Lithography: 19th century Invention and Innovation," is an exhibition of French and American posters from the 1890s assembled by Ellen Sharp, curator of the Detroit Institute of Art's graphic arts department.

Posters by Alphonse Mucha, Pierre Bonnard, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec demonstrate a very important aspect of color lithography as it developed commercially in the 19th century. The exhibit draws from the museum's permanent collection of two dozen works by Maxfield Parrish, Edward Penfield and Eugene Grasset.

"Posters are important for popularizing lithography," said Sharp. "Early posters did not have much of the imagery in color. This was a period when in the 19th century people were moving away from the cities and had more leisure time and people wanted to attract them.

The posters were so popular that people were pulling them from the kiosks. The government had to pass laws. Then people started building big collections."

American posters were influenced by lithographs Toulouse-Lautrec produced for cafes and entertainment venues. While in Paris, Harper's monthly magazine became a name in posters.

"What's interesting, American posters came from the world of publishing," said Sharp. "The French poster came from the fields of entertainment which showcased some very colorful people."

According to Sharp, posters such as Toulouse-Lautrec's "Divan Japonais," commissioned by the owner of the Paris cabaret, became so popular that people had poster parties.

"People really like these posters because they're colorful," said Sharp. "For the designer, posters are a real challenge because you have to integrate imagery and text. This is a difficult aspect of lithography."

A Celebration of Lithography: 19th Century Invention and Innovation

What: An exhibition commemorating the bicentennial of lithography with prints by European artists and pioneers in the field—Francisco Goya, Theodore Gericault, Eugene Delacroix, Honore Daumier, Edouard Manet, Edgar Degas, and Henri de Toulouse-Lautrec. For more information, call (313) 833-7900.

When: Through Sunday, April 5. Where: Detroit Institute of Arts, 5200 Woodward Avenue.

Cost: No charge. Recommended museum admission of \$4 adults, \$1 students, children/Founders Society Members free.

Related activity: Madonna University art professor Doug Semivan demonstrates the process of creating a lithographic print, Saturday, March 14 at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft (I-96 and Levan), Livonia. The cost is \$20, you must be a member of the Graphic Arts Council and the Founders Society to attend. For more information, call (313) 833-9830.

EVENT

Mardi Gras

What: A Cajun-style dinner, silent and live auctions by Joe DuMouchelle,

music by the New Reformation Dixieland Band, and dancing to benefit the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

When: 6 p.m. to midnight Saturday, Feb. 21.

Where: Fox Hills Country Club, 8768 North Territorial, Plymouth.

Cost: \$50 per person. Call (734) 416-4ART for tickets.

Mardi Gras costumes arts council benefit

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Throughout the years, Frank Kuszak, co-owner of Frances Jewelry Gallery, and his partner have donated items to various local organizations to help with fund-raising.

As chairman of the Mardi Gras celebration to benefit the Plymouth Community Arts Council on Saturday, Feb. 21, Kuszak was pleasantly surprised by the support he received from local merchants when he asked for contributions for the silent and live auctions to be held during the event.

"They were very generous," said Kuszak, an arts council board member and co-owner of Frances Jewelry Gallery. "The money will go to help fund all the programs and to help pay off the building. We really need to sell this out. It's really a political thing with the schools cutting art and music. Ask a high school kid who's Monet and they'll ask who does he play for. If he's not a hockey player, they don't get it.

That's why the arts council is important."

In years past, the arts council's winter fund-raisers featured entertainment ranging from dinner theaters to cabaret performances by blues singers along with an annual auction of art. The Mardi Gras celebration will combine a Cajun dinner with silent and live auction led by Joe DuMouchelle, music by the New Reformation Dixieland Band and dancing. Billed as America's most entertaining jazz band, this seven member group has delighted audiences for more than 27 years.

Organized by the Rev. Gary Miller and the Oppermann brothers, Dave and Nick, the band was to perform a single jazz worship service when the excited response to their music triggered the formation of the New Reformation Dixieland Band, now a Michigan institution providing New Orleans two-beat, Chicago-style four beat and

Please see EVENT, C2



Off the wall: The use of a painting for one year from the Plymouth Community Arts Council's Art Rental Gallery is among the items to be auctioned at a Mardi Gras celebration to benefit the arts council.

Black History Month recalls democracy's promise

BY FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITER

There's nothing typical about Nefertiti Steward, from her earthy African apparel to her flashing smile to her ancient Egyptian namesake.



Nefertiti Steward

She is simultaneously anachronistic and unquestionably contemporary.

If anyone needed convincing about how much America has changed since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964,

just consider Steward: a proud African-American woman and successful entrepreneur with an evangelist zeal to educate her customers about the "other version" of American history.

That "other version" - filled with terms like enslavement, segregation and oppression - can be found on the shelves of Steward's Truth Book Store at Northland Mall in Southfield.

Each February during Black History Month is Steward's defining moment, a period when commerce becomes indistinguishable from the lessons of history.

Whether she's ringing up the sale of an African Kheni cloth, a tribal woodcarving or the latest Terry McMillan novel, Steward invariably hands customers a calendar of events sponsored by her store and held at the mall.

"Come back for one of our lectures and exhibits," she said. "Bring your kids."

Coming to an event means meeting African-American authors, witnessing an African martial arts exhibit, watching a one-woman play about the abolitionist Harriet Tubman and listening to a concert of African music.

That "other version" of American history, reminds Steward, is also filled with terms like struggle, spiritual survival and pride.

Through the color lens

Ironically, the annual month-long commemoration of Black History, some contend, has gone the way of other American holidays - heavy on commercialism, corporate sponsorship and soft of

Celebrate Black History

Detroit Institute of Arts - 5200 Woodward, (313) 833-7900
 ■ "Gods of Africa in the Arts of Brazil," 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 8
 ■ "Jacob Lawrence: The Glory of Expression," a video, 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 14
 ■ Storytelling: African-American Life, 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15
 ■ Storytelling: The Civil Rights Movement, 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28

Museum of African American History - 315 E. Warren, (313) 494-5800
Exhibits:
 ■ "Of the People: The African American Experience"
 ■ "Walk to Freedom," a photo exhibit of the 1963 civil rights march in Detroit led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
 ■ "A Communion of the Spirits: African American Quilters," a photo exhibit by Ronald Freeman
 ■ "Life & Times of Paul Robeson"

Detroit Historical Museum - 5401 Woodward (at Kirby), (313) 833-1805
 ■ "Doorway to Freedom: Detroit and the Underground Railroad"
 ■ African American Family Day, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 21

Noteworthy art gallery exhibits:
 ■ "Paintings of Vincent Smith" - G.R. N'Namdi Gallery, 161 Townsend, Birmingham, (248) 642-2700.
 ■ "Images of Africa" - paintings by local artists; "Works by Barbara Terry Roy," a series of paintings dedicated to the children of Mozambique; and, "Picasso touched by Africa," Moore Gallery, 304 Hamilton Row, Birmingham, (248) 64-SHONA.
 ■ Historical and contemporary posters and serigraphs depicting African American culture - Umoja Fine Arts, 16250 Northland Drive, Ste. 104, Southfield, (248) 552-1070
 ■ "Compassion and Achievements of African-American Culture, featuring the paintings and sculpture of Ivan Stewart - Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road, (248) 424-9022

substance. Even Steward estimates that store sales will increase 70 percent in February, the highest monthly revenue except for the holidays.

Unfortunately, the effect of Black History Month in raising public awareness about the contribution of African Americans in shaping the nation can't be as easily quantified.

The growing debate seems to be whether Black History Month has either become overly ethnocentric or is the quintessential celebration of diversity.

Clearly, since the days when Carter Woodson founded the precursor of Black History Month - National Negro Week in the mid 1920s - the intent has been to broaden the conception of the American experience.

In the post-Civil Rights Movement era, another form of integration is required - cultural tolerance.

There's a gap in the basic

understanding of African American history, according to Kimberly Camp, director of the Museum of African American History.

"People think we went from slavery to Martin Luther King Jr."

What happened in-between the slave trade and the March on Washington, said Camp, is a story of the struggle to survive amid overwhelming odds.

"African Americans were cofounders of this country," she said. "Yet no other group has been as marginalized."

"Whether we realize it or not, everything is viewed through a color lens. We can't get to the other issues until we get through issues of race."

Role of the arts

Apparently, for the first time in three decades, an American president concurs.

Last fall, President Clinton



PHOTO BY HURNEY WATKINS

Bluesman: Folk singer Leadbelly is among the many African American musicians in Ivan Stewart's lexicon of melodic images.

The growing debate seems to be whether Black History Month has either become overly ethnocentric or is the quintessential celebration of diversity.

initiated a forum on race with a town hall meeting in Dayton, Ohio. With the administration in a political quagmire, however, it's unclear what the next step will be for the initiative.

Attending the annual Renaissance Weekend with Clinton over New Year's weekend, Camp asked the president: What role could the arts play in a national discussion about race?

"He said people should see the arts as an opportunity to learn about other cultures," she said.

Camp was later told by Clinton insiders, however, that it was a question he hadn't thought about before.

But that doesn't mean the museum isn't moving ahead.

With a \$975,000 matching grant from the Kellogg Founda-

tion, the museum will set out over the next three years to appeal to a more diverse, multi-cultural audience.

The nearly \$2-million budget, according to Camp, will create national conferences, curriculum materials, an Internet site and may even fund a national radio program to stimulate a discussion about race.

"Some countries look at us as a successful model of racial relations," said Camp. "But look around, we still have a long way to go."

If there's any wonder about the size of the chasm, think about the racially different responses to the O.J. Simpson trials, the Malice Green beating and the Million Man March.

Laying claim

In a culture where ancient history is sometimes thought of as anything that happened before TV, lectures of African-American history must carry compelling images.

Through February, the historical paintings of Ivan Stewart represent a powerful lesson of the heroic and cultural contributions of African Americans.

In a vast exhibit of 43 paintings at the Southfield Centre for the Arts, Stewart documents the valor of the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry, known as the Buffalo Soldiers for their reverence for Native Indians customs. The soldiers patrolled the western plains in the mid-to-late 1800s.

Stewart's other subjects include the first African American to graduate from West Point, Henry O. Flipper, Tuskegee pilots, black cowboys as well as blues and jazz musicians.

"We want to be part of mainstream American history," said Stewart, who also travels to schools donning a calvary uniform and performs the role of Henry Flipper.

"We'd like to see black history celebrated 365 days a year," he said.

Several of Stewart's paintings invoke the historical reenactment motifs of Frederic Remington.

Other paintings distinguished by a melodic swirling skies stand along Albert Bierstadt's 19th-century compositions of the Arcadian plains.

It isn't an American painter, but a social crusader who puts Stewart's work in historical perspective.

For inspiration, Stewart often recalls the vision of American Negro abolitionist Frederick Douglass:

"Those who fight the battle of America may claim America as his country and have his claim respected," wrote Douglass.

As Black History Month instructs, it's a claim as diverse as the people mingling in a melting pot of cultures.

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The
One
You
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<p>Floyd's Flowers, Inc. 25098 S. Mile Rd. Mon-Sat 9am-7:30pm Sunday 9am-3pm 313-535-4934</p>	<p>LIVONIA FLORIST Merri-Five Plaza Mon-Sat 9-7pm Sun. & Holidays 10-3pm 313-422-1313</p>
<p>IRISH ROSE FLORIST 33608 Seven Mile W. of Farmington Rd. 248-476-3144</p>	<p>Merri-Craft Florist 13955 Merriman Rd. 313-427-1410</p>
<p>French's Flowers & Gifts 33885 Five Mile In the New Civic Center Plaza 1-800-660-0972</p>	<p>Mary Jane Flowers 1-888-72-ROSES Call 24 Hours</p>
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Valentine's Day 1998

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Fight Hunger

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This Valentine's Day -- a time when people show their love -- you can reach out with love and help hungry men, women and children in our community. Forgotten Harvest, metro Detroit's prepared and perishable food rescue program, announces its **"Have a Heart"** campaign. Give a "Valentine" to someone in need: your donation to Forgotten Harvest can make a difference in the life of a hungry person. With your support, Forgotten Harvest can continue to rescue nutritious food, that might otherwise be thrown away, and deliver it to the hands of hungry people.

Through a generous grant offered by a Rhode Island philanthropic foundation, **gifts received between February 4th and 14th may be eligible for a one-to-one match, doubling their value.** To qualify, the donations must be received between the 4th and 14th of February, 1998. For more information call the Forgotten Harvest Office at **(248) 350-FOOD (3663).**

So have a heart! Clip the attached coupon and send it to Forgotten Harvest with your heartfelt gift! Together, we can make a difference!

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Our hearts go out to all our partners in relieving hunger! Your gift is TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

'Of Mice and Men' finely crafted

John Steinbeck's timeless drama "Of Mice and Men" will run in repertory through March 11 at the Hilberry Theatre on the corner of Cass and Hancock on the campus of Wayne State University in Detroit. Upcoming performances 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 21; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22. Call (313) 577-2972 for dates and additional show times. BY SUE SUCHYTA SPECIAL WRITER

Like his novel, John Steinbeck's script transcends time in "Of Mice and Men." Though set in the Depression, the enduring themes, woven simply into the story, can be understood and embraced by any culture and time period.

Lennie is a strong giant of a man with a child's mental capacity. George, his grumbling guardian, has resigned himself to a personally unfulfilling existence because Lennie is completely dependent on him. The two have been on the road, work-

Farmington Players presents 'The Heiress'

Farmington Players presents "The Heiress" by Ruth and Augustus Goetz, 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, Feb. 13-14, Feb. 20-21, Feb. 27-28; and 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26; 2 p.m. Sundays, Feb. 8, 15, and 22 at the Players Barn, 32332 W. 12 Mile Road (1/2 mile west of Orchard Lake Road), Farmington Hills. Tickets \$8, call (248) 553-2955. BY KELLY WYGONIK STAFF WRITER

Based on the novella "Washington Square" by Henry James, "The Heiress" is made-for-movie material.

William Wyler's film version of "The Heiress" made in 1949, starred Olivia De Havilland and Montgomery Cliff. De Havilland won an Oscar for her performance of Catherine Sloper, a plain rich woman who is sought after by a fortune hunter played by Cliff. The 1949 film version was adapted from the 1947 Broadway play by Ruth and Augustus Goetz.

"Washington Square," which played at metro Detroit movie theaters last year, was more closely based on the novel by James.

"We are going back to the original source, to the novel, for our movie," said producer Julie Bergman Sender. "One of the things that's good about novels that last a long time is that there are many ways to interpret them."

Playgoers will have the opportunity to see how Farmington Players interprets the story of "The Heiress," when it opens Friday at the Players Barn.

"It's an old classic," said Emily McSweeney who is directing the show. "It's a real challenge for the actors to put themselves in the clothing and try to present the aura of 1850s New York, to transport the audience back to make them believe they're there. It's a bit of history and nostalgia."

The setting is 1850 New York City. Plain, shy Catherine Sloper is courted by fortune hunter Morris Townsend. Her Aunt Penneman tries to move the courtship along, while Catherine's embittered father, Dr. Austin Sloper, tries to end the affair.

"There's nothing in this show that is off color," said McSweeney. "Our audiences tend to like that. It's more of a melodrama, you have to think about it a little."

Capturing the feel of the period was a challenge behind the scenes too for Cynthia Tupper, president of the Farmington Players, and the other women who made the costumes.

"Not everyone in the audience will know how accurate it is, but we know," said Tupper. "We spent over 150 hours making costumes and researching the period for authenticity."

A theater instructor from Wayne State University met with the cast to discuss the etiquette and social background of the era. "She talked about the way people related to one another, the right way to take off your gloves," said Tupper.

The Farmington Players tries to offer its members a variety of theatrical experiences. Anyone can audition for a part. "We thought it would be a challenge to do a period piece," said Tupper. "We haven't done one for awhile. It's a very interesting play."

COLLEGE THEATER

ing as hired hands, dreaming of the day when they might have a small place of their own. George must constantly protect Lennie from his own naivety, strength, and the cruelty of others, while suppressing his own frustrations.

David Haig embodied the challenging and difficult role of Lennie with gentleness and poignancy. His speech and gait defined Lennie's limitations without being mocking, and his hesitancy and trusting vulnerability struck a sympathetic chord.

Bret Tuomi, as his frustrated protector George, cemented the illusion of the pair's inseparability. Tuomi's movements, fast and agitated, were in deliberate contrast to Lennie's slow and clumsy ones. His verbal frustration, vented on Lennie, contrasted well with his scenes of touching concern. Tuomi captured the man caught between the desire for his own life and the restraining duty to protect Lennie.

Ultimately, George must choose between the safety of others and Lennie's freedom. Throughout the play hard choices must be made to keep nature in balance with the needs of others. The choices are not always easy.

The ensemble dealt with these choices with sensitivity, without overdramatizing or trivializing emotional scenes. In a simple, but skillful scene, Momentz Black as Crooks, the socially isolated black ranch hand, deftly illuminated Lennie's aloneness as well.

Peggy Johns, as Curley's wife, embodied the reckless sensuality which was to be her downfall.

The sound effects were outstanding, transporting the audience to a country woods in late evening. The subtle sunrise, water splashed from an on-stage stream, and the smoke curling from the campfire were well-crafted touches as well.

Collage Mural



Art on the run: Sandra Weed is a busy artist and teacher. The Westland resident recently completed a 5-foot by 12-foot fabric collage mural for the Ann Arbor Hospice. Members of the Ann Arbor Quilters Guild supplied many small quilts to be used as wall hangings in individual hospice rooms. Weed teaches a collage course at Schoolcraft College's Radcliffe Center.

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St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor are

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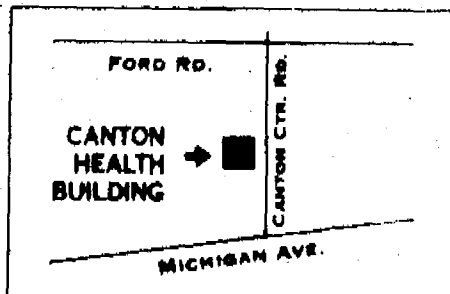
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For more information, or for the name of a doctor near you, call the Saint Joseph Mercy HealthLine (800) 231-2211

Art Beat features various happenings in the suburban art world. Send Wayne County arts news leads to Linda Ann Chomin, arts reporter, Observer Newspapers, 36261 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 591-7279.

WILD GIFTS FOR YOUR VALENTINE

If you're tired of buying your loved one the same boring gift for Valentine's Day, the Detroit Zoo suggests something creative—and wild.

The Detroit Zoological Society offers expressions of love to last the whole year when you adopt an animal such as a polar bear, red panda, Siberian tiger, or river otter.

Adoptions start at \$25 and includes sponsorship of an animal of your choice for one year, a photo of the type of animal you adopt, a certificate of adoption suitable for framing, a biannual newsletter, and a fact sheet about your zebra or penguin.

There are more than 100 animals available to adopt.

Just in time for Feb. 14, the Wildlife Preservers Valentine's Day package sweetens the \$25 sponsorship by including a box of Gayle's chocolates and a cuddly, bean-bag replicate of the animal you adopt. The red panda, polar bear, Siberian tiger, Grevy's zebra, dart poison frog, and rock-hopper penguin are available for \$50 in the special Valentine package. For a unique way to tell your loved one that there's no "otter" person quite like them, a river otter in the new exhibit can be adopted for \$55 and includes a plush otter.

Proceeds from the adoption program are used for veterinary care, exhibit renovations, educational classes, seminars, and to support the Species Survival Program. All sponsorships are 100 percent tax deductible.

So take a walk on the wild side this Valentine's Day, call (248) 541-5717.

POETRY READING

Diane Wakoaki, poet-in-residence and English professor at Michigan State University, reads from her works 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 11 in room 110 of the McDowell Center at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia. Admission is free.

Wakoaki is a nationally recognized poet and author of more than 20 volumes of poetry including "The Collected Greed," "Medea the Sorceress," "Jason the Sailor," and "Emerald Ice" which won the William Carlos Williams prize.

CONCERT PROGRAM

Music critic John Guinn will present a lecture 6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 12 at Madonna University, 36600 Schoolcraft, Livonia. The program highlights the evening's concert by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra at Orchestra Hall. The non-credit fee of \$20 includes one ticket to the performance. Guinn will discuss

the pieces to be performed by the orchestra, which includes Mozart's "Exultate Jubilate," Faure's "Requiem," and Vaughan Williams' "Symphony No. 2." The lecture runs one hour. To register, call (734) 432-5731.

CALL FOR ARTISTS

The Arts League of Michigan is looking for African American, Asian American, Hispanic American, and Native American female fine artists and craft artisans for a juried touring exhibition titled "She Be Me." Deadline for receipt of entries (not postmark) is Feb. 12.

Mediums include printmaking, photography, sculpture, watercolor, oils, jewelry, metal, ceramics, fiber, and papers. Subject matter should deal with relationships (parenting, siblings, family, love, friendships, community), cultural/community icons (women who have made a difference), or autobiographical memories (personal histories, sharing your story). Each artist selected to exhibit receives a participation honorarium of \$400. An additional \$400 fee will be paid to those artists selected to present a community arts education seminar.

For more information, call (313) 577-1371.

OPENING RECEPTION

The Plymouth Community Arts Council will host the fourth annual Western Wayne County Regional Exhibition of the Michigan Art Education Association Feb. 8 to Mar. 6 at the Joanne Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts, 774 North Sheldon at Junction, Plymouth.

The public is invited to the opening reception 2-5 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 15. For more information, call (734) 416-4ART.

The exhibition of student art works is a collaboration between the Plymouth Community Arts Council, the Wayne County Council for the Arts and Michigan Art Education Association.

FROM ROMANCE TO SPORTS

An author of eight popular romance novels and a sports journalist with the Detroit News will be featured speakers this month in the Voices and Visions Series at the Northville District Library, 531 West Main Street. Call (248) 349-5592.

In a belated celebration of Valentine's Day, Shelly Thacker talks about "From Northville to New York City: the Real Life of a

Published Author" 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16. A graduate of Northville High School, Thacker's latest book is "Timeless."

Vartan Kupelian, author of "Stalking the Tiger," will speak 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 19. Kupelian has covered five Olympics and reports on hockey and golf for the Detroit News. He has published three books on the Detroit Red Wings.

ART CLASSES

Wondering what to do during school break? D & M Studio's Once Upon An Easel is having Break All-Day Workshops 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23 and Thursday, Feb. 28 at the studio, 8691 North Lilley Road, at Joy, Canton.

Monday's program features a Southwest theme, Thursday spotlights the Far East. Cost is \$30 per session. Call (313) 453-3710.

VOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Plymouth Community Chorus, as part of its continuing music education program, is offering three vocal scholarships to students pursuing an education in the performing arts: \$800 to a graduation senior and two

\$400 scholarships to students in high school and junior high. Applications must be postmarked by Mar. 1. Call (313) 533-4796.

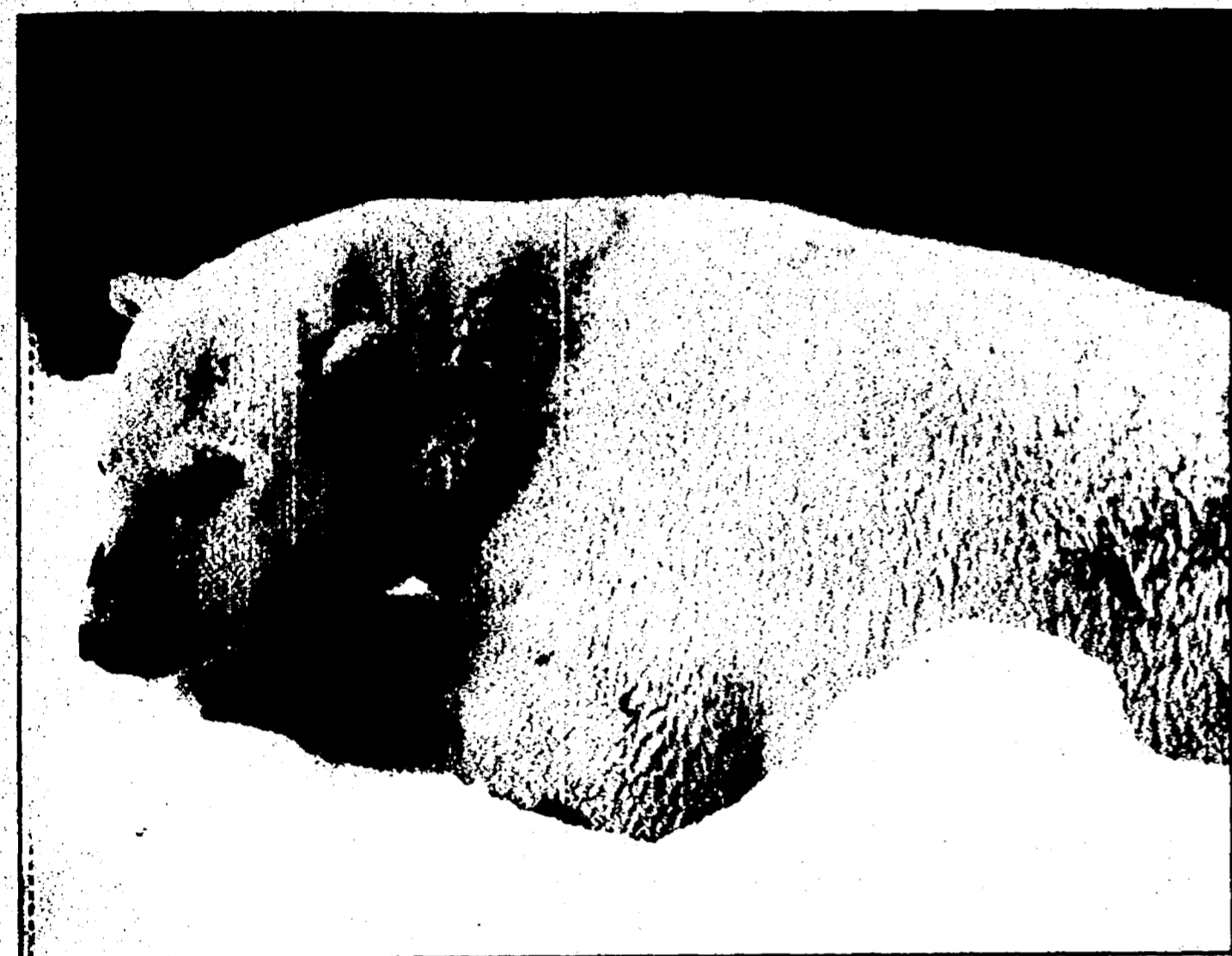
The scholarship program was established in 1984 for the purpose of assisting promising students in pursuit of a vocal music career, an applied vocational career, academic voice studies, or voice studies relating to recreational and community singing.

SPECIAL PERFORMERS WANTED

The Southeast Regional Committee of Very Special Arts Michigan is looking for children and adult performers with mental and physical challenges to participate in the eighth annual "Celebrate Arts-Ability" Festival Friday-Saturday, May 1-2 at Wonderland Mall in Livonia.

Deadline for entry is Mar. 16. The Festival showcases the dance, vocal and instrumental achievements of special needs school/community groups and solo acts from the metro Detroit area. Malt-goers and festival performers will explore their creativity through art, music and movement activities.

For festival performer applications, teachers and art therapists should call (248) 646-3347.



Gift of love: Just in time for Valentine's Day, the Detroit Zoological Society offers expressions of love to last the whole year when you adopt an animal such as polar bear, Siberian tiger or river otter.

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This latest batch was won in Suburban Newspapers of America's 1997 Editorial Contest. With all the modesty we can muster, we're going to list them here:

Best Entertainment/Lifestyle Section

- First Place—Clarkston Eccentric, Clarkston Life
- Second Place—Birmingham Eccentric, Suburban Life
- Third Place—West Bloomfield-Lakes Eccentric, Lakes Café

Best Editorial Writing

- First Place—Oxford Eccentric, Closed Doors
- Second Place—Lake Orion Eccentric, Lake Orion Editorial

Best Column Writing

- First Place—Clarkston Eccentric, Carolyn Walker
- Second Place—Rochester Eccentric, Jay Grossman
- Third Place—Birmingham Bloomfield Eccentric, Judith Doner Berne

Best Editorial Page

- First Place—Southfield Eccentric
- Second Place—Lake Orion Eccentric, Jay Grossman

Best Coverage of Local Business & Economic News

- Third Place—Birmingham-Bloomfield Eccentric

Best Sports Photo Journalism

- First Place—West Bloomfield-Lakes Eccentric, Not Quite Spring Training
- Second Place—West Bloomfield-Lakes Eccentric, Riding the Wave

Best Sports Section

- Second Place—Livonia, Westland Observer

Best News Photo

- First Place—West Bloomfield-Lakes Eccentric, Watching
- Second Place—Garden City Observer, Clinton Rally
- Third Place—Rochester Eccentric, Ride Me Down Easy

Best Feature Photo Story or Series

- First Place—Livonia Observer, Derek's Day
- Third Place—Westland Observer, Festival
- Third Place—Rochester Eccentric, Handful of Hope

Best Breaking News Story

- First Place—Plymouth Observer, Fire Destroys Courthouse
- Third Place—Birmingham-Bloomfield Eccentric, Bungled Robbery

Best Local Election Coverage

- Third Place—Farmington Observer

Best Young People's Coverage

- First Place—Plymouth and Livonia Observer, Life in the 6th Grade

Best Coverage of Local Education/School District

- Second Place—Farmington Observer, Back to School series
- Third Place—Southfield Eccentric, Professor who Survived Holocaust

THE Observer & Eccentric *It's all about you!*
NEWSPAPERS

TRAVEL

Couple enjoy papal visit and great art in Italy

By HUGH GALLAGHER
STAFF WRITER

Irene and Casey Ambrose of Bloomfield Hills had been to Italy several times before, but this time was different, an adventure that began at church.

"I have a daughter (Eileen) who likes to go to 6:15 Mass at St. Hugo's," said Irene.

The Rev. Monsignor Michael Dylag of the Pope John Paul II Cultural Foundation was saying Mass.

"We went up to talk to him, we knew other people that he knew," Irene explained. "He mentioned that he was a friend of the Pope. He said, 'If you're interested when I take a trip you can come along.'"

Dylag had known the Pope when both were at Orchard Lake's St. Mary's Seminary.

The Ambroses joined a group of 32 that left the day after Thanksgiving for a scheduled Dec. 2 meeting with the pontiff.

John and Mary Kruse of Bloomfield Hills also joined the group.

The scheduled meeting was delayed by two days, but on Dec. 4 the audience was arranged.

Italy was a familiar vacation spot for the Ambroses. He is a longtime Walled Lake attorney and she is a well-known commercial artist. According to the warm and outgoing Casey, he goes where his wife takes him, and it's her love of art that has drawn them back to Italy. This trip, in addition to meeting His Holiness, they had planned a trip to Florence, a rich repository of Renaissance art that they had missed on previous visits.

On the day they were to meet the Pope, a convoy of taxis lined up outside their hotel. Once inside the Vatican, they went from one chamber after another, climbing several staircases in the process.

"They took us inside a waiting room filled with beautiful paint-

ings and sculptures outside his private chapel," Irene said. "We were told the Pope would arrive soon in the chapel and kneel in prayer. You come in when the Pope is ready to say Mass."

Pope John Paul II said Mass for the group and then joined the visitors in the adjoining library where a receiving line was formed.

"When he came to us, Monsignor Dylag introduced us in Polish, I understand a little Polish," Irene said.

Pointing to Casey, Irene said, "Then he started talking Lithuanian. (The Pope's mother is Lithuanian.) The Pope looked at him and said 'God Bless Lithuania.'"

Casey said the Pope called him a Litvak, a common term for Lithuanians.

John Paul gave each person a rosary with his coat of arms. Dylag shared breakfast with Edmund Cardinal Szoka, former archbishop of Detroit and the Vatican's chief financial officer.

The papal visit was followed by a tour of the Vatican.

"It was interesting," Casey said, "everyone knows Michelangelo did all these things, but (Giovanni) Bernini did many designs and sculptures."

The trip to Florence almost didn't happen because of a confusing train schedule, but the couple finally made their way to the beautiful city. There they visited the grand palaces of the Medici. They saw Michelangelo's "David," the Duomo mosaic church (the Cathedral of Florence), the Baptistery of St. John, the Uffizi Gallery and other famous sites.

"It's a beautiful city with so much happening," Irene said.

The trip to Rome and Florence



Papal audience: Pope John Paul II is introduced to Casey and Irene Ambrose by The Rev. Monsignor Michael Dylag in the Vatican library.



Leading prayer: His Holiness John Paul II second leads a prayer at the Vatican.

was a last minute adventure that created a scheduling problem for the busy couple. In May they had scheduled a post Christmas trip to Mexico. They barely got home from Italy and took care of Christmas, when they were on the road again.

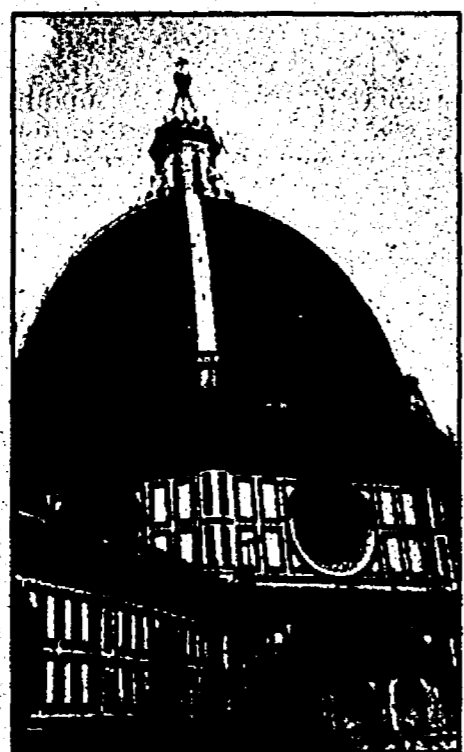
Though past the age when most people retire, the Ambroses keep busy with their professional and social activities. Irene is an active artist. Casey continues working at the law practice that he shares with some of his children. The couple have eight adult children. He has also won notoriety for his sax playing. His trio performs every week at a son's restaurant.



Vatican sculpture: Giovanni Bernini's "Ecstasy of St. Teresa," one of many works by great Renaissance sculptor in the Vatican.

GREAT ESCAPES

Great Escapes features various travel news items. Send news leads to Hugh Gallagher, assistant managing editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers Inc., 36261 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 591-7279.



TELL US YOUR STORY

We want to hear from you! Have you been someplace interesting? Have you had a special adventure? Is there a quiet island you'd like to recommend or a highly promoted place you'd like to warn against? Do you have special tips for other travelers to make their journeys easier? Have you met some interesting people in other countries that you'd like others to know about? We want to share your stories and your color pictures on our travel page. Call Hugh Gallagher at 734-953-2118, or fax him at 734-591-7279 or e-mail him at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

CROSS COUNTRY

REI (Recreational Equipment Incorporated), 17559 Haggerty Road in Northville, presents Bob Taylor's slide presentation, "Cross Country Skiing in Yellowstone National Park," Wednesday, Feb. 11. Taylor has been doing alpine (downhill) skiing for 40 years and nordic (cross country) for 25. For times and more information, call REI (248)347-2100.

TUSCANY VACATION

The Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association is still taking reservations for its special arts tour, "The Hill Towns of Tuscany and Umbria," May 10-22. Join

Romantic Italy: The beautiful architecture of Florence is just one of the many sights that the BBAA will take in during a trip to the "Hill Towns of Tuscany and Umbria."

Janet Torno, BBAA executive director, for an excursion to two of Italy's most beautiful regions. The tour guide will be Shelley Perlove, professor of art history and director of art administration at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Highlights of the trip include the famous churches and cathedrals of Florence, the leaning tower of Pisa, the zebra-striped cathedral of Siena and the birthplace of St. Francis of Assisi. Accommodations will

include six nights at the Grand Hotel Minerva in Florence and four nights at the Hotel Athena in Siena.

For more information, contact Janet Torno at (248)644-0866 or Dallas Phillips of Phillips Travel at (248)437-1733.

MAPLE SYRUP

The Deerhurst Resort will hold its Maple Syrup Festival March 7 to April 5. On March 27-29 guests can enjoy the Maple Syrup Festival weekend package for \$289 Canadian which includes two nights accommodations, a Friday evening reception, Saturday breakfast and dinner, a sugar bush tour, a musical stage show, Sunday brunch and take-home pancake

kit. Price is per person based on double occupancy. The resort is in Huntsville, Ontario. For reservations, call 1-800-441-1414.

COUNTRY MUSIC WEEKEND

The 18th Annual Country Concert will be held at Hickory Lakes in Shelby County, Ohio, July 9-12. Classic rockers America and Creedence Clearwater Revisited join a lineup of country music entertainers including Tim McGraw, Faith Hill, Clint Black, Deanna Carter, Lorrie Morgan, Collin Raye, Diamond Rio, Neal McCoy and others.

For ticket and camping information, call 937-295-3000 or write to Country Concert '98, Ft. Loramie, OH 45845 or check their website at www.countryconcert.com.

BLOSSOMTIME FESTIVAL

The communities of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor are preparing for the annual Blossomtime Festival, April 26 through May 3.

The theme of this year's festi-

val is Legends of the Silver Screen

For more information, call or write to the Blossomtime Festival, 151 East Napier Ave., Benton Harbor, MI 49022 or call (616)926-7397.

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DETROIT AREA: Auburn Hills Hilton Suites 248-334-2222 \$109, Detroit Metro Airport Hilton Suites 313-728-9200 \$89, Northfield Hilton 248-879-2100 \$89, Novi Hilton 248-349-4000 \$89, *Southfield Hilton Garden Inn 248-357-1100 \$85.

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Sports & Recreation

The Observer
INSIDE:

Brad Emons, Editor 734-953-2123

on the web: <http://observer.eccentric.com>

L/W Page 1, Section D

Sunday, February 8, 1998

OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

New Jake's inductees

Four new members will be inducted into the Wayne-Westland Athletic Hall of Fame beginning at 7 p.m. Thursday at Jake's Again Lounge, located on Wayne Road, one block north of Michigan Avenue, in Wayne.

The public is invited to honor the newest class, which includes sports official Dick Brewis, Westland Youth Athletic Association football coach Rick Foy, figure skater Janis Rychlinski and former Westland John Glenn High All-State wrestler Agron Vasha.

For more information, call Bill Sexton at (734) 722-8942.

Livonia marksmen sharp

The Livonia Junior Rifle Team came away with three medals in Junior Olympic Shooting Championships held recently in Livonia.

Kurt Williams, a senior at Northville High School, took a gold in the men's three-position smallbore with a score of 555/40.

Williams, using an Anschutz 1913 rifle, will represent Michigan in the men's three-position portion of the Junior Olympic National Championships slated for March at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Jeremy Block, a junior at Novi High School, took a bronze with a total of 551/400.

He also won a silver medal in men's air rifle, firing 367/400 with an Anschutz 2002. Block will also represent Michigan in the air rifle at the Junior Olympic Nationals.

In the Sub-Junior division, Brandon Czekaj, an eighth-grader at St. Michaels in Livonia, won titles in smallbore and air rifle in the 14-and-under category.

Czekaj, who has been shooting for only 14 months and competing the last two, borrowed a Feinwerkbau 601 air rifle two weeks prior to the match and fired an outstanding score of 348-400, which placed him fifth overall.

His air rifle score exceeds the requirement for an at-large state qualifying invitation to the Junior Nationals.

If chosen, Czekaj would be the first Sub-Junior air rifle shooter from the state to compete at Junior Nationals.

Collegiate notes

•The University of Michigan women's volleyball team, which finished 21-12 overall and reached the second round of the NCAA Tournament, recently honored Anne Poglits (Livonia Ladywood) as Most Improved Player.

The 6-foot-4 junior outside hitter proved to be a weapon off the bench, averaging 0.40 blocks and two kills per game. shared the award with freshman middle blocker Joanna Fielder.

Poglits, a junior with sophomore eligibility, was also an Academic All-Big Ten Conference selection.

•Livonia native and University of Michigan-Dearborn senior forward Matt Henderson (Churchill) has been named to the second-team All-America squad by American Collegiate Hockey Association.

Henderson, who captained the 1996-97 Wolves team, scored 28 goals.

•Kalamazoo College's Jaime Strauch (Livonia Churchill) won the 200-meter freestyle with a time of 2:05.81 in a 145-95 dual meet women's swim victory Jan. 31 over Albion. The Lady Hornets are 4-3 overall and 3-1 in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

•Second-year Wayne State University football coach Barry Fagan signed 20 players to letters-of-intent, including Redford Catholic Central tight end Don Slankster.

Slankster caught 28 passes for 486 yards and 12 touchdowns for the 12-1 Shamrocks, who captured the state Class AA championship.

Women's golf league

New members are wanted for the nine-hole Livonia Women's Golf League on Friday mornings, beginning in late May.

Golfers must be a Livonia resident or business owner.

For more information, call Sally (313) 464-7271 or Bernie (313) 425-1675 (by March 15) to reserve a spot.

To submit items for the Observer Sports Scene, write to: Brad Emons, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI, 48150; or send via fax (734) 591-7279.

Spartans outright South champs

BY BRAD EMONS
STAFF WRITER

It's now official.

The South Division title in the Suburban High School Hockey League belongs to Livonia Stevenson, which led the South this season from start to finish.

The Spartans wrapped their third crown in four years under coach Mike Harris with a 5-0 triumph over spunky Livonia Franklin in a Friday encounter at Edgar Arena.

The Spartans, now 14-5-1 overall, finished division play 13-1.

In Harris' four years, Stevenson has gone 16-0-0, 9-3-1 (second to Livonia Churchill), 13-0-2 and 13-1 in league

PREP HOCKEY

play. "I'd like to congratulate our guys because they've worked hard all year and played with a lot of patience," Harris said. "And one of the big things is that we haven't taken a lot of stupid penalties."

Stevenson outshot the Patriots 37-11, including a 21-1 advantage in the opening period.

But ironically, Franklin sophomore goaltender Rob Williams was sturdy and spectacular under a constant barrage of Stevenson shots.

"I have to congratulate Franklin for

showing a lot of class," Harris said. "They worked hard and gave a solid effort. And their goalie was outstanding. We had 21 shots, but we went into the lockerroom shaking our heads."

Things evened out somewhat in the second period, but Stevenson capitalized to score a pair of goals.

Darin Fawkes burst around the right side past a Patriot defenseman for an unassisted goal with 4:23 left in the second for a 1-0 Stevenson advantage.

And just 24 seconds later, Franklin had a chance to even the count when Greg Job was awarded a penalty shot.

Harris immediately called timeout and let goaltending coach Doug Pea-

cock discuss strategy with junior Matt McLeod.

Job's rush to the net and subsequent backhand try to the short side was foiled by the Spartan netminder.

"We got an outstanding effort from Matt," Harris said. "And Doug Peacock, as our goaltending coach this year, has been a huge help."

"We just wanted to discuss what Job might do because we remembered he scored on us last year. I was pleasantly surprised — and that's not to take away anything from Greg because we'd like to have him on our team."

A Franklin blue line giveaway led

Please see SOUTH CHAMPS, D3

Transfer lifts Glenn

BY NEAL ZIPSER
STAFF WRITER

Even though Bill Foder has only played five games as a member of the Westland John Glenn basketball team, he performed Friday like a season-long mainstay for the Rockets.

Foder scored a career-high 21 points to lead the visiting Rockets to a 64-57 victory over North Farmington.

The junior guard, who sat out the first half of the season after transferring from Garden City, netted 17 of his points in the first half and finished making nine of 11 shots from the floor.

"I feel like I'm in sync with the offense now," Foder said. "I'm more used to playing with everybody. (Eric Jones) and I work well together, and we're a good one-two punch."

Jones matched Foder's 21 points, while senior center Ty Haygood added 11 points and 11 rebounds.

Glenn improved to 8-5 overall and remained in second place in the Western Lakes Activities Association with a 6-2 mark. The Rockets had lost their previous two league games by a total of five points.

It was a good thing for Glenn that Foder and Jones were at the top of their games, because the Rockets played without two starters and two key bench players.

Sophomore center Yaku Moton missed his second straight game with a sprained knee, Jason Crofton was ineligible, Stephen Lawson had sat out after receiving two technical fouls in Glenn's previous game and Cornelius Murray had the flu.

All are expected back Tuesday except for Moton, who could miss another one to two weeks.

The Raiders, who slipped to 7-6 overall and 3-4 in the WLA, couldn't take advantage of the Rockets being shorthanded.

"I think the team may have had a letdown seeing they were missing some players, but that's no excuse. You have to be ready to play," North coach Brian Swinehart said.

"This was about as poor as we've looked defensively all year, and I don't know why. We just weren't ready and didn't play with any intensity."

Leading the way for North was Phil Watha, who scored 11 points. Brian Schulman and Al Pennala added eight points each.

The Raiders got off to a good start as Pennala, Ray Lousia and Joel Szirtes hit three-pointers to tie the game at 9-9. But Glenn took control, going on an 18-3 run to take a

BOYS BASKETBALL

27-12 lead midway through the second quarter.

After North's third trey, the Rockets switched their defense from a zone to a man-to-man, which seemed to give the Raiders trouble.

"We came out in a zone to mix some things up, but we usually play man and I think we're a better team when we play man," said Glenn assistant coach Brian Morrison, who spoke on behalf of head coach Mike Schuette.

Glenn took a 31-19 lead into halftime behind the hot shooting of Foder and the cold shooting of North's perimeter players.

After making three of five triple attempts in the first quarter, the Raiders hit only five of their next 24.

Also hurting the Raiders was Glenn's inside dominance as the Rockets held a 19-10 rebounding advantage in the first half.

"We dug ourselves a hole, didn't rebound, turned the ball over too many times, didn't hit our open shots, gave up too many points in transition," Swinehart said. "We basically didn't do much right."

North closed the deficit to 33-26 two minutes into the third quarter, but the Rockets countered with a 12-2 run to take their biggest lead of the game at 45-28.

The Raiders played their best basketball in the fourth quarter, but it proved to be too late. The Rockets had a comfortable lead most of the quarter but allowed North to stay in the game as they missed seven of 20 free throws, including several one-and-one opportunities.

North got as close as six points at 60-54 with 14 seconds left, but Foder and Devin White (seven points) put the game away with two free throws each. Schulman hit a three-pointer from half court as time expired.

"It's frustrating because I know we can play better," Swinehart said. "We played our best team game of the season against Northville, and three nights later we played awful."

"You have to give credit to Glenn, which played hard with only five players."

Glenn shot 46 percent from the floor (23-for-50) compared to North's 35 percent (22-for-63). Foder's early shooting proved to be the difference.

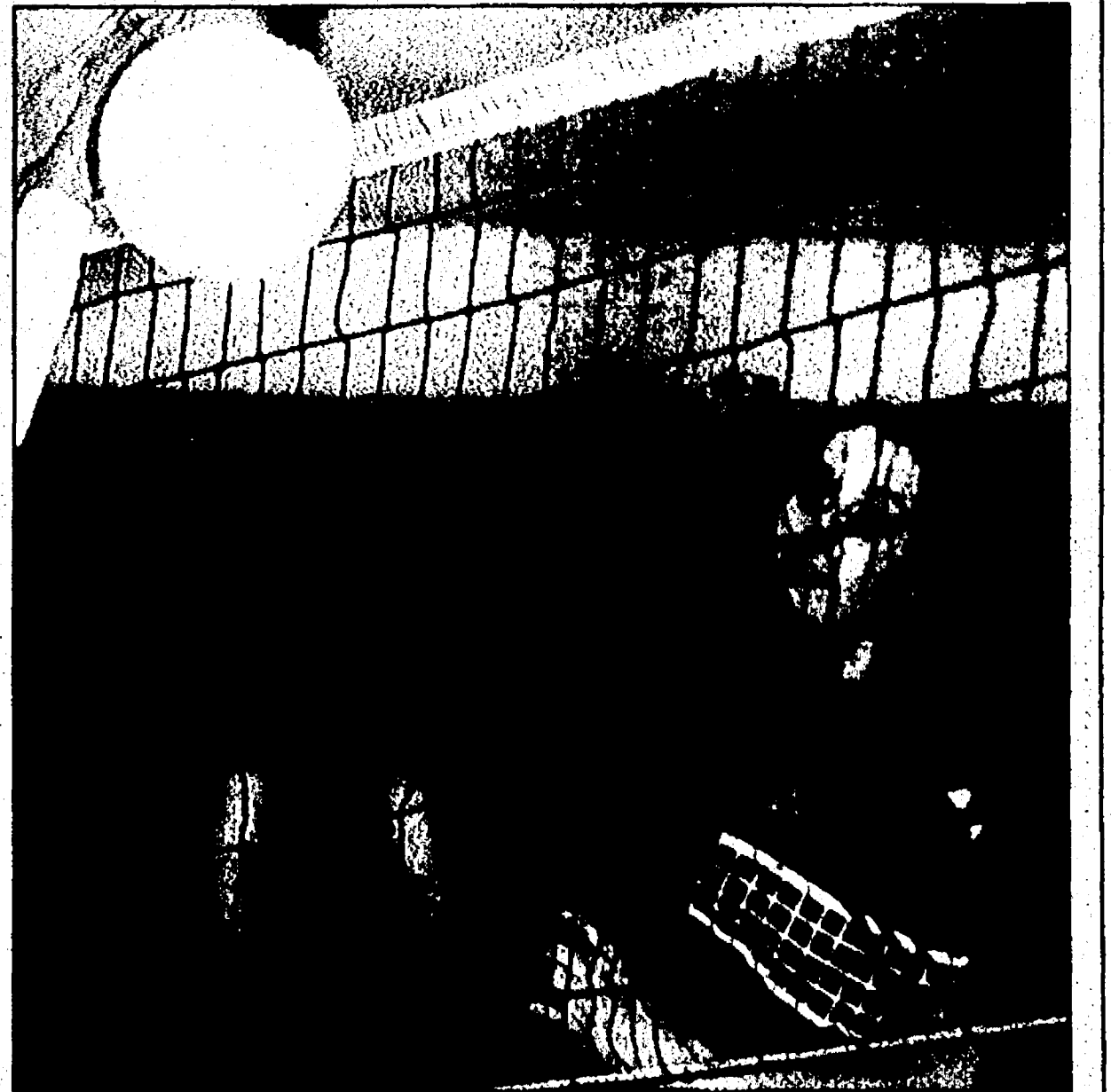
"Foder has been a real plus since he's become eligible," Morrison said. "He played well tonight; Ty played well tonight, and the whole team played well."



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

To the rack: North Farmington's Emir Medunjanin (right) tries to score over Glenn's Ty Haywood.

Berry good time: Livonia Clarenceville is off to a 4-1 start in the Metro Conference volleyball thanks to 6-foot sisters Melissa (bottom) and Michelle Berry (right). The Trojans defeated Bloomfield Hills Kingswood on Thursday. For a complete roundup of games, see D3.



STAFF PHOTO BY JOE JAMIESON

MEDICAL BRIEFS

Homeopathy lecture

Homeopathy is a non-habit forming and non-toxic treatment that supports the immune system. Developed almost 200 years ago, it is a therapeutic system of medicine that has spread to almost every country in the world. To learn more about how easily homeopathy can be used in our daily lives attend SANTS lecture. John Yonke will be speaking about this natural form of healing and how to relieve common health problems. The meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 16, at the Sinnett Holistic Health Center in Livonia located at 29200 Vassar in the Livonia Pavilion, Suite 140, across the street (Middlebelt) from Sears at the Livonia Mall. Admission is \$5. For more information call (313) 274-4971 or (313) 837-2647.

Epilepsy study

Henry Ford Hospital's Department of Neurology is seeking epilepsy patients who use Tegretol as their only anti-epileptic drug for a research study. To be eligible, patients must be 18 and take Tegretol three or four times daily. All medications (Tegretol/Tegretol XR), exams, lab and clinic visits are free. For more information, call Barbara Rader Gahry in the Comprehensive Epilepsy Program (313) 876-7227.

Lyme disease support

Lyme Disease support group, Western Wayne County will meet at 6:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday each month at the First United Methodist Church, 3 Towne Square, Wayne. The next meeting will be Feb. 17. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please call Connie at (734) 326-3502.

H-Pylori screening

H-Pylori antibody screening, a common bacteria that thrives in the stomach lining, is currently being offered to area employers by the Oakwood Occupational Healthcare Network. Ulcers often occur when H-Pylori and the toxins it produces damage the stomach lining. The test can help people determine whether or not they are at risk. For more information about the service, or to schedule a screening at your worksite, call 800-2-OAKWOOD.

Grief support

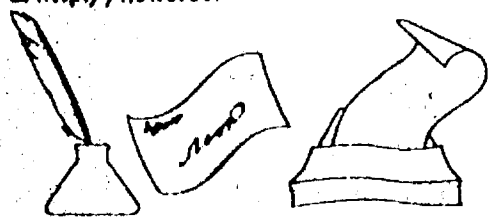
Angela Hospice grief support groups meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month. This month's meeting will be held Tuesday, Feb. 10 and Feb. 24, at 1 and 6:30 p.m. both days. Workshops are open to the community and are free of charge. Call (734) 464-7810.

St. Joe's site opens

Canton's newest health care facility, sponsored by Saint Joseph Mercy Health System in Ann Arbor, will open February 17 to the public. A March 29 open house, from 1-4 p.m., will introduce western Wayne County to the services provided in the new Saint Joseph Mercy Canton Health Building, located at 1600 S. Canton Center Road at Summit Parkway. The new 83,000 square foot facility will house urgent care, full-service pharmacy, lab/radiology, physical therapy and rehabilitation, and business health services as well as the expansion of physicians (primary care, oncologists, cardiologists, allergists, orthopedists and other specialists) available. In addition, the new Canton Health Building will focus on women's health, including specialists, services, and educational programs for women.

Items for Medical Briefs are welcome from all hospitals, physicians, companies and residents active in the Observer-area medical community. Items should be typed or legibly written and sent to:

Medical Briefs
c/o The Observer Newspapers
36251 Schoolcraft Road
Livonia, MI 48150
or faxed to (734) 591-7279
http://newsroom@oconline.com



Braces

Adults brush up on benefits

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
STAFF WRITER

"Braces - make beautiful faces," reads a plaque that adorns the wall of teacher Lynne Waskin's Livonia classroom.

Not your traditional orthodontic candidate, Waskin of Plymouth wore lingual braces in her early 40s to correct an upper and lower jaw discrepancy and ease the pain she suffered from TMJ. A chronic disorder of the temporomandibular joint that can be modified through surgery.

Orthodontics, the branch of dentistry concerning the prevention and correction of teeth irregularities, characteristically draws patients from pre-adolescence into young adulthood. However, a growing number of adults in the last decade have opted to have teeth straightened and overbites corrected with braces.

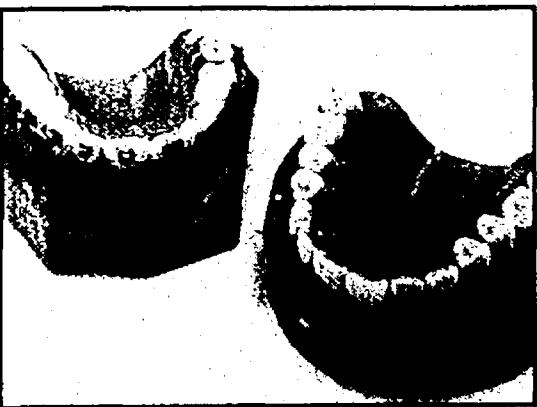
The field of orthodontists has introduced new technologies that enable adult patients to have teeth improvements made without the stigma of "looking like a teenager."

According to orthodontist Randall Shaw, D.D.S., cosmetic and invisible braces appeal to adults and professionals who "absolutely can't have braces showing."

"Our patients include models, lawyers, television broadcasters, teachers and salespeople. They aren't comfortable being in the public eye with traditional-looking braces," said Shaw, a partner in Ginzler and Shaw Orthodontics of Livonia.

The Livonia orthodontist, who treated Waskin for more than three years, including followup visits, says lingual braces, secured on the tongue side of a person's teeth (making them virtually unnoticeable) are popular with people who speak or deal with the public on a regular basis.

"As a teacher I didn't want to go around with the 'braces look,'" said the Plymouth mother.



Orthodontic options: The example on the left illustrates SPEED brackets. Smaller in size compared to the traditional bracket — they work more efficiently and are easier to keep clean. (Right) Braces secured to the tongue side of the teeth, lingual, are popular with adults who do a lot of public speaking such as lawyers and teachers.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JIM JACOBSON

Check up: Amy Schmidt, an adult patient at Ginzler and Shaw Orthodontics of Livonia, is midway through her braces treatment. Above, orthodontist Randall Shaw examines the progress her braces are making to straighten a slight overbite and realign teeth.

Orthodontic options

Lingual braces can cost up to 50 percent more than clear and traditional dental appliances and are slower to improve misalignments than braces affixed to the front of a patient's teeth, said Shaw.

Clear braces, manufactured from a transparent ceramic, also are concealed to some degree but can become slightly more visible over time as the material is exposed to food and other elements that may cause discoloration such as tobacco. "Clear braces are not invisible," said Shaw.

Other orthodontic improvements include smaller brackets that facilitate shorter durations of treatment, sometimes by up to 25 percent, said Shaw. SPEED brackets work more efficiently, are easier to care for, and feature a longer stretch of wire from bracket to bracket to expedite the optimal force level that gradually brings the teeth into alignment.

Smaller brackets are also more comfortable for the wearer and require less frequent office visits than in the past.

Shaw, who joined James Ginzler's practice in 1986, said the acceptance of orthodontics has improved since he started in the field of dentistry, and therefore more adults are seeking out orthodontic options to improve crooked teeth, jaw discrepancies, misalignments, overcrowding and gapping.

Video, computer technology

Video imaging, introduced nearly 2 1/2 years ago at the Livonia office, lets patients view the anticipated outcome of their treatment through digital photographs and a software program that allows the doctor to alter the image of a person's own teeth on the computer screen.

Shaw said profile and full-arch photographs are taken and enlarged to the full size of the computer screen "to help patients see their own teeth better and help them understand a hard to imagine procedure."

"They have a much better perspective of their teeth and of what is being done in treatment," added Shaw.

"A patient is more inclined to have a problem corrected if they examine it up close and see the before-and-after results," said Shaw, "or what the surgi-

cal and non-surgical options may be."

Patients can also view different treatment alternatives side-by-side on the screen such as surgical and non-surgical approaches (acrylic retainer, expanders, twin block) before going ahead with treatment. Shaw said non-surgical procedures, such as the use of an appliance like a twin block, are primarily alternatives for patients who continue to experience growth of the jaw — such as children who can benefit from redirection, eliminating the need to take teeth out or shorten the time they wear braces.

The on-site computer technology also enables the doctors to make modem connections from home to the Livonia office and access files in the event of an emergency or to prescribe a course of treatment. Individual computer terminals are also located at each treatment site where 20 chair-side assistants are notified when a patient arrives for an appointment and provides instantaneous access to patient information eliminating hard-copy files.

Waskin was not a candidate and sub-

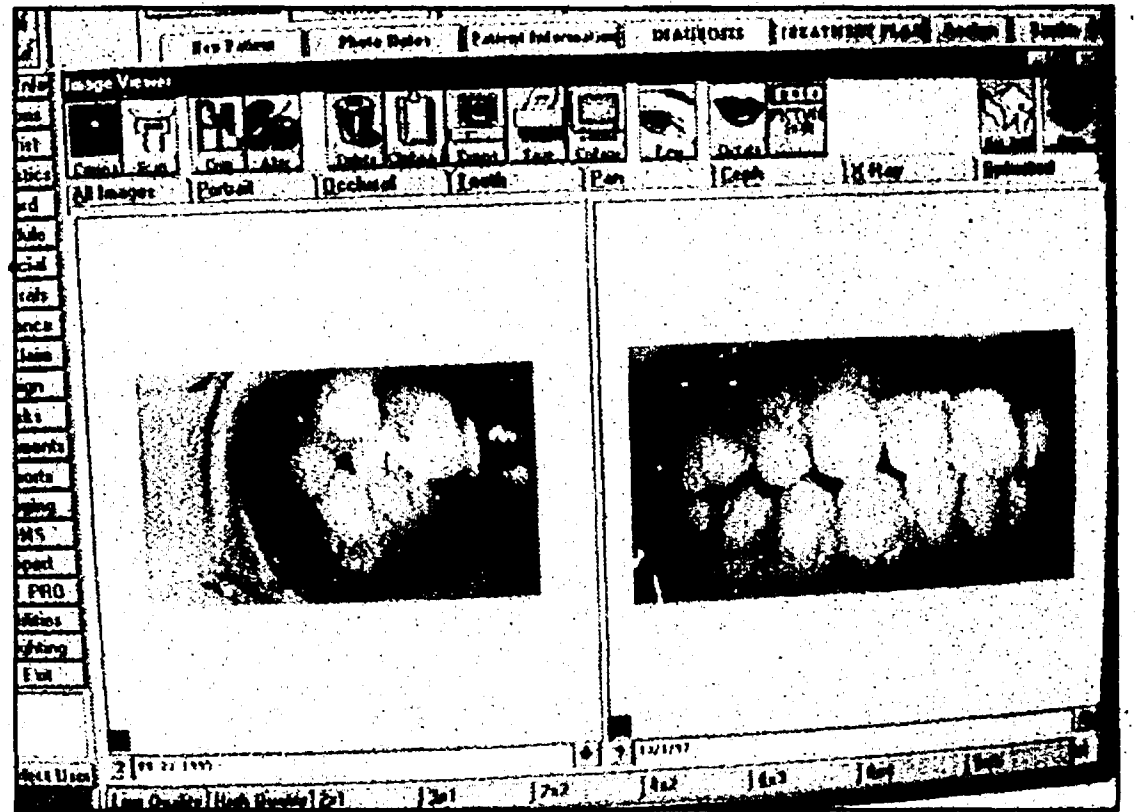
sequently underwent oral surgery in 1991 to improve misalignment and restore her teeth to the correct position.

"In the beginning it was an adjustment, but I would wear braces all over again. I don't regret doing it," said Waskin who wore braces for three years.

A few of the drawbacks the Livonia teacher said she experienced with braces included eating many hand-held foods, like sandwiches, with a knife and fork; not being able to bite into apples; cutting down on crunchy snack-type foods; and having to brush her teeth after every meal.

"If anything it got me into the habit, a good one, of brushing my teeth more often," said Waskin. "I carry a toothbrush with me everywhere."

The bottom line, said Shaw, is that new technologies make orthodontics more convenient and suitable for adults than ever before — regardless of age. "Braces are more comfortable, better looking and require less treatment compared to those a decade ago."



A biting problem: A patient's teeth on the left are severely misaligned and crooked. By clicking on the computer screen with a graphic pointer, the teeth (right) move into place and illustrate the outcome he expects following treatment.

MEDICAL NEWS MAKERS

Walker named biller

Willie Walker has joined MEDHEALTH Wellness Centers, a division of MEDHEALTH Systems Corporation as medical biller. He brings over 14 years of experience in billing and accounts receivables to this position. Walker will be responsible for the medical billing in the MEDHEALTH Wellness Centers. One of two MEDHEALTH Wellness Centers are located in Plymouth.

New chiropractor

The Clark Chiropractic Wellness Center of Livonia welcomed Darlene Button, doctor of chiropractic, as a new member of their staff. Button is a graduate of Logan College of Chiropractic. She offers Logan Basic, Thompson and Cranial Sacral techniques as treatment. The Center will be hosting a patient appreciation day/open house Feb. 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Call for a complimentary appointment, (248) 477-5858. Clark Chiropractic Wellness Center is located at 20270 Middlebelt Road, Suite 7.



Harris

New emergency staff

Independent Emergency Physicians Inc. (IEP), a 20-physician emergency medical group, has recently been contracted to staff Providence Hospital and Medical Center's emergency facilities. Martin Harris, MD, chair of IEP, will guide the practice from Providence's Emergency Department in Southfield.

IEP physicians will staff emergency care departments at Providence Medical Center - Providence Park in Novi, the urgent care facilities at Providence Medical Center - Farmington Hills and Mission Health Medical Center - Livonia.

Assisting Harris as associate chairs will be Mary Jo Malafa, MD, serving as medical director of the urgent care facilities at Mission Health Medical Center - Livonia and Providence Medical Center - Farmington Hills.

New SJMH medical staff

Paul Berkowitz, MD, and Michael H. Farrell, MD, have been granted medical staff privileges at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ann Arbor.

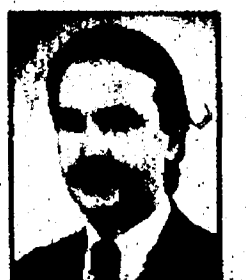
Berkowitz specializes in nephrology with a special interest in hypertension. He resides in Ann Arbor with his wife and two children.

Farrell specializes in internal medicine and pediatrics. He resides in Ypsilanti with his wife and two children.

New chief of pulmonary

Bohdan Pichurko, MD, has joined the staff of Providence Hospital and Medical Centers as chief of pulmonary medicine and strategic director of critical care. Pichurko will lead the clinical and academic activities of the pulmonary medicine section and will practice general pulmonary medicine at Providence Hospital in Southfield and at Providence Medical Center - Providence Park in Novi.

Pichurko is board-certified in pulmonary disease and critical care medicine and is an associate professor of medicine at Wayne State University. He specializes in airway disorders including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and cystic fibrosis.



Pichurko

MEDICAL DATEBOOK

Items for Medical Datebook are welcome from the Observer-area medical community...

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING St. Mary Hospital blood pressure screenings are free of charge at Wonderland Mall in Livonia...

BASIC LIFE SUPPORT This course is intended for those 12 years and older interested in learning basic knowledge or the heart and lungs, signs and symptoms of a heart attack and stroke...

SUPERMARKET NUTRITION Two-week session (Feb. 10 & 17) led by a registered dietician helping you choose healthy food at the supermarket from 7-8:30 p.m. at the Westland Kroger...

them for the arrival of the family's new baby. Class time is two hours and is recommended for children three to eight years of age. Call 458-3330 for Garden City Hospital class dates and registration.

WED, FEB. 11

ALS CONFERENCE Meeting the challenges of caregiving - sharing techniques and wisdom will be the topic of a seminar at the Holiday Inn Southfield Feb. 11 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you take care of an ALS patient whether you are a spouse, friend, parent or a medical professional - then you are a caregiver. Topics will include: good nutrition, overview of ALS, benefits of home/hospice care, etc. You must register on or before Feb. 11, call 1-800-88-ALS-MI to RSVP. Holiday Inn Southfield is located at 26555 Telegraph Road, Southfield.

MON, FEB. 9

CARBOHYDRATE COUNTING Learn how to add more choices to your diabetic meal plan by learning how to count carbohydrates, read food labels and select from restaurant menus. Program begins at 10 a.m. and concludes at 11:30 a.m. Call Mission Health Medical Center - Livonia; 1-800-968-7759.

TUE, FEB. 10

FACING ALZHEIMERS DISEASE St. Mary Hospital in Livonia is presenting a two-part workshop discussing the challenges of Alzheimers Disease on Tue., Feb. 10 and 17 from 7-9 p.m. in the St. Mary auditorium. This is a free workshop but preregistration is required. Call (248) 557-8277. St. Mary Hospital is located on Five Mile and Levan.

HELP FOR IMPOTENT MEN HIM support group: "The psychological Aspects of Sexual Dysfunction at 7 p.m. This program is free. Botsford General Hospital's East Pavilion, conference room 2-B, 28050 Grand River Ave. Novi. Call (248) 477-8100.

CHILD BIRTH EDUCATION The Marian Women's Center at St. Mary Hospital in Livonia from 6-9 p.m. offers a childbirth preparation class based on the Lamaze method. Feb. 10 to March 17 in West Addition Conference Room A. Cost is \$55. Call to preregister, (734) 655-1100.

FITNESS ON THE GO

A fitness class designed for expectant mothers offered in conjunction with the Wayne-Westland Family Branch of the YMCA. Tuesday sessions featuring land exercise are held in the gymnasium of the Garden City Hospital Health Education Center and Thursday classes feature water exercises at the YMCA. Both sessions start at 7 p.m. and the first class of four weeks starts on Feb. 10 and 12 respectively. Register by calling 458-4330.

SIBLING CLASS A special night devoted to siblings which will help prepare

BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS

New employee Wes Graff of Livonia, has been hired as director of membership development for the Metropolitan Detroit Convention and Visitors Bureau (MDCVB). Graff will supervise membership recruitment and retention. He was most recently senior director of membership with the Detroit Regional Chamber.

DADA board of directors The Detroit Auto Dealers Association (DADA) elected new officer, Mark J. Snethkamp as vice president. He is president of Bill Snethkamp Chrysler-Plymouth-Jeep/Eagle Inc. in Redford. Returning as a board member is Walter Norris, president of Livonia Chrysler-Plymouth in Livonia.

Head to Olympic games via cyberspace



PC TALK The Winter Olympic Games began this weekend in Nagano, Japan, with the traditional hype and hoopla and wall-to-wall television coverage. But if the TV programming doesn't fit into your schedule, head to cyberspace. There you'll find a growing list of Internet sites devoted to the games. Because the TV coverage is often delayed, in many cases the Internet reporting of various events will be live and current.

nections to the athletes competing so far away in the Japanese Alps. A must bookmark for Winter Game information is the official site (http://www.nagano.olympic.org/) maintained by IBM for the organizing committee. From athlete bios to up-to-date schedules of the latest events, the site is very well laid-out, even offering a free Olympic screensaver that can be downloaded. It will be interesting, though, to see how IBM does with the Olympic Games site. The computer company failed miserably a few weeks ago with the job of maintaining the Superbowl site. Even before the opening kickoff, the football site was hopelessly jammed.

Ready for some more Winter games sites? Try these: Winter Olympics from ESPN's Sportszone (http://espn.sportszone.com/olympics98/) - I think they have the best organization and coverage by specific event category. The Sports Web (http://www.sportsworld.com/homeenag.htm). USA Today (www.usatoday.com) CNN (http://cnn.com/olympics/events/1998/nagano/) Nippon Television Network (http://www.ntv.co.jp) Finally, if you're really a diehard Winter Games fanatic, head to the newsgroups. Check out rec.sports.olympics for serious discussions, rec.sport.skating.ice, soc.culture.nordic and alt.tv.sports for more spirited and specific online posts.

Mike Wendland covers the Internet for NBC-TV Newschannel stations across the country and can be seen locally on WDIV-TV4, Detroit. His "PC Talk" radio show airs Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 4-6PM on WXYT-Radio AM1270 and he is the author of a series of Internet books, call (888) 222-1866. Reach him through his Web site at http://www.pcmike.com

For starters, let me steer you towards the Web site maintained by CBS, the official U.S. television network that will cover the Winter Games. The network's Internet site (http://cbs.sportsline.com/olympics/nagano98/) carries the latest results, broadcast schedules and news coverage.

The faces at Big Blue were Deep Red over that fiasco, so you can only imagine the pressure their Webmasters are under to make this one work.

Got a favorite Olympic athlete? IBM has also set up a way to send fan mail by e-mail through another site (http://www.fanmail.olympic.ibm.com/). You can send messages to individual athletes - many of whom have their own homepages - or to entire teams. IBM promises that all e-mail will be made available to all participants. Many, in fact, have promised to answer fan e-mail as time permits. The city of Nagano has set up its own site (http://www.city.nagano.nagano.jp/olympic/index-s.html). They had some obvious problems translating Japanese into English and there are some strange characters and symbols you'll have to wade through but the site offers up detailed diagrams and pictures of the various event locations.

Before you leave the official Winter Games site, check out the "Olympic Appeal for Peace" during the games. In light of all the tension over Iraq and the talk of imminent military action, that appeal promises to be big news as the showdown with Saddam continues.

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The Observer

A HomeTown Communications Network™ publication

Supplement to The Observer Newspapers, Sunday, February 8, 1998

Etiquette tips for brides-to-be

BY RENEE SKOGLUND
STAFF WRITER

When planning your wedding, it pays to tap into the collective wisdom of the experts. Bridal consultants and banquet managers have soothed frayed nerves, offered etiquette tips and paved the way for memorable weddings for years.

"I call us the jack-of-all-trades for weddings," said Kelly Yager, owner of A Wedding To Remember in Canton. "I will do as little or as much as the bridal couple wants."

Yager said she recently put together a wedding in three weeks. "It can be done. We pulled it off. She had invited 100. At dinner we had 75."

Helen Mihas, banquet coordinator at Hawthorne Valley Golf and Country Club in Westland, said the average size of today's wedding is 100-200 people, "with 250 being tops, tops." But weddings do run larger. Beth Jacobs, manager of Lina's Bridal in Plymouth, is currently outfitting a wedding with 22 bridesmaids and six flower girls.

Big or small, your wedding will be

■ **'I've had brides come out in a dress and the mother or mother-in-law will say her arms look fat, or her back too broad, or she's too bony.'**

Beth Jacobs
manager of Lina's Bridal in Plymouth

almost perfect if you follow a few "do's, don't's, and maybe's." Remember, there's no such thing as a perfect wedding.

Bridal attendants and mothers

■ How many? National etiquette expert Peggy Post says the rule of thumb is to have one usher for every 50 guests. The wedding can have more bridesmaids than the groomsmen, but they should not outnumber the ushers.

■ Consider the size of your attendants. Jacobs said it's inconsiderate to "pick out a sexy sheath when everyone is a size 16 or over. I think it's really

thoughtless, but there's a lot of brides who do it."

■ Warning to mothers: Let the bride choose her own dress. "There's such a thing as too much input," said Jacobs. "I've had brides come out in a dress and the mother or mother-in-law will say her arms look fat, or her back too broad, or she's too bony."

■ Consider giving your bridesmaids and groomsmen gift certificates. It saves time running around looking for the "perfect" gift of appreciation.

Invitations

■ Never put a registry card in the invitation. Registry cards are for show-ers.

■ Children's names go on the inside envelope. If you don't want children, indicate "adult reception" on the reception card. It is always incorrect to write, "no children, please" on an invitation.

■ If an invitee fails to respond in a timely manner, call or write the person and ask if they plan to attend.

■ Guests' fiances and live-ins should be included on the invitation.

Reception

■ "The atmosphere is the main

thing," said Mihas. Consider great photo backgrounds, like fireplaces and golf courses. Also, Mihas rates the DJ over food. "The food is OK everywhere, but the DJ plays a big, big role."

■ Book the banquet facility 1 to 1 1/2 years in advance. Most places require payments 90-days, 30-days and two-weeks prior to the wedding. Mihas said some young couples on a budget make monthly payments over a longer period of time.

■ Some facilities allow smoking in the banquet rooms, lobby or outside. If your wedding is non-smoking, ask banquet manager about eliminating residue smoke odors.

■ Don't have a cash bar. "It's insulting to your guests. Offer beer, wine and pop if you can't afford more," said Mihas.

■ Don't keep your guests waiting. Do not schedule pictures under a gazebo 30 miles away! Do not take a joy ride in your limo.

■ Don't go from table to table thanking your guests.

Please see TIPS, A11

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Bridesmaids' dresses take stylish turn

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

There are a few times in our lives when we want to look our best — our weddings and anniversaries.

Budget and color schemes play the biggest roles in determining what the bridal party will wear.

"Some people come with a specific color in mind, and some people will come with a specific price in mind," according to Nina Mashni, a bridal consultant with Jacobson's at Laurel Park in Livonia.

The days when women owned closets full of pricey bridesmaids' dresses that were worn once and tucked away, never to be seen again, are gone.

Those dresses of yesteryear were often too fancy: branded by a geeky bridesmaid look or were a struggle to be worn the first time and certainly wouldn't be donned by choice.

Today, brides and the women who stand up in their weddings are becoming much more practical. If they're going to pay a hefty sum for a dress, they want to make sure it's worn after



It's about style: These are some of wedding gowns and mother-of-the-bride dresses available at David's Bridal in Westland.

the wedding.

"They're making bridesmaid's dresses, dresses that you can wear again," Mashni said.

"They're not the froufrou dresses anymore."

A popular style for bridesmaids' dresses is fitted at the top and flared on the bottom. Even though most brides still choose full-length gowns for their bridal party, they're usually interchangeable with a shorter, more practical, length.

Also, bridesmaids' dresses come in print, mostly floral, now, too, Mashni said. As for color, taupe continues to be picked a lot, Mashni said.

Silver, pewter, sand and champagne are hot, too, according to Kelli Yager, who provides wedding planning services at A Wedding to Remember in Canton.

Otherwise, the bride often takes into account the time of year in deciding the shades to be worn by the wedding party. For instance, hunter green, red, black, white and browns are popular in

Please see **STYLE, A9**

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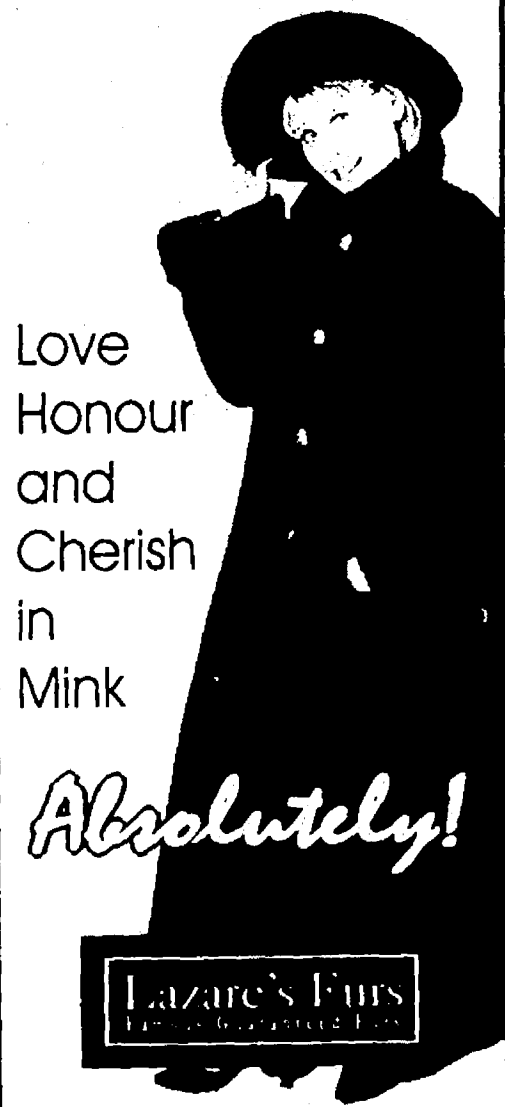
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Some of today's styles take cake

BY DIANE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

Some creative couples are passing on the traditional wedding and anniversary cakes for specially tailored themes that run the gamut, including two frogs on the top of a green and white dessert with lily pads as an accent.

"A woman came in here with her fiance and they said they just loved frogs," according to Stephanie Slavin of Ideal Cakes on Ford Road in Canton. "And they had to have frogs on the cake." And that's what Ideal Cakes gave them.

More and more couples are bringing in their own wedding Barbies and Kens for their cake tops, according to Debby Virant also of Ideal Cakes. She said she'll never forget the time a couple came to the store with trolls dressed as a bride and groom. Instead of flowers they had miniature trolls cascading down the sides of the cake.

Another memorable order involved a father of the groom who wanted to celebrate his son's marriage when the couple returned from Las Vegas.



STAFF PHOTO BY JIM JAGDFELD

Cake top: Thomas Wedding Cakes of Livonia used cherubs to separate layers on this cake.

The father threw the newlyweds a party and ordered numerous eight-inch round cakes decorated with pumpkins

and hay stacks. The romantic link was that the couple, who were high school sweethearts, met on Halloween.

The traditional tiered cake with a plastic bride and groom as the cake top is still ordered. In fact, there are all kinds of brides and grooms with various colors of hair and skin tones wearing the traditional tuxedo and wedding gowns to choose from on the shelves of the Ford Road shop cake.

But other couples want something out of the ordinary and they have options, too. Like, wedding-theme swans; bride and groom teddy bears; a cowboy and cowgirl in festive garb and ceramic military themes representing the United States Army, Navy and Air Force.

Krista Reinhart, of Elite Sweets in Livonia, said she recently took an order from a couple who wanted elephants, the good luck symbol, all over the cake.

The bride-to-be brought in figurines of the ivory tusked mammals and Elite Sweets, which specializes in 25 different tortes, decorated the cake to fit her wishes.

Most cake shop workers agreed recently that couples tend to be a lot more traditional when ordering anniversary cakes. "They usually go with decorations in our display books for 25th and 50th anniversaries, with the silver and gold as the color scheme," Reinhart said. "For anniversaries a lot of people use the cake top they used at their weddings and they want a replica of their original cakes."

Today the most popular colors ordered on wedding cakes are dark purples; as well as silver and gold. Debbie Bockelman, who recently bought Thomas Wedding Cakes, a family owned business in Livonia since 1939, said that while she can accommodate any idea, most wedding and anniversary couples want traditional cakes.

"But, they can bring in a picture and we'll do it," she said. "We can be as creative as they want."

One couple, celebrating their anniversary, wanted the cake to include a drawing of them on a boat, because that's where they met. They gave Bockelman a picture and she had it recreated on top of the cake.

One popular trend is to replace the plastic bride and groom with a mound of flowers that can be fresh, silk or made from icing, Bockelman added.

"I had a lady come in yesterday who wanted a winding staircase and wanted a string of roses flow down each layer of the cake and she didn't want a cake top," Bockelman said, adding that the bride chose ivory with accents of gold.

"We're giving her simply elegance," Bockelman said. "I think people are going back to elegance. Absolutely elegance, a touch of class and nothing outlandish. But, you always get people who want that, too."

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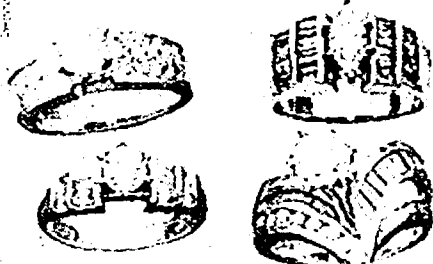
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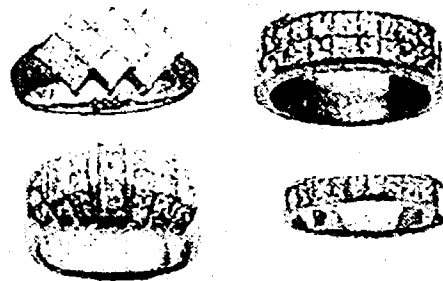
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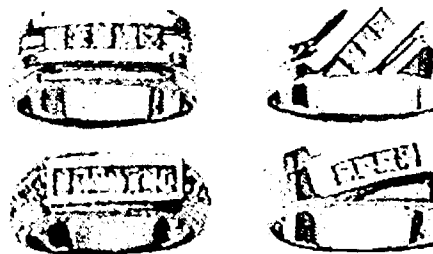
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Some couples say 'I do' in places like Katmandu

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
SPECIAL WRITER

Whether you want to be married by Elvis in Las Vegas; on the beach in Cancun; in a hot air balloon; or in the misty, romantic setting of the Smoky Mountains, the possibilities are endless.

"It depends on your personality and what you like," said Chris Gaza, travel consultant for Emily's World Travel, Ltd. in Plymouth. "If you want to be left alone and secluded there's a place and if you and your friends like to gamble you go to Vegas," she said.

Couples who are passing on the traditional ceremony in their neighborhood temple, church or other place of worship are calling their travel agents and booking trips to glitzy and exotic places such as Lake Tahoe, Reno, Cancun and Gatlinburg, Tenn., a resort town in the Smokey Mountains.

Nancy Devereaux, manager of Air World Travel Agency in Westland, said

she recently booked an eight-member wedding party, including friends and relatives, in Las Vegas.

Devereaux can give first hand advice to couples who want to be married in Gatlinburg.

"There's a lot of little chapels down there, like Vegas," Devereaux said. "You get your license in the morning and get married that afternoon. In fact, I went there to get married. It was just so nice. It was a perfect weekend for us."

"We had friends around us and a beautiful house to stay in," Devereaux said. "I have suggested it to some people and several couples have done it."

Barb Main of All-ways Travel in Garden City said she recently booked a wedding in Jamaica at the Sandals Resort.

The exclusive hotel chain also offers weddings in Antigua, in the eastern Caribbean; Jamaica and St. Lucia.

All of the wedding arrangements.

Please see TRAVEL, A11

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Style from page A3

the winter and pastels, especially greens, are the color of spring.

"Plum and burgundy are always popular, too," Yager said. "And they're showing a lot of pinks, lavenders and navy blues."

The focal point of most weddings, though, is the bride's dress. A streamlined look, with an empire waist, sleeveless, short train and without a lot of frill is catching the eyes of most brides today, said Yager, who is also a representative for Discount Bridal Services, which sells wedding and flower girl gowns; bridesmaids' dresses; headpieces; mother-of-the-bride dresses; slips and special occasion dresses for anniversaries.

"There's not a lot of beading on most of the wedding dresses," she said. "Most brides want something more simple. But, you always have one or two brides who want the heavily beaded bodice and long trains."

Yager said she couldn't identify one most popular headpiece style. Even though the bridal gowns are often simple, the headpieces range from plain veils to ornate, heavily beaded tiaras.

"Headpieces are really based more on the taste of the brides," she added.

As for the grooms, there is a trend in notched lapels, split collars and tails. Black is the color of choice with accents of burgundy or red in the vests.

Five buttons dress up the usual three-button vest. And, many men are choosing patterns, mostly paisley, for their vests, according to Penny Wenger, Canton Tuxedo sales manager.

Band collar shirts with button covers, instead of bow ties, are in vogue, too, Wenger added.

On the other hand, men celebrating their wedding anniversaries tend to be much more traditional and often choose basic black tuxedos with black ties and vests, Wenger added.

Women celebrating a special anniversary often are buying dresses that flatter their figures in off-white tones; and sometimes buy bridesmaid's dresses for that special occasion, Mashni said.

Above all the experts stress that there aren't any steadfast rules to follow when thinking about that special apparel. Mostly, it's a matter of preference.



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BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
 SPECIAL WRITER

Flowers often end up near the bottom of the list when planning a wedding or anniversary, but they can be the line item that needs the most attention.

Flowers for brides and bridesmaids are the final, special touch that completes a look. At the reception they play an important role in creating an elegant atmosphere.

"Some people show up two weeks before a wedding and say it's not important and you can do it now anyway," according to Pam Prough, manager of My Lady Florist in Westland.

"And it is important," she said. "It can make or break a wedding."

For instance, brides wearing contemporary dresses should have contemporary flowers. If the dress is long and skinny a big round bouquet will hide the design and ruin the effect the bride is trying to achieve.

Flower designers say that oftentimes what the bride is imagining isn't what would coordinate well with her dress or the type of wedding she's planning.

"When you get them to think about it, they usually change it a little," Prough added.

Many floral experts recommend taking a swatch of the bridesmaids' dresses or the dress of the woman celebrating her anniversary so the ribbons on the bouquets, centerpieces and other displays will match.

"Periwinkle blue, for instance, for them might not be what we're looking at in ribbons," she said.

Another idea to keep in mind is that if you see a floral arrangement that you like in a bridal magazine, cut it out and bring it in for the floral designers to copy. That way you eliminate the guesswork.

If the wedding or anniversary is near a holiday, especially Valentine's Day and Mother's Day, make sure you see your florist at least three or four months before.

At other times of the year you might get away with waiting two or three months ahead of the event. Also, keep in mind that flowers often double in price during holiday periods and a lot of florists won't even take orders during these high-volume times.

Carol Day of Cardwell Florists in Livonia recommends that if you're trying to cut corners don't do it by picking your flowers up rather than having them delivered and set-up.

"If they pick them up, they can get smashed and they're not kept in proper cooling," Day said.

A lot of people mistakenly think they can put the flowers in a conventional refrigerator. However, the refrigerators florists use add humidity, which extends the flowers' life.

Some floral designers suggest avoiding gardenias and other tropical flowers if you're getting married or celebrating an anniversary in summer.

"Gardenias wilt easily and I wouldn't recommend them, especially in the summer," said Lyn Certo owner of Garden City Florist.

In the spring, brides usually order tulips, irises, roses and stephanotis, a traditional wedding flower, she added.


A lot of brides are returning to the traditional look for their bridesmaids' bouquets, using a lot of daisies, mini carnations and baby's breath. Since many brides are using the black and white colors for their bridesmaids' outfits, they usually bring in a third color, like red as an accent in the bouquets and flower arrangements.

The round, colonial style bouquets, often seen in older pictures, are returning, according to Barb Buck, floral designer at Bea's Flowers in Plymouth Township.

Couples celebrating their anniversaries usually ask to have the bouquets they had for their weddings copied.

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Travel from page A8

from the ceremony video to the attendants, are provided. "The couple flew there and everything else was supplied," Main said. "If I had to do it all over again I would do it there."

Another resort, called Couples in Jamaica, also stages weddings, according to Pam Majewski, an outside sales representative for Uniglobe Port-to-Port Travel in downtown Plymouth.

Las Vegas, however, remains the most common place for wedding trips. "I've done up to 10 couples on those and the wedding parties actually flew with them," Main said. "They want the glitz and glamour of it, versus the traditional type of wedding. They wanted something different and out of the ordinary."

Carey Morton of Harvard Square Travel in Canton booked one wedding in Las Vegas and went a few steps further by taking care of all the other arrangements, including a limousine to take the couple for the marriage license, the groom's tuxedo, bridal dress, chapel and even the minister.

"If you have your resources, and you've done it awhile you can make all the arrangements in an hour and a half or two hours," Morton said. "All they had to do was get on the plane and show up."

Morton is currently working with a couple who wants to get married on a mountain.

"We do a lot of weddings on cruises," she added.

Recently, Gaza helped a couple plan an out-of-the-ordinary 25th anniversary trip. They chose to renew their wedding vows with Elvis presiding.

"The wife was an Elvis fan and that's what she wanted to do," Gaza said. "Granted, the Elvis was about 400 pounds, but it was the idea of something different."

Disney World, the Pocono Mountains, Hawaii, St. Martin and St. Thomas are other popular places to get married, according to the travel agents.

"I've seen a wedding performed on the beach in Cancun with a disc jockey

Las Vegas remains the most common place for wedding trips

playing the music," she said. "The groom had a suit on; she had a nice dress flowing in the wind and they exchanged their vows."

Majewski said she recently booked a honeymoon for a couple who got married in a hot air balloon. The couple selected a balloon that would hold 15 people, which accommodated the minister and family members.

"They wanted something different," she said. "It was a second marriage for both of them. And they got married in the air."

In fact, Majewski's son planned an exotic wedding. "He called and said: 'I'm in St. Thomas on a cruise,'" Majewski explained. "And, I said: 'What did you do, get married?' And he said: 'Yes.' All I could say was: 'I can't believe you didn't tell your dad and me. We could have been his witnesses. I could have put his travel package together.'"

Even without her expert advice, Majewski said, he made good choices. They were married on a beach on Magens Bay in St. Thomas, which is one of the "most beautiful beaches in the world," she said. "A couple of days later we get a box in the mail with the video tape," she added.

When they returned home, the bride's parents gave the couple a formal reception at a women's club.

"My husband and I rented a barn in Plymouth and we told them we were going to have a party for them," Majewski said. A western theme prevailed with a line dance caller and bails of hay. "We tried to surprise them, just as they surprised us," she added.

The ideas are limitless, Gaza said. "Wherever and whenever you want to get married - it's available." Why not do something unusual? she added. "Chances are you won't do it again."

Tips from page A2

Great guests and gifts

■ Send your reply in on time. Unless indicated on your invitation or told you could, don't bring children or a date.

■ If the reception is non-alcoholic or the bar closes early, don't bring in your own liquor. Besides being rude, it is against state liquor laws.

■ Don't change your assigned dinner seating or add more people to your table.

■ Don't change your entree selection. Don't complain about a vegetarian menu.

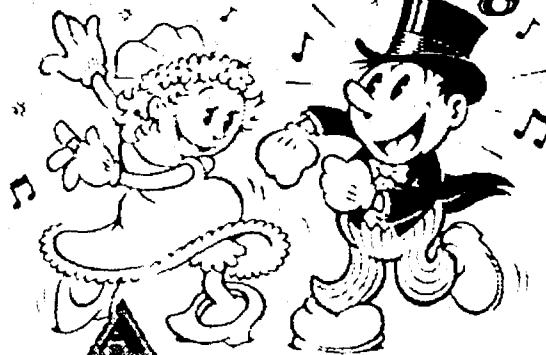
■ It's OK to bring a gift to the recep-

tion, but think about the bride or groom's tired parents, who have to carry those gifts home. Wedding gifts usually are sent to the newlyweds.

■ You do not have to choose a gift from the bridal registry. "No one objects if you go off the registry," said Yager, who was delighted by the power drill she and her husband received for their wedding.

Final word of advice: "Don't let the planning ruin your wedding. Yes, you want the perfect dress. It's not about the cake you're obsessing over. It's about the person you're marrying," said Jacobs.

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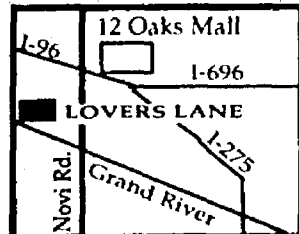


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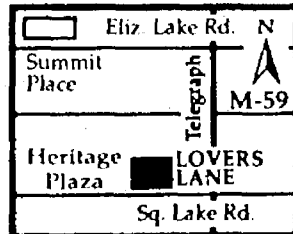
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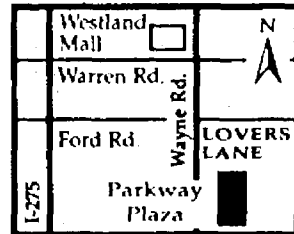
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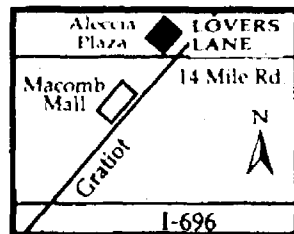
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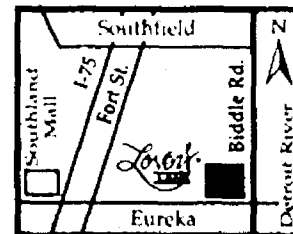
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