

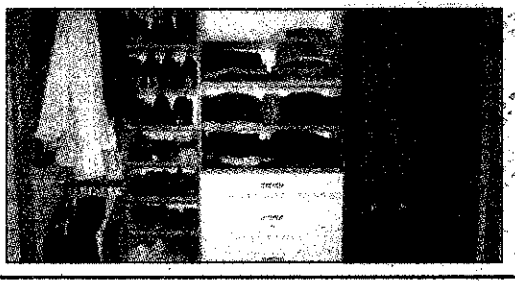
1119
Common sense chef publishes second book
TASTE, PAGE B7



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Friends mourn passing of 'someone who cared'

Dorothy Smith lauded for commitment to city

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

After surviving a near-fatal car accident around 1970, Dorothy W. Smith was told by doctors that she would never walk again. They didn't know Mrs. Smith - a pillar of the Westland community who lived life as passionately as she kept an eye on her city government.

The accident left her in a body cast for over a year. Ultimately, she not only walked, but celebrated her triumph by traveling to Spain and Portugal. "She proved them wrong," said her son, Willandres Smith Jr. Mrs. Smith continued to give of herself for many years before she died Tuesday afternoon at St. Mary Mercy Hospital in Livonia, after a long illness. She was 85.



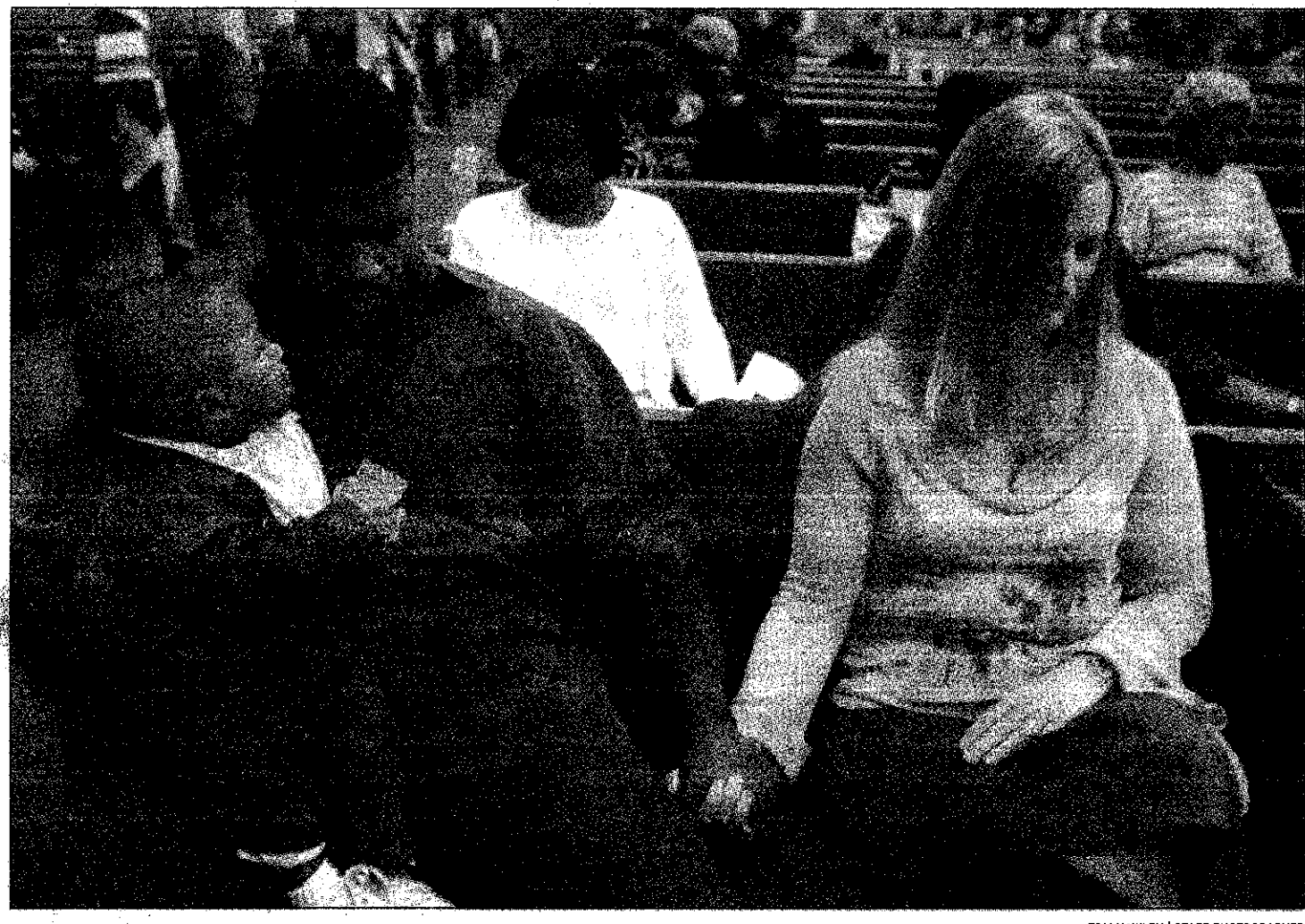
Dorothy Smith just had this genuine strength and character that is often lacking today. I was blessed to know her and to be her friend.

"She had a heart of gold, and she had morals and principles that she lived and died with," said Westland City Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt. "She was pure, genuine goodness. She didn't pull any punches. She just had this genuine strength and character that is often lacking today. I was blessed to know her and to be her friend."

Until her health declined, Mrs. Smith for many years never missed a city council business meeting. She sat in the same front-row seat, near a podium where she tirelessly fought battles large and small - always with the same enthusiasm, even as her frail body began to give out. "She loved her community," said city retiree Edna Parker, who lived in the Annapolis Park neighborhood where Mrs. Smith resided since the mid-1950s. "She always wanted to accomplish the things that were vital not only

to her, but to her community. She loved the entire city of Westland." Mrs. Smith ran for a Westland City Council seat nearly a dozen times. She never won, although she came close on occasion. She didn't play by the rules, shunning political contributions and campaigning on her honesty and integrity. **STANDING UP** "She was always there to question her

PLEASE SEE SMITH, A5



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

A prayer for the future

Julius Green of Westland and his wife Tracy hold hands during a prayer by the Rev. Terrance McClain during a ceremony Monday at Annapolis Park Church of Christ honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Sitting with Green is Marcus King Mason, whose his mother Dea Mason of Westland (seated behind them, said his middle named is in honor of Dr. King. For story and photos, see Page A3.

Council approves pact with current garbage hauler

BY DARRELL CLEM
STAFF WRITER

In a 6-1 vote Tuesday night, the Westland City Council stayed with the city's longtime trash hauler by approving a new contract that forces the company to improve its services.

As expected, the council approved a five-year contract with Midwestern Sanitation, a move that will save the city at least \$1.2 million compared to offers from other companies.

The new agreement forces Midwestern Sanitation - also called Painter & Ruthenberg - to use newer garbage trucks. It also stiffens penalties, if the company fails to comply with the contract.

"We're very adamant that we have to have exceptionally good service," Mayor Sandra Cicirelli said. Midwestern proposed a contract of \$5.90 for each stop its workers make on their garbage pickup routes. That compared to \$6.61 for Republic and \$7.12 for Waste Management.

The difference quickly adds up considering that Midwestern picks up garbage from 28,000 customers in Westland.

The contract will cost Westland \$1,976,000 this year, with a 3 percent increase each of the remaining four years. Midwestern Sanitation President Paul Ruthenberg promised that his company will deliver the level of service the city expects.

"If I don't do my job, fire me," he told city leaders Tuesday. "I will do my job for this community." His company came under fire from some residents who complained last year that workers picked up garbage late and that their trucks spilled hydraulic fluids on city streets.

The complaints have subsided, Cicirelli said, and officials believe that the contract will help alleviate some problems by requiring that garbage trucks be no more than five years old.

Councilwoman Cheryl Graunstadt cast the lone dissenting vote against the new agreement. She sought contract language forcing a curbside recycling program by July 1, 2007, but she didn't win support from a majority of her colleagues.

Councilman James Godbout called Graunstadt's proposal "premature and fiscally irresponsible" considering that the city doesn't yet know whether it can afford such a recycling plan. He chairs the city's recycling committee.

But Graunstadt indicated that the city should be able to afford a recycling program next year after some of its trash-related debt is paid off.

"I don't think we're premature if we're sincere about wanting a recycling program," she said. Meanwhile, in the wake of some resident complaints about Midwestern Sanitation, Councilman Richard LeBlanc asked whether the company would be willing to put numbers on each garbage truck so that residents who have complaints can easily identify it. Ruthenberg agreed.

Midwestern's five-year contract will be retroactive to Jan. 1. Since last June, the company had been working for the city on a month-to-month basis.

Weaver to seek 2nd school board term

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER

Frederick Weaver has decided four is not enough.

The president of the Wayne-Westland Board of Education, Weaver plans to pull petitions to run for a second four-year term in this May's school election.

"I want to continue to work on the job the board started," the Westland resident said. "I want to continue working toward making Wayne-Westland the best school district it can be."

Only Weaver's four-year term is up in the Tuesday, May 2, school election. Residents interested in running have until 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7, to



Weaver

Under the state's election consolidation law, Westland Clerk Eileen DeHart is in charge of the election. Petitions are available through her office in Westland City Hall, 36601 Ford Road.

"Whether you live in Wayne, Westland, Canton, even Inkster, as long as you're live in the Wayne-Westland school district, you come here for petitions," De Hart said.

either file petitions containing a minimum of 40, or up to a maximum of 100, signatures of registered school district voters or pay a \$100 filing fee.

Weaver was elected to a four-year term on the school board in 2001. He has served as the board president for two of his four years on the board. Under his leadership, the board staged the highly successful Project 180 Can Do, a program to help families in the Jefferson-Barns and Lincoln schools' neighborhoods.

Weaver, who received his doctoral degree in theology from Andersonville Baptist Seminary, is senior pastor of Abundant Light Church in Canton. Married, he and his wife Theresa have two children - daughter Chelsea, a junior at John Glenn High School, and son Caleb, an eighth-grader at Stevenson Middle School. Serving during a time of

declining school enrollment and stagnant state school aid, Weaver said that community support for a sinking fund tax was a bright spot. The money is being used to further improve school buildings, a process started with a \$108 million bond project back in 1998.

"It was one of the fantastic things that happened for this district," he said.

He also praises the district's administration for its "prowess" in keeping the district financial solvent and for his fellow school board members.

"I'm really proud of the board, they've really come together," he said.

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INDEX	
APARTMENTS	F8
BELIEFS & VALUES	B5
AUTOMOTIVE	G5
CROSSWORD	F9
JOB	F11
MOVIES	D16
OBITUARIES	B5
REAL ESTATE	F1
SERVICE GUIDE	F8
SPORTS	C1
TASTE	B7

Coming Sunday on the PINK page



Host a Super Bowl party with Style Editor Carla Schwartz



Churchill pompon squad hits a hip-hop high



Churchill Pom Pon team members (left to right) Christine Miller and Stephanie Kinney were part of a hip-hop-inspired routine during last week's varsity basketball half-time show.

Churchill High School's Pompon Squad is hitting high gear, as the team prepares for upcoming competitions.

On Tuesday, Jan. 3, the team entertained half-time crowds during the school's varsity basketball game by performing a hip-hop routine they created at a recent Mid-America pom workshop.

"We always perform at all home soccer, football and basketball games," said Judy Nouhan, head coach.

Her team consists of 29 girls: Laura Adams, Krysten Barczuk, Elyse Bartos, Sara Bridge, Lauren Campbell, Caylie Conner, Amber Devlin, Dayna Dunne, Amanda Garza, Stephanie Kenney, Sarah LaBerge, Catherine Leaym, Katie Matz, Jessica McClain, Shannon McDonald, Christine Miller, Megham Murzin, Amy Nixon, Amanda Rees, Brynn Rosbury, Katie Sedgewick, Annie Sobczak, Ashley

Thomas, Melanie Troha, Kiley Trupiano, Alecia Tsermengas, Melinda Wagner, Brittany Wood and Rachel Zarem.

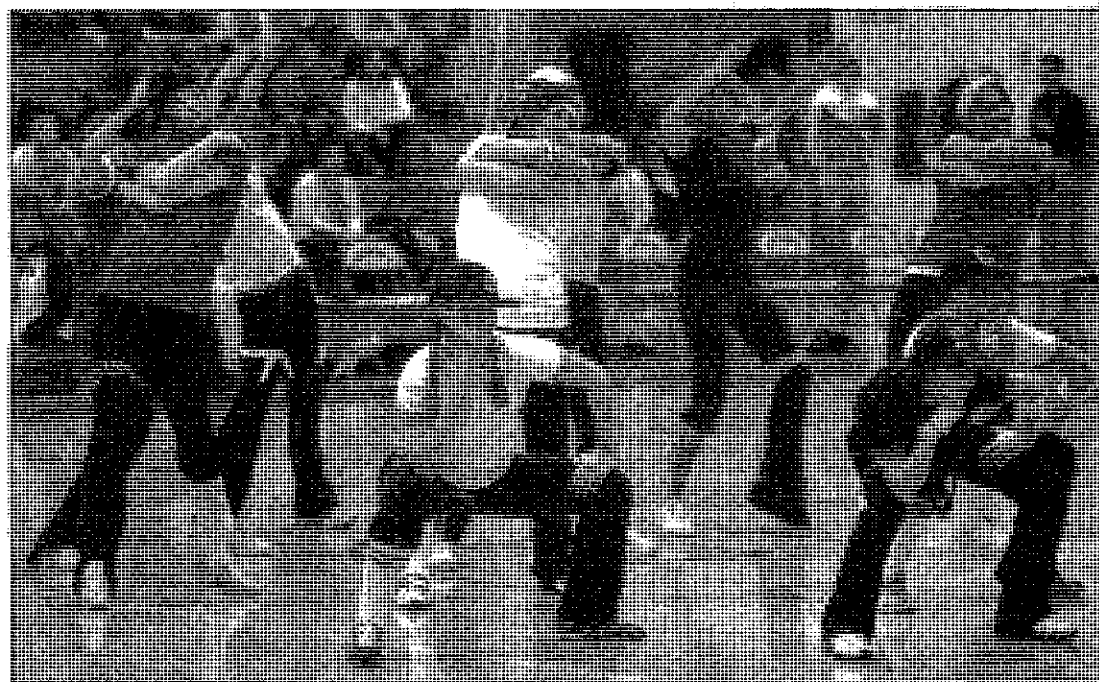
Nouhan said their philosophy is to "be the best you can be," even as the "goal is to win."

The team is practicing three hours a day, six days a week in advance of the regional competition, which is Saturday, Jan. 21, at Churchill. That will be followed by the state competition on Sunday, Feb. 12, at Eastern Michigan University.

Vickie Middleton, assistant coach, said this year's team is determined to win. "They seem to work very well together," she said. "They clicked right from camp and pushed each other."

Nouhan, who's been coaching for 21 years, agreed: "They work hard, and they're dedicated. I love working with the kids. For me, as a coach, I try to never forget what it's like to be a kid."

-By Stephanie A. Casola



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Livonia Churchill Pom Pon squad members Meghan Murzin (left to right, standing), Amber Devlin, Brittany Wood, Katie Sedgewick, (left to right, front) Rachel Zarem, Amanda Garza and Christine Miller, perform during half-time at the recent Churchill Varsity Basketball game.

CORRECTION

A story in Sunday's edition of *The Westland Observer* incorrectly listed a phone number for artist Kelly Darke, a Westland woman whose work is shown in such places as Orchard Lake Framing & Gallery in West Bloomfield. Her phone number is (734) 502-7920.

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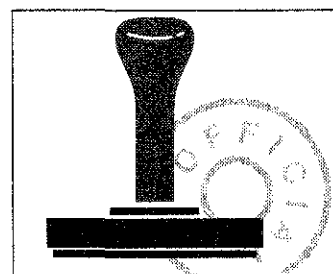
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B

- Cecile Bak**
Bak, 78, died Jan. 10.
- David Paul Barnett**
Barnett, 45, of Westland, died Jan. 9.
- Dianne Bradley**
Bradley, 55, of Livonia, died Jan. 6.
- Ruth J. Holland**
Holland, 81, of Westland, died Jan. 13.
- Anna Londeau**
Londeau, 83, of Westland, died Jan. 12.
- Sandy Richert**
Richert died Jan. 7.
- James F. Schuneman**
Schuneman, 64, of Houghton Lake, formerly of Oakland Township, died Jan. 14.



For the Record appears in every edition of the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*. Complete paid obituaries can be found inside today's newspaper in *Passages* on page C6.

Frances F. Shettel
Shettel, 78, of Bloomfield Hills, died Jan. 14.

- Erika G. Sizemore**
Sizemore, 64, died Jan. 9.
- James "Bernard" Smith**
Smith, 84, of Redford, died Jan. 7.
- Lisa Ann Smith**
Smith, 43, of Northville, died Jan. 9.
- Mufid A. Tuksal**
Tuksal, 86, died Jan. 5.
- Carol Wayland**
Wayland, 42, of Sylvan Lake, formerly of Clawson, died Jan. 10.
- David M. Watt**
Watt, 36, of Hudson, Fla., formerly of Livonia, died Dec. 25.
- Barbara J. Weidemann**
Weidemann, 80, of Rochester, died Jan. 11.
- Thomas Daniel Whidden Jr.**
Whidden, 37, of Westland, died Jan. 3.

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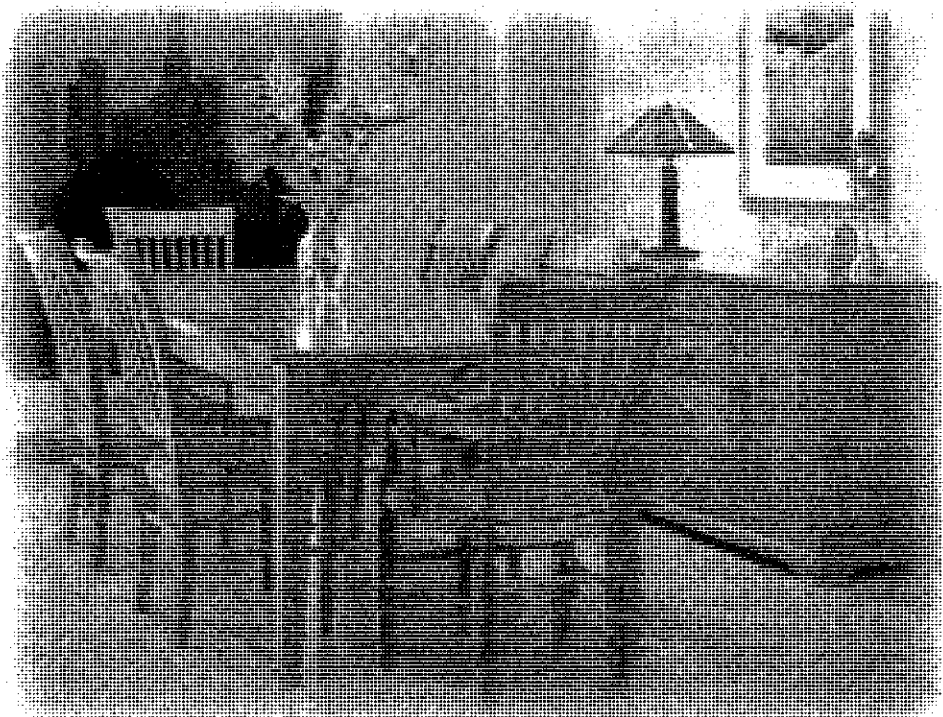
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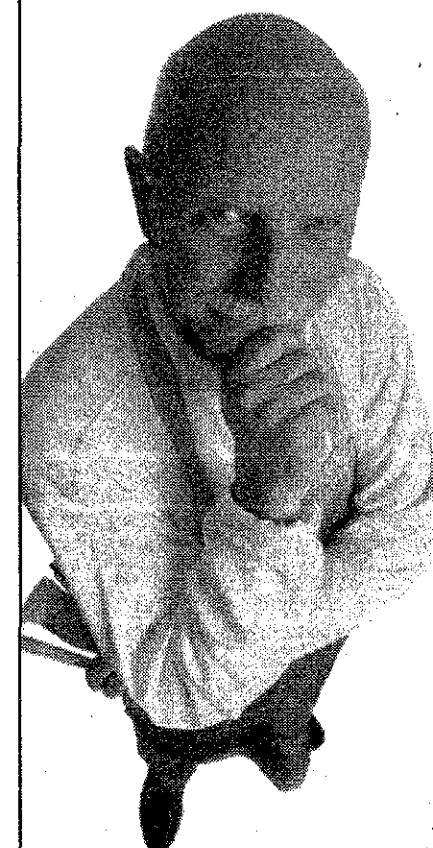
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Ceremony raises question: What would MLK think?

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

What would Martin Luther King Jr. say about the injustices that still exist throughout the world?

That's the question Benny Napoleon, retired Detroit police chief, posed at Annapolis Park Church of Christ in Westland Monday where 300 people who gathered to remember the birthday of the slain civil rights leader.

It was the eighth annual celebration presented by the City of Westland commemorating King and his message of peaceful resistance and his dream of a color blind society.

Awrey Bakeries in Livonia and Westland's Meijer donated refreshments for the program which included a flag ceremony by the John Glenn High School Junior ROTC.

Annapolis Park Church of Christ pastor the Rev. Terrance McClain challenged listeners to take up King's gauntlet "as we work toward genuine brotherhood not only in the community, but the world."

Napoleon recalled "vivid memories of my family's annual pilgrimage to southwest Tennessee traveling main highways and back roads where we could stop at some locations and not at others."

"Gas stations that would fill up your car, but not allow you in the adjacent store or restaurant," said Napoleon, who has a law practice and is a private contractor with Wayne County for Homeland Security. "Restrooms that you could not use no matter how much the urgency. Drinking fountains, laundromats, schools, restaurants, grocery stores for whites only."

"Out of this anguish and despair, a movement began led by a young man who was small in stature and tall in courage and commitment."

Napoleon, however, questioned how much has really changed as a result of King's struggles?

"What would Dr. King say about the state of this great nation today?" he asked.

Napoleon described King as a humble man who would deflect the idea of a national holiday in his honor, a holiday that only 23 percent of Americans celebrate.

Charles Burnley, a Westland resident and member of the church, called the statistic disheartening.

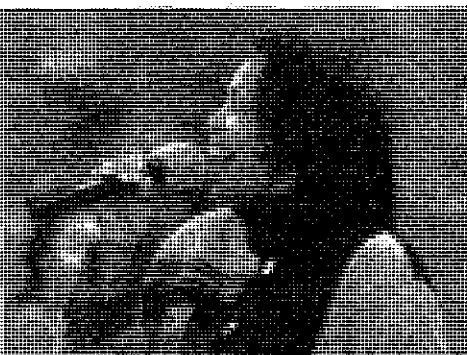
"I think he would have said that it is a sad day that more black people can't participate," said Burnley, 60.

His wife, Ollie Burnley, 63, said blacks have come a long way since King's day, "but we have a long way to go. You can legislate



PHOTOS BY TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Members of the John Glenn Junior ROTC - Sequandre Williams (from right) with the Polish flag, Logan Chaston, United Kingdom, Christina Denapoli, Ethiopia, and Brittaney Tate, Uganda - carried the flags of countries for the city's Martin Luther King Jr. program.



Darlene Mungo of Canton, a member of the Annapolis Park Church of Christ PUSH Choir, performs a musical selection during the program.

laws, but you can't change people's hearts, unless you accept Christ in your life."

Napoleon pointed out that King "gave his life for the struggle of equal justice for all Americans, but questioned how much has the world changed because of his struggles."

In the eyes of Dominique Williams, an 8-year-old student at Elliott Elementary School in Westland, King is simply "a hero."

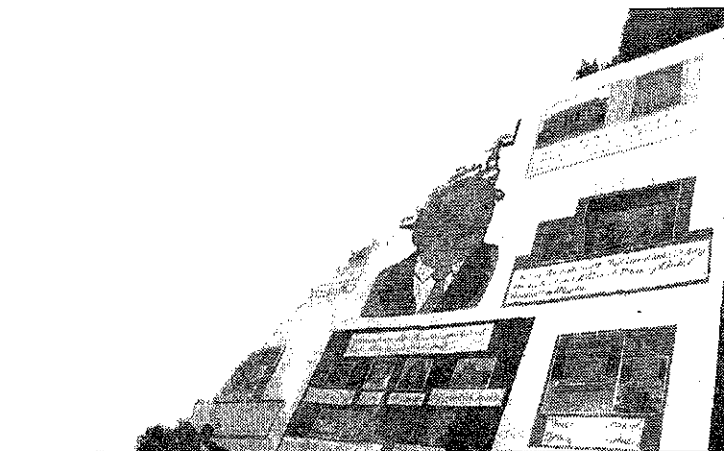
"He's a hero, because he wants to get black people and white people to get along," she

added. But is that happening? According to Napoleon, in many cities across America, only 20 to 30 percent of African Americans vote. He added that the City of Detroit school system is more than 90 percent African American and 80 percent of those students live below the poverty line.

What would Dr. King say?

"I think he would say, 'Why are little black children still living on a lonely island of poverty in the midst of a vast ocean of material prosperity?'" Napoleon said. "I believe Dr. King would want freedom to ring from the blood-soaked streets of Mogadishu, Somalia; freedom to ring from the riot torn slums of Paris, France; freedom to ring from the ethnic uprising in Rwanda, and freedom to ring from the war-ravished streets of Baghdad, Iraq."

"Let freedom ring." Westland Mayor Sandra A. Cicirelli ended the ceremony challenging the people in the audience: "We can't let the dream die. He will catapult us to accept challenges before us to make our world a better place to live in."



TOM HAWLEY | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Xavier Edwards, a third-grader at Kettering Elementary, shows off his winning poster.

Students' posters reflect King's work

BY DIANE GALE ANDREASSI
CORRESPONDENT

Xavier Edwards, a third-grade student at Kettering Elementary School in Westland, says it felt great to win a citywide poster contest honoring Martin Luther King Jr., but he wasn't really worried about getting recognition.

With the same humility exemplified by King throughout his social activism, the 8-year-old Edwards said: "If I didn't win I would still be happy, because I did something for Martin Luther King Jr."

Edwards' family went to Atlanta, Ga., two summers ago to see the home King was born in, the church King and his father preached at and other landmarks.

His poster, titled "Remembering Martin Luther King Jr.," included pictures from that pilgrimage.

"We just want to make sure our kids are socially aware of what happened and if you take them there, it means so much more to them than reading it in a book," explained his mother, Yvonne Edwards, a social studies teacher at Riverside Middle School in Dearborn Heights.

His father, Scott Edwards, also is a social studies teacher at South Redford's Pierce Middle School.

"My husband is biracial - his mom is white and his dad is black and Xavier says, 'If it wasn't for Dr. King I wouldn't be alive, because we wouldn't, by law, be married,'" said his mother. "Xavier is very proud of being part African-American. I think Xavier is a special kid where he is socially conscious of what is going on in the world. He knows so much about life it amazes me. 'I think it's neat that at this age he knows how special Dr. King is.'"

What does King mean to Xavier?

"He means a lot of things to me," he said. "He brought freedom to black people."

The first-place award included a \$50 gift certificate to

Westland Mall.

The second-place winner was Shanaye Moore, an eighth-grade student at Adams Middle School and the third-place winner was Brandon O'Sullivan, a 12th-grade student at John Glenn High School.

They each won \$25 mall gift certificates.

Moore's poster was titled, "I Have a Dream."

"He wanted freedom for everyone to go to the same school," the 13-year-old Westland resident said.

O'Sullivan said he respects King for the way he changed the way people interact.

"He made a big difference in how everyday life is handled - not just integration, but attitudes people have toward things that aren't exactly what they are," O'Sullivan said. "It set the path to make things more accessible. He helped a lot in the area of self-expression."

This year 25 entries were submitted to the poster contest, sponsored by WLND Community Media, Westland's cable government access channel.

"I think it's such an important event," said Craig Welkenbach, cable TV director. "You have to see what kids think and get them involved in his legacy. It starts with the kids."

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Auto Show visitors size up the offering.

BY ALEX LUNDBERG
STAFF WRITER

The automotive world, from the oldest names in the industry to the first offering from a Chinese automaker, is on display at Cobo Hall this week and open to the public.

Some go to see cars they'll never be able to own — the Mercedes McLaren edition comes in for just under \$500,000 — and some go to see cars that will never be available to anyone — the Nissan Urge concept car is not slated for production.

But others go to the North American International Auto Show to shop without pressure. To walk around, sit in and kick the tires of cars they're seriously considering buying for themselves.

Michael Gruskin of West Bloomfield came to see the automakers' new cars and scope out the concept cars. He was particularly interested to see if the domestics were up to snuff.

"I wanted to see if the American cars were competitive with the foreign brands," Gruskin said. "I think there are a lot of good products coming out of GM and Ford. The hybrids look good."

Nicholas Pierson of Canton was there to see if the redesign of the Camaro stood up to the muscle cars he grew up with. He was also using the Auto Show as an opportunity to look at the companies' new cars without pressure.

"I'm going to be shopping within the next year and I'm looking at what I want without having to deal with a salesman," he said.

A lot of people at the Auto Show were there doing just the same thing. The largest auto showroom in Michigan was filled with people feeling the seats and smelling the new car smell without someone haranguing them about incentives and financing.

This group includes even those who don't have to talk to a single salesman.

"I really like the (Pontiac) Solstice, but that's not a family car, it's just fun," said Lake Orion resident Cindy McDonald. She was there with her husband, Jeff, a GM employee who gets to order his cars rather than shop for them. "I'm looking at the (Pontiac) G6."

Despite never having to deal with the traditional showroom, Jeff McDonald said the show gives him a chance to sit in all of the cars available to him at once and see what they feel like, something you can't do with a catalog in your office.

Jon Maples of Canton and his son, Sam, were at the show looking for SUVs. Gas mileage was going to be a major point in the deliberations. Dad liked the Jeep Liberty diesels, son was leaning toward the Lexus hybrids.

"I'm looking for a small to midsize SUV," Sam said. "I'm going to have to pay for my own gas."

Jon said he was looking for something that was both environmentally sensitive as well as fuel efficient. With the decision to purchase coming late this year, the father and son team had a lot more looking to do.

"It's nice to see all the vehicles at once," Jon Maples said. "The Ford Edge and the (Jeep) Compass is nice."

"I like the Camaro, the Corvette, the Tahoe and the Hummer," said Sunday Dwyre of Waterford. "We might be shopping for a new Tahoe in the future. My husband works for GM and we don't know if he'll have a job in the future."

Gene Roberts works for Pontiac at a facility near his home in Wheeling, West Virginia. He's been coming to NAIAS for years. It's a tradition.

"This in the only auto show I go to," he said. "If they stop



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Michael Jopps works the auto show as a product representative for GM's Saturn. He's from Plymouth.

having it here I won't go to another. This is a good place to come and see the competition."

Wandering from exhibit to exhibit, the sounds of a hundred pitchmen waft about extolling the virtues of this braking system or that cabin configuration. One of those voices belongs to Michael Jopps of Plymouth, he works at the Saturn exhibit promoting the Skye and Aura — both cars will be on the streets this year.

"People have a lot of questions; when will the cars be released, will there be a waiting list, how many will be at the dealership," he said. "For the most part people are nice, though some people get upset if you don't have enough literature set out."

Jopps has worked at the Auto Show before, getting the connection through a local modeling agency.



Plymouth resident Jon Maples and his son, Sam, are shopping for a vehicle to replace one coming off-lease. Dad leans toward a Jeep Liberty diesel and son likes the hybrid Lexus SUV.



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SMITH

FROM PAGE A1

government, and she never apologized for it," Graunstadt said. "She was inspiring to any citizen who ever thought they didn't have a right to speak up, because she certainly did speak up."

"It's a great loss to our city," Mayor Sandra Cirelli said. "Mrs. Smith was someone who truly cared about the city of Westland. She had decades of attendance at council meetings, and she often made comments that made you stop and think about other sides of the issue."

Mrs. Smith grew up on Hastings Street in Detroit. She had a love for music and received her bachelor of science degree in music education from Wayne State University. She earned her master's degree in humanities from WSU, with minors in art history and Russian studies.

"She spoke fluent Russian," her son said, "and she studied Russian composers as part of her education."

Mrs. Smith, a divorcee since the 1970s, loved music and taught it at Wayne State University and Michigan Lutheran College in Detroit. She traveled to Russia in the 1960s, and she once told the Observer how she made the trip with little money and how local families welcomed her into their homes.

In her own home, Mrs. Smith always pushed her son and her daughter, Pamela Smith, to achieve. Willianndres Smith Jr. is a Microsoft consultant and former auto industry engineer; Pamela Smith is a professional singer in New York, where she has performed in operas and with symphony orchestras.

"My mother worked very hard to achieve all of her life," her son said. "She instilled that into her family. We were taught to excel and to be the best that we could be."

Mrs. Smith formerly served on the city's Economic Development Advisory Commission and the Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee. She served a term as vice president of the Southeast Westland Homeowners Association, and

on a regional transportation panel that studied bus issues for the elderly and handicapped.

"She was a neighbor of mine for over 50 years," said Reasther Everett, the southeast home-owner group's area representative. "She will be missed in our community and in our city."

A SOFTER SIDE

While Mrs. Smith could be demanding of city officials, she had a softer, humble, humorous nature that was embraced by those who knew her privately.

"I just have wonderful memories of her," Graunstadt said. "She shared some holiday meals with me and my family. She watched my girls grow up and was very encouraging of my political career."

Graunstadt recalled how Mrs. Smith loved traveling, music, old movies, African-American spiritual songs and real Christmas trees. Graunstadt's family helped Mrs. Smith get a tree one year, and she played Christmas carols on her piano.

Mrs. Smith welcomed friends with a smile to her home on Julius Boulevard. "You could go over to her house, and if she only had a cup of tea and a cracker, she would put it on her best plate," Graunstadt said.

For many years, Mrs. Smith used her old-fashioned typewriter to compile a newsletter, the Westland Citizens Chronicle, that she sold at minimal cost.

Inside each publication, she would award a rose to someone who did a good deed and a thorn to someone, often a politician, who put self-interest above the greater good. The newsletter contained little drawings of a rose and a thorn.

Graunstadt suggested doing in this story what Mrs. Smith did for others. Said Graunstadt: "A rose to Dorothy Smith."

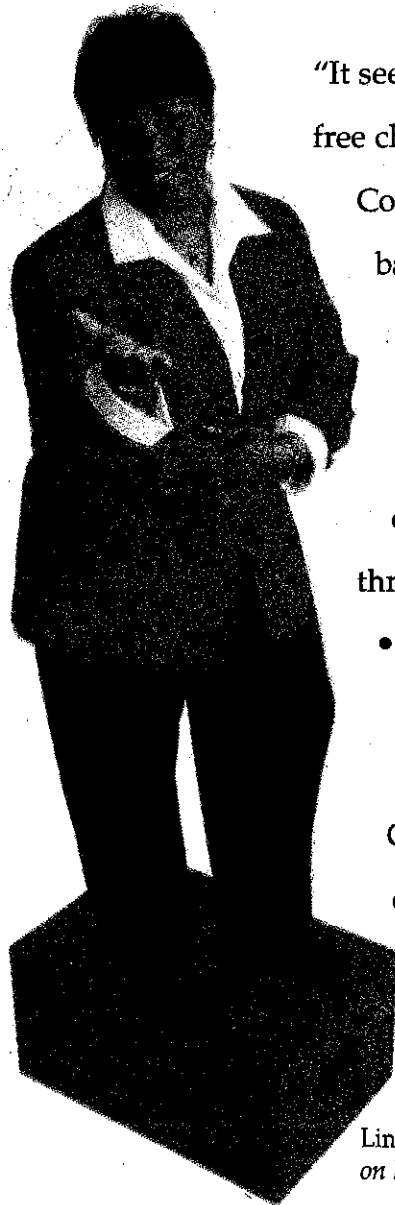
Services will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 24, at Chapel of the Chimes funeral home, 4670 S. Inkster Road, Westland. Visitation will be 1-7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 23.

Other than her two children, Mrs. Smith also is survived by two grandchildren, Jennifer Nicole Smith and Vincent Raphael Smith.

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Linda Cooper, Community Choice Member, on her soapbox about financial institutions.

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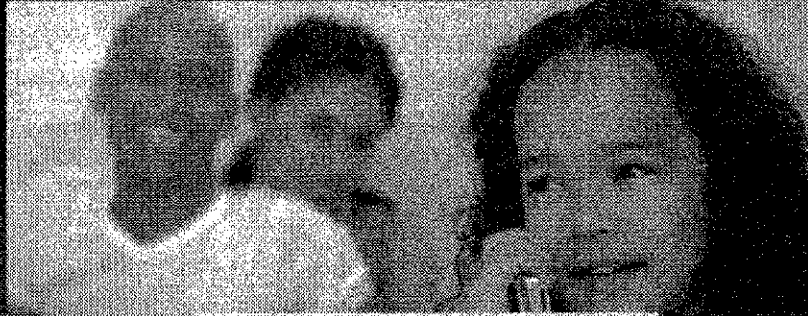


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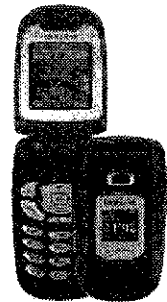
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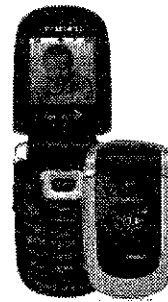
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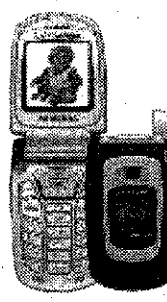
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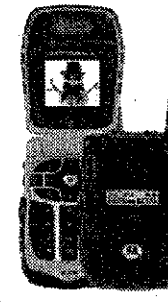
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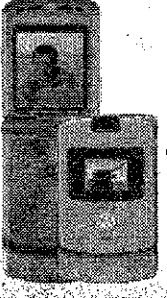
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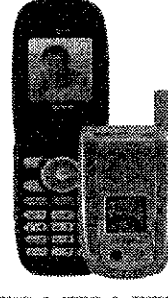
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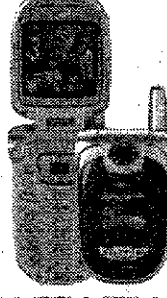
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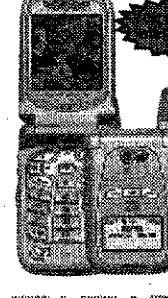
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OUR VIEWS

Have your say at Toy's meeting

Friday, state Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia, will hold a town hall meeting at the Bailey Recreation Center in Westland about water rates.

It's an opportunity for residents and local officials alike to speak their minds about what they pay for water, especially now when it seems the cost of bare essentials, like water, are escalating faster than a Saturn rocket on its way into space.

Because the meeting is being held in Westland, it doesn't mean it's just for Westland residents. It's for anyone and everyone who lives in Toy's 6th District.

Some cities, like Garden City, have been hit with sticker shock. The water board has proposed boosting rates by 19.3 percent. It's outrageous when compared to the modest 6-percent increase neighboring Westland faces.

City officials are already voicing their objections, and while speaking up may not help, it can't hurt. After all, it is the squeaky wheel that gets oiled.

Toy has called the Detroit Water Board's rate setting as taxation without representation. While we don't recommend taking tea bags to the town hall meeting, we do encourage residents to participate. The time might not be the best, but those who can be there should be go.

The meeting comes on the heels of her introduction of legislation that, if approved, would regionalize the Detroit Water Board, which determines what communities will pay for their water.

It's not the first time Toy has tried to get suburban representation on the board. Similar legislation cleared both state houses last year, only to be vetoed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm, who said it was too divisive.

It's not often that politicians ask what their constituents think, and people shouldn't squander this opportunity.

And we encourage residents and local officials to consider taking their complaints to the water board's public hearing Wednesday, Jan. 25. It may not sway them to change the rates, but at least residents can come away knowing they tried.

Join Detroit's party for Super Bowl XL

Are you ready for some football? Are you ready to party? The biggest party of the year comes Sunday, Feb. 5, to Ford Field.

The central city has spruced up and cleaned up. Detroit and the suburbs are rolling out the red carpet to welcome Super Bowl XL.

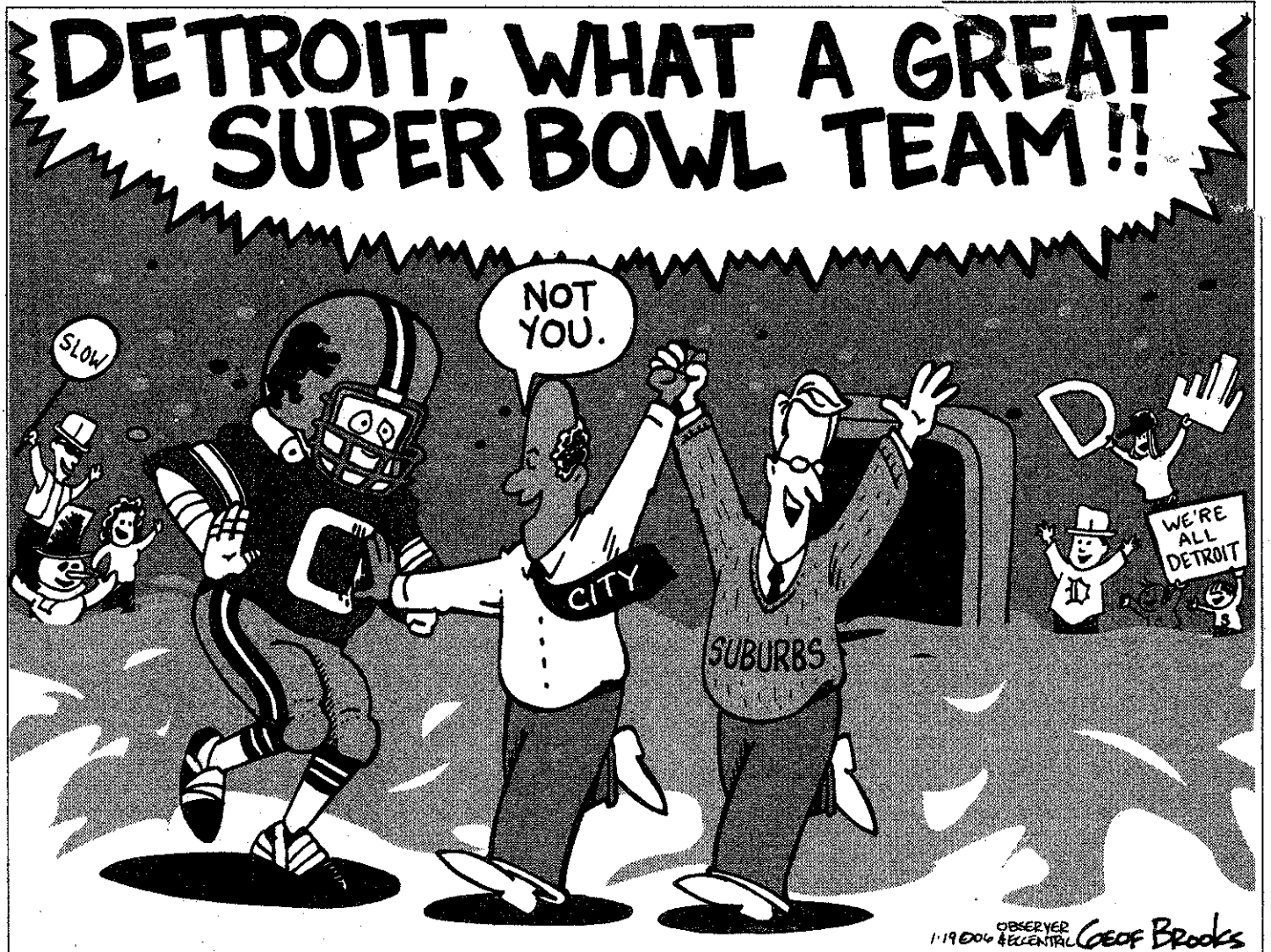
Last year 133.7 million viewers tuned in to Super Bowl XXXIX. Every year the National Football League championship is the most watched event on television. What better opportunity is there to showcase our community, garner some positive press and deflect some of the negative images that have attached themselves like barnacles to the Motor City?

Local groups have been working long hours to make this a Super Bowl to be remembered for all the right reasons. Beginning this week, numerous events are planned to get everyone involved throughout the metro area. Concerts will spotlight Detroit's rich contribution to American music. Local restaurants will be serving up their finest cuisine. And numerous charity events will combine a good time with a good cause, showing off the region's big heart.

Area hotels and motels will be full with media representatives, corporate leaders and sports and show business celebrities, as well as fans lucky enough to have tickets to the big game. They may come to the city with some preconceived negative notions, but local organizers hope they leave the city with the positive message that Detroit is a great place to party and a great place to live.

But Super Bowl XL is also an opportunity for suburban residents to reconnect with the central city, so take the plunge and enjoy all of what this event has to offer. In addition to the big game, the Motown Winter Blast will run Feb. 2-5 with a variety of cold weather fun and entertainment free for the whole family throughout the downtown area. The NFL Experience, Feb. 1-5 at Cobo Conference Center, is being described as a "football fan's playground" with 750,000 square feet of exhibits and interactive games at \$15 for adults and \$10 for children under 12.

Super Bowl XL will bring some much-needed revenue into the area. But more importantly, it will give the world and our community a chance to take another look at Detroit.



LETTERS

Helping the wounded

As supporters of the troops that are currently serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, last year Westland Mayor Cicirelli, Councilman Bob Stottlemeyer and Veterans Haven and with the help of many others put together a dinner-dance at Burton Manor to raise money to assist the returning wounded soldiers. More than \$50,000 was raised and split between Veterans Haven and The Wounded Warriors Project.

We have tried various avenues to locate and offer assistance to these troops. I have contacted the governor's office, generals at the Department of Veterans Affairs for the state of Michigan and individual National Guard Units.

We have tried to spread the word all over the state of Michigan. Unfortunately, if these agencies know the whereabouts of our wounded troops, no one is doing backflips to make them aware of the immediate assistance we can offer to rectify a "genuine financial need."

A good friend of ours, Roger Kehrier, state of Michigan senior vice commander for the Military Order of the Purple Heart, takes the responsibilities of his position very seriously. He has spread the word of what we offer to help vets all over the state. If the NSOs (National Service Officers) from the other veterans groups would help spread the word, this would prove to be a valuable service offered to these troops that paid their dues.

We have helped some of these soldiers with mortgage foreclosures, back rent/utilities and gave a vehicle to one, plus paid the costs of plates and insurance for six months. This letter is not about us, it is and always will be, about veterans.

To further highlight this, did you know:

I bet the ACLU loves this, on federal property, God forbid. Every holiday season a Christmas wreath is placed at the graves of fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery. Merrill Worcester of the Worcester Wreath Co., Harrington, Maine, donated 5,000 wreaths and has been doing this since 1992. These wreaths are placed at the head stone by school kids from Maine that combine a trip to Washington D.C., not only education, but patriotic as well.

Harrington is one of the poorest parts of Maine. If you would like to thank Mr. Worcester for his kindness, he can be contacted at (207) 483-6502.

That Bennett Levin (a self-made millionaire from Philly) and his wife, Vivian, felt so bad at Christmas, hearing stories on the radio about our troops being killed and wounded, he came up with a "great present" for the wounded at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Bethesda Naval Hospital.

Bennett has three luxury railroad cars. He contacted some other railroad enthusiast he knows that loaned their rail cars for this mission. He made all the contacts needed for a round trip with Conrail and Amtrak to get "The Liberty Limited" off and running.

This man transported 88 troops and guests to the Army/Navy game Dec. 3, complete with seats on the 50-yard line and gourmet meals in the hospitality suite at the stadium. Why did he do this?

Bennett said, "We have to show them that we care."

This is Americanism at its finest. You may not agree with the war, but we must support the troops that are fighting for us.

Vinco Berna
president, Veterans Haven

Protect our Great Lakes

I was appalled to learn that Michigan, The Great Lakes State, is the only one of the Great Lakes states that does not have laws limiting how much water can be removed from our lakes, rivers, streams and other water resources. How can we expect to remain The Great Lakes State, if we do not protect that valuable resource?

I have enjoyed camping and canoeing on and near the lakes all of my life. It disturbs me that my children may not have that same opportunity, if we are not careful.

I urge all Michigan residents to demand that laws be made to protect our water. If we're not willing to make the effort, who is?

Virginia Casey
Westland

Not another Wal-Mart

I am writing to you today on an issue that deeply concerns me. I have lived here in the Livonia/Westland area all of my life, and I have a great deal of respect for my community. I, therefore, take very seriously the actions that are taken here. I am absolutely not at ease with the idea of another Wal-Mart filling Wonderland Mall's current location.

Not only does a new Wal-Mart disregard other local businesses, it can also lead them to shut down. Wal-Mart's formation is a serious threat to independently owned businesses that cannot keep up with Wal-Mart Super centers. It simply is not fair.

Not only this, but Wal-Mart's own employees are not being treated fairly. I recently learned in a movie, titled *Wal-Mart, The High Cost of Low Price*, that less than 45 percent of Wal-Mart's employees have health insurance. The benefits are too expensive for them.

In the same movie, I proceeded to learn that Wal-Mart receives its products from Chinese sweat shops, where people are forced to endure tedious tasks for less than \$3 a day. It simply is an outrage.

It continuously worries me that another Wal-Mart is being produced in our area. It promotes unfair business operations, inadequate benefits, as well as putting forth products that were produced in slave-laboring sweat shops. How anyone can patronize them is beyond my comprehension.

Shannon Walsh
Westland

The gift of sight

The greatest gift you can give a loved one is the gift of sight! As one of 283 EyeCare American Seniors EyeCare Program volunteer ophthalmologists here in Michigan I have experience firsthand providing a simple, medical eye exam can preserve sight.

The EyeCare American Seniors EyeCare Program is designed for seniors, age 65 and older, who have not seen an ophthalmologist (a medical eye doctor) in three or more years. Eligible patients will be matched with a nearby volunteer ophthalmologist. Seniors receive a comprehensive medical eye examination and up to one year of care for any disease diagnosed during the initial visit at no out-of-pocket cost.

As program volunteers, we have agreed to waive Medicare or other insurance copayments and unmet deductibles. Seniors without insurance receive care at no charge. Here in Michigan, 11,522 have been served through EyeCare America.

Call the Seniors EyeCare Program helpline, (800) 222-EYES (3937) for free eye care information or to see if you or someone you love may qualify for medical eye care at no out-of-pocket cost. There are more than 7,500 EyeCare America volunteer ophthalmologists in the U.S. dedicated to serving their community.

EyeCare America is a public service foundation of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. The Seniors EyeCare Program is co-sponsored by the Knights Templar Eye Foundation, Inc. and Alcon.

I urge readers to take advantage of this valuable program - and give the gift of sight this holiday season by calling (800) 222-EYES (3937).

Roxanne Hakimzaden, M.D.
Rochester Hills

Lift restriction

Under intense consumer pressure, our lawmakers have reversed their position and now allow direct shipments to consumers of wine by in-state and out-of-state wineries. But they left a caveat in their for the Michigan Wholesalers and Distributor Lobby.

They want to allow in-state wineries to ship directly to restaurants and retailers. This is a good thing, but prohibiting out-of-state wineries from doing the same is discriminatory and therefore unconstitutional. By restricting the ability of out-of-state wineries to do the same, violate the dormant Commerce Clause of the Constitution as in *Healds vs. Granholm*.

Attorney General Cox is aware of this and should be working for the general public and not the distributors. Simply remove the ban and restrictions and let the competition begin.

Gordon Hartunian
Orchard Lake

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

We welcome your letters to the editor. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification. We ask that your letters be 400 words or less. We may edit for clarity, space and content.

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Our fundamental purposes are to enhance the lives of our readers, nurture the hometowns we serve and contribute to the business success of our customers.

QUOTABLE

"It takes away the options for exploring high school when high school should be a time for exploring. Students who like art and marketing will lose out because they have less options."

- Wayne-Westland school board trustee Steve Becher, about the state's Michigan Merit Curriculum for high school students

Money doesn't talk, it swears, in both Lansing and Washington

There are three things to say about the Jack Abramoff corruption case that is convulsing Washington:

■ First, despite all the various near-bribery and influence peddling scandals that infest our political system, this one isn't small beer. "People down here are scared stiff and running for the hills," one congressional staffer told me. Other sources say as many as 60 representatives and scores of staffers could ultimately be involved.

Abramoff has now pleaded guilty to fraud, tax evasion and conspiracy, and the word is that he is singing like a canary. If the extent of this is as great as feared, this could become the biggest scandal to engulf the Congress in more than a generation.

That's not surprising, given how powerful and pervasive the system has become. The originator was now-deposed (and privately hugely despised) House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas.

He originated the "K Street Project," a system in which lobbying firms (whose offices are largely located on Washington's K Street) were told they had to "pay to play," i.e. contribute to Republican causes and hire ex-Republican staffers in order to get access to lawmakers to make sure legislation was written their way.

Evidently, day-to-day tactics featured a close link between DeLay's work to round up votes in the House with lobbyist Abramoff's access to money and perks. When DeLay found he needed to grease the pitch for a tough vote, he'd call Abramoff and — lo and behold! — the target member would score a Super Bowl ticket or a trip to Vegas.

■ Second, although the Michigan Legislature certainly is second to none in vicious partisanship and demonstrated ineffectuality, today's atmosphere in Lansing is not as corrupt as in Washington ... not quite.

A now-legendary story around Lansing has it that a certain former speaker of the House once shouted across the room at a lobbyist, "Hey! I got your bill passed! Now where's my money?"

He may have been only kidding, but jaws dropped at the embarrassingly explicit — and public — linkage between dough and law. Do not delude yourself that ethical standards prevailing in Lansing are more saintly than in Washington. Lansing's a much smaller town and therefore there's less money at stake.

Moreover, Michigan's governor has a line-item veto over appropriation items; if lobbyists can't sneak expensive "earmarks" — legislatively required appropriation items, i.e. "pork" — into bills, a big motivation for corrupt pay-to-play has disappeared.

But aggressive lobbying and the equally aggressive and reciprocal pursuit of campaign contributions by Michigan legislators keep raising real questions about the integrity of the entire process. "Fund-raising has become a 24/7 exercise," one

Lansing lobbyist told me, "and both the politicians and the lobbyists find it's a real pain."

Part of the problem is the inevitable dynamic of a term-limited Legislature, where newly elected lawmakers start raising money to run for higher (or some other) office just as soon as they're sworn in.

So it's no surprise that as of last October, according to the Michigan Campaign Finance Network in Lansing, the state's top 150 political action committees had already raised a third more money for this year's elections than at the same time before the 2004 vote.

■ Third, Michigan's seemingly tight bribery statute reveals a fuzzy area between bribery (a criminal offense, requiring explicit agreement that money is being paid in exchange for a vote or an action) and mere influence peddling, mostly via campaign contributions. Much of the time, special-interest groups contribute to legislators who are predisposed to agree with them. That's OK.

But sometimes, a "contribution" — plus a wink, a nod and a vote — comes awfully close to something criminal.

That's why a paragraph from *The New York Times* on the Abramoff raised so many eyebrows in Lansing: "There's a lot of talk coming out of various quarters that the Justice Department is going to pursue a different definition of bribery, meaning that if somebody were to give a gift or a campaign contribution in the same time period as a member took an official action, that in and of itself would constitute bribery. ... That sure scares the bejesus out of people."

Most people out of whom the bejesus is being scared won't have heard of the famous 18th century Scottish philosopher David Hume. Too bad. In a classic piece of analysis about what it really means to say that some thing "causes" another, Hume argued that the key issue was something he called "constant conjunction."

That is, if A is always and everywhere followed by B, it's conclusive to assert that A caused B. If a campaign contribution always and everywhere is followed by a specific vote ... well, the contribution caused the vote. And that's bribery, in Hume's analysis.

Alas, most insiders I talked with said they thought neither the Justice Department nor the Michigan attorney general's office would move in Hume's direction. And virtually everybody thinks that as long as elections are as expensive as they have become, there is no way scandals like Abramoff's won't keep cropping up from time to time.

A better system is have public financing for elections, the way most industrial democracies in Europe do it. Of course, who in Lansing would want to vote for public funds in the public interest ... if that shuts down their local and parochial money tree?

Phil Power is a longtime observer of politics, economics and education issues in Michigan. He would be pleased to hear from readers at ppower@hcnnet.com.

Take action: Plight of workers no less of a tragedy

Tragic events like the West Virginia mine, the Eurasian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina have a way of gripping the hearts and conscience of the nation. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the victims of these natural disasters and all of the miners' families who have been shattered by the loss of lives.

Yet, as I reflect on these tragic events and I hear politicians calling for hearings, tougher regulations, better safety and working conditions, I cannot help but think of the working men and women whose livelihoods are being snuffed out here in Michigan and other industrial states by globalization and the



Tom Watkins

transformational shift in the world economy. These workers, through no fault of their own, are being tossed around in a global blast.

Countless families will face financial ruin, and if past economic catastrophes are any predictor, there will be loss of life and spirit with increased heart attacks, strokes, suicides and mental breakdowns. We must remember that these economic fallouts are more than just statistics on some PowerPoint presentation — they are someone's father, mother, sister or brother that is being impacted, along with their families and communities. These casualties are not as visible as the human drama that is easily captured when sudden devastating events hit — but the results are no less tragic.

For the workers at Delphi, GM, Ford and the other hundreds of thousands of working men and women who have lost their jobs, livelihood and hope the past few years, their plight has been like a slow boil. The impact these workers are experiencing is not as immediate or sensational as the gripping life and death situation being witnessed on the 24/7 news stations. However, their plight is more like the frog placed in a cold pot of water and slowly brought to a boil — after 15, 20, 30 years of honest labor at the plants, these workers are told they are cooked.

Where is the national outcry for the families impacted by globalization and loss of decent middle class jobs? Where are the state and national relief efforts to help ease the pain and help the impacted families and communities pummeled by the deindustrialization of Michigan and America? Where are the demands for better safety precautions to be put in place to prevent these upheavals? Where is the national strategy to address unfair trade agreements, intellectual piracy and currency manipulation? Where are the investments in job training and retraining

Let's be clear, the slow boil that is cooking far too many working people and evaporating good middle class jobs should be a wake-up call for us all. The world is changing in dramatic ways and yesterday's answers will not help the impacted workers' families and communities build necessary bridges to the future. What is transpiring is a global transformational shift that poses an enormous challenge and will require leadership, creativity and innovation to address.

programs to help today's workers transition to the 21st century knowledge jobs?

There were warning signs provided though numerous safety violations that could have and should have foreshadowed the potential for a tragic events in New Orleans and at the West Virginia mine, if decision-makers were willing to open their eyes and see them. Unless our leaders recognize the signs and understand that good working men and women are at risk and take action now, another tragedy will surely unfold.

Does it really require that carnage be played out on national news on a continuous basis before efforts are begun to address the working man and woman's plight?

Where is the outrage demanding that our leaders actually lead and address these issues?

Let's be clear, the slow boil that is cooking far too many working people and evaporating good middle class jobs should be a wake-up call for us all. The world is changing in dramatic ways and yesterday's answers will not help the impacted workers' families and communities build necessary bridges to the future. What is transpiring is a global transformational shift that poses an enormous challenge and will require leadership, creativity and innovation to address.

Like the West Virginia mine operators, we have been warned a very serious problem lies ahead and working men and women are at risk. Will we heed the warning?

For working people everywhere, I certainly hope so.

Tom Watkins is an economic and educational consultant. He served as Michigan's Mental Health director (1986-90) and state superintendent of schools (2001-05). He can be reached at tdwtkins@aol.com.

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Watershed director welcomes challenge

BY ANNETTE KINGSBURY
STAFF WRITER

"Let no one say it to your shame, That all was beautiful before you came."

Gary Morgan first read those words as a child. Growing up in Detroit he lived near Rouge Park, where the words appeared on a sign. It was the place his father, an avid outdoorsman, taught him about environmental stewardship.

"I can see that like it was yesterday," Morgan said. Now 54, he has taken his passion for the environment to a new career as executive director of the Rochester-based Clinton River Watershed Council.

Morgan studied urban forestry at the University of Michigan and spent 17 years with the city of Dearborn's parks and forestry division, where his work included restoration of the Rouge River.

"We did a national search. ... It was nice to find somebody in our own back yard," said Tony Rothschild, a Lake Orion resident who is president of the watershed council's board of directors.

"He's got a long background in watershed management, his work at Dearborn working with the Rouge River. He went back to school and got his master's degree while he was working at Dearborn. This is where his passion is, sort of a career change working with nonprofits."

Along with his work on the Rouge, Morgan brings to his new job extensive recreational experience of the Clinton River



Morgan

watershed. Since the 1980s he's sailed on Lake St. Clair and kept a boat on the Clinton River. He also bicycles and enjoys cross country skiing.

The new job "was a very interesting move, the whole idea of the (size) of the watershed," he said.

From its headwaters in Springfield Township to its eventual end in Lake St. Clair, the Clinton River Watershed covers 760 square miles in four counties, from Almont south to the Detroit city limit. Some 1.4 million people live within the watershed.

The Watershed Council's mission is to protect, enhance and celebrate the Clinton River, its watershed and Lake St. Clair. Morgan said he became aware just how tuned in people are to the watershed when he attended a fund-raising event right after he was hired in late October.

At the council, Morgan, who recently moved to Rochester, will work with seven subwatershed groups. Each is tasked with responsibilities, including federal stormwater management, for a section of the watershed.

"It's going to be a learning experience; over the last couple of months it has been already," Morgan said. "I haven't even unpacked yet. It's keeping me busy."

Morgan said he's impressed with the leadership that's in place.

Museum unveils exhibit on civil liberties

The good and bad of America's history will be front and center in a new permanent exhibit which opened to the public at the Henry Ford Museum on Monday, Martin Luther King's birthday.

"With Liberty and Justice For All" takes a close look at the progression of civil liberties from the Revolutionary War to the impact of the Civil Rights Movement.

"The exhibit will be an intense and emotional trip through America's history, a history that included slavery and segregation," said Christian Overland, vice president of venue operations. "We will not gloss over the ugliness and the hate that freedom fighters faced. The artifacts that have been selected to tell these stories will show both the good and the bad as America transformed its definition of liberty."

The exhibit is made possible in part by grants from the DTE Energy Foundation, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, Institute for Museum and Library Services/National Park Service/"Save America's Treasures," National City Bank, Ford Motor Company Fund, DaimlerChrysler

Corporation Fund and contributors to the museum's recent capital campaign.

"The DTE Energy Foundation is very proud to fund this important addition to the Henry Ford Museum," said Fred Shell, vice president, corporate and governmental affairs, DTE Energy, and president of the DTE Energy Foundation. "This exhibit will remind us all that ordinary people can do extraordinary things, and when they do, the world can change for the better."

The foundation awarded \$500,000 to the museum for the exhibit.

"With Liberty and Justice For All" takes visitors through four key turning points in America's history: the Independence movement and Revolutionary War, the anti-slavery movement and Civil War, the Woman's Suffrage Movement and the Civil Rights Movement.

The exhibit shows the struggle and fight for freedom, as well as the spirit and courage to maintain it. With the Declaration of Independence as a guide, visitors learn about the initial conflicts and oppression related to each era and the momentum that led to change. The exhibit also



A camp bed used by George Washington is one of the key artifacts in an exhibit on liberty and justice at The Henry Ford.

introduces the leaders and their legacies and educates people on the impact of each transformation on the future Americans.

The focal point of the exhibit are key iconic artifacts from the collection of The Henry Ford, including:

- The bus where Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat which started the Montgomery Bus Boycott and sparked the Civil Rights Movement.

- The chair from Ford's Theater in which President Abraham Lincoln sat when he was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.

- The camp bed George Washington used while on a victory tour of battlefields after the Revolutionary War.

- The speakers' chair made by Thomas Affleck and used in Independence Hall by the first Congress of the United States.

Nearly 95 percent of the existing artifacts are being used in this exhibit that have never been displayed to the public. They include:

- Military letters signed by George Washington during the Revolutionary War.
- One of only three hand-

written copies of the 13th amendment signed by President Abraham Lincoln, Vice President Hannibal Hamlin and 148 members of the 38th congress.

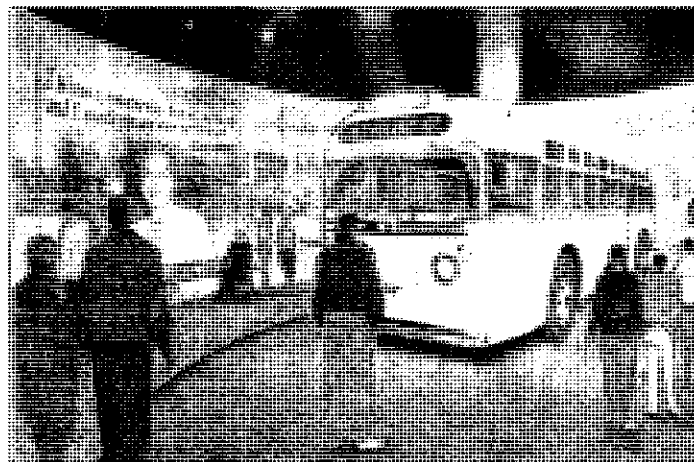
Museum curators also acquired several artifacts specifically for the "With Liberty and Justice For All" exhibit, including:

- An enlistment notice from the Revolutionary War
- Recruiting broadsides (posters) from the Civil War
- "Mr. President What Will You do for Women's Suffrage?" Flag

- Materials from the 1963 march in Washington, D.C., where Martin Luther King Jr. gave his legendary "I Have a Dream" speech.

The Henry Ford has hired Gallagher & Associates to create the exhibit. Gallagher & Associates is known for The International Spy Museum and exhibits at the Smithsonian and Gettysburg.

The Henry Ford, at 20900 Oakwood Blvd., Dearborn, was founded in 1929 by automotive pioneer Henry Ford. For more information visit its Web site at www.thehenryford.org.



The bus where Rosa Parks took her stand against segregated seating is one of the centerpieces of an exhibit on liberty and justice at The Henry Ford.

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