

IN THE PAPER
TODAY

COMMUNITY LIFE



Unique: Canton students recently learned about the Samoan culture from Seattle music professor Robert Engle (above) who spent nearly 30 years in Hawaii. / B1

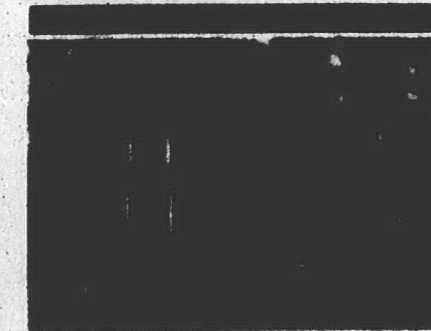
Helping hands: The Western Wayne Skill Center in Westland, affiliated with the Livonia Public Schools, is recognizing the individual efforts of students who are reaching out to the community through a school-wide program. / B1

AT HOME

Design inspiration: Area interior designers are among those who created rooms for IdeaHouse, a display of two different types of living spaces for different residents at the Michigan Design Center in Troy. / D6

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The first place to visit when you're looking for a new place to live? The Real Estate ads in today's HomeTown Classifieds!



City concerned about Sheldon



Some city commission members are concerned that township board trustees are keeping them out of the loop when it comes to the details of the underpass project along Sheldon Road.

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
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Plymouth city commissioners are concerned Plymouth Township trustees are attempting to change the details of the \$8.8 million Sheldon Road underpass project without con-

sulting them.

After a joint meeting last August which brought about an agreement between the city and township on the CSX underpass, city commissioners thought they had a deal in which the city would pay approximately \$500,000 of the local share, with the township

putting in about a million dollars.

However, some township trustees are concerned about the closing of Sheldon Road for two years to complete the grade separation project. Township officials have been talking with county officials, discussing the possibility of keeping the road open during construction with a temporary bypass road, which could cost more time and money.

"We haven't been involved in these discussions about whether we close Sheldon Road or not," said Commissioner Colleen Pobur, who voiced her concerns at Monday's regular meeting.

'We haven't been involved in these discussions about whether we close Sheldon Road.'

Colleen Pobur
—City commissioner

"The fact that there are discussions going on about this, to which we aren't a party, concerns me."

"It's always been my understanding"

Please see **SHeldon, A3**

District pares list of names for new school

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
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The Plymouth-Canton Board of Education is close to naming the third high school to be constructed at the Educational Park.

All of the six board members who attended Tuesday's regular meeting said they preferred keeping the tradition of naming the high schools after municipalities.

The school is expected to be named Plymouth High School. Board members also agreed the name Plymouth should be dropped from the front part of the present high school names, and begin calling them Canton and Salem high schools.

The name "Plymouth" is among 37 that were suggested by staff and community members as proposed names for the new high school.

The name Plymouth Superior, brought up by Trustee Judy Mardigan, will be the other name on the short list derived by board members Tuesday night.

A high school poll of students conducted earlier this month favored those two names.

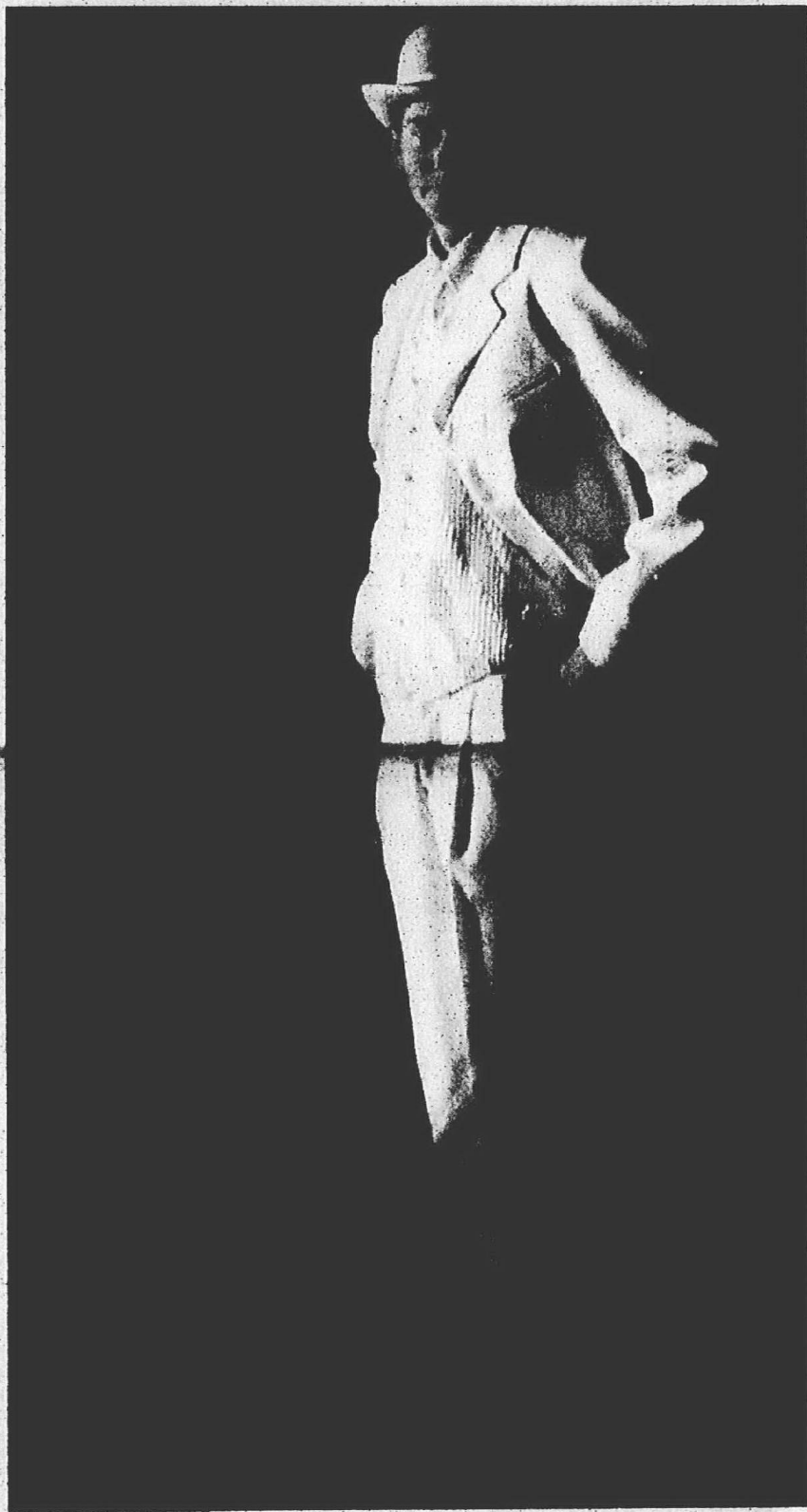
A subsequent teachers' poll taken by educator Cyndi Burnstein at the high school complex shows the name Plymouth High School receiving 80 votes, with Plymouth-Superior getting 52 votes.

Board President Susan Davis said she would like to see the letters P-C in front of the high school names because "we need to identify that the schools belong to Plymouth-Canton Schools."

The idea of dropping the name "Plymouth" from the two present schools has been forwarded to the high school principals to determine what affect the name change would have, including on such things as signage and letter jackets.

The board of education is expected to finalize the name of the third high school at its on Tuesday, March 28, meeting.

High fashion



Top hat and tails: Jon Merrick pauses in a white tux and tails at the Plymouth Canton Prom Fashion Show 2000 last Tuesday in the Canton Cafeteria. The show featured clothes and hair styling services from local businesses. For more, please turn to page A9.

STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN

Couple waives prelim

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
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Judge John MacDonald of 35th District Court refused to reduce Brent Anderson's bond of \$500,000 in a criminal sexual conduct case, despite defense attorney pleas.

"My client is 37 years of age and has no prior convictions," said John McWilliams, Anderson's attorney. "We voluntarily surrendered. We are asking for a major substantial reduction in bond."

Anderson and his girlfriend, both Plymouth Township residents, are charged with five counts of criminal sexual conduct in connection with alleged sexual assaults on the woman's daughter that Plymouth Township police say they can prove took place during a two-year period.

The mother's name is being withheld to protect the 12-year-old girl's identity.

When the girl confided to a friend that she had been sexually assaulted, the friend relayed information to a Plymouth-Canton School District counselor, who then called police Feb. 4. The couple waived their rights to preliminary exams Monday and were bound over for trial in Wayne County Circuit Court.

Their arraignment is scheduled for April 3 in Wayne County Circuit Court. Anderson is charged with five counts of criminal sexual conduct in the first degree, which involves penetration. The felony charge carries a life sentence and also requires mandatory testing for possible sexually-transmitted diseases.

Anderson was also charged with one count of criminal sexual conduct in the second degree, which involves contact only. It is a felony that carries a 15-

'The presumption of innocence continues. My client will be vindicated.'

John McWilliams
—Defense attorney

Please see **PRELIM, A3**

Director still impressed after 1st year

Purcell 'having a blast' after 12 months with development authority

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
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Time flies when you're having fun. It's been one year since Melanie Purcell left her job as village manager of Lake Orion and began her new position as the director of Plymouth's Downtown Development Authority.

"I've been here a year and I'm still having a blast," said Purcell in her downtown DDA office. "Nobody has accused me of being shy and quiet, particularly about issues I'm very passionate about."

"None of my first perceptions of Plymouth have failed me. In fact, the downtown people have impressed me much more with their commitment,

professionalism and character."

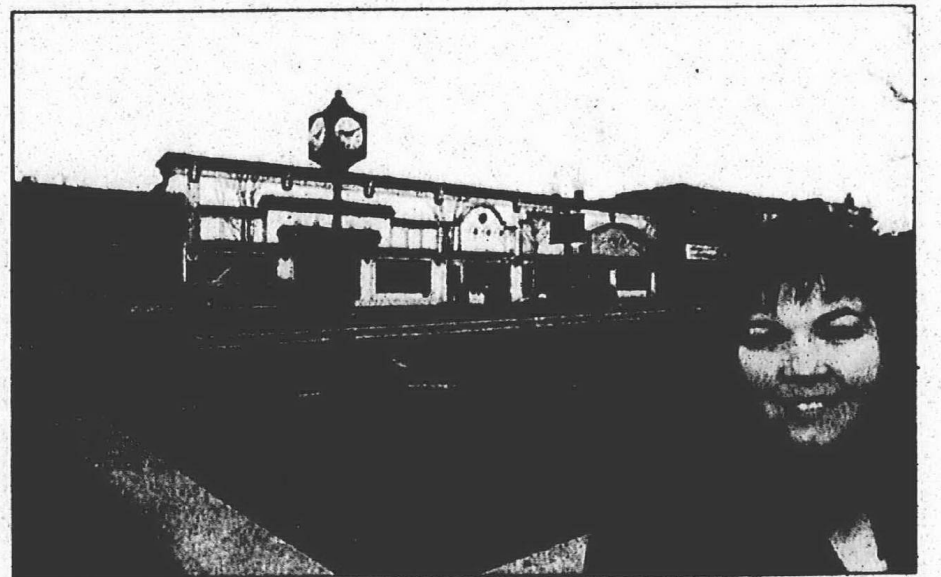
Purcell was brought in to lead the DDA last March, six months after Steve Guile left the position for a similar one in Westland.

"The hotel project and other major developments were in the works. There were no major budget problems," said Purcell. "All the factors led to success, and it was my opportunity to contribute to that success. That's a positive way to come in, instead of having to rebuild."

Purcell has apparently done that in a big way.

"It's as if she's been here longer than a year," said DDA Chairman Dave Pugh. "Melanie has absorbed things

Please see **PURCELL, A4**



Happy anniversary: Melanie Purcell has been on the job as director of the Downtown Development Authority for just over a year now.

Folino joins chase for Law's House seat

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
tbruscato@ec.eccentric.com



Teresa Folino

Teresa Folino of Northville has been working on the local political scene for 25 years, ranging from being a volunteer on various races to a ranking member of the 13th Congressional District Republican Committee.

Folino said it is "time to expand my service to the community," and with that has announced her candidacy for the 20th District State Representative seat currently held by Gerald Law, R-Plymouth.

Education is a major issue in Folino's campaign.

"I oppose the current ballot proposal on vouchers," she said.

"There are better ways to assist people who send their children to private schools. While I haven't come to a definite conclusion, I'm currently researching ways which can be better."

Folino said she wants to make

sure students who aren't headed to college will still have the tools needed for today's work force.

"There needs to be technological opportunities in the K-12 curriculum so these children who aren't college bound will have the technical knowledge to work in the 21st century," said Folino. "We need to make sure we're providing technological training in our school districts."

Folino said she does believe in lifting the cap on the number of charter schools in Michigan, and in addressing taxes for small business owners.

"I would like to eliminate the small business tax in a more timely manner than the 23 years proposed by the governor," said Folino. "I don't think we can do it in six months, but certainly in a shorter time frame."

"I also feel strongly about the two-thirds super majority vote needed in both chambers to raise taxes," she said.

Folino, who thus far has \$25,000 in her war chest, has crossed the Northville border to get two political endorsements in Plymouth.

"City commission members Michele Potter and Sean FitzGerald have given me their

support," added Folino. "I feel very proud they feel I'm the best candidate in the race."

Potter and FitzGerald have by-passed their own commission colleague, and Plymouth mayor, Dave McDonald, in endorsing Folino for the 20th District seat.

"I think I would call that a statement, not a surprise," said Folino.

The two city commissioners believe Folino has what it takes to represent 20th District constituents in Lansing.

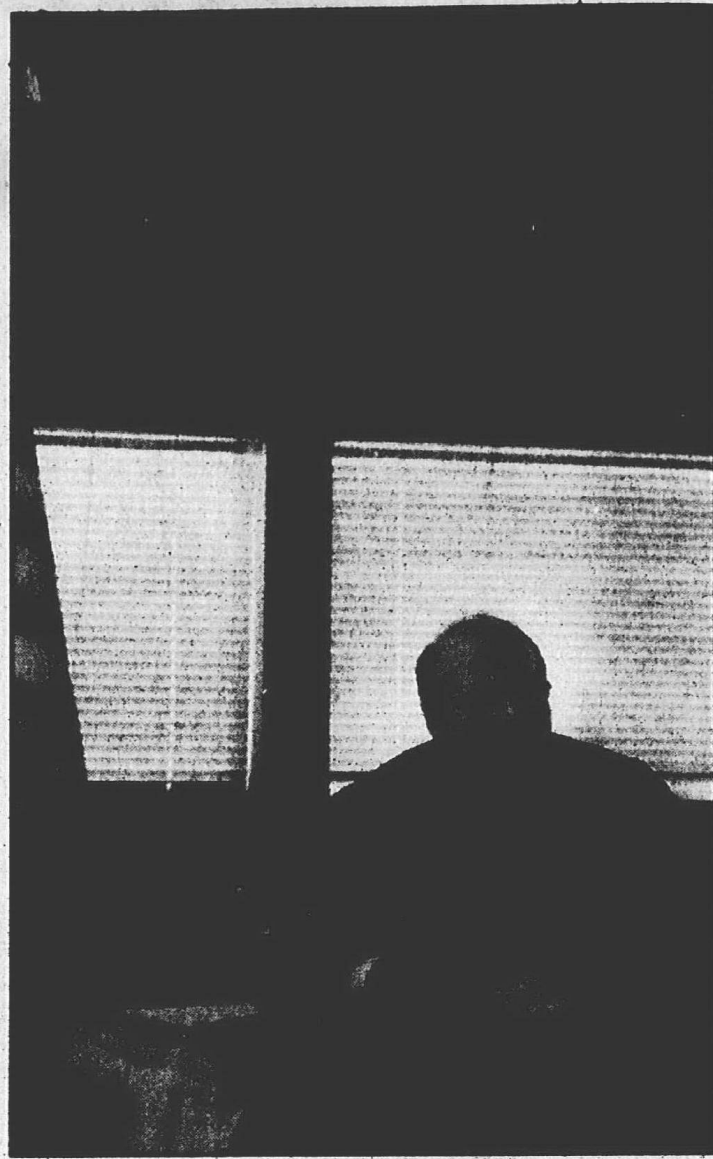
"I think she has the community's issues in the forefront," said Potter. "Teresa is a compassionate individual who will listen to her constituents."

"I'm impressed with her command of the issues," added FitzGerald. "I think she has a thoughtful approach to the issues, including education, where she opposes vouchers."

Folino said if elected, she will be accountable and accessible to the people in the 20th State House district.

When asked if Law has done a good job at that, Folino said, "Though our state representative has been good, I think there's room for improvement."

King of the courts



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMAN

Elected: The chief judge of 35th District Court in Plymouth, John E. MacDonald, has been elected chairperson of the Chief Judges Association of Wayne County. The association includes the chief judge of Wayne County Circuit Court, the probate court of Wayne County, as well as the 33 Wayne County district courts. "I think it's a nice honor, especially since I was elected by my peers," said MacDonald, who is in his 16th year as a judge at 35th District Court. "Our group looks at current legislation and how each of the courts handles various issues."

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- MISSION TO MARS (PG)**
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- BIRTH DATE (R)**
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Schools Driver Education Program will take place at 8 a.m. Saturday, March 25 at the Canton High School Cafeteria.

If the student/parent cannot register on this date, someone else may register for that person. Registration is scheduled on a birth date basis. Any students who will be at least 14 years and 8 months old prior to the first day of class (a birth date before Nov. 21, 1985) will be eligible for this summer's driver education program.

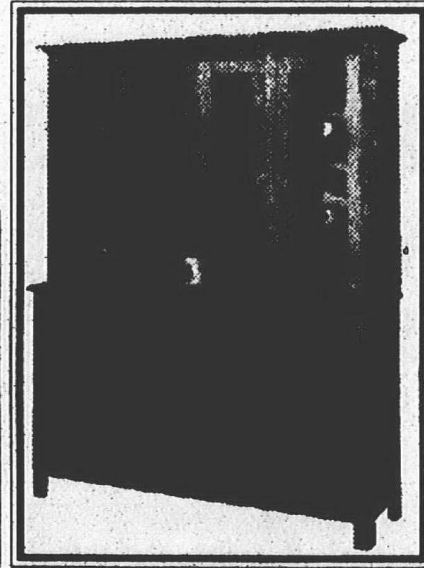
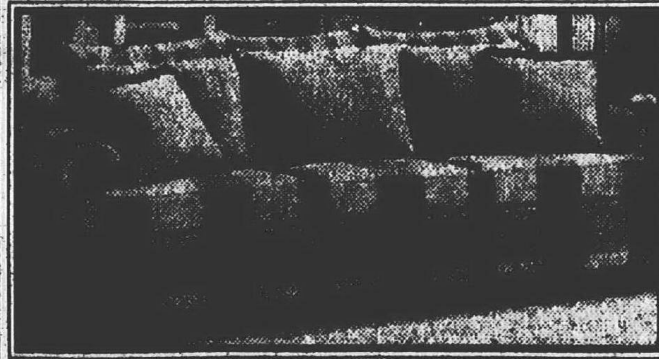
All information (registration times, session dates, attendance policy, etc.) is included on the registration form which must be completed and returned on Saturday, March 25.

Registration forms were distributed to students at the beginning of March. Additional registration forms can be picked up in either the Canton or Salem High School general offices. This year there is a charge of \$166 for this program payable upon registration.

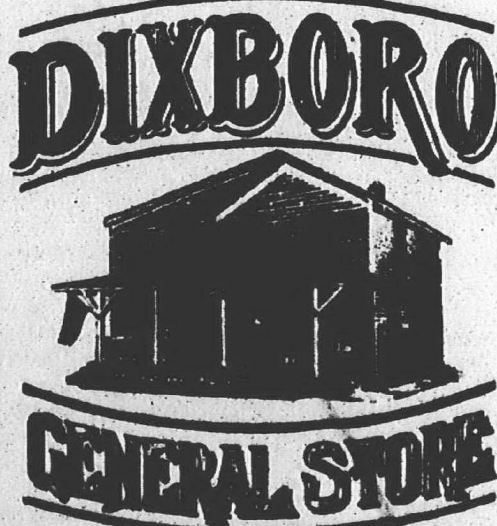
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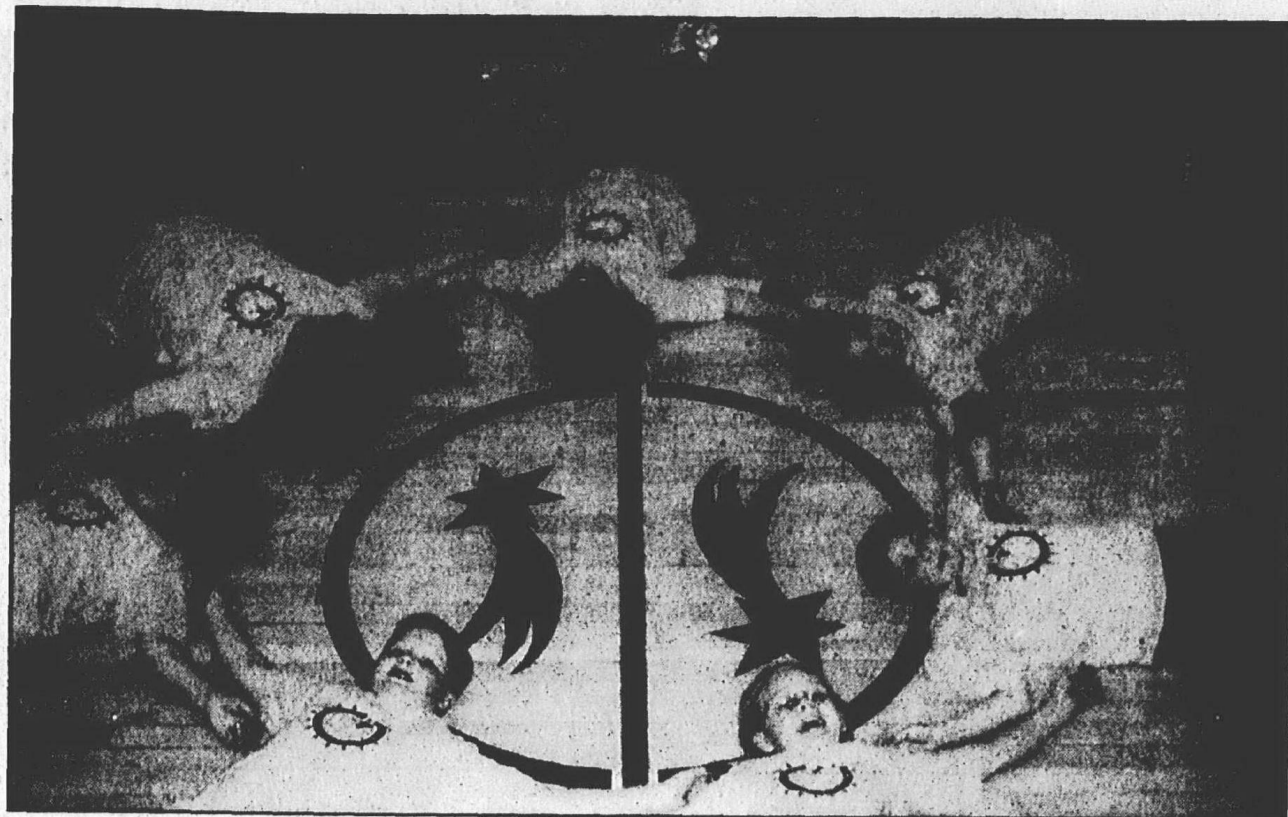
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Laying around: Members of the Smith Elementary team (left) show off their skills during the "Destination Imagination" regional competition at Grosse Pointe North High School. The Smith team took first for its "living baby book" that told the story of a do-do bird's adoptive life with a moose family.

Local students show 'Destination Imagination'

Students from Bird, Farrand and Smith elementary schools, as well as West Middle School, took a host of honors at the "Destination Imagination" regional competition of the Michigan Creativity Association held earlier this month in Grosse Pointe.

The fourth-and-fifth grade team from Farrand won first place for its six-minute presentation of student-written music, script, props and scenery.

A 5-foot tall living baby book that told the story of a do-do bird's adoptive life with a moose family was the creative concept that won first place for a team of Smith Elementary students.

The seven students from Smith also captured the tournament's top prize, the DaVinci Award, for originality in telling its story.

The Smith students will compete in the state finals April 15 in Mt. Pleasant. They are looking for sponsors to help defray travel and entry costs.

The elementary team from Bird won second place, and will also attend the state competition.

The West Middle School team took third place in the intermediate division. The team also received The Spirit of Discovery and Imagination Award for being superior role models in spirit, sportsmanship and volunteerism. Only two of the 85 teams in attendance were given the award.



Big winners: This Farrand Elementary team won with its six-minute presentation of student-written music, scripts, props and scenery.

Board considers lowering penalty for delinquent water bills

BY SUE BUCK
STAFF WRITER
sbuck@oe.homedomain.net

After hearing numerous complaints from residents, Plymouth Township Treasurer Ron Edwards has suggested a reduction in the penalties on water bills from 10 percent to 5 percent of the amount delinquent.

The proposed penalty change to 5 percent would make Plymouth Township's rate the lowest among surrounding communities Edwards offered in comparison. Penalties in Canton Township, Livonia, Northville Township, Redford Township and Westland are 10 percent. The City of Plymouth has a penalty rate of 15 percent.

In 1981, the township board instituted a 10 percent penalty on delinquent water bills.

"This was a time when interest rates were in double digits and residents were investing their funds instead of paying their water bills timely," Edwards said. "They were able to make more income, but the cash flow of the township was being affected. By raising the penalty to 10 percent, residents no longer had an advantage to have their water bill go delinquent and the penalty was com-

parable to interest rates at the time."

In regards to penalties on water bills that are transferred to the tax roll, Edwards suggested that the board raise the amount from 20 percent to 30 percent. Board members suggested raising it to 35 percent.

Water usage is billed quarterly.

Some residents use the tax bill to their advantage and the Internal Revenue Service doesn't catch it, Edwards said.

Trustee Chuck Curmi asked Rosemary Harvey if the board's action would discourage income tax fraud. "A lot of the offenders are developers," said Harvey, the township's director of administrative services.

The township's primary responsibility is to collect its water bills, said Trustee Ron Griffith. "If they figure out how to take a tax deduction, that's the federal government's responsibility," Griffith said. "I don't want to get into policing the IRS. I don't want to get into this game of being super-dog police over somebody's tax bill. We can get into some deep water there."

The township works with residents to develop a payment plan, Edwards said.

Center hosts legal fair

Neighborhood Legal Services, Redford Elder Law Center and the Canton Community Development Department will present a free community legal fair 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday, March 25 at the Canton Human Services Center, 44237 Michigan Avenue.

The fair will feature free legal hands-on assistance, workshops and guidance in the following areas: Estate/Life Planning (wills, power of attorney, probate, etc.), Family Law (divorce,

visitation, etc.), Elder Abuse, Consumer/Credit/Collection matters, Landlord/Tenant and Home Ownership Issues, Tax credits and Public benefits, grandparents/non-parent caregivers raising minor children, and general elder law issues.

There will be free food and beverages, free parking, free day care and free individual consultation. Space is limited. Call (313) 937-8291 for registration or for more information.

Prelim from page A1

year sentence with mandatory AIDS and STD testing. Anderson remains in Wayne County Jail.

The mother is out on bond but cannot see or talk with the alleged victim or with her other child, police said. Both children have been placed in foster care. The woman is charged as an accessory and also faces a first-degree charge in the case.

"In this case, she is considered an aider and abettor, meaning she gave aid, assistance or

encouragement," said Lora Weingarden, an assistant Wayne County prosecutor assigned to the case. "She is held as responsible as (Anderson) is."

Police emphasize the mother is not being charged with having had sexual contact with the victim.

Anderson's attorney said he will focus on preparing his case for trial. "The presumption of innocence continues," McWilliams said. "My client will be vindicated."

Ricky Nelson, the mother's attorney, declined comment.

Anderson's mother and sister were eager to defend him. "His family is here to support him," said Tiffany Brazier, Anderson's sister. "We believe that he is innocent."

"We are confident that he is innocent," added Nancy Crisp, Anderson's mother. "He is a good father. We have all the confidence in the world that God is on our side."

Sheldon from page A1

that we were going to close the road because it's the most cost effective way to get it done," she added. "But now the township apparently disagrees with that, and we all need to be involved in those discussions."

However, township Trustee Chuck Curmi disputes those claims.

"No one said the road would be closed until we received a letter from Wayne County in December," said Curmi. "It was a total shock to everyone in Plymouth Township."

"Maybe in the end the road will have to be closed, but we need to investigate it one more time to make sure we're making the right decision."

Pobur wants to have the Joint Services Committee reconvene to discuss the issue, or better yet, have both boards hold a joint session such as the one which produced the original agreement on the underpass.

"Last August we thought we had a firm agreement," said Pobur. "We moved forward assuming those commitments would be honored. It appears now there is some recalcitrance on the part of the township."

"I've talked to some of my colleagues at Wayne County about where this is going," she added.

■ 'I'm the biggest proponent in cooperating with the city of Plymouth.'

Chuck Curmi
—Township trustee

"There's some discomfort there, too, about people trying to change the substance of the deal. I want to be cautious about letting parties enter into new agreements, or modifying existing agreements, without the city commission's input."

Mayor Dave McDonald also expressed his concerns that the township is moving unilaterally on decisions concerning the grade separation.

"It's frustrating for me to get correspondence in my commission packet informing us the county was going to make a presentation at the request of the township at one of their study sessions," said McDonald. "I was frustrated a couple of months ago when I heard the township board had not formalized their two-thirds share of the cost because they had questions on whether the road would be closed."

"I'm optimistic, but at this

point a little frustrated," added McDonald. "I will certainly make that call to get this back on the right track."

"I had discussions with (City Manager) Dave Rich about meeting with the city," said Curmi. "I'm the biggest proponent in cooperating with the city of Plymouth. It's unfortunate the city has that impression. It's really the total opposite. Since the property which could be used for the bypass is in the city, we want the city to take the lead."

Commissioner Michele Potter said she attended the latest study session by township trustees with county officials, and it raised some concerns.

"Keeping Sheldon Road open during the project will delay the start of it because the design work will need to be redone," said Potter. "That will add significant cost to the project and take longer than if we just close the road."

"They (the township board) may not have had a technical vote last August, but they voted that night in approval," said Commissioner Dan Dwyer. "I'm reluctant now to enter into agreements with any municipality that doesn't give the follow-through you expect."

Local man added as partner in law firm

Kenneth W. Vermeulen was recently admitted to a partnership in the law firm of Warner Norcross & Judd LLP. He practices in the areas of both real estate and environmental law, including traditional real estate transactions and brownfield redevelopment, CERCLA, Part 201, underground storage tank regulation and lender issues. Vermeulen has also participated extensively in recent amendments to both part 201 and part 213 of Michigan's Natural Resources and Environmental

Protection Act. Originally from Detroit, Vermeulen, his wife, Shelly, and their daughters, Morgan and Sarah reside in Kentwood. He is the son of James and Sylvia Vermeulen of Plymouth. Vermeulen is a 1982 graduate of Plymouth-Salem High School. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Michigan and the Grand Rapids Bar Association.



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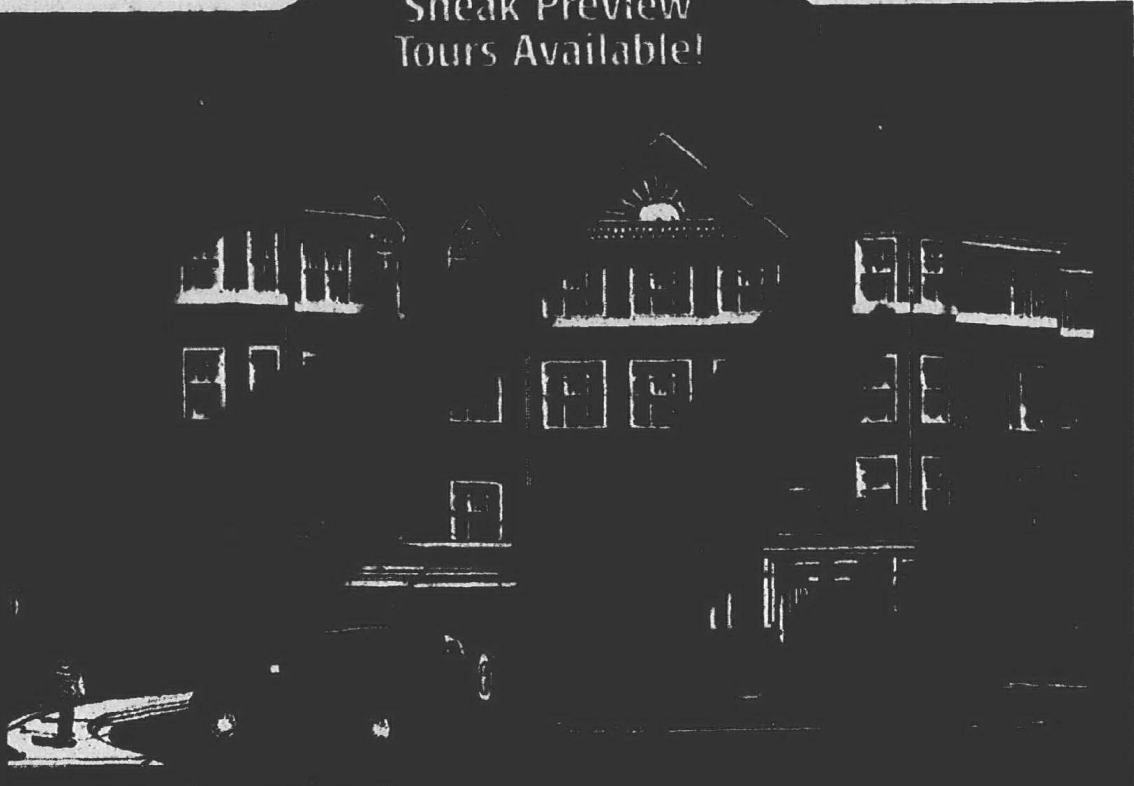
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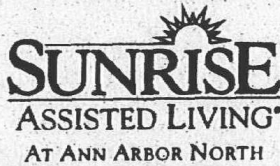


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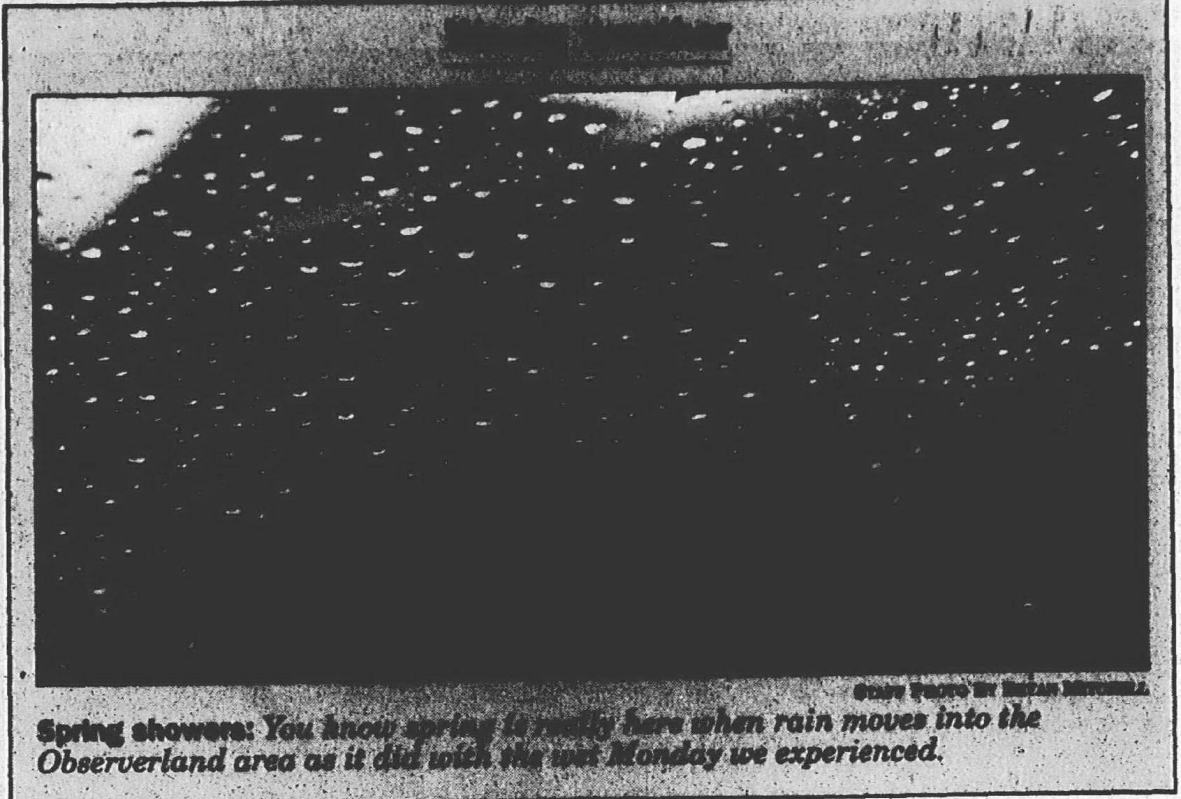


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Observerland area as it did with the wet Monday we experienced.

Purcell from page A1

quickly, has a lot of self-confidence and has led the board in areas which are consistent with our goals."

Pugh is happy with the fact Purcell has made the downtown DDA office more viable than in the past, giving both business owners and the public more access.

City Manager David Rich, who has been in town as long as Purcell, said she has done an "excellent job."

"Melanie has been able to work extremely well with the downtown business owners, the Chamber of Commerce and the city in opening the lines of communication," said Rich. "A lot of the projects we are seeing were in the works before she came, but they still don't progress without a driving force behind them."

One of those is the Mayflower Centre project.

"The Mayflower is just one component of downtown," she said. "It won't make or break downtown Plymouth or this community, but it will be a player. In combination with the new restaurants and other retailers, all the pieces are coming together."

"We may not recognize downtown Plymouth in a year from now," she added. "Not that it won't be a wonderful town, but some of the businesses that are there today won't be, and others will take their place."

Purcell said when she first came to Plymouth, she underestimated the commitment and strength of the downtown.

"I've been steadily impressed at the level of perceptiveness of the downtown business and property owners," said Purcell. "It's not a matter of being in it for the quick buck. There's a greater percentage of people in the downtown who are committed to the community far beyond where their business ends, at the front door. They've taken the community into their business and brought the business into the community."

Purcell describes herself as "a government bureaucrat ... but innovative ... who attacks goals very fiercely ... with a strong background in budget and capital improvements."

Purcell lists among her first-year accomplishments: putting together a budget that she

describes as "crisp and clean, we know exactly what's coming in and what's going out"; having a parking enforcement policy under way; and a capital improvement fund "so the DDA won't be caught flat-footed when it's time for new bonds or repairs."

And she expects to see at least a refurbished, if not new, parking deck within a few years. Purcell wants to be innovative when it comes time to do something with the 20-year-old structure.

"We have a unique situation in Fleet Street, a pedestrian-oriented street," said Purcell. "Maybe instead of a concrete structure, we build something with retail on the first floor and make Fleet Street an area for walking."

Purcell's main goal is to make people think of Plymouth as THE downtown area in the state.

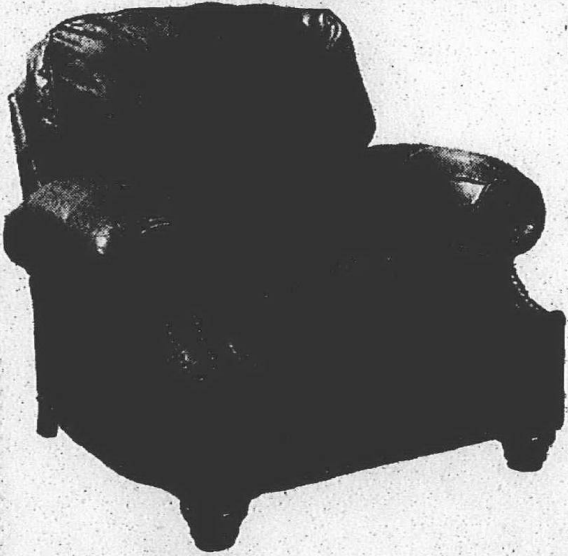
"Plymouth has the ultimate downtown. It has everything in place to be what small town America was meant to be," said Purcell. "We'll keep pushing Plymouth as 'The Place to Be.' We want to capitalize on our pride."

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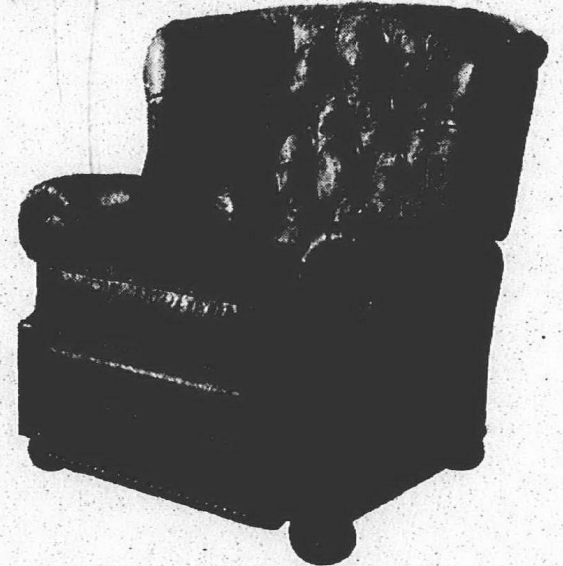
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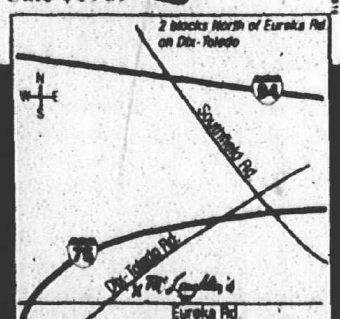
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Owners say contractor 'left a mess'

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER
sdaniel@oe.homecomm.net

When Dax and Lina Patel contracted Pearce Exterior Services to build a patio, they viewed it as the final piece to their dream home in Canton's posh Fairways West subdivision.

Nine months later, the couple is out more than \$6,000 and the patio is far from complete. Worse yet, reputable contractors are reluctant to finish the job left by Pearce Exterior.

"He left me with a big mess that nobody will touch unless they can rip us off, too," said Lina Patel. "Big companies won't do the work. Small companies want to rip you off."

Pearce Exterior Services is based in Holland, Mich. The Observer attempted to contact the firm's owner, Michael Pearce, for this story but was unsuccessful. The phone number of the business was listed as disconnected late Tuesday afternoon.

The Patels were not new to Canton when they moved into their 3,300-square-foot home just west of Bekk Road in November 1998.

The family lived in the Gleggery subdivision for five years, in fact, after moving from Pennsylvania. They decided to stay in the township for a number of reasons.

"We were very happy with Canton," said Lina Patel. "It's in the center of everything. We liked the library and the Summit. We had a great neighborhood."

They found their home just a

CANTON

bit too small, however, and decided to upgrade in brand new Fairways West. Patel said it was very exciting to oversee construction of their new home despite a difficult builder.

"He was hard to work with," she commented. "But he builds good homes."

After a few minor disagreements, the Patels closed on the \$325,000 home and moved in late fall of 1998. It was the fourth time the couple had been through the process of building a new home.

"My husband told me, 'this is your final dream house,'" Patel said.

The couple began focusing on the home's exterior in early 1999.

Landscaping, sod, a sprinkler system and a patio were among the projects they planned to have done last spring and summer. Problems soon arose.

The Patels hired a firm to do all of the work. But the landscaping wasn't completed without a lot of headaches and until the end of June.

They then decided to go elsewhere for sod, sprinkler and patio work. That's where Pearce Exterior comes in.

Dax and Lina hired the Holland-based firm last July based on the recommendation of several neighbors.

"They were very happy with him," said Lina Patel. "I watched him work. He seemed like he was working very hard."

Asse Suthar said Pearce landscaped and built a patio for their home. She said she and her husband contracted him in May 1999. Pearce completed work in August.

"He did a very good job," said Suthar, who added that Pearce's work schedule was sporadic. "Whenever he worked, he was good."

Kathy Woellecke, another neighbor of Patel, also had landscaping and a patio done by Pearce Exterior. She said they hired Pearce in early spring last year and he finished in August.

"His work is very good," Woellecke said. "He just took a long time."

The Patels, unfortunately, tell a different story.

The couple sat down with Michael Pearce on July 2 and signed a contract. It called for a patio with wall, walkways and benches. A price of \$8,200 was quoted.

Lina Patel said they gave Pearce 45 percent, or \$3,690, as a down payment at the initial meeting. Work was to begin by late July. Pearce didn't show until Oct. 13.

"We never hounded him," said Patel. "We never called him. We knew he was finishing other jobs in the neighborhood."

Pearce and his crew worked Oct. 13-15 and Oct. 20. The wall was built and dirt dumped in where the patio was supposed to go.

Pearce never returned after Oct. 20. It wasn't until early winter that the couple became suspicious. Meanwhile, Pearce had collected a second install-

ment of \$2,870 on Oct. 12.

Patel said Pearce promised numerous times after Oct. 20 to complete the job, but didn't. She said he made excuses about why he couldn't come.

In early January, the couple went so far as to send Pearce a certified letter urging him to complete the work. It fell on deaf ears, though.

Calls to the Better Business Bureau and state of Michigan haven't helped. So now the Canton couple is considering litigation.

"It's my way of saying I did all that I could," said Patel. "It's too many times I've been (ripped off)."

CARRIER OF THE MONTH: PLYMOUTH

ALEX NELSON

Alex Nelson, 12, delivers the Plymouth Observer. He has been delivering the Observer since November 1998.

The East Middle School seventh grader's favorite subject is social studies.

His hobbies are playing the trombone, computer games, and programming. Alex wants to go to college and become an architect.

Getting to know people is one thing that he likes about his route.

Money management is one skill that he has developed.

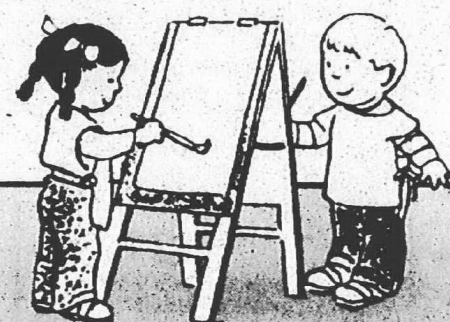
Alex is the son of Peter and Jan Nelson.



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COP CALLS

Larceny

A car owner said he discovered a CD missing when he returned

to his car after returning tapes at the Blockbuster Video store on Ann Arbor Road.

— Sue Buck

Two attendants at the Shell Gas Station located at 39621 Ann Arbor Road told Plymouth Township police they were assaulted about 10:30 p.m. March 14.

When three men entered the gas station but then walked out around the side of the building, a male attendant became suspicious and went to investigate, police said.

As the attendant came around the building, he saw the men urinating. One punched him in the face, police said.

After the female attendant went out to check on her co-worker, the men pushed her to the ground, police said.

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OBITUARIES

ELEANOR OLIVER
Services for Eleanor Oliver, 67, of Plymouth Township were held March 22 at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth, with Pastor Norman D. Long officiating. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth. She was born July 10, 1932, in Plymouth and died March 18 in Plymouth. She was a cafeteria manager for the Plymouth-Canton Schools for 20 years. She came to the Plymouth community in 1959 from Livonia. She loved bingo, crossword puzzles and reading books. She was also an excellent cook and baker. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Hope Oliver. Survivors include her husband, Harold of Plymouth; three sons, Charles Oliver of Plymouth, William Oliver of Plymouth and

Gary (Debbie) Oliver of Livonia; two brothers, Robert (Terri) Cramb of Fraser, Mich., and Richard (Joan) Cramb of West Branch, Mich.; her mother, Inez Cramb of Plymouth; and six grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the American Lung Association or Angela Hospice.
GLORIA JANE TERRIEN
Services for Gloria Jane Terrien, 55, of Westland were held March 23 at the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home, Plymouth, with the Rev. Tom Kirwan officiating. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery, Plymouth. She was born April 24, 1944, in White Earth Township, Minn., and died March 19 in Wayne. She was a homemaker. She came to the Westland community in 1922 from Plymouth and was a member of St. Raphael Catholic Church in Garden City. She loved to collect Beanie Babies with her grandchildren. She also enjoyed collecting Native American memorabilia. She was preceded in death by her two brothers, Earl and Leonard Bellanger. Survivors include her husband, Michael of Westland; two sons, Dave (Barbara) Booth of Livonia and Dale Michael (Leeann) Booth of Ply-

mouth; three sisters, Gladys Shroff of Ft. Wayne, Ind., Florence Parks of Ky., and Delores Campbell of Ft. Wayne, Ind.; three brothers, Kenneth Bellanger of Westland, Peter Bellanger of Livonia and Edward Bellanger of Ft. Wayne; and four grandchildren.
THELMA L. FERGUSON
Services for Thelma L. Ferguson, 85, of Plymouth were held March 18 in Northrop-Sassman Funeral Home, Northville, with the Rev. Louise R. Ott of Novi United Methodist Church officiating. Burial was in Rural Hill Cemetery. She was born Aug. 23, 1914, in Farina, Ill., and died March 16 in Plymouth. She was a 70-year resident of Northville. Prior to her retirement she was a sales clerk in a dime store. She was a member of Novi United Methodist Church and was a very active member of the Association for Retarded Children. She was preceded in death by her parents, Esly Nirider and Anne Dixon; and her husband, Clyde K. Ferguson on Oct. 10, 1990. Survivors include her three children, Dennis Ferguson of Plymouth, Jolene Jacobs, Ph.D., of Northville and William Ferguson of Plymouth; one brother, Cecil Nirider of Brighton; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Memorials may be made to Novi Methodist Church.
FLORENCE D. RAIDA
Services for Florence D. Raida, 71, of Canton were held March 17 in St. Mary Catholic Church with the Rev. Jack H. Baker and Rev. Joseph Gembala officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre, Southfield. She was born Sept. 8, 1928, in Canton and died March 13 in Dearborn Heights. She was a homemaker and a member of St. Mary Catholic Church. Survivors include her daughter, Lorraine (Richard) Liddy of Westland; one sister, Irene (Joseph) Gembala of Canton; one brother, Edward (Beverly) Bishop of Devenport, Fla.; and one grandson, Kevin M. Liddy. Memorials may be made in Mass offerings or to the DMC West Nursing Center. Local arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home, Westland.
ADAM JOSEPH GERRES
Services for Adam Joseph Gerres, 74, of Canton Township were held March 22 in St. John Neumann Catholic Church with Father Jack Quinlan officiating. Burial was in Mt. Oliver Cemetery. He was born May 18, 1925, in Detroit and died March 19 in St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. He worked as a foreman for an automotive company. He was preceded in death by his brothers and sisters, John, Joseph, Anthony, Elizabeth Welch, Barbara Dreer and Ann Pilkey. Survivors include his wife, Vivian; parents, Joseph and Elizabeth; and many nieces and nephews. Local arrangements were made by the Neely-Turowski Funeral Home, Canton.
LORRAINE M. MORGAN
Services for Lorraine M. Morgan, 83, of Canton were held March 17 in St. John Neumann Catholic Church with the Rev. George Charnley officiating. Burial was in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield. She was born Sept. 29, 1916, in Detroit and died March 12 in Canton. She was a secretary for General Motors Corp. She was a member of St. Johns Neumann Catholic Church and had worked at GM for 10 years. She was the former president of the GM Women's Club. She was preceded in death by her parents, Sheridan and Anne Moran. Survivors include her brother, Sheridan (Nancy) Moran of Tampa, Fla.; four nephews, Thomas Cram of Tampa, Fla., Robert Cram of Seattle, Wash., Douglas Cram of Los Angeles and John Moran of West Bloomfield; one niece, Christina A. (Dennis) Swift of Plymouth; and nine grandnieces and grandnephews. Memorials may be made as Mass offerings. Local arrangements were made by Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth.
JOHN A. MCALLISTER
Services for John A. McAllister, 83, of Plymouth took place March 18 in the First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth with Dr. James Skimins officiating. He was born April 3, 1916, in Kinde, Mich., and died March 16 in Plymouth. He was self-employed. He was in the Navy and in World War II and was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth. He was preceded in death by his parents, William S. and Eva McAllister. Survivors include his wife, Eleanor Delite McAllister of Plymouth; one son, Del McAllister of Bellaire; two daughters, Pam (David) Cook of Plymouth and Joy McAllister of Sarasota, Fla.; four grandchildren, Lisa Wright of Fla., Matt, Tyler and Casey Cook of Plymouth; and one great-grandchild, Noah Cook of Plymouth. Memorials may be made to First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, 701 W. Church, Plymouth, MI 48170. Local arrangements were made by the Vermeulen Funeral Home, Plymouth.

Hands On Center UPDATE
Presented by Hands On Center For Physical Therapy
GETTING THE MASSAGE
Soft tissue includes skin, connective tissue, muscles, tendons and ligaments. When runners and other exercise enthusiasts experience soft-tissue injuries, it is a good idea to turn to deep massage to improve tissue flexibility and circulation and decrease the tension and scar tissue caused by the injury. Such treatment sometimes includes acupressure (also known as shiatsu massage). It is based on the belief, developed centuries ago by the Chinese, that the body has energy pathways (meridians) that influence health. Therapists who have adopted the technique stimulate certain pressure points with their thumbs and heels of their hands to reduce irritation and tension in the injured muscle. Massage is the most comforting and effective of treatments for soft-tissue injuries. Massage is a treatment form which has been used for thousands of years, and has evolved to meet a variety of needs. If you are constantly bothered by back and neck ache, or an injury which isn't healing as it should, as your physician for referral to the HANDS ON CENTER FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY. We offer a wide range of treatments including massage, myofascial release, trigger point release, cranio-sacral therapy, ultrasound, and electrical muscle stimulation (EMS), and are located in Plymouth, at 470 Forest Avenue, Suite 20. To learn more, call 455-8370. Blue Cross and Medicare provider.
P.S. The massage technique known as Rolling involves the therapist using fingers, knuckles, and elbows to exert pressure on connective tissue in an effort to restore balance and symmetry to the body.

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Veterinary Notes by Elizabeth Routson, D.V.M.
EPILEPSY
Epilepsy is a condition marked by recurring seizures. Seizures are brief episodes of uncontrollable behavior or muscle activity caused by abnormal bursts of electrical activity in the brain. A seizure may last from a few seconds to an hour, with symptoms including rigidity or jerking of the body or limbs; anxiety, hysteria, or unconsciousness; vocalizing; and salivation, drooling, urination, or defecation. Seizures can be triggered by many things, including low blood sugar, infectious diseases, brain injury, and cancer. A thorough examination by a veterinarian is necessary any time a pet exhibits seizures. For some, managing or eliminating an underlying cause will eliminate the episodes. In cases where no known cause is found, seizures can be managed with medications.
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CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
CDBG PROGRAM AMENDMENT
On March 7, 2000, the Board of Trustees approved amendments to the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to (1) create a new FY 1999 activity for the community-wide reconstruction of existing sidewalks for curb cuts to facilitate wheelchair access; (2) to cancel FY 1993-98 Harrison Drain Improvements (\$340,593), Canton Commons Ballfield Improvements (\$10,000), and FY 1994 First Step Building Acquisition (\$30,000); and (3) to reprogram funds from the canceled projects plus up to \$125,000 from FY 1999 Human Services Center Expansion to the new activity, for a maximum total reprogramming of \$505,593. Written comments or requests for information should be directed to: Gerald Martin, Development Specialist, Resource Development Division, 1150 S. Canton Center Road, Canton, Michigan 48188, (734-397-5392).
TERRY BENNETT
Clerk

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CONSIDERATION OF TERM OF LIQUOR LICENSE (48.623) FOR HAPPY DAYS, INC. AND WHIRLY BALL - CANTON TOWNSHIP, L.L.C.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Act 184 of the Public Acts of 1943 of the State of Michigan, as amended, and pursuant to Liquor License Ordinance Number 114 of the Charter Township of Canton that the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, in the First Floor Meeting Room of the Canton Township Administration Building, 1150 S. Canton Center Road at 7:00 p.m. for the following purpose:
To hear and take testimony which shall result in a recommendation for renewal, non-renewal or revocation of the resolutions approved by the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton regarding the approval of Liquor Licenses to Whirly Ball - Canton Township, L.L.C. for a Class "C" Liquor License with Dance Permit and Entertainment Permit Approved above "ALL OTHERS" on July 14, 1998 and regarding the approval for a new Class "C" License to be issued above "ALL OTHERS" to be issued to Frank T. DiDario, Happy Days, Inc., on January 10, 1998.
All interested citizens are encouraged to attend and will be offered an opportunity at said hearing to voice any comments they may have regarding this request. Written comments may also be submitted to the Township Clerk's Office prior to the hearing date.
TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON
REQUEST FOR BID
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Charter Township of Canton, 1150 Canton Center S, Canton, Michigan will accept sealed bids at the Office of the Clerk up to 10:00 a.m., April 6, 2000 for the following:
LEASE OF ONE (1) 2000 FORD EXPLORER, 4DOOR, 4WHEEL DRIVE VEHICLE.
Specifications are available in the Finance and Budget Dept. All bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked with the bid name, company name, address and telephone number and date and time of bid opening. The Township reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or proposals. The Township does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services.
TERRY G. BENNETT
Clerk

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Duggan happy with gun deal but wants control on sales

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
rpearl@oe.homecomm.net

Is it tough enough?
That's what Wayne County's deputy chief executive wanted to know Friday about what he termed the "historic agreement" reached between the nation's largest gun manufacturer and the host of governments suing it and its competitors over gun control.

The question also was why Michael Duggan announced that Wayne County would continue its suit and not be a party to the agreement - pending Wayne County Circuit Judge Jeanne Stempien's decision on a motion by Smith & Wesson and other gun makers to dismiss the county's \$400 million suit.

His move was counter to that of the City of Detroit and Mayor Dennis Archer who, along with a host of other participants in the suit against gun makers, agreed to the settlement worked by the Clinton Administration.

Said Archer press secretary Greg Bowens, "The president (Bill Clinton) and the mayor struck a very good deal with Smith & Wesson to encourage responsible gun ownership and to make guns safer than they are now."

Archer "was the first one to indicate he would like to encourage other companies to follow" S&W by making it and others who join it "the companies of choice for weapons to law enforcement" bodies, Bowens said.

Market forces

"It really is an attempt to use market forces to achieve advances on a consumer product," Bowens added.

But Duggan had a different view.
"My problem is, is it (the agreement) tough enough?" he asked.

"When a gun is used in a crime, we can trace it and find out what dealer it came from," he acknowledged. But "We want a provision that, when a dealer is selling large numbers of guns to kids and criminals, we want the sales to the dealer stopped."

As things now stand, he said, a special commission would have three to five years to make such a decision - a process that is "much too slow and cumbersome," he said.

"How fast government can move on a dealer who violates the agreement's code of conduct - which triggers such an investigation - is our only point of contention," Duggan said.

While he gave New Orleans credit for the safety issues in the suit - such as the gun locks which Smith & Wesson agreed to install - Duggan said it was Wayne County that "expressly put in" the code of conduct which Smith & Wesson said it would require its dealers to sign. The code says dealers won't sell to kids or felons.

"We are well-satisfied with the safety-issues" part of the agreement, Duggan said, and he praised the Clinton administration.

'Lot of credit'

"They deserve a lot of credit," he said. "This is an historic agreement." But the point of contention is the enforcement, he said.

"We're just going to make it (the agreement) a lot better," he said.

"We (Wayne County) don't want the money, we want them to make safe guns and we want to keep the dealers and the gun shows from selling to underage buyers or felons or to those buying on behalf of felons.

"If we get that, we'll settle," Duggan said.

While Stempien "could dismiss (the lawsuit) at any time, I think we'll sit down with Smith & Wesson and work something out," he said. "We want them to cut off the dealers faster."

"We want them to act." County Executive Ed McNamara supported Duggan's decision "100 percent."

Saying Duggan "pretty much did this on his own" and crediting him with bringing Detroit into the suit, McNamara called the settlement "a giant step forward."

"But I also think there should be more policing of gun dealers," he said. "Nobody wants that kind of responsibility in part because of the expense and because you may open yourself to some kind of liability."

Nevertheless, he expressed confidence that "If Smith has gone this far, being the size they are," they'll go further toward policing their dealers.

Asked about enforcement efforts of the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, McNamara said the agency is

"trying to do what they can, but they're somewhat limited."

"Our concern with the plan is it's still too liberal with regard to getting guns into kids' hands for use in felonies," he said.

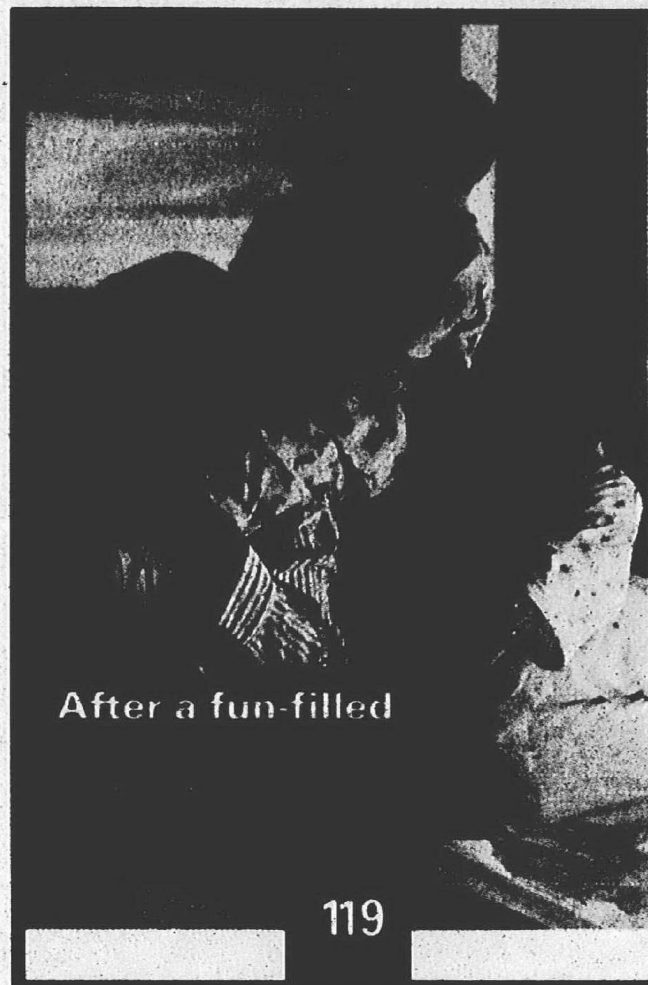
But Bowens, Archer's press

secretary, said the mayor feels "The deal we have struck has gone further than any legislation we could have dreamed of."

And if "one entity (Duggan) feels it can change an entire industry, more power to him."

"The mayor's position is to take responsible steps by gun manufacturers and not bully and posture for something further down the road."

"A bird in hand is worth two in the bush," Bowens said.



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Continuing suit draws mixed views

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
rpearl@oe.homecomm.net

Two western Wayne County commissioners took differing positions on the county executive branch's decision to continue a \$400 million lawsuit against gun manufacturers.

While board Vice Chair Kay Beard declined comment due at least in part to what she said was a lack of documentation from Deputy Executive Michael Duggan on his decision, Commissioner John J. Sullivan supported the move.

A third commissioner, Kathleen Husk, opposes continuing the suit but favors the gun locks that are part of the settlement.

Sullivan, D-Romulus, said that "Personally, I agree with continuing" the lawsuit against Smith & Wesson and the others because "gun locks aren't going to be used by most of these people."

In reaching a settlement, Smith & Wesson agreed to, within 60 days, sell external gun locks with all of its handguns.

Among other things, the nation's largest gun manufacturer also will, within 12 months, make handguns inoperable by children under age 6 and, within 24 months, have internal locking devices on the guns. It also will add a second "hidden" serial number to thwart criminals who try to erase them.

Sullivan, whose district includes the City of Wayne, part of Westland and all of Canton Township, said if someone "got the gun for safety (purposes), they're not going to want a gun lock on it."

"I don't see much of a safety measure," he said. "For the few that will use it, it will prevent accidental shootings by kids, but I don't think that's enough."

What's needed is to "stop selling guns to felons and minors," Sullivan said, citing videotapes by the sheriff's department showing dealers making such transactions.

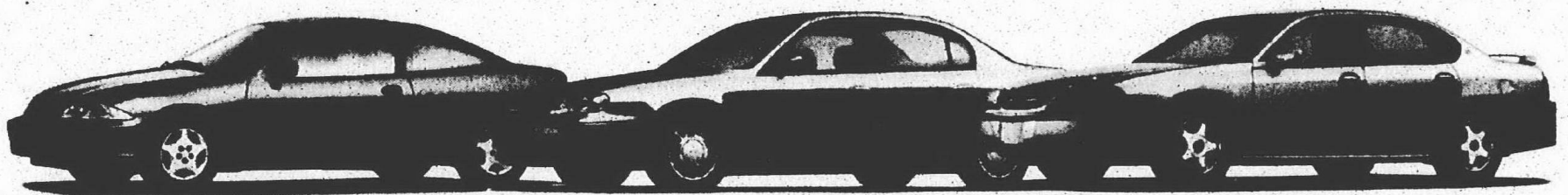
"That kind of thing needs to be stopped and there really hasn't been any kind of guarantee" by the agreement that it will, he said.

Beard, D-Westland, said she had seen nothing in writing from Duggan on his decision and so she was "not prepared to say anything."

"I don't shoot from the hip," she said. "I like to know whereof I speak."

Furthermore, she cautioned, "This is an election year and a lot of people say and do a lot of

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Bill clears way for new construction at state fairgrounds

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@homecomm.net

The way has been cleared, legislatively, for renovation and new construction at Michigan's state fairgrounds, on Woodward near Eight Mile in Detroit.

But exactly what building projects are to be included, how much it would cost and who would pay for it, isn't clear.

"They wouldn't give me the numbers," state Rep. Larry DeVuyst, R-Alma, said. He was the sponsor of the proposal.

House Bill 5341, which would turn control of the state fairgrounds over to Michigan's Department of Agriculture and allow administrators there to lease the property for private development.

That would legally clear the way for fairgrounds General Manager John Hertel to complete a deal he has reportedly been negotiating with Joe Nederlander, whose family operates the Fisher and Masonic Temple theaters in Detroit.

There has been talk that the project could include construction of a new 500,000-square-foot exposition hall, according to state Rep. Nancy Cassis, R-Novi, and Sen. Bill Bullard, R-Highland. Along with media reports of such a project, an expo hall has been mentioned in meetings, they said.

Bullard and Cassis are concerned about the deal, saying a publicly subsidized new exposition hall there could present unfair competition to the Novi Expo Center, a privately-funded exposition hall which just unveiled plans for a new building itself.

That's not correct, according to DeVuyst. The only plans for new construction at the state fairgrounds are for the construction of a new horse arena. Currently, horse shows are held in the ice arena inside the State Fair Coli-

seum building, he said. Dirt has to be trucked in to cover the floor before the show and carted out afterwards, an enormous job, he explained.

Space for exposition events would be in the Coliseum, which would be renovated under the plan. The building was just given a \$3.2 million renovation last year.

Another building on the fairgrounds would be nearly demolished and replaced, but DeVuyst could not specify which building that would be.

The bill itself does not include any details. The legislation simply transfers responsibility for the fairgrounds from the Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture and gives officials there the authority to determine which buildings may be demolished in order to make room for improvements.

DeVuyst said the bill allows for any private group to lease the grounds. But he concluded Nederlander is the most likely one to get the lease, because he already has plans in the works.

The bill won approval in the House on a 103-1 vote and in the Senate by 32-4 March 16. The legislation has been sent to Gov. John Engler for a signature.

The goal is to make the state fairgrounds self-supporting. The state fair has needed subsidies from the state to stay in opera-

tion in years past. Last year, the state fair turned a \$22,000 profit for the first time, according to DeVuyst.

To alleviate concerns about subsidizing development that would compete with other expo

halls, an amendment was added to the bill barring the facilities from being rented for shows at less than market value.

That should alleviate the concern, said Blair Bowman, president of the Novi Expo Center.

Guns from page A7

things" - an apparent reference to Duggan's announced candidacy for county prosecutor.

"It's an election for all of us as well," she added, "for all county-wide officials except the county exec," Ed McNamara.

Other offices on the county level besides prosecutor to be decided in the November general election will be for clerk, treasurer, register of deeds and sheriff, she noted.

However, Beard was careful to avoid connecting Duggan with the current dispute the commission has with the county's executive branch over paying legal fees in the gun control lawsuit.

"His name is nowhere in that," she said.

McNamara asked the commission to pay \$60,000 in expenses to Southfield law firm.

The firm specializes in bankruptcy matters and was brought in because one of the gun manufacturers, Davis Indus-

tries of California, is in bankruptcy proceedings.

"We have great concern about that and want a lot more information about that before" making any decisions," said Beard.

County corporate counsel Edward Euell Jr. said the firm was able to keep the county's "entire lawsuit" against Davis "out of bankruptcy," where it likely would receive a less favorable decision, he said.

Husk, R-Redford Township, said she is "definitely against that gun suit" because "there are laws already in place to prosecute."

"It's expensive for the county to sue, so if there are laws already in place, I prefer for us to go that route," she said.

She supports the gun locks because "I don't want guns out on the street."

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On display: Michelle Bernard (from left), Pujā Amin, and Lauren Devine sashay onto the runway during Tuesday's prom fashion show.

STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN



Dressing themselves: Dan Souphis (right) adjusts his bow tie while changing tuxedos with Drew Owens (center) and Bryon Kindernay backstage.

Dressing the part

Fashions highlighted in annual show

There were zoot suits, ties and tails and gowns galore - and memories.

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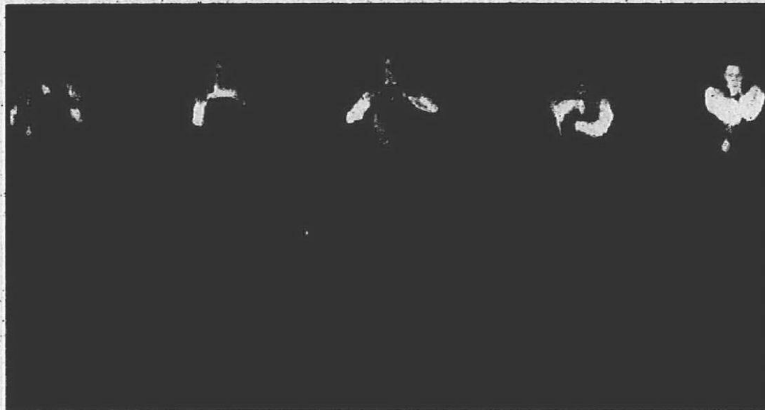
Show Tuesday in the cafeteria at Plymouth Canton High School.

The show, created by the Salem Student Congress, was dedicated to the memory of

Rachael C. Maurer - a senior who lost her life in a car accident late last summer. Rachael had been elected as Mayor of the executive forum, and had been instrumental in the 1999 show.

Senior Megan Bohr assumed the duties of mayor following Rachael's passing. "I knew it wouldn't be easy, but it was something I had to do," she said in the program's notes. "Even though she's not here, the show must go on and I know she'll still be with me."

Choreographer Aileen Balatico and Student Activities Advisor Lauren Cummings guided the process of the spring show featuring tuxedos from Randazzo Tuxedo, Canton Tuxedo and Steve Petix, and dresses from Cache, Gantos and David's Bridal. Images Salon in Plymouth donated hair styling services to all of the girls in the show.



Group performance: Ryan Silva (from left), Jon and Dave Merrick, Rick Rodriguez and Drew Owens act out their choreography from the boy band, 2Gether, symbolizing the song, "U + Me = Us."



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURSCHEMANN
Styling: Ken Bazman struts his stuff in a zoot suit.

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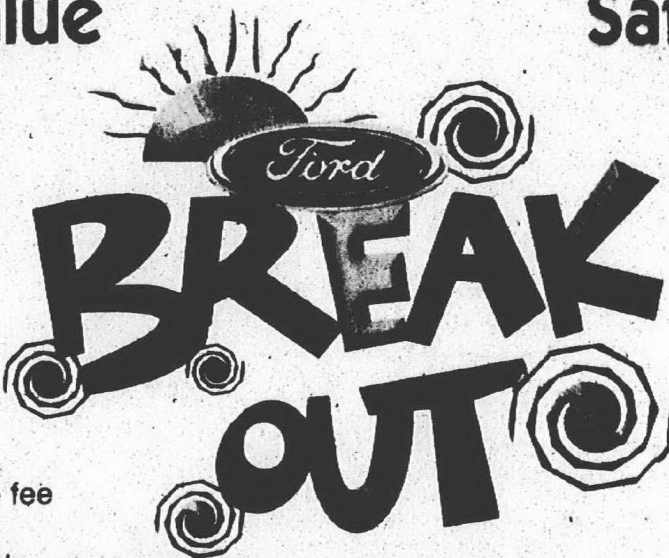
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MONROE

Panel hears seniors' concerns

BY RICHARD PEARL
STAFF WRITER
rpearl@oe.homem.com.net

Iris Cameron recalls the pharmacist who told her, "Hold on to your hat when I tell you the cost"

of the cancer medication prescribed for her.

When its price was added to that of the three others she has to take, it made the Westland woman think that "these golden

years are getting kind of rusty."

Cameron, a perky native of Ireland who came to this country after World War II as the bride of a Westland serviceman, was among about 50 residents of the

Thomas F. Taylor Towers senior residence center on Marquette in Westland and others who attended a hearing Monday on what Michigan needs to do to help seniors remain in their homes longer.

As it happened, issues relating to medication and also to transportation were added to a list being compiled by the group that conducted Monday's meeting: the House Democratic Party's In-Home Care Task Force, a panel of state representatives.

Co-chaired by Westland Rep. Eileen DeHart and Clinton Township Rep. Paul Gielegem, the task force has been holding hearings around the state in recent weeks. Final sessions will be April 10 in Grand Rapids and April 17 in Flint.

The panel's goal is "not to just have the talk, but to walk the walk," said DeHart, who expressed confidence state legislators will be open to task-force ideas because it's an election year "and senior power is the most awesome power, as far as voting is concerned."

"I think this year (senior issues) will have more momentum than in other years," said DeHart, who is being term-limited from office.

She said Monday's hearing brought out personal stories that "tore at my heart" but are, in fact, "not isolated" instances. "They happen all over the state," she said.

Transportation and medication issues joined such previously raised topics as the need for caregiver tax credits; in-home caregiver pay rates, training and background checks; assistance for in-home-care renovations; expansion of Medicaid waivers and the streamlining and coordinating of the reporting process.

Speakers told the panel Monday about seniors living alone, with no family or friends available to help them, who can't get transportation for treatment, who get unqualified, untrained help from in-home service providers, and who sometimes get conflicting medications from physicians treating them for different problems who don't communicate with each other or with pharmacists.

What you want'

Pat Wojcik of Westland told of



STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Hearing the public: In-Home Care Task Force members State Reps. Tom Kelly (left to right) and Patricia Lockwood, Westland Mayor Robert Thomas, State Reps. Eileen DeHart (co-chairman), Doug Bovin, Paul Gielegem (co-chairman) and Donna Aberlich, legislative assistant to Rep. Gielegem, start the proceedings at the hearing.

in-home care providers "telling you what you want to hear" about their services, then sending people so unqualified that, in her case, her mother "would have been better off in a nursing home."

Wojcik told how the changing personnel provided by one such service kept her at her mother's side every day.

DeHart responded that, "We want to make sure every person is taken care of as if (the caregivers) had 24-hour-a-day oversight."

Sylvia Kozorosky-Wiacek, outgoing director of the Westland Friendship Center and a 23-year veteran of the city's seniors programs, told panelists funding is needed for emergency situations in which homebound seniors can't get to treatments.

She said some seniors can't find public transportation to hospitals and doctors' offices in Livonia, for example, because Westland's Nankin Connector bus service's consortium with Wayne, Garden City and Inkster doesn't cross into Livonia.

"We cannot afford to send a staff person in our van to sit and wait" sometimes four hours while a senior gets chemotherapy or radiation for cancer or a



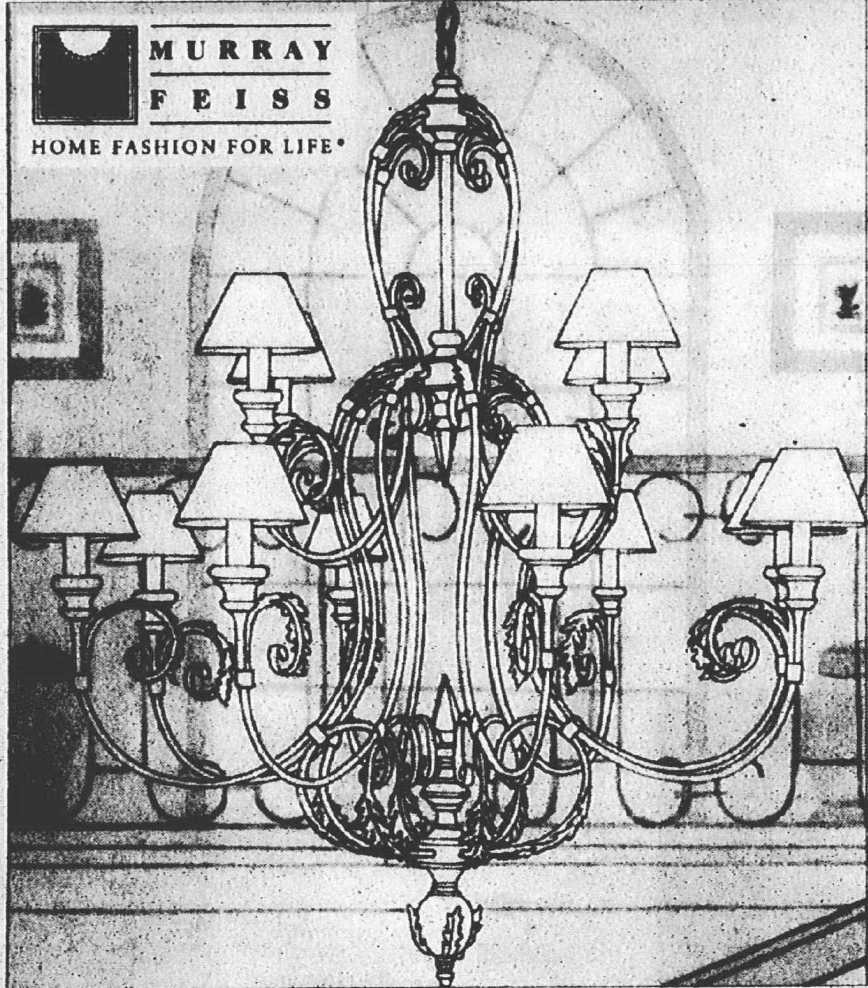
Making his case: Thomas Taylor, executive director at Thomas F. Taylor Tower, speaks at the in-home care task force hearing.

blood transfusion for leukemia, Kozorosky-Wiacek said. Starting such a shuttle service also would cost too much, she

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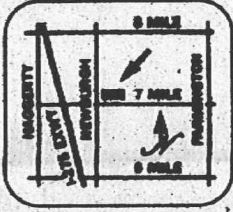
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SESSION II - 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

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Looking Good When You're Not Feeling So Good

Why They Make You Crazy

Aromatherapy and Therapeutic Massage

SESSION III - 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Fitting in Fitness

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Aromatherapy and Therapeutic Massage

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WRAP UP - 2:30-3:30 p.m.

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Attentive audience: Senior citizens Lillian Lang (left to right, front), Juanita Balsley and Dorothy Wilson, (behind) Ann Petroni and Mollie Prouty listen to the in-home task force.

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

Seniors from page A10

said. But perhaps some money could be provided by Westland and the state that would get a transportation company to offer service by appointment, she suggested.

\$10, not \$50

That way, she said, "Instead of it costing (a senior) \$50, it would only cost around \$10."

Rep. Doug Bovin of Gladstone noted some seniors in the Upper Peninsula have to use four buses to cover 60 miles between hospitals.

Kozorosky-Wiacek also spoke against Gov. John Engler's plan to replace MEPPS, the Michigan Emergency Pharmaceutical Program for Seniors.

MEPPS, a voucher program providing free medication, should be expanded with money from the tobacco settlement to "extend how many times a year they (seniors) get" vouchers "rather than start a new program," she said.

At present, the program only allows vouchers three times per year. She'd like to see more

■ 'I think this year (senior issues) will have more momentum than in other years.'

Rep. Eileen DeHart
D-Westland

vouchers and also have the program expanded to include those now left out.

"A lot of people miss it (the income level limit) by \$200-300" per month, she noted. "Some prescriptions are so high, it's exorbitant," she added.

Said DeHart, "If we don't use the tobacco money for health care" as originally decreed and instead use it for MEAP scholarships, as is now the case, "we're going to lose that money."

Another problem is the lack of a pharmaceutical log which would better coordinate the prescription process.

In some cases, speakers told the panel, physicians in different facilities and specialties prescribe medications for the same

patient which cause problems because there's no good pharmaceutical log they can check and the doctors don't discuss the case with each other.

As for caregivers, Gielegem said he favors a "career ladder" and that a bill has been proposed in the state Legislature to teach home care at community colleges.

Other representatives on the task force are Doug Bovin, Gladstone; Lingg Brewer, Holt; Deb Cherry, Burton; Pat Lockwood, Fenton; Lynne Martinez, Lansing; and Keith Stallworth, Detroit.

Mayor Robert Thomas welcomed the task force to Westland.

Police units join on enforcement

State and local police will be working together in a traffic enforcement detail Friday and Saturday, March 24-25, along Michigan Avenue.

State Troopers from the Metro South Post in Taylor, as well as

those from the Detroit and Ypsilanti posts, will join officers from departments in Detroit, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Inkster, Wayne, Westland and Canton Township as well as deputies from the Wayne and Washtenaw

county sheriff's departments in the multi-department effort. The traffic detail will focus on violations such as aggressive drivers, speeders, tail gating, drunk drivers and the new seatbelt law.

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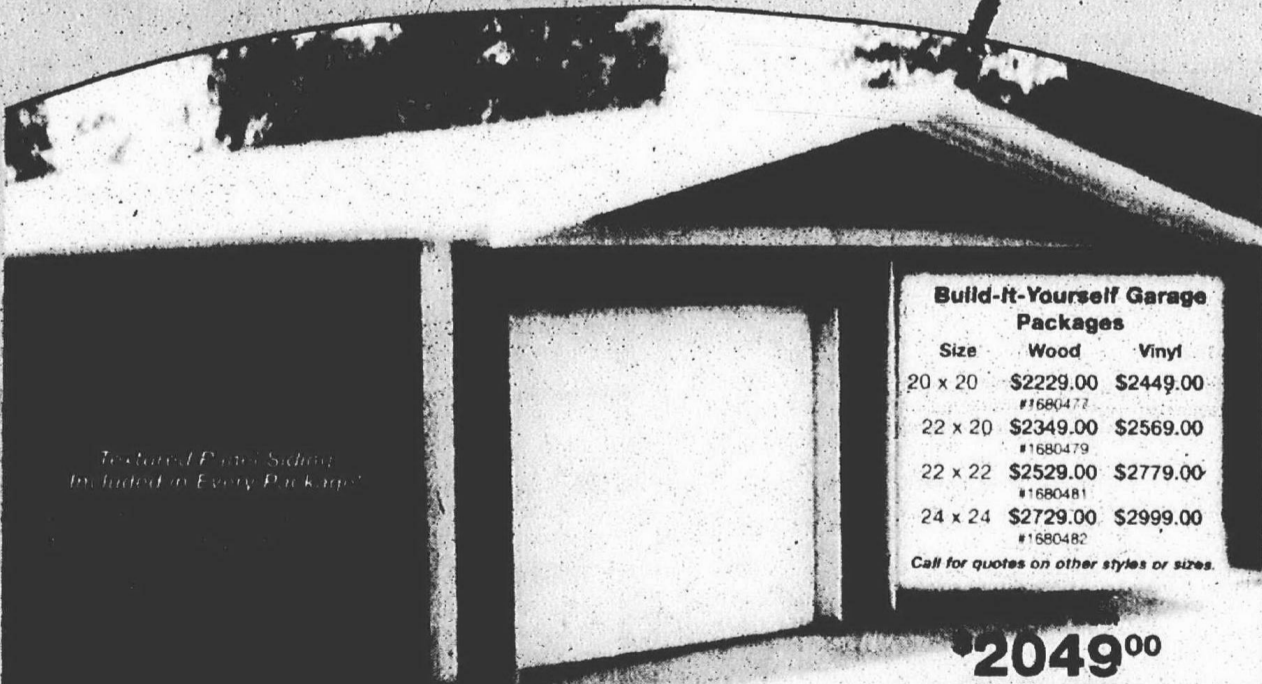
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BUILDING LASTING RELATIONSHIPS SINCE 1900

Baby dropoff bill aims to provide for safe abandonment

BY MIKE MALOTT
HOMETOWN NEWS SERVICE
mmalott@homecomm.net

A rash of abandonment cases in Michigan, in which newborns have been left on church steps or in Dumpsters, has left Lansing lawmakers looking for a way to address what they believe is a growing "national crisis."

State Sens. Shirley Johnson, R-Royal Oak, and Joanne Emmons, R-Big Rapids, have introduced bills that would give new mothers immunity from prosecution if they at least leave children in the hands of emergency service personnel at hospitals or police and fire departments.

"This is crisis intervention," Johnson said. "We are looking for ways to get to that teen mother, that unmarried mother, those historically who have been the ones to give birth and leave the child behind, in a bathroom

or a wastebasket. That's who we want to reach."

"We want to save her baby," she said. "In many respects, we want to save the mother as well. Imagine her feelings, her emotions, 10 years later as she starts to have a family and has children and begins to relate to them. How will she feel about the baby she abandoned that died? Wouldn't it be better if she knew it was with somebody who would love it, with somebody out there?"

The scope of the problem appears to be increasing, but by how much no one knows.

According to State Rep. Gilda Jacobs, D-Huntington Woods, no one keeps statistics on cases in which newborns are abandoned, either in the state or nationally. The best figure available comes from a 1998 Chicago Tribune article, which estimated that 57 children are abandoned across the country each day.

Growing problem

There certainly has been a rash of abandonments in the area recently. Last November, a baby boy was found outside St. Louise Catholic Church in Warren. In December, a Waterford girl kept her pregnancy secret and gave birth to a premature boy, who later died. Recently, a newborn was found in a Dumpster in Detroit. Over the past weekend, a baby boy was found in a garbage bag outside Grace Salvation Church in Detroit.

Kids Count in Michigan, an advocacy group for children's rights, says its statistics show the number of abandonments is on the rise. According to Jane Zehnder-Merrell, senior research associate for the Michigan League for Human Services, a member of Kids Count, the number of abandonments of all kids, at all ages, in the state has jumped 48 percent over five

years. There were 764 cases in 1993. She said the figure rose to 1,136 in 1998, the latest figures available.

The problem may be even larger. Statistics are kept on so-called "boarder babies," children left behind at the hospital when mothers check out after delivery.

Jacobs, along with Rep. Patricia Lockwood, D-Fenton, has been drafting similar legislation but has yet to introduce it. There are differences in the proposals. Jacobs' proposal would provide "immunity" from prosecution if the child were left with medical personnel at a hospital. Johnson's bill would give an "affirmative defense" in an abandonment prosecution if the child were left with medical personnel, police or fire personnel.

Jacobs' bill would allow the mother to deliver the child up to 72 hours after birth. Johnson's bill would give 30 days.

Jacobs said she will likely

withhold her bill, working with Johnson on her plan. Johnson said she is likely to adopt Jacob's 72-hour limit.

Both versions allow for reunification if the young mother has a change of heart. When dropping off the child, the mother would be given an identification number that would enable her to remain anonymous but allow her to be connected to the baby later if she so desired.

Reunification, however, would be closely monitored.

The bills are scheduled for a

hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee March 29 and are getting support from a variety of interest groups. Johnson said both Michigan Right to Life and Planned Parenthood have signed on to support the plan.

"That may be a first," she said. Sharon Claytor Peters, president of Michigan's Children, an advocacy organization, said that while the group has yet to take a position on the bill, she believed it would be "a step in the right direction."

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POINTS OF VIEW

Gunlock agreement only a start for control crusaders

Several months ago Mike Duggan, deputy Wayne County executive, was invited to meet with Observer editors. While the conversation covered many topics, it was clear that Duggan was most fired up about the county's lawsuit against gun manufacturers and about what he saw as the lax oversight of gun dealers by the manufacturers.

This was an issue that was also driving Duggan's ambition to run for county prosecutor. He sees the prosecutor's position as a perfect "bully pulpit" for pursuing issues like gun control through the courts.

Last week, Duggan's crusade achieved its first victory in the deal reached by Smith & Wesson with the federal government. Yet, as grateful as Duggan was for this breakthrough, he was unwilling to join others in signing off on the agreement. To Mike Duggan this was just a first step.

The plucky Irish pol allowed that it

was one of his best St. Paddy's days. He was enthusiastic about what the agreement will do, especially a provision for gunlocks.

But why let Smith & Wesson off the hook when we can still get them to do more through continuing to pursue them in court. For Duggan the issue remains oversight of gun sales by gun dealers.

Duggan has good reason to be leery and wary of gun manufacturers and their support groups. We've reached an extremely shrill and dangerous period in the national dialogue on guns, in which the Smith & Wesson agreement is but a brief whiff of fresh air and momentary sanity.

It was only a few days before that Wayne LaPierre, vice president of the National Rifle Association, railed on national television that President Clinton was "willing to accept any level of violence" to pursue his political agenda. LaPierre argues that the



HUGH GALLAGHER

gun laws already in effect, the same gun laws that the NRA opposed in the past, were not being aggressively enforced and that's why a 6-year-old boy gunned down a 6-year-old girl.

It was only a few days before this agreement that silent John Engler finally came forward to opine that it was bad parenting that led to the shooting. Very perceptive. After an

initial statement of remorse, Engler had generally retreated from comment on the incident, sending out the word that the president's display of sympathy to Kayla Rolland's mother was just show biz and beneath his dignity. But, most certainly, guns had nothing to do with the little girl's death. Nor did Engler's cutbacks in social services.

It was only a couple weeks before that House Speaker Chuck Perricone responded to a question about pending gun legislation with a coldness unexpected even from him. He anticipated the reaction of liberal Democrats by saying they wanted to make "politics" out of the shooting, even as he made politics out of the shooting—signaling the gun lobby that the Legislature would fight gun legislation, no matter how reasonable.

Of course, the Democrats wasted no time making Perricone a prophet by citing the shooting to push for the

legislation that has lain dormant for months. And though the bills wouldn't have stopped the Mount Morris shooting, the Democrats couldn't be blamed for trying to get a wedge in.

Now we have some tangible progress because of suits filed across the country by counties, cities and states. Detroit has agreed to join in the settlement, while Duggan and Wayne County take their wait and see position.

At the heart of Duggan's concern is preventing the sale of guns to minors and felons, exactly the problem in the Mount Morris shooting, at least as that incident concerned gun access.

We're willing to wait with Mike Duggan and see what happens.

Hugh Gallagher is managing editor of The Observer Newspapers. He can be reached by phone at (734)953-2149, by fax at (734)591-7279 or by e-mail at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net

World makes little sense when Brittney outprices Barry

I saw something in the paper the other day that made me wonder, "What kind of world are we living in?"

Over the weekend, I noticed how often events left me asking myself that same question. So I decided to try and figure it out.

What kind of world are we living in when:

- Brittney Spears can command \$40 per ticket, but Barry Manilow only gets \$12? OK, those were lawn seats, but still...
- The Plymouth Chamber of Commerce asks for male volunteers to dance in a Secretaries' Day extravaganza, and only two brave souls respond? Chamber maven Fran Toney asked yours truly, but surely there's an ordinance against that?
- Parents like the mom and dad of Plymouth basketball player Mark Bolger and Mt. Morris Township first grader Kayla Rolland will spend the

rest of their lives grieving over the untimely, unexplainable loss of their children, and this bonehead in Clinton Township actually tries to sell his 10-month-old daughter for \$60,000 to support a drug habit?

The guy reportedly told his 5-year-old son to "kiss your baby sister, because you're never going to see her again." First, I was stunned that this guy had other children. Secondly, I was reminded of the old saying, "You have to have a permit to own a guy or a license to drive a car, but any idiot can become a parent."

- An 11-year-old Canton kid gets caught in the act of palming a couple of packages of cookies, then, instead of just owning up to the theft, he tries to kick the crap out of the 50-ish store manager?
- Barbara Walters is allowed to claim she asks "the tough questions?" Asking John and Patsy Ramsey if they killed their daughter might have



BRAD KADRICH

been the easiest question she asked the parents of the young beauty queen. What are they going to say? "Sure, we killed her, and now we're on national television." C'mon.

- The Miami Dolphins would rather go with Damon Huard than Dan Marino? (OK, I understand this one, but it still bugs me.)
- It takes 25 minutes to go through the drive-thru window for "fast" food?

- My bracket has Arizona all the way to the Final Four in the NCAA tournament (for entertainment purposes only, of course), and the Wildcats lose to WISCONSIN? Ditto Temple, which I had going all the way to the title game, where I picked them to lose to Michigan State.
- Every political candidate in every race says, "We have to get away from the negative campaigning" out of one side of their face, then says, "My opponent is a scum-sucking dog" out of the other side?
- People see the U.S. Census form and have to worry about where their information is going to end up?
- Our only choices for president are going to be Al Gore and George W. Bush? Is Pat Paulsen running again?
- Regis Philbin can dominate the top 10 television ratings every week?
- A 6-year-old can get hold of a gun to shoot another 6-year-old in the first place?
- Country music becomes the most

- The guy reportedly told his 5-year-old son to 'kiss your baby sister, because you're never going to see her again.' First, I was stunned that this guy had other children. Secondly, I was reminded of the old saying, 'You have to have a permit to own a gun or a license to drive a car, but any idiot can become a parent.'

listened to format? Of course. Hank Williams turns over in his grave every time some of these new "country" artists sing, so it's not really country music, but still.

Brad Kadrich is community editor of the Plymouth Observer. He can be reached at (734) 459-2700, or by email at bkadrich@oe.homecomm.net.

Keep politics from trashing MEDC

I spent an afternoon last week down at Wayne State University listening to the annual meeting of the board of directors of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation.

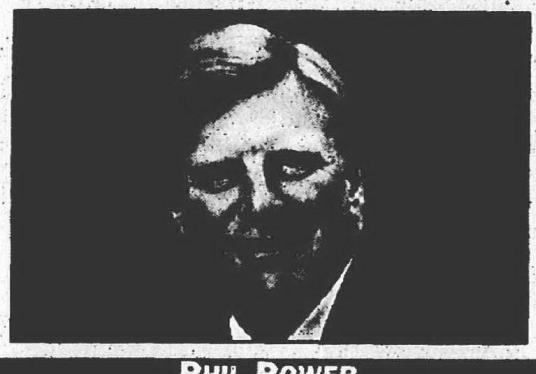
Attentive readers will recall that the MEDC was created last year as a public corporation, confected out of the old Michigan Jobs Commission and the Michigan Manufacturing Technology Center to serve as a single responsible point of contact for all economic development activities in Michigan. No longer a department of state government (with all the attendant restrictions), the MEDC is able to function much like a private corporation, but still enjoy state funding and be subject to legislative oversight.

Disregarding all the bureaucratic mumbo-jumbo, the bottom line is that the MEDC is widely recognized as one of the nation's most effective economic development outfits. Consider these successes:

- Competing with Ohio, MEDC helped pave the way for General Motors to put the new assembly plant for the Cadillac Catera in Lansing. GM will invest \$500 million in Michigan to create 1,511 jobs.
- When Chrysler "merged" with Daimler-Benz, a big-time issue turned on where to consolidate North American financial operations for Chrysler Financial. Daimler's operations were in Cleveland and New Jersey; Chrysler's in Auburn Hills. MEDC helped guide the consolidation to Auburn Hills, where a \$77 million investment brought with it 1,294 jobs.
- Webvan Group Inc. is a fascinating new concept in grocery marketing, whereby folks can order their groceries—dinner, even!—on the Web and have the stuff delivered within an hour or so to their door. The Midwest distribution center for Webvan wound up in Livonia (\$47 million investment, 900 jobs) instead of Ohio, thanks to the MEDC.
- When the Robert Bosch Corp. was casting around for a place to put research and development for the Bosch Braking Systems Corp., MEDC jumped in and helped bring the 475 jobs and a \$37 million investment to Farmington Hills. Not bad for a new little public corporation!

As is the case with most organizations, success has more to do with effective leadership than with organizational structure and bylaws. MEDC has been lucky to be led by Doug Rothwell, president and CEO, who used to run the Michigan Jobs Commission. Rothwell has steered the MEDC through the political thicket and the economic waters with great foresight. His sidekick as board chair is Rick Snyder, a quintessential no-necktie hard-charger who chucked in a career as chief operating officer of Gateway Computer and moved to Ann Arbor a few years ago where he set up Avalon Investments, a venture capital firm.

The meeting I attended last week seemed



PHIL POWER

broadly representative of this record. Snyder and Rothwell deftly moved the 60-odd board members through what looked a lot like a standard corporate agenda, including "1999 Corporate Objectives and Results" and "Strategic and Operating Plan Review."

A representative of Anderson Economic Group presented a Michigan business climate benchmarking study that suggested Grand Rapids and (surprise!) Saginaw had the best overall business climate.

A policy agency and therefore a political creation of the Engler Administration, the MEDC is led by a 17-member executive committee appointed by the governor to eight-year staggered terms. Given the origin of the institution, it's not surprising that the current group is overwhelmingly Republican.

But now that MEDC has established a solid track record and John Engler is part way through his last term as governor, it's time for folks to start thinking about how to assure its survival under the next administration, whether Republican or Democratic.

This is not a trivial matter. The tendency in most new administrations is to trash predecessor creations, whether effective or not, on the spurious grounds of "not invented here." I saw this firsthand in the 1990s, when the newly-elected Engler administration trashed a first-class job training structure I helped organize for the Blanchard administration, only to recreate virtually the identical set-up a couple of years later. The net effect: Wasted time and money.


The MEDC and the Engler administration could do succeeding administrations and countless Michigan citizens a favor by making broadly representative appointments to the MEDC Executive Committee. Better political balance at the top will provide the MEDC a fighting chance to sustain this important Michigan institution when a new administration takes power.

Phil Power is chairman of HomeTown Communications Network Inc., the company that owns this newspaper. He welcomes your comments, either by voice mail at (734) 953-2047, ext. 1880, or by e-mail at ppower@homecomm.net

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ADMISSION

Concordia College, Ann Arbor is pleased to announce that Sheila Friedrich of Canton has met the qualifications required and has received an offer of admission to the Accelerated Degree Program for the Fall of 2000.

DEAN'S LIST

Adam J. Delezenne of Canton was named to the Dean's List at Lee University in Cleveland, Tenn. He was among 770 Lee students named to the Dean's List with honors for the fall semester. Students achieving a GPA between 3.7 and 4.0 were placed on the list. He is a freshman and has a GPA of 3.78. Delezenne, a graduate of Plymouth Salem High School, is the son of Dennis and Linda Delezenne.

Lark Haunert, Christopher Machnacki of Canton and Andrew Oleszkowicz and Katherine Zopf of Plymouth were named to the Dean's List at Alma College for the Fall 1999 semester. Students who achieve a 3.5 or better grade point average during a term, while carrying a minimum of 13 credits are named to the Dean's List.

Melissa Ponder, Robert Richards, Jessica Rasmussen, Jennifer Harper, Katherine Tighe, Christina Brian, Matthew Derda, Stephen VanKerckhove, Darren Neubauer, Carrie Smith, Michael Davis, and Natalie Simms of Plymouth with Rebecca Newton, Lorissa McKay, Molly O'Connell, Carla Kittler, Brandon Nomersheim, Bryan Kelm, Cristina Bailey, Candice Wallace, Stephanie McKee, Sheila Elliott, Divya Arya, William Juergens, Melissa Teeters, Kristen Adler, Bree Anne Stopera, Bethany Bray, Kevin Stone, James McDonald, Andreea Neaga, Brian Haas, Kimberly Truzzi, Alicia Richie, Gregory Rocheleau, Cynthia Schubert, Timothy Sisler, Maurem McEachern, and Matthew Erickson of Canton were all named to the Dean's List at the University of Michigan-Dearborn for the Fall 1999 semester. Students on the Dean's List must earn a minimum of 3.5 grade point average while carrying at least 12 credit hours in a semester.

WHO'S WHO

Jennifer Storm of Canton, who attends the University of North Dakota, will be featured in the 2000 edition of "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges."

GRADUATES

Justin Carinci, Anne K. Gakbraith, Colleen M. Kirby, Colleen M. McAlinden, Patrice L. Reppenhagen, and Tara N. Schuler of Canton and Peggy E. Agusti, Rebecca L. Goff, Courtney E. Henigan, Erica Karrer, and Sherry L. Soenen of Plymouth graduated from Western Michigan University at the end of the fall session of the 1999-2000 school year.

Stacie E. Markley, Laura E. Weir of Canton and Elizabeth J. Cleland of Plymouth all were graduates for the Fall 1999 semester at Grand Valley State University.

zBusiness gets European commitments

Perceptron, Inc. today announced the receipt of significant commitments from major European customers for new vehicle programs. Two of these represent the largest single commitment ever made to Perceptron by a European customer. Combined, these programs call for in-line gauging at a minimum of seven plants over the next 36 months.

Alfred A. Pease, Chairman and CEO, commented, "Our customers have clearly recognized the advantages that Perceptron's new IPNet web-based process measurement and control systems, and our new FMS Flexible Metrology systems, bring to their operations. These systems

will be a key factor in reducing vehicle launch times, in lowering manufacturing costs, and in the consistent production of vehicles of the highest quality. We are extremely proud of the tireless dedication of our global automotive team."

Perceptron also announced that Dean Massab, Sr. Vice President for Perceptron's Global Automotive Business Segment, and Neil Dueweke, Sr. Vice President for the Industrial Business Segment, will be leaving

Perceptron together for a new opportunity in an unrelated industry.

"Dean and Neil worked together at Fanuc, at Perceptron, and will continue their close association in their next employment. They have made significant contributions to Perceptron during the company's recent challenging period of diversification and new product development," continued Mr. Pease. "The company will benefit from these accomplishments for years to come."

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BARI BERKOWITZ

Quiz helps you check the status of your marriage

How is your marriage? Have you checked on the status of it lately? Take this quick quiz to find out more.

Do you nurture each other? Are you emotionally intimate? Can you be vulnerable with each other? Can you share your deepest feelings without fear of being attacked? Are you supportive of each other? Do you have common goals? If you have said, "no" to all or most of these, then it may be time for a relationship evaluation.

Almost all married couples run into a few bumps in the road along the winding marital path. But the key to a good marriage is to not let it get so bad that it is beyond repair. In a healthy and satisfying marriage, partners have taken the time to learn good relationship skills. The key word here is "learn."

Most likely when you took your marriage vows, you lacked expertise in the communication skills department. The behavior we bring to our relationships is often a reflection of the atmosphere in which we were raised. If you witnessed a controlling and overbearing mother, you probably have picked up on pieces of that behavior. If your father gave your mother the silent treatment rather

■ 'Make a commitment to spend time applying relationship skills. Try a weekly marriage meeting to work on listening and communicating honestly. Discuss what is positive about the partnership ...'

than working through conflicts, there is a good chance that you would repeat this behavior in your own relationship.

A loving, exciting marriage does not happen by itself. It is constant, but worthwhile daily work. If your union is not all that you had hoped it would be, take some time to think about the following relationship skills that lead to an atmosphere of love and support. A fulfilling marriage begins with you.

Partners should choose to encourage each other. In lasting relationships, spouses feel empathy for one another and are supportive of each other's dreams and goals. Try to understand how things look and feel to your partner.

■ Make a commitment to spend time applying relationship skills. Try a weekly marriage meeting to work on listening and communicating honestly. Discuss what is positive about the partnership rather than focusing completely on the negative.

■ Share opinions rather than focusing on who was right and who was wrong. Avoid name calling, sarcasm and low blows.

■ Take time to understand the family atmosphere in which you were raised. If you need help in dealing with unresolved personal issues, seek counseling.

■ Conflict is an unavoidable and necessary part of marriage. In healthy relationships, partners have worked out an effective and fair process for working through inevitable disagreements and problems. Show mutual respect.

■ Have fun together on a weekly basis. Stressful jobs, children and other responsibilities can zap the energy out of the best of relationships. Remind each other why you fell in love and why this marriage is worth the effort.

Most important, try to maintain a good sense of humor.

Bari Berkowitz, M.A. is a psychotherapist, wife and mother of three. She can be reached at nbajt@mediaone.net for comments or suggestions for this column.

Cultural experience

Students get wrapped up in Samoan studies

■ A classroom of fourth-grade students at Field Elementary School in Canton recently completed a project on Samoa and its people. The lesson culminated with a guest speaker who brought several native heirlooms and artifacts as well as sharing his own personal experiences about the culture.

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@ec.homecomm.net

At Field Elementary School in Canton, fourth-graders felt like they traveled far from home, without ever leaving their classroom.

The four separate fourth grade classes came together on the afternoon of Tuesday, March 7 to learn about a culture that is quite different from their own — the Samoan culture.

Robert Engle, chair of the music department at Northwest College in Seattle, visited the school to teach the eager group about the time he spent living in Hawaii and immersing himself in a different culture.

Having lived in Hawaii for 27 years, he's mastered three Polynesian languages and performs both Polynesian and popular music. A high school friend of Field Elementary fourth grade teacher Pattee Rupert, Engle agreed to share his experiences with the class.

He taught the children a dance, called a sasa, and showed them original items associated with Samoan culture, including a rugby shirt commonly worn by an all-Samoan team in New Zealand.

That wasn't the only traditional item of clothing he brought. Corey Davis was chosen to try on a lavalava. "He wanted to call someone up to try that blue thing on," said Corey. "So he wanted me to. I think it's called a lavalava. I tried it."

"This is one thing I didn't know about. It said in the book, America is spelled differently, with a 'k'. I think it was cool."

Rupert said the presentation matches fourth grade curriculum for social studies, where they are learning about all regions of the United States. She said she can teach her class about how the Midwest was once mostly farmland. She can now show her class that Samoans still live that way.

"This is still kind of pure," she



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HUBBEMANN

explained. "They love it. They have looked at the native dress."

She's incorporated it into other subjects. In math, the students calculated the distance from Canton to Samoa and learned about the different time zones, which they would need to know to call someone in Samoa. For reading class, they read a Samoan legend and created a booklet which illustrated its meaning. The booklet was woven like a mat, or "ie toga," an heirloom-like gift given in Samoa.

"I'm really proud of them," added Rupert.

So was Engle, even though he's used to working with older students.

"They seem to be tuned into what we learned," said Engle, who lived in Hawaii from 1972 to 1999. "They could find it on the map."

He explained the differences between two different countries, American and Western Samoa. Western Samoa gained its independence from New Zealand in 1963. Citizens of American

Learning tool: Above, Robert Engle, chair of the music department at Northwest College in Seattle, visits Field Elementary teacher Pattee Rupert's Canton classroom to talk about the Samoan culture.

Right, Engle wraps a traditional Samoan lavalava around student Corey Davis who volunteered to model the garment before his classmate.



Samoa need a visa to enter Western Samoa. Later Engle answered their many questions.

The special visit ended appropriately with a special treat — pineapple and coconut — common to Polynesian cultures. Engle said he hopes the children will take with them "just the general idea that people are different. They have different ways of doing things that are just as important to them."

Students reach community through good deeds

HELPING HANDS

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
STAFF WRITER

Giving can be one of the most rewarding actions in life that benefits not only the receiver, but the donor as well. Western Wayne Skill Center students are finding themselves on the giving end of good deeds thanks to the "Lend a Hand" program initiated at the Westland school in February.

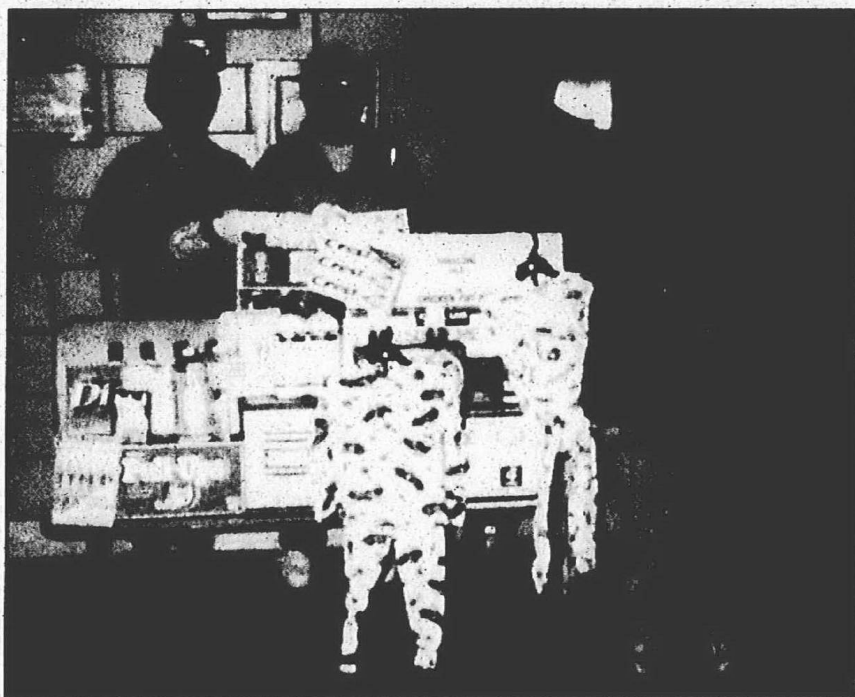
According to WWSC Program Specialist Barbara DeGrazia, students are encouraged to volunteer by reaching out to their community and performing an act that benefits someone in need. The idea was initiated by members of the Leisure Volunteer Committee of which DeGrazia is the chairman.

"We prepare our students for four life roles — family, work, leisure and citizen. This program emphasizes outreach and has been pretty well received by students. We have also encouraged our parents to get involved and find ways for their child to help others."

To date there are more than 40 paper hands adorning a wall that reads "Good Things Happen to Those People Who Care." The acts are recorded and then acknowledged school-wide. DeGrazia said the acts of kindness range from students shoveling neighbors walks and driveways in the winter to laundry folding, running errands, volunteering at the Humane Society, house-sitting and more.

"Our kids have traditionally been on the receiving end of a helping hand ... it's good for them to be on the giving end and for them to recognize how important this is in their growth and maturity as an adult," said DeGrazia.

The Western Wayne Skill Center is a special education center that provides vocational evaluation



Above and beyond: Western Wayne Skill Center students recently held a pop drive and raised \$381. They used the money to purchase items such as soap and diapers to donate to First Step in Plymouth. Some of the students who participated are (pictured above from left) Danielle Broquet, Jonathan Boulton, Ryan Varley and Betsy Palmer.

and special education vocational training at a job-entry level in such areas as clerical support, industrial, food and retail service, child development and custodial. Half and full day programs serve a wide range of handicapped students from the age of 16 to 26.

Three examples of some of the outstanding efforts made by students include:

■ Michele Sheridan raised \$235 for the Livonia Parents of the Visually Impaired at their annual Bowl-a-Thon event. The money will benefit blind children from Western Wayne County.

■ Larry Hibbard was recognized for the commitments he's made to his church including visiting shut-ins, delivering meals and maintenance upkeep at the church.

■ Megan Pomaranski is known at the Western Wayne Skill Center as a helper. She routinely offers assistance to her teachers, classmates and the administration. "She's done a lot of good things throughout the school."

Focus

DeGrazia said the most critical emphasis for students is placed on learning and mastering universal life and employability skills and that much of their education comes from working out in the community.

The WWSC program specialist said throughout the year the school promotes other programs that involve charity outside the school including a pop drive organized by Life Skills teacher Paul Barach. The students raised \$381 and purchased toiletries, diapers, food and pajamas for the First Step shelter in Plymouth.

In November families of the skill center who are in need benefit from the generous donations collected by students during a canned-food drive. WWSC families receive full turkey dinners at Thanksgiving thanks to the items the students gather.

"In May the students bring in pet food and all of the items are donated to the Michigan Humane Society," said DeGrazia.

The "Lend a Hand" program will conclude in April with a school assembly at which all of the students, who earned the honor of placing a hand on the wall, will be acknowledged. After five acts of kindness a student receives a star on the wall.

"We hope to do this from year to year," said DeGrazia. "The students have really come to look forward to having their hand put on the wall and in finding ways to help others."

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.

ALL SAINTS
Class of 1950
Is planning a "Millennium Reunion" for November 2000. Unable to locate Margaret Kluk and Mary Frances Perdue. Any information, please call Veronica (248) 437-9735

BENTLEY HIGH
Class of 1970
20 year reunion, Saturday, Nov. Please contact Colleen Siembor (734) 455-1395.

BIRMINGHAM HIGH
Class of 1955
A reunion is planned for Oct. 27 at The Northfield Hilton in Troy. Call Pete Kass (248) 335-5472 or e-mail MESLK@aol.com

BIRMINGHAM GROVES
Class of 1965
Aug. 12 at The Community House in Birmingham. (248) 433-2362 or by e-mail at JCRich47@aol.com

BIRMINGHAM MARIAN
BROTHER RICE
Class of 1970
A reunion is planned for July 29. (248) 540-2917 or (248) 358-4490

BIRMINGHAM SEAHOLM
Class of 1970
A reunion is planned for July 1. (610) 523-0906 or by e-mail at HubSpauld@aol.com

BISHOP BORGESS
Class of 1975
A 25th year reunion is planned from 2-6 p.m. Saturday, June 17. Cost is \$5. Contact Steve Anderson by e-mail at sparky39@prodigy.net visit their Web site at http://pages.prodigy.net/sparky39/borgess or write Steve Ander-

son, 11418 Arnold, Redford, MI 48239.

BONEY
Class of 1962
Alumni are being sought for the 50th reunion. Please contact Marianne (810) 566-4641 or e-mail rcnickens@aol.com

DETROIT FINNEY
Classes of 1970-72
A reunion is planned for April 1. (313) 837-5880

GARDEN CITY EAST
Classes of 1974 and 1975 are hosting a 25th reunion Saturday, Nov. 25, at the Crowne Plaza Hotel - Metro Airport. Contact Barry Harnos (Class of 1974) (734) 416-5583 or Vicky (DeSanto) Clark at (734) 421-5365 (Class of 1975).

GARDEN CITY WEST
Class of 1975 is in the planning stages of a fall 2000 weekend-reunion. If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information please call. Denise Nosseck, (248) 474-5006.

GARDEN CITY EAST
Class of 1980 is hosting a 20 year reunion Saturday, Sept. 23

at Doubletree Guest Suites, Southfield.
Call Reunions Made Easy at (248) 360-7004 or e-mail reunionsmadeeasy@ameritech.net

MAMTRAMCK HIGH
Class of 1950 and 1951
A 50th reunion is slated for May 21 at the Stephenson Haus. Call Marian (Armstrong) Papin at (810) 751-6831, (810) 293-4075 or (810) 751-1598.

JOHN GLENN
Class of 1970
Contact Marilyn Ross, (734) 326-8300; Kathy Wedhorn, (248) 637-7686; Larion Thomas, (734) 416-1157; or JGHS, (734) 595-2331.
January Class of 1950
June 4 at the San Marino Club-house. (313) 345-9104 or (810) 263-8179

LIVONIA CHURCHILL
Class of 1990
Is planning a reunion. Send name, address, telephone number and e-mail address to CHC Class of '90 Reunion, 6609 Salem Road, Plymouth 48170 or by e-mail to hallen72@hotmail.com

LIVONIA LADYWOOD
Class of 1980
A reunion is planned for Saturday, July 22. Call (734) 464-4523 or e-mail murraytr@northville.k12.mi.us

MACKENZIE HIGH
Class of 1960
A 40th year reunion is planned for Saturday Sept. 23 at the Troy Marriott (Mediterranean Room) 200 West Big Beaver in Troy. Event runs from 6:30 to 1 a.m. and includes cocktails, cash bar and a buffet dinner as well as dancing and an address booklet for \$60. Special room rates are available if you check directly with the hotel and mention The Mackenzie High School reunion. Call Sharon (Hobayk) Sturgis at (248) 476-0034 or e-mail MACKGRAD1960@aol.com or Carol (Rudnick) McCreddie at (734) 420-2443.

MERCY
Class of 1950
Is planning a reunion for June. (248) 851-7620

NOVI
Class of 1980
June 24 at the Holiday Inn West-Livonia. (248) 366-9493, press #1

OAK PARK HIGH
Class of 1960
A reunion is planned for May 6 at the Somerset Inn, Troy at 7 p.m. Contact Penny Fishman Brode, (248) 661-0108.

PLYMOUTH CANTON
Class of 1980
Aug. 12 at the Double Tree Guest Suites in Southfield. (248) 366-9493, press #6 or by e-mail at reunionsmadeeasy@ameritech.net

PLYMOUTH SALEM
Class of 1980
20 year reunion on Saturday, Sept. 2 at the Holiday Inn, Livonia. Call Reunions Made Easy at (248) 360-7004 or e-mail reunionsmadeeasy@ameritech.net

PONTIAC
January and June classes of 1940
Sept. 8-9 at the Holiday Inn in Auburn Hills. (248) 682-3719

PONTIAC HIGH
Class of 1950
50th reunion for February, June and August classes. Call (248) 625-8830 or (248) 682-4797.

PONTIAC HIGH
Class of 1945
55th reunion Saturday, June 17 at Mitch's II in Waterford. If you would like information write: Pontiac High Reunion Committee, P.O. Box 431815, Pontiac, MI 48345-1815.

PONTIAC CENTRAL
Class of 1960
Reunion is scheduled for Aug. 19 at the Northfield Hilton in Troy. Call (248) 391-4347 for information.

ROCHESTER ADAMS
Class of 1980
A reunion is planned for Nov. 25. Contact (313) 768-0656 or e-mail leannaroberts@cs.com

ROMEO HIGH
Class of 1980
20 year reunion, Nov. 25 at Elly's Banquet Hall in Washington, Mich. Call Reunions Made Easy at (248) 360-7004 or e-mail reunionsmadeeasy@ameritech.net

ROMULUS HIGH
Class of 1970
A 30-year reunion is planned for Saturday, Aug. 26. For further information contact Gail (Howie) Curaba (734) 697-1763; Roy and Cathy (Miank) Szyndlar (734) 699-3139 or Jim Wagner at (734) 699-9050.

ROMULUS HIGH
Class of 1990
10 year reunion Saturday, Oct. 14 at the Marriott Hotel, Romulus. Call Reunions Made Easy at (248) 360-7004 or reunionsmadeeasy@ameritech.net

ROSEVILLE BRADLEC
Class of 1975
There will be a dinner dance Saturday, Aug. 26 at Ernie's Kings Mill Inn in Clinton Township and a picnic Sunday, Aug. 27 at Stony Creek Metropark (North Dale Picnic Pavilion) in Shelby Township. Call Mark Garagiola (248) 681-2345.

ROYAL OAK HIGH
Class of 1950
A 50th reunion is planned for Sept. 16 at the MSU Management Education Center, 811 W. Square Lake Road in Troy. Call Dick Beer, (248) 391-1549; Chuck Kirkpatrick, (248) 549-5726; Bev (Sharp) Gibbs, (248) 391-2532; or Helen (Vandall) Dusenburg, (248) 549-5205.

SHRINE HIGH SCHOOL
Class of 1960
Planning a millennium reunion

on Aug. 12. Contact Richard Widgren at (313) 886-5072 or Phil & Carole Schummer (248) 828-8516.

SOUTHFIELD LATHROP
Class of 1980
20 year reunion Friday, Nov. 24 at the Marriott Hotel, Troy. Call Reunions Made Easy at (248) 360-7004 or e-mail reunionsmadeeasy@ameritech.net

SOUTHFIELD HIGH
Classes of 1963, 1964, 1965 and 1966
Reunion August 18. For more information call (734) 692-9970.

SOUTHFIELD
Class of 1990
The class of 1990 will host a reunion Aug. 4-6 at the Westin (Southfield) on Aug. 4; banquet at the Westin on Aug. 5; and picnic on Aug. 6 (TBA). Call Crystal Towns at (810) 662-5557 or e-mail Cat2504@aol.com

ST. AGATHA HIGH
Class of 1975
25th year reunion is scheduled for June 24 at Monaghan's Knights of Columbus Hall in Farmington. Call JoAnne Clements, (248) 437-7193.

ST. HEDWIG
Class of 1955
A reunion is tentatively scheduled for Sept. 16. (734) 675-8244 or (313) 295-2373

ST. JUDE ELEMENTARY
Class of 1965
Is planning a reunion. (810) 254-3498

TAYLOR CENTER
Class of 1990
Sept. 20 at the Grecian Center in Southgate. (248) 360-7004, press #2 or by e-mail at reunionsmadeeasy@ameritech.net

TAYLOR TRUMAN
Class of 1980 is hosting a 20 year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 7 at the Holiday Inn, Livonia. Call Reunions Made Easy at (248) 360-7004 or e-mail reunionsmadeeasy@ameritech.net

THURSTON
Class of 1995 - five-year reunion.
Contact Jessica (Merritt) Corkery with names and addresses of classmates. Call (313) 541-7745 or e-mail ecorkery@aol.com

TRENTON
Class of 1990
Sept. 9 at the Grecian Center in Southgate. (248) 366-9493, press #3

TROY HIGH
Class of 1975
A 25th year reunion has been planned for Friday, June 16, at the San Marino Club in Troy. For information contact Richard (248) 627-4829 or Linda (248) 585-4392.

WATERFORD
Class of 1975
July 8 at the Holiday Inn Select in Auburn Hills. (248) 634-0773, (248) 391-3703 or (248) 969-2755

WAYNE
Class of 1950
Is looking for classmates for its 50th class reunion. (734) 428-9379 or (734) 721-8036

WEST BLOOMFIELD
Class of 1980
Aug. 19 at the Double Tree Guest Suites in Southfield. (248) 360-7004, press #1 or by e-mail at reunionsmadeeasy@ameritech.net
Classes of 1955-70



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Canton 951 N. Canton Center 734-981-8463
Canton Annex 44254 Warren Rd. 734-454-7120

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FUND-RAISERS & BENEFITS

Listings for the Funds & Benefits should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2131 or e-mail kmortson@oe.homecomm.net

SPAGHETTI FUND-RAISER

A spaghetti dinner fund-raiser will be held from 4-8 p.m. on Wednesday, March 22 at the Don S. Hubert VFW Hall located at 27345 Schoolcraft Road, just east of Inkster Road in Redford Township. Donations requested are \$5.00 for an adult and \$3.00 for children. This fund-raiser is being held by the Friends of Kelly Mullett. She is 30-year-old mother of three who lives in Redford Township, and is suffering from numerous seizure disorders and other complications. Friends and Neighbors are sponsoring this event to help cover medical expenses and treatments at the Mayo Clinic.

CHURCH FUND-RAISER

Clarenceville United Methodist Church is selling Entertainment passbooks to raise money for the church. The coupon books cost \$40 and are available by calling Jim Robinson at (248) 347-1535 or the church office at (248) 474-3444.

WHALE OF A SALE

The Farmington Area Mothers of Twins will be hosting their annual "Whale of a Sale," from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Finnish Cultural Center, 35200 W. 8 Mile Road in Farmington Hills, Saturday March 25. The sale is a service to club members who have many double items that young children need. This sale is also a great place for the public and expectant parents of multiples to find items they need. Cash only please.

PASTIE FUND-RAISER

Newburg United Methodist Church is making and selling cornish pasties as a fund-raiser. Pasties are \$2.50 each and can be ordered by calling into the

church office (734) 422-0149. There will be someone to take your order Tuesday, March 28 and Wednesday, March 29 from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call in orders only. Do not leave any orders on the answering machine. Any orders faxed, e-mailed or left on the answering machine will be ignored. Pick up times are on Thursday, April 6 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, April 7 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The church is located at 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Order early - 1000 pasties will be made and there is a maximum order of 25.

VEGAS NIGHTS

St. Agatha Church will be the host site of a "Vegas Nights" event from 7 p.m. to midnight Friday, March 31 and Saturday, April 1. Free admission. Black jack, craps, big wheel, roulette, and 50/50 raffle. Call (313) 531-0371 for information.

MOM TO MOM SALE

The Tri-County Mothers of Mul-

tiples will sponsor a Mom-to-Mom spring/summer clothing, equipment and toy sale from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 1 at the William Costick Activities Center (Shannon Hall). Cash only please. No checks. Great selection of gently used clothing, equipment and toys. Wm. Costick Center is located at 28600 Eleven Mile Road in Farmington Hills (located east of Middlebelt - enter at Gate 4). \$1 donation. Public welcome.

RUMMAGE SALE

United of Livonia (28660 Five Mile Road) will hold a rummage sale from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 1 and April 2 after morning services to benefit the church. Donated items may be brought to the church beginning Sunday, March 19 and through that week from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (734) 421-1760.

ST. AGATHA VEGAS NIGHTS

St. Agatha will hold Vegas Nights from 7 p.m. to midnight Friday March 31 and Saturday,

April 1 at 19750 Beech Daly Road in Redford. Free admission. Black Jack, craps, roulette, big wheel, and 50/50 raffle. Food and bar. For more information call (313) 531-0371.

SPRING TO LIFE BENEFIT

The University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center and Ford Motor Company will join forces for the 10th annual Spring to Life brunch and art auction at noon Sunday, April 2 at the Morris Lawrence Building on the campus of Washtenaw Community College. Tickets range from \$90/person to \$250. Proceeds benefit cancer research and patient care programs at U-M. To make a reservation call (734) 615-0665.

INDOOR OPEN

United Cerebral Palsy of Metropolitan Detroit is presenting the first ever INDOOR OPEN to benefit UCP from 12 to 6 p.m. Saturday, April 8. This unique fund-raising event is a nine hole indoor miniature golf

outing, where each hole is located in one of nine participating businesses located in Downtown Royal Oak. Golfers can pick up registration forms for the event at any one of the participating businesses or call UCP at (248) 557-5070 or (800) 827-4843. The cost is \$25 per golfer of \$100 per team. AirTouch Cellular and Papa John's Pizza are the co-sponsors with UCP. Participating businesses include Woodruff's, Lily's Seafood, The Padded Cell, Casual Comfort, Dobie Jewelers, Mark Ridley's Comedy Castle, Billings Feed & Lawn Equipment, The Royal Oak Farmers' Market and Magpie.

MONOPOLY GAME

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (37775 Palmer Road) in Westland will offer life size monopoly from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 8 for \$5 per person for one-half hour of play. This is a fund-raiser for a mission trip for the high school youth of Prince of Peace.

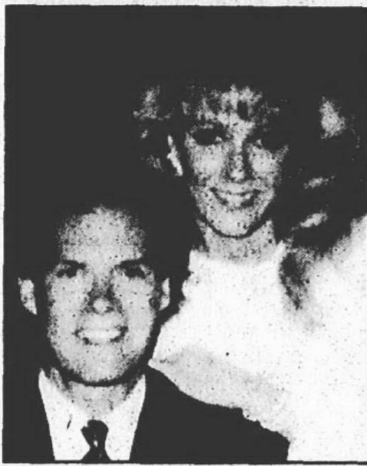
Singing couple to share songs, experiences at April concert

Toby and Barb Waldowski have been thrilling audiences in concert with their talent that combines music and powerful lyrics.

The pair will be in concert at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, April 9 at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Livonia. Ministry work has been a full-time job for them with an impressive schedule that includes recordings, features in musical publications and over 3,800 concerts since 1976. They have also appeared on the Billy Graham Crusades and heard around the world during the "Hour of Power" telecast with Robert H. Schuller.

Toby is an accomplished songwriter, lyricist, pianist, singer and speaker. Barb's voice has been referred to as "liquid silver" with a three octave range. Their repertoire consists mainly of Toby's compositions making their presentation fresh and unique.

They currently reside in Irvine, Calif., with their son Jesse, 17, and daughter, Olivia,



Talented: Toby and Barb Waldowski are scheduled to perform in April.

If you are interested in attending the performance there is no cost. St. Paul's is located at 27475 Five Mile Road, one block west of Inkster. Call (734) 422-1470 for information.

St. Aidan's presents 'An Evening with Simon Peter'

BY KIMBERLY A. MORTSON
STAFF WRITER
kmortson@oe.homecomm.net

Combine theater, theology and John Dzwonkowski's lively personality and you have a one-man show fit for Jesus himself.

A Livonia resident who has worn many hats both professional and personally, Dzwonkowski will don the garments of apostle Simon Peter during a 90-minute dramatic performance on the historical account of Jesus, April 2-3 at St. Aidan Church.

Dzwonkowski, who wrote the two-act program titled "An Evening With Simon Peter," has been involved with both theology, having studied for nearly a decade with

the Catholic Foreign Mission priesthood in New York, and theater, participating as an actor, director, producer and manager of hundreds of educational songs, plays and skits involving biblical themes.

"This has been very important to me but it's also been a fun hobby that I've gotten a lot of satisfaction from too," said Dzwonkowski, who works in public relations in the home health care field.

"I hope the program serves as both an inspirational and educational tool for churches looking for different ways to supplement their teachings."

Dzwonkowski, 49 and the father of three, calls his dramatic craft his "contribution to making the world a better place."

The full, theatrical performance is presented from the perspective of Simon Peter, who speaks at length about his close friend - the Messiah.

Lauded as "thought provoking, intriguing and emotional," "An Evening With Simon Peter" brings Jesus to life through the eyes of the apostle he named "The Rock."

Dzwonkowski says his venture he named Rock & Eagle Seminars stems from playing Simon Peter (The Rock) and sharing the name John, another apostle who wrote one of the gospels and was referred to as an eagle by Jesus.

Presented by the Women of St. Aidan.

Please see ST. AIDAN, B8

Detroit Lutheran Singers to perform in Livonia

The public is encouraged to attend a special concert titled "Celebrating God's Grace" by the Detroit Lutheran Singers, a professional metropolitan Detroit choir, at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, March 26 at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church of Livonia. Eric Freudigam, director of the

DLS since 1973 will begin the concert with three settings by Bach, Haydn and Langlais of the text "Kyrie Eleison" ("Lord have mercy").

Compositions from a broad range of composers will include Brahms, Morley and Poulenc to Berger, Hairston, Dawson, Paul


Manz and George Beverst.

"Barry Rose's anthem 'Morning Glory, Starlit Sky' will be performed," according to church spokesperson Lois Drake.

There will be an afterglow following the concert in the church lobby for the Detroit Lutheran Singers choir who attracted over

700 audience members to their Christmas concerts in Detroit.


Tickets are \$10 at the door (\$7 seniors and students). Advance tickets are available for \$5 by calling Lois Drake at the church office, (734) 522-6830. Christ Our Savior is located at 14175 Farmington Road.




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Movies can teach us lessons if we're paying attention

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING



Les Hardin

I'm a huge movie fan! I love the movies! I have ever since I was a kid. Even though I fall into that "Gen-X" age group (and share many of its mindsets!) I can still remember when VHS machines gained their prominence. I still remember "Beta" tapes! I distinctly remember one fall weekend in rural Kentucky, after my cousins got their first VHS machine (the only one in the extended family) spending the afternoon watching "Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan" while my cousins did

more constructive things outdoors in the awesome weather. I love the movies! I love the drama, the suspense, the humor. And I especially love some of the lessons that movies can teach us, if we're paying attention. Case in point: "First Knight." Sean Connery, playing King Arthur, stands up at a meeting of Arthur's Round Table Knights and is immediately confronted by his nemesis, Malagant - a former knight who left to pursue his own kingdom. Malagant challenges Arthur's leadership, accusing him of creating laws which put the citizens of Camelot in slavery to Arthur's dream. And the response is classic! Arthur stands to his feet, pounds his fist on the table and declares, "There are laws which enslave men and laws which set

them free." True? Absolutely! And I can demonstrate it from the pages of Scripture. James declares that the Law of God "gives freedom" and that you will be blessed if you live by it (1:25). Paul demonstrates that the law of righteousness sets us free from the law of sin and death (Rom. 6:15-23). Jesus said that his "yoke" was easy, and that his burden was light (Matt. 11:30). Too many times in ministry I'm approached with the idea that to do what God is asking, to really put to practice what he's asked us to do in his Word, is simply too controlling, enslaving and an infringement upon my personal freedom. But the longer I live, the more I study and the more I see, both in current events and in my own per-

sonal experiences, the more I realize that God has not given us these rules to enslave us. He's given us these rules to set us free. Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life, and more of it!" and that Satan is the one who wants to take it from you (John 10:10). And I find it true that if I simply submit myself to God's plan, in the end, it's what's best for me. He who is slave to the compass has the freedom of the seas. And yet, if I said that sailing by the confining measures of the compass was infringing upon my personal freedom, I'd be lost at sea and dead in three days." Is there any wonder why as a nation we're lost in the sea of immorality and dying a rapid spiritual death when we won't

submit ourselves to the one navigational instrument by which we could have avoided all this mess in the first place? "There are laws which enslave men and laws which set them free." I submit to you that God's law, as recorded for us by the writers of Scripture, is of the latter. They set us free. **Reality check** I recognize that Hollywood is not the bastion of moral purity that I had hoped it would be. I'm not saying that there are other sources of God's thinking outside the Judeo-Christian Bible. I distinctly believe there are not. I'm not saying Hollywood is the pinnacle of Christian theology, to replace meditation upon the Scriptures. I don't expect it to be any kind of a factor

towards positive change in this nation. To be quite frank, I would consider most of what originates from Hollywood as pure moral filth. Garbage. However, I do affirm, along with the apostle Paul, that the knowledge of the one true God is evident throughout the universe (Rom. 1:18-21; 32). And if Hollywood gets it about this, don't you think it's worth you and I looking at? Les Hardin has served as the Minister of Christian Education at Memorial Church of Christ in Livonia (35475 Five Mile Road, Livonia) since August 1997. He grew up in Kentucky and resides with his wife and three children in Livonia. He can be reached via e-mail at memorialchurchofchrist@juno.com

SINGLES MINGLE

Listings for the Singles Calendar should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2131 or e-mail kmortson@oe.homecomm.net

Talk It Over meets from 7:30-9:30 p.m. on the second Friday of the month in Knox Hall in Ward Church. Ministries Showcase 7:30 p.m. Single Parenting Ministry meets 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of the month in the parlor, room C317 and C319, at the church. A free meal is served before the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Speakers or open discussion in a friendly, supportive and encouraging atmosphere. Free child care provided; Light-house Cafe, a coffeehouse setting, is offered 7-10 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month in Knox Hall. The cost is \$5; all events provided by Ward Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile Road, Northville. Call (248) 374-5920.

Catholic organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance to divorced or separated Christians. Call (734) 981-4553 about the divorce recovery workshop. Monthly meetings are held the third Saturday of every month at 8 p.m. at St. Kenneth's Church, Haggerty Road (south of 5 Mile Road). Tuesday's BSW goes to Thomas's Family Dining on Plymouth Road (east of Stark) at 7 p.m. on the first, third and fourth week of the month. The second Tuesday of the month the group meets at Vic's Family Diner at 7 p.m. for Birthday Night. (Vic's is one-half block north of Ford Road on Middlebelt). For information call (734) 981-4553.

Attention singles - Christian Singles Today Interactive Saturday Fellowship is held from 7-11 p.m. at The Church of the Savior (Five Mile Road at Newburgh) in Livonia. Call (248) 478-1410 for information. **YOUNG SINGLES** Attention young singles ages 17-29. Join us at the Christian Singles Music Cafe every Saturday from 7-11 p.m. at The Jesus Center, 20911 Inkster Road in Farmington Hills. Call (248) 478-1410 for information. **WESTSIDE SINGLES DANCE** Every Friday WestSide Singles hosts a dance at Burton Manor in Livonia (Schoolcraft west of Inkster Road) from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. Must be over 21, and dressy attire (no jeans). Open to the public. A deejay will be playing Top 40 music and current hits.

Appetizers will be served. Early admission special \$4 before 8:30 p.m. and \$6 after. For information please call (734) 981-0909. **WEDNESDAY SUBURBAN SINGLES** Wednesday Suburban Singles Dance Parties Inc., meet every Wednesday at The Warren Chateau Banquet Center (10 Mile Road one block east of Mound) in Warren from 8 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Open to the public - ages 21 and up. Proper attire is recommended (no jeans). The Single Mingle Dance costs \$5; \$4 before 8:30 p.m. For information call the hotline at (313) 842-0443. **SUNDAY SUBURBAN SINGLES** Sunday Suburban Singles Dance Parties Inc. meets every Sunday at The Warren Chateau Banquet Center in Warren from 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Call (313) 842-0443.

PARENTS WITHOUT PARTNERS The Wayne-Westland #340 Chapter of Parents Without Partners will be hosting their monthly dance March 24 at Burton Manor in Livonia (Schoolcraft Road between Middlebelt & Inkster at I-96 service drive). Admission is \$5 for members; \$7 for non-members. For more information call (734) 285-9227 or (734) 398-5135.

SINGLES WELCOME Bethany Suburban West is a

organization which provides spiritual, social and support assistance to divorced or separated Christians. Call (734) 981-4553 about the divorce recovery workshop.

Attention singles - Christian Singles Today Interactive Saturday Fellowship is held from 7-11 p.m. at The Church of the Savior (Five Mile Road at Newburgh) in Livonia. Call (248) 478-1410 for information.

Appetizers will be served. Early admission special \$4 before 8:30 p.m. and \$6 after. For information please call (734) 981-0909.

CRAFTS CALENDAR

If you would like to announce an upcoming craft show, bazaar, or arts boutique - items can be sent to: Crafts Calendar, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, MI, 48150 or e-mail kmortson@oe.homecomm.net

is \$1 for person 12 and older. Ample free parking is available and food will be sold.

TOUCH OF SPRING The Athletic Booster Club of Clarenceville High School will host "A Touch of Spring - Craft Boutique" from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 25. Over 150 juried crafters will display items. Admission is \$2. No strollers please. Baby-sitting, raffle and snack bar. Clarenceville High School is located at 20155 Middlebelt Road in Livonia.

Craft Show" from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sat. April 8. For information call: 248-478-2395 or 248-476-0315.

exclusive, 96-page book "How to take great photo's with any camera." Limited space is available. Call to reserve a spot, Terry Saenz (734) 981-6577.

CHELSEA SUMMER FEST Applications are currently being sought for arts and crafts vendors at the Chelsea Summer Fest, July 28 and 29. Booth hours are Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. If you are interested in obtaining a booth, contact Penny (734) 433-0354 or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to P.O. Box 580, Chelsea, MI 48118.

ST. JOHN'S ARTS/ CRAFT SALE St. John's Episcopal Church in Westland is hosting an arts and crafts sale from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. March 25 at the church (555 S. Wayne Road). Vendors are needed. To reserve a table call (734) 729-1605. Hot dogs, chips, pop, etc. will be sold.

FESTIVAL OF ARTS Nativity Episcopal Church presents the "Festival of Arts," show including paintings, sculpture, acrylics, jewelry, watercolors and more. Friday, March 31, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 7-10 p.m.; Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. and

SPRING SPECTACULAR Livonia Stevenson High School (33500 W. Six Mile Rd./1 block west of Farmington Rd. 2 miles north of I-96) will be the host site of the "Spring Spectacular

CREATIVE MEMORIES Join us from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 8 for a day of cropping, scrapbooking, and fun at the Bailey Center in Westland (36651 Ford Road). Cost is \$20 per person and includes lunch, snacks, beverages and lots of other special goodies. Pre-register by March 28 and receive the

GARDEN GALA CRAFT SHOW Crafters are needed who specialize in yard and garden related crafts for the first "Garden Gala," May 20, at Memorial Elementary School in Garden City. If you are interested in participating call Rhonda, (734) 762-0183.

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RELIGION CALENDAR

Listings for the Religious News should be submitted in writing no later than noon Friday for the next Thursday's issue. They can be mailed to 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150, or by fax at (734) 591-7279. For more information, call (734) 953-2131 or e-mail kmortson@oe.hometown.com

AN EVENING WITH HUNGER
Friday, March 24 at Christ the King Lutheran Church at 9300 Farmington Road featured guest speakers will be David Hacker from the Hunger Action Coalition of Michigan and Bill Winkler from Gleaners Food Bank. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. by sharing a portion of soup and bread. The speakers will begin to inform us about their agencies and their battles against hunger at 7 p.m. Public is welcome. Call Ricky Brogdon at (313) 937-8710.

GOPEL TRIO
The Chapels Gospel Trio will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 24 at The First United Methodist Church of Plymouth (46201 North Territorial Road west of Sheldon). Free will offerings will be taken. Call (734) 414-6409.

EVENING CLASSES
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Westland (37775 Palmer Road) has several fun classes planned through the month of May on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. They include basket weaving, March 27 and April 3; gardening, April 10 and 17; cake decorating, May 1, 8, and 15; and Saturday May 20 candy making at 10 a.m.

REDEEMED TREASURES
Redeemed Treasures Thrift Shop (sponsored by the Detroit Teen Challenge) is open most Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. year round. Located at 20740 Grand River (1.5 miles east of Telegraph). While browsing have your car washed and detailed for a donation. Call (313) 531-0111 Monday through Friday or Saturday at (313) 535-1359.

SUMMER CAMP
Registration has begun at Christ Our Savior in Livonia for summer camp and fall classes. We offer Christian programs for children ages 18 months to kindergarten during the school year and up through age eight during the summer. For information please call Wendy at (734) 513-8413.

MESSIAH IN THE PASSOVER
"Messiah in the Passover," is a presentation from a table set with traditional items of the Passover Seder. The historic and symbolic significance of each item is explained. "Messiah in the Passover," emphasizes the

connections between the Old and New Testaments, the Jewish roots of the Last Supper and the origins of Christian Communion. You will understand why "Christ our Passover" took the "cup after supper" and the "unleavened bread" and said, "this is my body... this cup is the New Covenant in my blood." Program begins at 6 p.m. Sunday, March 26 at Clarenceville United Methodist Church (20300 Middlebelt Road) Livonia.

LENTEN SERVICES
Lenten services will be held at Good Hope Lutheran Church (28690 Cherry Hill - Garden City) each Wednesday before Holy Week at 7 p.m. preceded by a soup supper at 6 p.m. Other worship services include 7 p.m. Thursday, April 20; 7 p.m. Friday, April 21; vigil of Easter worship at 8 p.m. Saturday, April 22 and Easter Sunday worship at 8:20 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sunday, April 23.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES
St. John's Lutheran Church of Redford will hold mid-week worship services on Wednesdays at 10 a.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m. during Lent. Wednesday dates are March 29, April 5 and 12. Services will be held in the Chapel. Thursday services will be preceded by light supper at 6 p.m., worship at 7 p.m. Dates are March 23 and 30; April 6 and 13. All services will include the Sacrament of Holy Communion. St. John's Lutheran is located at 13542 Mercedes, one block east of Inkster Road. Call (313) 538-2660.

LENTEN SERVICES
The Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday night at 7 p.m. at St. Anne's Roman Catholic Church (23310 Joy Road in Redford, five blocks east of Telegraph). Phone (313) 534-2121. A video tape of one of Bishop Fulton J. Sheen's retreats will be shown in the Church hall following the Stations each week of Lent. All are invited to attend.

LENTEN DINNERS
St. Agatha Church (19750 Beech Daly) of Redford will offer Lenten dinners on Ash Wednesday and every Friday during Lent. 3-8 p.m. Dine in and carry out. Senior discount from 3-5 p.m. Children's menu available. Call (313) 531-0371.

LENTEN SERVICES
St. James Presbyterian (25350 W. Six Mile Road) in Redford Township will hold Lenten services every Wednesday evening through April 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Chapel. Maundy Thursday services, including communion, are at 7:30 p.m. April 20. For more information call (313) 534-7730.

LENTEN SCHEDULE
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (39020 Five Mile Road in Livonia) will offer Lenten service at 6:45 p.m. every Wednesday through April 12. Palm Sunday service is April 16 at 8:30 and 11 a.m.; a prayer vigil service will be held during Holy Week at 7:30 p.m. April 18; April 19, healing service at 7:30 p.m.; April 20 is Maundy Thursday at 7:30 p.m.; Good Friday Interfaith service at noon April 21.

LENTEN MEAL
St. Genevieve Parish of Livonia will offer a Lenten meal March 24, 31 and April 7 and 14 from 5-7 p.m. Menu includes baked fish, potato and all you can eat soup and salad. Macaroni and cheese as a children's meal. Cost is \$6 for adults; \$3.50 for children ages 6-12 and 5 and under eat free.

SPIRITUAL ELDERING WORKSHOP
The Holy Trinity Lutheran Church workshop is meant for members of the church who want to use their life experience to nurture, heal or impact a younger generation and this world. The workshop will be held 10-11:30 a.m. Tuesdays, March 28 and April 4, 11 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 39020 Five Mile Road, Livonia. The registration fee for the series is \$30. Call (734) 464-0211.

DIVORCE & BEYOND
The Friends Group of St. Thomas Church in Ann Arbor is conducting a Divorce and Beyond Workshop on Wednesday evenings from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. beginning March 22nd. Call Virginia Mikola at (734) 994-9194 or Gerald Black at (734) 741-1874 for information and registration. Cost is \$20, which includes "Divorce and Beyond," a book by James Greteman, CSC and Leon Haverkamp, MSW.

ECUMENICAL LENTEN GATHERINGS
"Opening Our Hearts to Christ-Jubilee 2000" will begin with noon services on the Wednesdays of Lent followed by a luncheon of bread and soup. All services will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Plymouth, 710 Church St. in Plymouth. Worship leaders/lunch providers are as follows: March 29, First Baptist (First Baptist); April 5, Saint Kenneth (First United Methodist); and April 12, Salva-

tion Army (Salvation Army).
MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES
March 29 and April 5, 12 at 7 p.m. at Timothy Lutheran Church of Livonia (8820 Wayne Road). Weekly prayer and discussion about the five-session "God is Here," video series from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
GOPELFEEST 2000
The New Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist will be the host site of "GospelFest 2000" in its 10 year. It is a one day musical and spiritual workshop whose mission is to bring healing and unity to our communities through the joyful celebration of the gospel of Jesus

Christ. The event begins with registration at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 25. A mass choir rehearsal begins at noon and continues until 4:30 p.m. The evenings celebration begins at 6 p.m. Admission is free. For information call (313) 868-7240.
DINNER W/THE FILLMORES
On Sunday, March 26 at 4:30 p.m. Unity of Livonia (28660 Five Mile Road) will be hosting a dinner featuring healthy and delicious original recipes, many of which are vegetarian, from Unity Inn in Missouri. Dinner will be served on a love offering basis. After dinner there will be a discussion of the original writ-

ings of the Fillmore, the founders of the Unity Church. Call (734) 421-1760.
JUBILEE JOURNEY
Come to the Jubilee Journey "A Carnival of Saints" from 3-5 p.m. March 26 at St. Maurice Parish Hall, 32765 Lyndon, Livonia. Celebrate your faith, enjoy the fun and check out the food. Call 421-5240 for information.
SPIRITUAL RETREAT
A Spiritual Weekend Retreat titled, "A New Century - A New Beginning," will be held March 31-April 2 at St. Johns Center in Plymouth. Call Jeff (313) 381-0731 or Arlene (810) 776-2621.

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FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATE

St. Aidan

from page B5

"Simon Peter" will take the stage at 6:30 p.m. with one 15-minute intermission. The performance includes music, theatrical lighting, Dzwonkowski in full costume and acts featuring "Yeshua, The Healer and Worker of Miracles," "Judas and the arrest at Gethsemane," "The Crucifixion," and "The Morning of the Resurrection."

A religious educator who studied with the Maryknoll Fathers of New York and ministered in Bblivia and El Salvador, Dzwonkowski has gone to great lengths to change the program when new research in the area of biblical archeology, Jewish and Christian biblical history and scriptural theology is discovered.

The program climaxes with a "rather realistic, yet painless" crucifixion" of a member of the audience.

"I do this with the help of several audience members to illustrate to people how it was done," said Dzwonkowski. "The performance closes with the resurrection. I hope people go away having laughed, felt inspired, maybe shed a tear or two and say they learned something they never knew before."

St. Aidan Church is located at 17500 Farmington Road in Livonia. Tickets are \$3 per person and \$5 per family. For more information call (734) 425-5950.

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OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Masters sparkle

The Plymouth-Canton Cruisers Masters Swim Team competed in the West Bloomfield Masters Extravaganza Swim Meet March 5 and came away with several top-notch performances.

In the 25-29 age division, Amy Churchman won the 50-yard and 100-yard breaststroke events and took second in the 50 and 100 freestyles. Michelle TenBroeke finished first in the 50 free and was second in the 200 and 500 free.

And Ed Churchman won four events: the 50 and 100 butterfly, and the 50 and 100 free.

In the 30-34 division, Abby Briggs was a winner in the 50 free, took second in the 50 breast and 100 free. Paul Bingham took top honors in the 50 and 200 butterfly, was second in the 100 fly and third in the 50 free. And Jon Jipping was second in the 100 backstroke, third in the 50 back and fourth in the 50 free.

In the 35-39 division, Sarah Eubanks was first in the 100 free, the 100 breast and the 200 individual medley.

Brian Foust was a double-winner in the 50-54 division, taking first in the 50 and 100 back; he was also second in the 200 back.

Several Cruisers are planning to attend the Masters State Swimming Championships in mid-April in Holland.

Dietrich All-American

Madonna University's Chris Dietrich, a senior, became the first Lady Crusader basketball player to earn NAIA All-American honors when she was given honorable mention NAIA All-American status.

A 5-foot-8 guard, Dietrich started all 27 games for Madonna, averaging a team-best 15.3 points a game. She shot 40 percent from the field and 80 percent from the free-throw line, averaged 3.5 assists and 2.5 steals, and was third on the team in rebounds with four a game.

Dietrich finished her career ranked second all-time in scoring, assists and steals for Madonna.

Bray letters — again

Mark Bray, a senior at Hope College and a Plymouth Canton graduate, earned his fourth letter in basketball, one of only 14 athletes to do so.

Bray averaged 8.9 points, 3.2 assists and 3.0 rebounds per game this season.

Heat are hot

The Plymouth Heat went undefeated in winning the Milford Police Athletic League's annual 3v3 Basketball Tournament March 18-19 in Milford.

The Heat, competing in the sixth-grade division in the double-elimination tournament, beat last year's champion, St. Matts, in the final. Team members are Matt Czajkowski, Eddie Duggan, Kyle Gendron and Steve Payne. The team is coached by Charlie Payne.

Spring Ice Show

The Plymouth Figure Skating Club will host its annual Spring Ice Show, entitled "Let's Talk About Love," at 7 p.m. Friday, March 31, and 1 p.m. Saturday, April 1, at the Compuware Sports Arena in Plymouth.

Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$3 for seniors and children under four-years-old.

The show will feature the PFSC's learn-to-skate program skaters and the freestyle skaters in individual and group performances. Also performing will be the PFSC's six Gems on Ice synchronized skating teams, including the three national qualifying squads that recently competed in the Synchronized Team Championships.

For more information, call (734) 420-0462.

CYO football meeting

The Catholic Youth Organization will have a meeting for those boys in grades 3-8 who want to play CYO football at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 4 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church.

All boys interested in playing are invited to attend this informational meeting. Our Lady of Good Counsel is located at 1062 Church in Plymouth.

For more information, call Mike Girskis at (734) 454-0847 or at (734) 427-8270.

A possible contender?

Canton could be on fast track to title contention

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR
cjrisak@oe.homecomm.net

For the past few years, the goal for Plymouth Canton's boys track team was the same: Make progress, take aim at the Western Lakes Activities Association Western Division title, and hope to finish in the top half at the WLAA meet.

The first two of those goals remain intact. But the last — well, a top-six finish won't be good enough. The Chiefs should be better than that, although coach Bob Richardson will concede nothing.

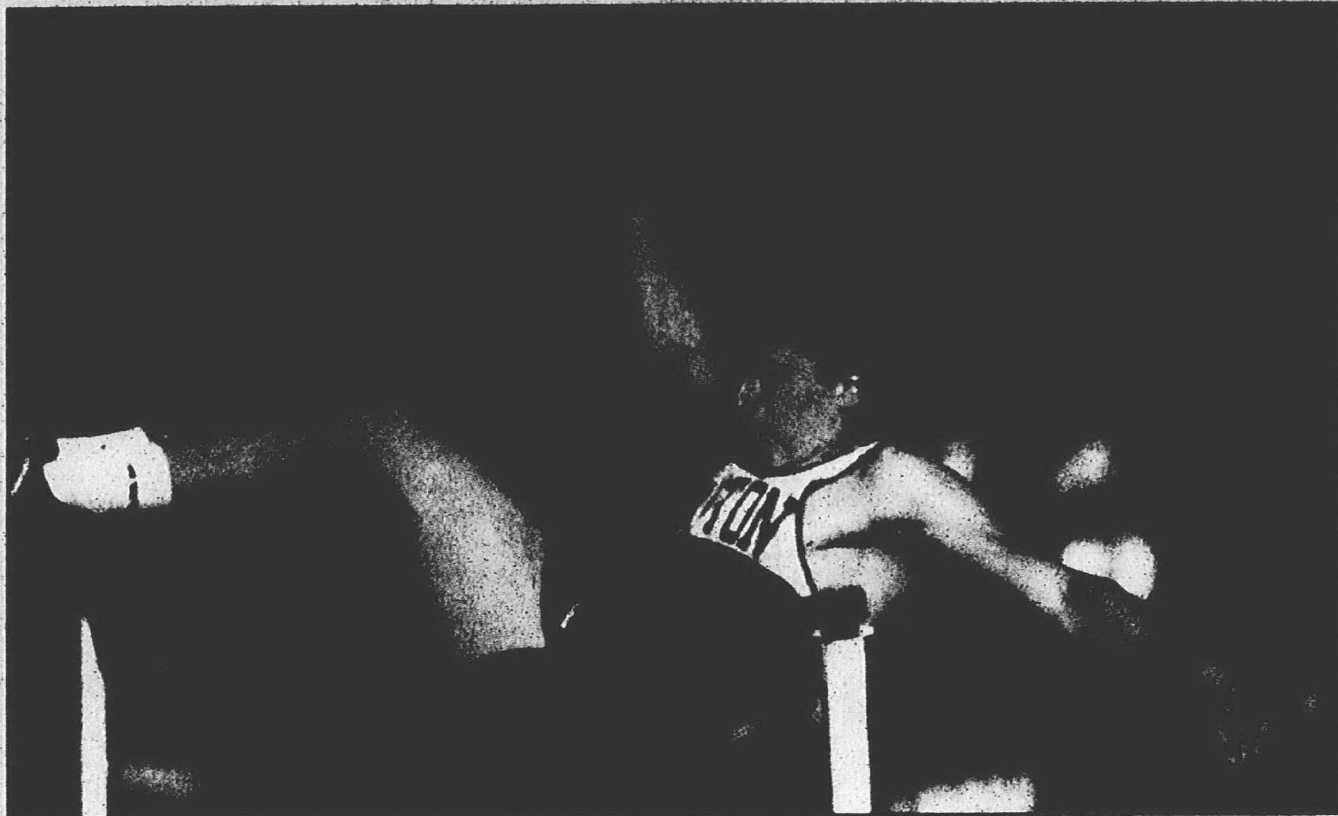
Not in this league. "I really think this is our best team since '93, when we won the league," Richardson said. "Our goal will be to finish in the top three (at league)."

That actually could be a bit pessimistic, considering the Chiefs' potential. They've lost six to graduation from last season's squad, but only middle distance runners Steve Blossom and Jason Rutter were among the team's top scorers.

This season's success will start with the seniors. "We have our largest senior group in school history," said Richardson, who's been connected to Canton's track program since 1979.

There are 18 of them, with Asa Hensley, Nathan Howe, Karamjit Singh and Jack Tucci serving as team captains. Singh, a sprinter, placed fifth in the 100-meter dash at last year's conference meet.

Hensley will be in the shot put and discus, Howe runs sprints and Tucci



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURCHMANN

Defending champ: Canton's Jordan Chapman cleared 6-feet to win the WLAA championship as a sophomore last spring. Chapman will seek to defend his title and help the Chiefs challenge for the league crown this spring.

will be in the 200 and 400.

Other seniors who will be counted on to contribute are Jamie Bonner and Gary Lee in the sprints; Brian

Szewickowski and Ben Cool in the shot and discus; Jim O'Brien in the hurdles; Jim Korona in the distance runs; and Aaron LaBeau in the middle dis-

ance events.

While the seniors will be counted on for leadership as well as skill, the

Please see CANTON TRACK, C6

Salem needs to rebuild to challenge

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR
cjrisak@oe.homecomm.net

Two years ago, Geoff Baker knew what to expect. He knew his Plymouth Salem boys track team would be formidable, and it was, winning the Western Lakes Activities Association championship and the state regional title as well.

Last year he wasn't as certain. He had a solid nucleus returning, but he had lost quite a bit, too. The final league standings reflected it: Walled Lake Central first, Livonia Churchill second, Salem third.

So what about this year? Well, most of the lineup that accounted for the bulk of last season's WLAA meet points are gone. Which means even more uncertainty ahead for the Rocks.

"I guess you could say it's a rebuilding year this year," said Baker. "We're a little thin, compared to the way we were able to stack meets before."

"We've got 70 kids out, I just don't know what kind of talent we have. There are a lot of young kids."

Baker then listed those who are gone: Nick Allen, Jon Little, Craig Little, Matt Anderson, Bobby Cushman, Chris Mason, Mike Shull, Mark Sheehan, Ryan Thomas, Dave Clemons, Andy Brandt — and, tragically, Mark Bolger, who also ran cross country.

A member of Salem's basketball team, Bolger passed away during halftime of a game last January. In his memory, the Salem and Plymouth Can-



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURCHMANN

Veteran returning: Ryan Silva is one of the few Salem returnees with experience. Silva will compete in the long jump.

ton coaches have agreed to alter the name of the annual Mangan Meet, pitting Salem against Canton, to the Bolger/Mangan Memorial Meet. The meet will be Thursday, April 6.

There are some key returnees: Gabe Coble, a senior, was fifth in the long jump at last season's WLAA meet; Mark Snyder, also a senior, was third in conference in the shot put; and Pat Johnson, another senior, placed eighth in the 100-meter dash at the WLAAs as a junior.

Other returnees who figure to make an impact are seniors Ryan Silva in the long jump, hurdles and sprints, Dave Boucher and Kevin Dunn in the throwing events, Jim Brzuch in the pole vault and Mike Carpenter in the distance events; juniors Donnie Warner and Manvir Gill in the distance events, Rob Showalter in the hurdles and 400, and Greg Kubitski in the pole vault and distance events; and sophomore Dan Dwenger in the pole vault.

Since pre-season workouts began just 10 days ago, rating the newcomers is difficult. But two who figure to help matters are senior Archie Kinney, a football player who played baseball last spring, and Steve Shull, a freshman. Both will run sprints.

Salem opens its season Saturday at the Huron River Relays, hosted by Eastern Michigan. Two years ago, the Rocks won it; last year they placed seventh.

This year "we'll be hard-pressed to get points," said Baker. "This year we're just going to work

Please see SALEM TRACK, C6

Whalers regain top spot

BY C.J. RISAK
SPORTS EDITOR
cjrisak@oe.homecomm.net

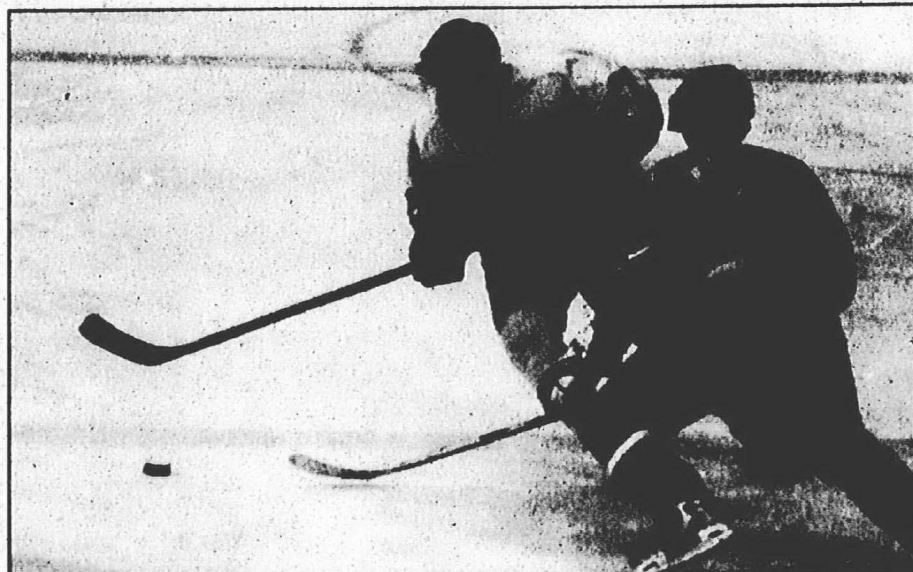
Well, maybe this can be classified as a payback of sorts.

After all, last season everyone connected to the Ontario Hockey League figured the Plymouth Whalers — the regular-season champions and one of the Canadian Hockey League's premier teams — would be a favorite to win the Memorial Cup.

Then along came the London Knights in the second round of the OHL playoffs and, in an agonizing seven-game series that included three overtime games, the Whalers were eliminated.

This season, no one expected the Whalers to be much of a contender for anything outside of a playoff berth. Four players from last season's team — David Legwand, Harold Druken, Paul Mara and Jason Ward — graduated and are currently playing in the NHL. Several others had also moved on.

So what happened? How did the Whalers achieve the impossible by repeating as winners of the Hamilton Spcgetator Trophy, presented to the OHL's regular-season champion?



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL HURCHMANN

Top scorer: Justin Williams (21) picked up his game substantially, leading the Whalers in scoring with 37 goals and 46 assists, a total of 83 points.

"We didn't expect it," said Whaler coach/general manager Pete DeBoer. "It's been real surprising. Coming into the season, we were just hoping to

make the playoffs."

The Whalers' season goals started to be reshaped in December. Early in the

Please see PLAYOFFS, C2

Whalers' loss followed by a pair of wins



This has to rate as one of the best weekends of the season for the Plymouth Whalers.

Yes, their win streak was snapped at 17 on Friday night when they let a 3-0 lead get away in a 5-3 loss at Guelph. It was an experience the Whalers hadn't suffered since Jan. 29.

An emotional downturn was certainly possible, particularly since they had games on Saturday and Sunday, too, and against opponents with better records than Guelph.

But the Whalers rebounded admirably, taking command against the Windsor Spitfires Saturday in a 5-1 victory at Compuware Arena and then following it with a hard-fought, come-from-behind 3-2 triumph at Barnia Sunday.

The two Whaler wins clinched

Please see WHALERS, C1

The enemy is here: It's us



PAUL BEAUDRY

I was in a gas station Sunday, minding my own business, trying to decide between Vernors and Coke, when I saw the following exchange between two very stubborn people.

A nondescript man in his 50s was waiting in line to pay for his newspaper and at the last minute turned to grab a pack of cigarettes.

In the time it took for him to turn his body 90 degrees and grab the pack, a woman in her mid 30s — every bit the stereotypical soccer mom (the soccer ball decal in the rear window was a definite tipoff) — zoomed to his left and thrust her money at the clerk to pay for gas.

What followed just stunned me.

"EXCUSE ME," boomed the man. "But I was here first."

"I'm just paying for gas," countered the soccer mom. "The sign on the pump said to 'pay first.'"

"I don't care," said the man, his face now turning a noticeable red. "I was here first. You can get in line behind me."

"I'm just paying for gas," said the woman, not backing down an inch and her voice changing from a statement to a command. "That's all I'm doing."

She threw her money down on the counter, walked to the door and said something that has stayed with me much longer than it probably did her.

"I hope those cigarettes give you lung cancer."

Let's recap here. Someone cuts in line, is called on it and tells the person who challenges her "me first" attitude that she wishes cancer upon them.

Is that what we've become? What's worse, is that the kind of example we're setting?

You're in my way and inconveniencing me so not only am I going to treat you as if you don't exist, but going to wish you dead.

There is a person I know down South who is an outstanding softball player. Really good, in fact. So much so that just about every tourney her team enters, she wins the Most Valuable Player award. So good, that she was a hands-down selection for a select team of players from around the nation.

A couple of years ago, she

started having problems breathing when she used her allergy inhaler. It was determined that the steroids in the inhaler were causing her lungs to shut down.

Someone else on another team found this out and began going out of her way to weaken her. She put together a combination of steroids, an over-the-counter aspirin-type medicine called Ansaed and a third drug that is masked by the other two.

Over the course of that time, the woman, who used to be a nurse, has gone out of her way to get the poison into the player's system — putting some in a drink when no one is looking, having a teammate put the drug under her nails and scratch her sliding into second, walking by with an inhaler and spraying the aerosol around her.

The police have a good idea what is going on but can't catch the woman, who went into hiding shortly after a warrant went out for her arrest. Meanwhile, the player refuses to back down. And the woman's friends have kept up the mission of getting drugs into the player's system whenever she appears at a softball field — whether it's to watch or play.

Now, the player spends her days in the hospital on medication to fight the mystery drug, her nights in a futile effort to sleep, her whole day in a labored effort to breathe. Doctors are having problems treating the poison because they don't know exactly what it is. Softball is becoming a distant memory.

Is this what we've become? I

am jealous of your talent, so instead of improving to your level, I'll cripple you. Instead of waiting my turn, I'll barge in front of you and wish you had cancer. I don't care if the light changed to red, I'm going to run it because I'm too busy to stop.

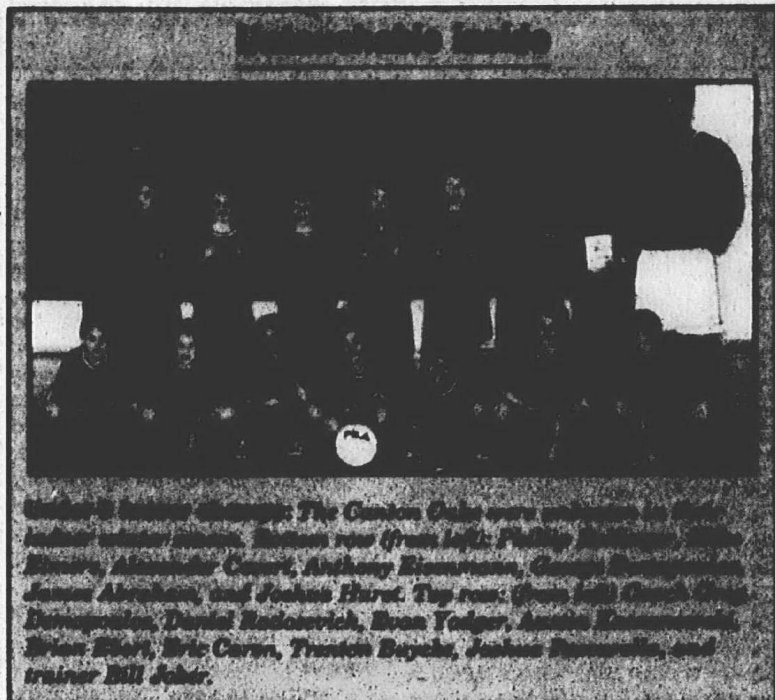
I am reminded of a line from the old comic strip, "Pogo," in which the main character says "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

I am not a Pollyanna. By

nature, I am more cynic than saint. OK, a lot more cynic than saint. But watching out for the little things in everyday life, I fear Pogo's more correct than his creator Walt Kelly ever thought.

We are the enemy. What's worse is we don't even care — unless it happens to us.

Paul Beaudry is the Redford/Garden City sports editor and can be reached at (734) 953-2106 or by e-mail at pbeaudry@oe.homecomm.net.



Extravaganza champions
Members of the Plymouth Power Sharks hockey team were honored at the Cleveland Extravaganza March 3-5, beating the Buffalo Regals in the final. Ryan Rose scored the game-winning goal and was tournament MVP. Team members are: (front from left) Zach Osborne, Evan McCarthy, Joey Beard, Zach Cisek, Ben Symanow, and Ryan Rose. Standing, from left: Josh McGuire, Andy Sensoli, Jordan Emery, Zach Vukmirovich, Noah Fairchild, Patrick Patin, Kyle Zink, Shaun Lyons, and Steve Rosselle. Back row, from left: Matt Zink, Jim Cisek, Eugene Patin (head coach), Dan Symanow and Paul Kaczmarek.

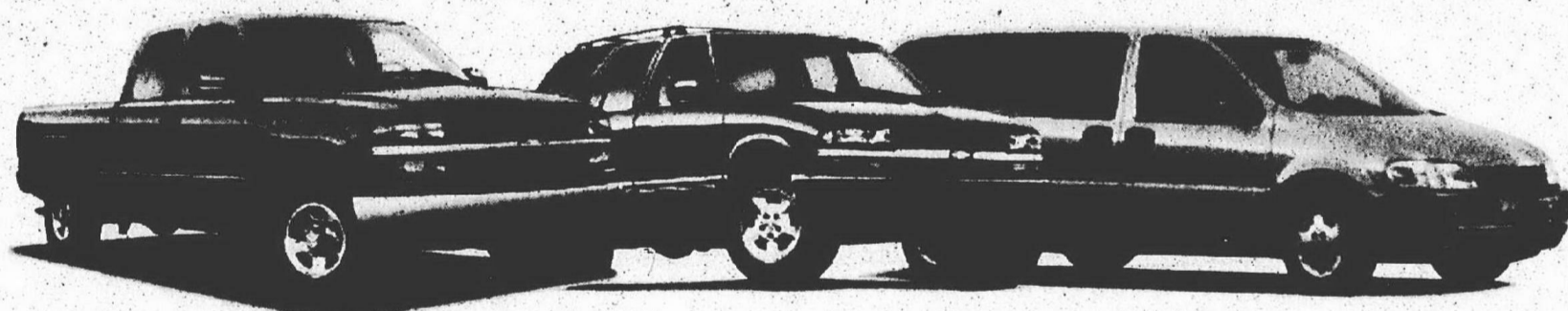


Cared City champs
Top gymnasts: The Sports Club of Novi Level 8 gymnastics team finished first at the Cared City Classic Feb. 18-20 in Battle Creek. Team members are Nicole Beach of Canton, Chelsea Selden and Jessalynn Williams of Plymouth, Erica Schick of Livonia, Emma Platt of Novi, Amanda Green of New Hudson and Sarah Ilkhani-Pour of Northville.



Wife 111 hockey: The Plymouth Power Sharks, a member of the Plymouth-Canton Hockey Association, collected the championship of the Cleveland Extravaganza March 3-5, beating the Buffalo Regals in the final. Ryan Rose scored the game-winning goal and was tournament MVP. Team members are: (front from left) Zach Osborne, Evan McCarthy, Joey Beard, Zach Cisek, Ben Symanow, and Ryan Rose. Standing, from left: Josh McGuire, Andy Sensoli, Jordan Emery, Zach Vukmirovich, Noah Fairchild, Patrick Patin, Kyle Zink, Shaun Lyons, and Steve Rosselle. Back row, from left: Matt Zink, Jim Cisek, Eugene Patin (head coach), Dan Symanow and Paul Kaczmarek.

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WEEK AHEAD

ONTARIO HOCKEY LEAGUE
Friday, March 24
Ply. Whalers at London, 7:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 25
OHL Playoffs
Ply. Whalers vs. opponent to be named
7:30 p.m. at Compuware Arena

MEN'S COLLEGE BASEBALL
Saturday, March 25
Madonna at Concordia (2), noon
Sunday, March 26
Madonna at Siena Hts. (2), 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE SOFTBALL
Saturday, March 25
Madonna at Olivet (2), 1 p.m.
Sunday, March 26
Madonna vs. Saginaw Valley St.
at Ladywood H.S. (2), 1 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER
Friday, March 24
N. Farmington at Milford, 7 p.m.

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OUTDOOR CALENDAR

SEASON/DATES

RABBIT
Rabbit season runs through March 31 statewide.

CLASSES/CLINICS

FLY TYING
Paint Creek Outfitters in Rochester offers a variety of fly tying classes for beginners and advanced tyers.

MORE FLY TYING
River Bend Sport Shop in Southfield offers fly tying classes for beginners, intermediate and advanced tyers.

ARCHERY

OUTDOOR 3-D SHOOT
Royal Oak Archers, Inc. of Lake Orion, is presenting a recreational archery shoot on Sunday, March 19.

DETROIT ARCHERS OF WEST BLOOMFIELD
The Detroit Archers of West Bloomfield (5795 Drake Road) is hosting a number of leagues: 3-D indoor, Sundays, 6:30 p.m.

LIVONIA RANGE
The Livonia Archery Range is open to the public. The range features seven field lanes and one broadhead lane.

JUNIOR OLYMPICS
The Oakland County Sportsman Club in Clarkston offers a Junior Olympic Archery Development Program beginning at 1 p.m. on Sundays.

ACTIVITIES

DETROIT AREA STEELHEADERS
Detroit Area Steelheaders, Inc.

membership meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month at Knights of Columbus, St. Pius X, 6177 Chicago Road, in Warren.

BASS TOURNAMENT
The 2000 Top Bass Tournament will be held at various sites throughout the summer months. The schedule is as follows: Saginaw Bay, May 27; Lake St. Helen, June 3; Wixom Lake, June 24; Sanford Lake, July 8; Wixom Lake, July 22; Lobdell Lake, Aug. 5; Lake St. Helen, Aug. 19; and Wixom Lake, Aug. 26-27.

CLINTON VALLEY BASS
Clinton Valley Bass Anglers club is seeking new members (boaters and non-boaters are welcome.)

METRO-WEST STEELHEADERS
Metro-West Steelheaders meets at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in the cafeteria at Garden City High School.

MICHIGAN FLY FISHING
The Michigan Fly Fishing Club meets at 7:30 p.m. the first and third Wednesdays of each month at Livonia Clarenceville Middle School.

FOUR SEASONS
The Four Seasons Fishing Club meets 7:30-9:30 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Civic Park Senior Center.

FISHING BUDDIES
Fishing Buddies Fishing Club meets the third Tuesday of each month in Rochester Hills.

HURON VALLEY STEELHEADERS
The Huron Valley Steelheaders meets the third Thursday of each month at the Knights of Columbus Hall.

BASS ASSOCIATION
The Downriver Bass Association, a non-tournament bass club, meets at 6:30 p.m. the fourth Tuesday of every month at the Gander Mountain in Taylor.

SOLAR
The School for Outdoor Leadership, Adventure and Recreation (SOLAR), a non-profit organization interested in promoting the appreciation of outdoor activities.

HERITAGE PARK HIKE
Join members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club on a 2-3 hour hike at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills on Sunday.

POINTE PELEE ICE HIKE
Join members of the Southeast Michigan Group, Sierra Club on a 2-3 hour hike at Pointe Pelee in Ontario on Sunday.

SHOOTING RANGES

BALD MOUNTAIN
Bald Mountain Recreation Area in Lake Orion has shotgun (skeet & trap, sporting clays, 5-stand), rifle, pistol, and archery shooting facilities.

PONTIAC LAKE
Pontiac Lake Recreation Area in Waterford has rifle, pistol, shotgun, and archery ranges.

ORTONVILLE RECREATION
Ortonville Recreation Area in Ortonville has rifle, pistol and shotgun shooting facilities.

METROPARKS

METROPARK REQUIREMENTS
Most Metropark programs are free while some require a nominal fee. Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all programs.

2000 PERMITS
The 2000 Huron-Clinton Metroparks annual vehicle entry permits and boat launching permits are on sale at all Metropark offices.

OAKLAND COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Advanced registration and a motor vehicle permit are required for all nature programs at Oakland County Parks.

(810) 625-6473 to register or for more information.

PERMITS
The 2000 Oakland County parks motor vehicle permits are on sale at all county park offices and many parks and recreation and township offices.

STATE PARKS

STATE PARK REQUIREMENTS
Maybury State Park, Proud Lake Recreation Area, Bald Mountain Recreation Area, Highland Recreation Area, and Island Lake Recreation Area offer nature interpretive programs throughout the year.

WAYNE COUNTY PARKS

COUNTY PARK REQUIREMENTS
Wayne County Parks offers nature interpretive programs throughout the year. Advanced registration is requested.

BANQUETS/FUNDRAISERS

SAFARI CLUB DE BOWHUNTERS
The Southeast Michigan Bowhunters Chapter of Safari Club International will hold its 9th annual Banquet and Fundraiser on Saturday, March 18.

(To submit items for consideration in the Observer & Eccentric's Outdoor Calendar send information to: Outdoors, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009; fax information to (248) 644-1314.)



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THE WEEKEND

FRIDAY



Tiffany Russell (left) as daughter, and Kiersten King as Aunt Mae in "Shakin' the Mess Outta Misery" by Shay Youngblood, 8 p.m. at the Sponberg Theatre on Eastern Michigan University's Ypsilanti campus. Tickets \$13, call (734) 487-1221.

SATURDAY



"Dance Collection 2000," a concert of ballet and modern dance works, 3 p.m. in the Plymouth Canton High School Little Theater, 8415 N. Canton Center Road, features Dance Ensemble West's senior company, (pictured), the apprentice, and junior companies. Donation \$0-per-person, call (734) 420-4430.

SUNDAY



Tina Turner performs with Lionel Richie, 7:30 p.m. at The Palace, Auburn Hills. Tickets are:
• \$85.25
• \$55.25
• \$35.25
Call (248) 645-6666, or (248) 377-0100.

REVEALING THE TRUTH

Forgiveness

DIRECTOR IS DOING HIS PART TO UNCOVER THE ATROCITIES OF WWII

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN

When Shi-Zheng was back in China working with opera students when he realized none of them were aware of the massacre of their people by the Japanese during World War II. Disturbed by the revelation, Shi-Zheng concluded the rest of the world was probably just as ignorant about the 20 million Chinese estimated to have died as a result of the eight-year war.

As the new millennium approaches, Shi-Zheng is doing his part to uncover the atrocities, including the exploitation of Korean "comfort women" by Japanese soldiers, by conceiving a multi-disciplinary work which incorporates elements of traditional theater, dance and music. "Forgiveness," a contemporary examination of the conflicts, strives to reconcile the three countries in hopes of a united future.

Directed by Shi-Zheng, the work will be performed as part of the University Musical Society series Friday, March 24, at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor.

"It's about making peace about the horror of World War II," said Shi-Zheng. "I'm emotionally attached to this piece. There's so much unresolved anger among the people. I want to bring this to the world's attention. The history of Asia is hardly taught. I wanted to inspire people to learn about what happened. Korea was also being colonized by Japan and Korean women were forced to be sex slaves for Japanese soldiers."

Based on a ghost story, "The Punishment of Zi Du," the work follows a warrior who betrays and kills his best friend. Zi Du is then haunted by his ghost.

"It's a ghost revenge story for how history comes back to haunt," said Shi-Zheng. "It means something has not settled in the past. It's about anger and revenge - the endless cycle of killing."

Co-commissioned by the University Musical Society, the Asia Society, Festival d'Automne in Paris, Hebbel Theater, Berlin, the Walker Art Center, Minneapolis, and the Flynn Theater for the Performing Arts in Vermont, the project was three years in the making. The cast includes master artists of three of the leading performing art forms in east Asia. Japanese noh theater, which evolved over the 16th and 17th centuries, features a sonorous singing style, small gestures and even silence. Jingu (Chi-

nese opera) is colorful with acrobatics and flamboyant costumes. Korean salpuri dance is based on traditional shaman ritual. The music fuses traditional instrumentation from the three cultures. Composer Eve Beglarian uses Japanese drumming by Kenny Endo and Chinese plucked lute by Wu Man to create a soundscape with contemporary shading.

The final product mirrors Shi-Zheng's desire "to have the liberty to become an artist and to have enough distance to know where I came from." Shi-Zheng, who left China in 1987 to pursue a master's degree at New York University, was 7-years-old when the cultural revolution occurred in China. Shi-Zheng started to study traditional singing and eventually went on to study Chinese traditional opera as an actor.

New vision

"I wanted to create some new theater expression, a new vision with a new staging and new content about 20th century consciousness," Shi-Zheng said. "I'm fascinated with Japanese noh theater, which is 600 years old with masks and very minimal. There's restrained movement, but it describes great emotion."

When "Forgiveness" recently premiered at the Walker Art Center, Shi-Zheng held a question-and-answer period afterward in an effort to assess its impact.

"People wanted to know whether forgiveness is possible," said Shi-Zheng. "From the bottom of my heart, I'm longing for that to start fresh, to pass beyond hate and anger. In history, Korean, Chinese and Japanese cultures have benefited from each other and should continue to share."

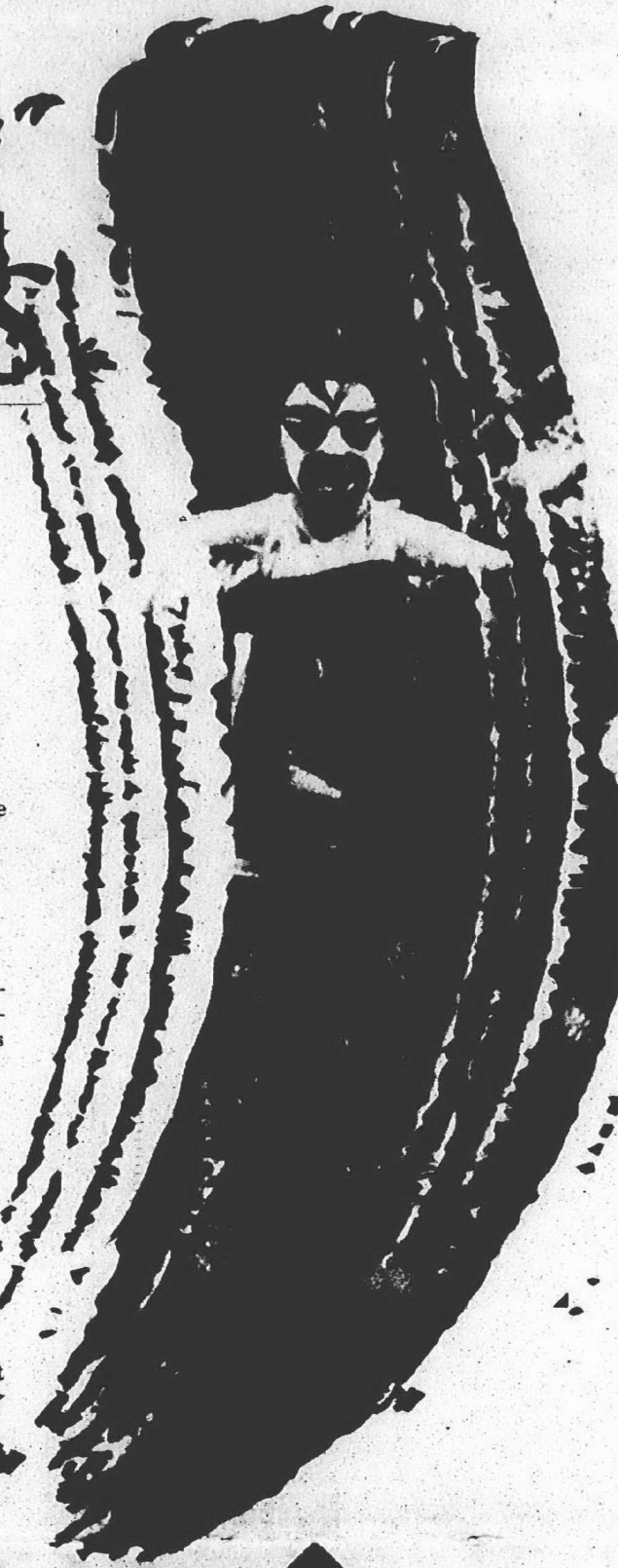
University Musical Society programming director Michael Kondziolka expects Shi-Zheng's message to be well received in Ann Arbor.

Kondziolka began working with Shi-Zheng three years ago after learning about the 19-hour "Peony Pavilion" opera the 37-year-old director produced as part of the Lincoln Center Festival last summer. "Forgiveness" makes its New York premiere at the festival in July.

"I was interested in Chen as an artist and the power of the work as an artistic expression, but also as an education," said Kondziolka. "It's frightening how little we know. I was intrigued with his vision for this piece - the cultural and artistic issues he wanted to pursue - the interesting and conflicted history and just educating people through theater about these three distinct cultures."

"Forgiveness"

What: A contemporary multi-disciplinary theater work
When: 8 p.m. Friday, March 24
Where: Michigan Theater, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor
Tickets: \$36, \$32, \$24, \$16. Call (734) 764-2538



"Forgiveness" unites the cultures of China, Japan and Korea in a contemporary work featuring elements of traditional theater, dance and music from the three countries. Photo by Jack Vartogian

POPULAR MUSIC

Ode to Paradime: Remember his name

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
STAFF WRITER
scasola@oe.homedcomm.net

In the mid-'80s, Freddie Beauregard could be seen break-dancing in the streets of Livonia. These days, the rapper known as Paradime can hold his own among Detroit's best hip-hop artists. With friends like Kid Rock and Joe C supporting him, it doesn't get much better.

"They're the next Kid Rock and Eminem of Detroit," lauded Joe C. "Be on the lookout for Paradime."

When he's not working on material or performing, Paradime can be found at Innisfree Irish Pub and Grill in Garden City. That's where he was on Tuesday, March 14, when he spoke with the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers about his views of life and his future in hip hop.

Boom

With D.J. Mark EP always spinning at his side, Paradime's selling out - out of his self-produced full-length CD "Paragraphs" and out of tickets for shows at venues like Detroit's St. Andrews Hall. Like an explosion, the two burst onto the scene in the early-'90s and have been collaborating on hip-hop rhymes and rhythms non-stop. It all started with a song called "The Burbs." "Ever since then, boom, it's been on," said Mark EP, a Westland resident.

But Paradime's music - backed by



Through his eyes: Freddie "Paradime" Beauregard of Livonia is up for two Detroit Music Awards and has earned widespread notoriety in the metro area's hot hip hop scene.

the band Plaidapuss - isn't something for hip-hop fans alone. "It's really true to life," said Paradime. Early hip-hop influences like Run DMC and House of Pain ring through in the CD, which took more than a year to complete. What started out as a 7-song EP grew into enough "Paragraphs" to write a novel, chronicling the life and thoughts of a man called Paradime. "It's like having a conversation with me on a dif-

ferent day," he said. "I really wanted to give people a real package for their money."

Rob Seale, a singer with the punk-pop band Wrist-Rocket and a fellow "L-Town" resident, wandered into the pub and showed his support for Paradime. Seale said hip-hop music is something kids easily relate to these days. "I just think, especially living in Detroit - not only the city - but in (suburban) schools, hip-hop is everywhere," he said. "From Catholic Central to Livonia Franklin, hip-hop is just at such an influx. It's just not on the street corner. (Paradime writes) about stuff I can relate to and all of the kids can relate to." Seale has known Paradime since they were kids: both attended St. Michaels School in Livonia.

His name is...

The moniker was derived from the Soundgarden song "Searching With My Good Eye Closed," written by Chris Cornell. In college, Beauregard listened closely to the lyrics: "And I'm on my way/ Looking for the paradigm/ So I can pass it off/ Is it on my side." He got hooked on the concept of a paradigm, defined on his CD as "kind of the way you see the world."

"I gave it my own twist," he said. "I needed something different, a name people will remember."

At the pub, employees and customers remember it well. And the bartenders know just what to serve him. In

Paradime's love-for-beer anthem "Ode to Guinness," he sings: "You can find me up at Innisfree/ Like yo Mickey, Guinness me." The song started out as a joke, with Paradime singing in R&B style. But it worked.

"That's just his personality," said Mark EP. "He's a funny guy. That's why it appeals to everybody. But it's not all sugar-coated."

Detroit Music Awards

"Ode to Guinness" is just one of 18 reasons for the success of "Paragraphs." "We're all out of it," said Paradime. The first single, "Broke," is nominated for Hip Hop Song of the Year and Paradime is nominated for Best Hip Hop Artist at this year's Detroit Music Awards, April 14. Paradime will perform at the show, which is being hosted by his friend and mentor, Kid Rock. "One thing we learned from him was about a live stage show, give something to the crowd," said Paradime.

"No one wants to see a rapper," added Mark EP.

Done deal

Now signed to a production deal with Atlantic subsidiary Top Dog Records, Paradime's the talk of Detroit. Kid Rock is remixing songs like "Same Ol' Same" and "Broke" and helping promote Paradime. Watching Kid Rock, Eminem and the Suicide Machines go

Hot Ticket: David Copperfield brings his magic to the Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Friday-Sunday, March 24-26. Performance times vary. Tickets \$27.50, \$37.50 and \$45, call (248) 433-1515, or (313) 983-6611 for tickets and information.

Paradime from page E1

from local celebrity status to the MTV rotation can be a motivating force for the rapper and his D.J. "It's good to see people you know make it happen," said Mark EP. "It gives you inspiration."

Like those artists before him, Paradime is ready to join the

ranks of some unforgettable Detroit-made names.

Paradime performs with guests Cloud 9 and Super Action, 10 p.m. Thursday, March 23, Blind Pig, Ann Arbor. 19 and over. \$4. Call (734) 996-8555. Check out www.beatsatwill.com.

Concert features acclaimed quartet

The internationally acclaimed Takács Quartet will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday, March 25 at the Seligman Performing Arts Center on the Detroit Country Day School campus (13 Mile and Lahser roads).

Sponsored by the Deffenbaugh Foundation, the Takács Quartet is recognized as one of the world's leading string quartets. The concert is part of the Farmington Hills based Chamber Music Society of Detroit's concert series.

Since forming in 1975, the ensemble has appeared regularly in every major music capital and prestigious festival.

For the past 17 years, the quartet has held a Residency at the University of Colorado at Boulder, where its members were given permanent faculty appointments in 1986.

Since the 1988-89 season, the ensemble has also been teaching and performing as fellows at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.

Current quartet members include Edward Dusinberre, Roger Tapping, and Karoly Schranz, all on violin; and Andrea Fejer, on cello.

The Takács Quartet's recording of the Bartok cycle received the Gramophone "Chamber Music Recording of the Year" award for 1998 and in 1999 was nominated for a Grammy.

What: The Takács Quartet
When: 8 p.m. Saturday, March 25
Where: Seligman Performing Arts Center on Detroit Country Day School campus (13 Mile and Lahser roads), Beverly Hills.
Tickets: \$18 to \$65, students \$15. Call TicketMaster at (248) 645-6666 or Chamber Music Society of Detroit at (248) 737-9980 for more information



Sweet sounds: The Takács Quartet, one of the world's leading string quartets, visits the Seligman Performing Arts Center on Saturday.

Its subsequent recording release for Decca/London, with which it signed an exclusive recording contract in 1988, includes the Schubert "Trout" Quintet with Andreas Haefliger, on piano. In August, 1999, Decca/London released the ensemble's latest recording featuring Dvorak's *Quartet Op. 51* and his *Piano Quintet Op. 81*, also with Mr. Haefliger.

During the 1999-2000 season the Takács Quartet will perform more than 50 concerts in the U.S., including tours in Europe, Australia and Japan.

The ensemble opened the mostly Mozart Festival's Haydn Quartet Cycle with five concerts in New York City's Alice Tully Hall and performed again for the festival the next year in Avery Fisher Hall.

The Takács Quartet first received international attention in 1977, winning first prize and the critics' prize at the International String Quartet Competition in Evian, France.

Thereafter, the Takács Quartet won the Gold Medal at the 1978

Portsmouth and Bordeaux competitions and first prizes at the Budapest International String Quartet Competition (1978) and the Bratislava Competition (1981). The quartet made its North American debut tour in 1982.

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Pianist to perform at Hammell Music

PRNewswire - Yamaha Corporation piano artist, Sue Downs, will present a free concert 7 p.m. Saturday, March 25 in the recital hall at Hammell Music's Bloomfield Hills location, 4110 Telegraph, south of Long Lake Road. Critics have described Downs performances as "a total unexpected joy."

Her listenable arrangements of popular songs by such great composers as Jerome Kern and Andrew Lloyd Webber plus film and Broadway classics are fresh and imaginative.

Downs will play a Yamaha Disklavier grand piano... a combination of traditional piano technology with cutting-edge digital enhancements. The result of the blend allows Sue Downs to

make audiences believe they are hearing not a solo performer but, at times, a jazz trio... a small orchestra... or even a rock 'n roll band.

The concert is cosponsored by Yamaha and Hammell Music and is free, though telephone reservations to (248) 594-1414 are advised in order to guarantee seating.

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Detroit Free Press, 101.9 FM WDET

Concert ticket prices \$30, \$60, \$115, \$135, \$165, and \$250. Tickets are available at the Detroit Opera House box office and all ~~comerica~~ ticket centers, including Hudson's and Harmony House stores. To charge tickets by phone, call (248) 645-6666.

Ms. Norman will be the guest of honor at an afterglow fundraising reception and dinner at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History to benefit the museum. Tickets for the afterglow reception and dinner are \$150 and \$250. For dinner reservations or additional afterglow information, call the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History at (313) 494-5854.

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Imaginative premise misses flight at Meadow Brook

By FRANK PROVENZANO
STAFF WRITER

fprovenzano@oe.homecomm.net

It's painfully clear that the weakness of many plays is the lack of a compelling story. That's hardly the problem with *Chagall's Arabian Nights* at Meadow Brook Theatre.

On the contrary, shortly after it's been made clear the play will deal with the spiritual transformation of Marc Chagall, one of the 20th century's greatest artists, the promise of a noble tale elevates expectations.

What transpires, however, is several simultaneous narratives told amid a tangled web of oral

What: Premiere of "Chagall's Arabian Nights," a love story inspired by the art of Marc Chagall, by Meadow Brook Theatre Playwright-in-Residence Karim Alrawi
When: Matinee and evening shows through Sunday, April 9.
Where: Meadow Brook Theatre on the campus of Oakland University in Rochester Hills
Tickets: \$19.50-35. Call (248) 377-3300.

storytelling.

Although there are special moments of mermaids, genies, talking trees and flying horses, don't expect the high-adventure of a magic carpet ride, the bravado of Sinbad the Sailor or a death-defying knife fight among thieves.

While *Chagall's Arabian Nights* offers an imaginative

premise, it loses its way in the fog and never quite takes flight.

Basically, the surrealistic play is the ambitious story of the famous painter who lost his spiritual connection to the lyrical world of lush color.

Struggling with his identity as a Jew and his loneliness since his wife's death, Chagall finds solace in the company of his for-

mer housekeeper-turned-lover, Virginia.

To inspire him, Virginia reads the famous Arabian tales. What unfolds, however, is far from inspiring.

A rotating stage and a minimal set hardly evoke imaginary flights to 15th-century Arabia. And there are few clues as to how the ancient tales transformed Chagall's vision, reinvigorated his artistry and rekindled his capacity to love.

Only the energy and occasional wit of Robert Morgan (Young Marc, Badr) resuscitates the play from a generally dispassionate performance. (Probably the result of portraying characters that are more like cut-outs than

three-dimensional human beings.)

In the languishing first act, for instance, long passages of exposition are employed to tell of Chagall's insecurities, including his fear of being discounted merely as a painter of angels.

Only the entrance of life-size puppets offers a reprieve. But their muffled voices do little to enhance the illusion, and only draw attention to the production cliches.

The second act is an improvement, only to be undermined by an abrupt, maudlin ending delivered with a neat bow and ribbon.

The play won the 1998 USA Plays Today Playwriting Award

in the category of best script suitable for family presentation.

But beyond the surprise appearance of the puppets and modest special effects, it hardly seems that most children — used to seeing *Star Wars* magic on the screen — would find engaging the unimpressive on-stage wizardry.

Perhaps something was lost when playwright Karim Alrawi adapted his award-winning play to the Meadow Brook stage.

In the end, "Chagall's Arabian Nights" doesn't deliver on the promise of the play's expectations, leaving only the hollow hype of "imaginative" special effects promoted in the pre-opening publicity.

Courage, passion, and love inspire great stories

BACKSTAGE PASS



ANN DELISI

There was a time, not so long ago, that great achievements did not necessarily stand the test of time. Without today's glut of media attention that surrounds even minor events, the most noteworthy individuals often had to

rely on the retelling of a great story through the arts.

As a deluge of publicity accompanies the opening of Comerica Park in April, a new film that tells the heroic story of Tiger legend Hank Greenberg is set for a weekend series at the DIA's Detroit Film Theatre.

Baseball film

"The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg" should generate plenty of interest in the Detroit area. Obviously, baseball fans will love this account of one of the greatest sluggers ever to play the game. Local history buffs will appreciate the wealth of archival footage of Detroit in the 1930s and 1940s. The film also showcases a number of well-known local folks, from Tiger broadcaster Ernie Harwell to politicians Carl and Sander Levin. But the most inspiring aspect of the film is Hammerin' Hank's demonstration of dignity

■ Through the ages, inspiring people have been immortalized by artists, playwrights, composers, and filmmakers.

and grace in light of the pervasive anti-Semitism of his heyday. "Hank Greenberg was an articulate, smart and wonderful man who was very upfront about being Jewish. His ability to navigate the waters during the tensions of the time establishes him as a hero, not just for his accomplishments on the field, but in the area of civil rights," says Elliot Wilhelm, curator of the Detroit Film Theatre.

The film makes its local premiere Friday, March 31 through Sunday, April 2, and will be the subject of a featured segment on Detroit Public TV's BACKSTAGE PASS, airing 7:30 p.m. Sunday, March 26.

Voices of Light

Through the ages, inspiring people have been immortalized by artists, playwrights, composers, and filmmakers. A new production bridges today's music with a silent film from the 1920s, "The Passion of Joan of Arc." Nearly 70 years after Carl Dreyer released his film, composer Richard Einhorn created an orig-

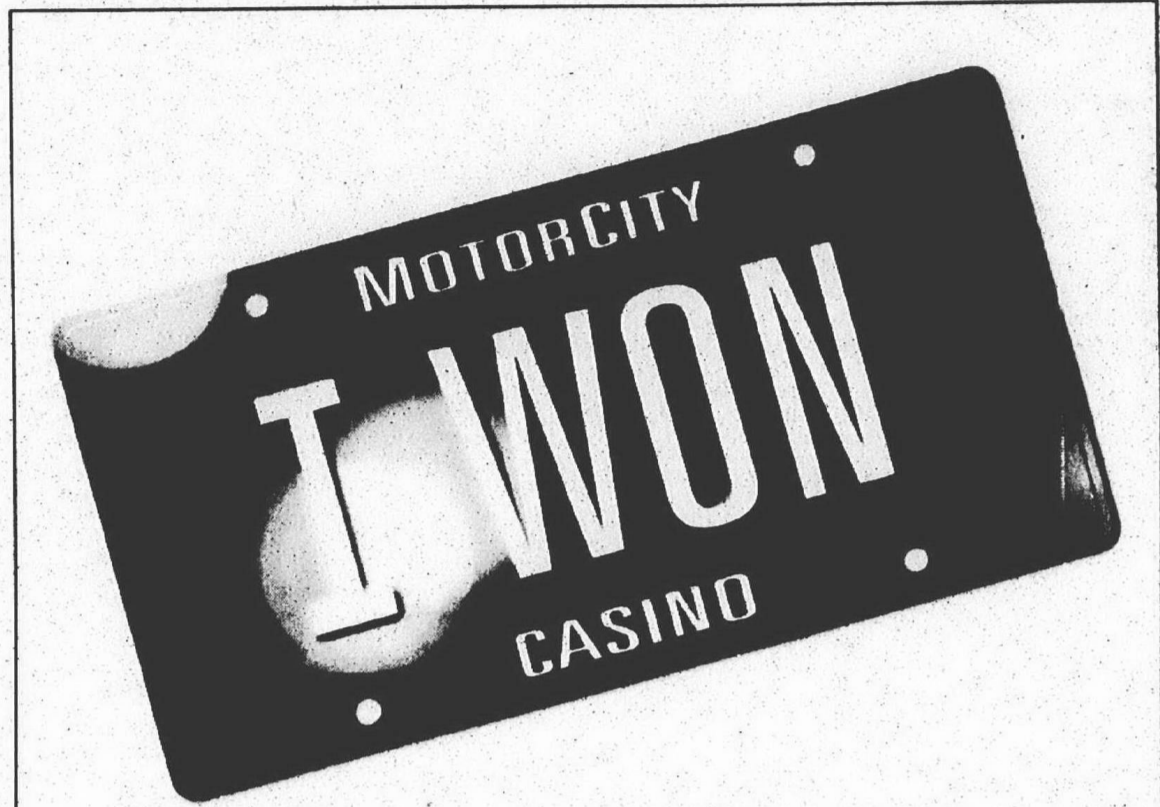
inal oratorio to the movie called "Voices of Light," which has been hailed as "a great masterpiece of contemporary music."

The film and oratorio with the Rackham Symphony Choir make a Detroit premiere Sunday, April 2, at the State Theatre. BACKSTAGE PASS classical music host Dave Wagner offers a preview in the March 26 program.

Love story

Sometimes, artists themselves become the subjects of other creative works, as in the case of the Meadow Brook Theatre production of "Chagall's Arabian Nights," which runs through April 9. At the root of playwright Karim Alrawi's latest work is a love story. While grieving the death of his wife Bella in the 1940s, artist Marc Chagall fell in love with his housekeeper, Virginia. It was Virginia's retelling of the classic "Arabian Nights" tales that helped inspire Chagall's striking illustrations. The artist's drawings are the origin for one of the most visually-stimulating productions you'll ever see, with Alrawi's use of larger-than-life puppets to portray flying horses, genies and mermaids.

Courage, passion, and love may be recurring themes in the arts, but it is the endless variations in how the great stories are told that keep the arts fresh, and the audiences entertained.

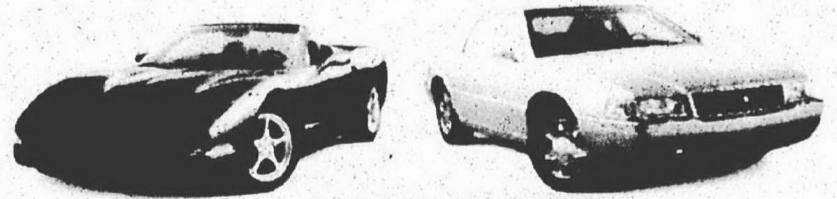


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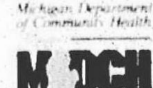
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On 'The Go': Detroit 5-piece ready for the road, stage

STEPHANIE A. CASOLA

Bobby Harlow bounces up to the table in a hurried fashion and catches me off guard. It's just after 4 p.m. and the Royal Oak restaurant is still quiet, only the monotone sound of CNN hums behind me. Harlow - chestnut-haired singer of the Detroit-based five-piece, The Go - sheepishly admits he woke up around 3 p.m. and rushed to meet me for his first-ever in-person interview. Surely it's the first of many for The Go, a band that has quickly risen high above Detroit's rock underground.

The name suits them well. Harlow and bandmates John Krautner and Dion Fischer (guitars), Marc Fellis (drums) and Steve Noire (bass) made the fast track to the local music scene. Playing their first official gig at the Magic Stick in Detroit - a dream for most local musicians - The Go got off to an enviable start. In just more than two years, the band established a reputation for its "must-see" live performances, recorded one demo, signed with Seattle's Sub

'We're all a bunch of space bandits doing our own thing.'

Bobby Harlow
The Go

Pop Records, and released a debut CD. Now on tour with label-mates Nebula and Zen Guerilla, The Go is balancing a national tour and work on a second album. There's no stopping in sight.

Going, going...

In 1999, "Whatcha Doin'" propelled The Go's music past live shows. "The first record was true Detroit rock 'n' roll. That was on purpose," said Harlow. "Suzy Don't Leave" and "Get You Off" is real Detroit rock 'n' roll."

Now working on a follow-up, Harlow said it's become more "like a concept record, without really going for a concept record." For someone with strong jazz influences, there's no telling where the band's music is going. "With the second record I think people will still be able to recognize we're all a bunch of space bandits doing our own thing."

Those are our space bandits, and they're proud of their hometown. "I think we're just really

raw," said Harlow. "It's a part of everything coming from Detroit."

In the water

Be it rock, rap, hip-hop or blues, Detroit music shares a universal quality. It's just not clear what ties everything together. "It's something that got into the water, a sort of style that I'm really proud of," suggests Harlow.

Proud to be part of this rock subculture, The Go is taking the city back in time. References to Iggy Pop and the Stooges and the MC5 abound when The Go is onstage. And that doesn't really bother them. "The (MC) 5 made great music.

"We have good things in our music. That's why we sound the way we sound. We know about R&B. It's in our blood."

Addictive

The Go, with its abrasive, crunching guitars, intentionally muddy vocals and attitude to spare, is ready to get back on the

road. "Playing every night, it's a real addiction," said Harlow. "I come back from the road and start to really miss playing."

"People are responding really well to us in other cities. The first tour we played (shows) to a maximum of 100 people. This time we've been selling out."

Harlow has his own aspirations for the future of The Go. And they're sky-high. "I hope The Go turns everyone on with purist rock 'n' roll, the roots of rock 'n' roll being Chuck Berry."

Is that too much to wish for? Naah.

As our conversation winded down, Harlow headed into the brisk, windy Michigan evening. He rushed off to visit his grandmother, Connie Orders, who owned a flower shop in Birmingham.

I ask you, how rock star is that?

Go out and see The Go when they stop home on tour with Nebula and Zen Guerilla, 8 p.m. Thursday, March 30, Magic Bag, Ferndale. \$8 in advance. Call (248) 544-3030.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola writes about popular music for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. She can be reached at (734) 953-2130 or e-mail at scasola@oe.homecomm.net.



Getting the green light: The Go, fronted by Bobby Harlow, are back in town on a Sub Pop showcase tour.

STAY TUNED...

When it comes to debuting in Detroit, Rev can do it up right. The band, featuring former Plain bandmates singer-guitarist Todd Price, bassist Mike Dolunt and ex-Sponge drummer Charlie Grover, opened a fiery set for Lit March 15 at Saint Andrews Hall and left the audience reeling for more. Not knowing quite what to expect, the crowd was met with unbridled energy, tight, smashing rhythms

and melodies that stick long after the chords fade.

According to the Motor City Music Foundation, the 2000 Detroit Music Awards is shaping up to be a star-studded event, with Kid Rock and Twisted Brown Trucker set to host. At 7:30 p.m. April 14, Detroit's State Theatre will open its doors to a limited number of ticketholders and raise money for the Rainbow Connection

and the Motor City Music Foundation.

Performers on the bill include Robert Bradley's Blackwater Surprise, The Contours, The Frost, and the late radio personality Dave Dixon. See detroitmusicawards.com for more information.

nees will be honored in 11 categories and Distinguished Achievement Awards will be given to The Contours, The Frost, and the late radio personality Dave Dixon. See detroitmusicawards.com for more information.

— By Stephanie Angelyn Casola

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Barb's pasties – delicious, hearty meal in a crust

Consider yourself excused if you think the name of Barb's Copper Country Kitchen is "Barb's Pasties" because that's what the home-made (and illegal) sign out on Middlebelt Road in Livonia says.



RALPH ECHTINAW

Owner Barb Sell and her brother, Mike Jarvey, have a running disagreement with the city as to whether they can keep the makeshift sign at the curb.

But there's no disagreement in my office about the quality of Barb's pasties.

"Ralph, you have to remark about this crust," exclaimed health and business reporter Renee Skoglund. "This is a marvelous crust, a glorious, blond crust." (Renee used to write restaurant reviews.)

Assistant Managing Editor Keely Wygonik thought it was remarkable that the meat in her pastie had no gristle.

Sales Support Supervisor Linda Rigdon said her pastie "was like eating a bowl of hearty vegetable soup in a flaky pastry."

Internet Editor Emory Daniels was impressed that his pastie contained rutabaga. "With car-

Barb's Copper Country Kitchen
Where: 16310 Middlebelt Road, Livonia. In a strip mall on Middlebelt at Terrence between Five and Six Mile roads.
Phone: (734) 427-3717
Open: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.
Menu: Beef, chicken and vegetarian pasties, vegetable beef soup, chili, lasagna, salads, potato salad and cole slaw.
Average lunch price: \$5
Credit cards accepted: None. Personal checks accepted

rots and rutabaga it's a legitimate pastie," he said. Graphic Artist Tammie Graves said her vegetarian pastie was "very flavorful. I definitely would get it again. It's a meal in one." In fact, the next time Tammie ordered, she got five vegetarian pasties to take home for dinner. Her mom and sister were impressed. And the pasties were so big that even Tammie's husband, Al, couldn't eat more than one.

Managing Editor Hugh Gallagher said his tasted fine even without gravy.

Publisher Sue Rosiek could only eat half of hers because it was so big.

The only complaint I've had came from a receptionist, who said, "I know the gravy is out of a can."

Owner Barb Sell admits the gravy is from a can, but everything else is made from scratch.

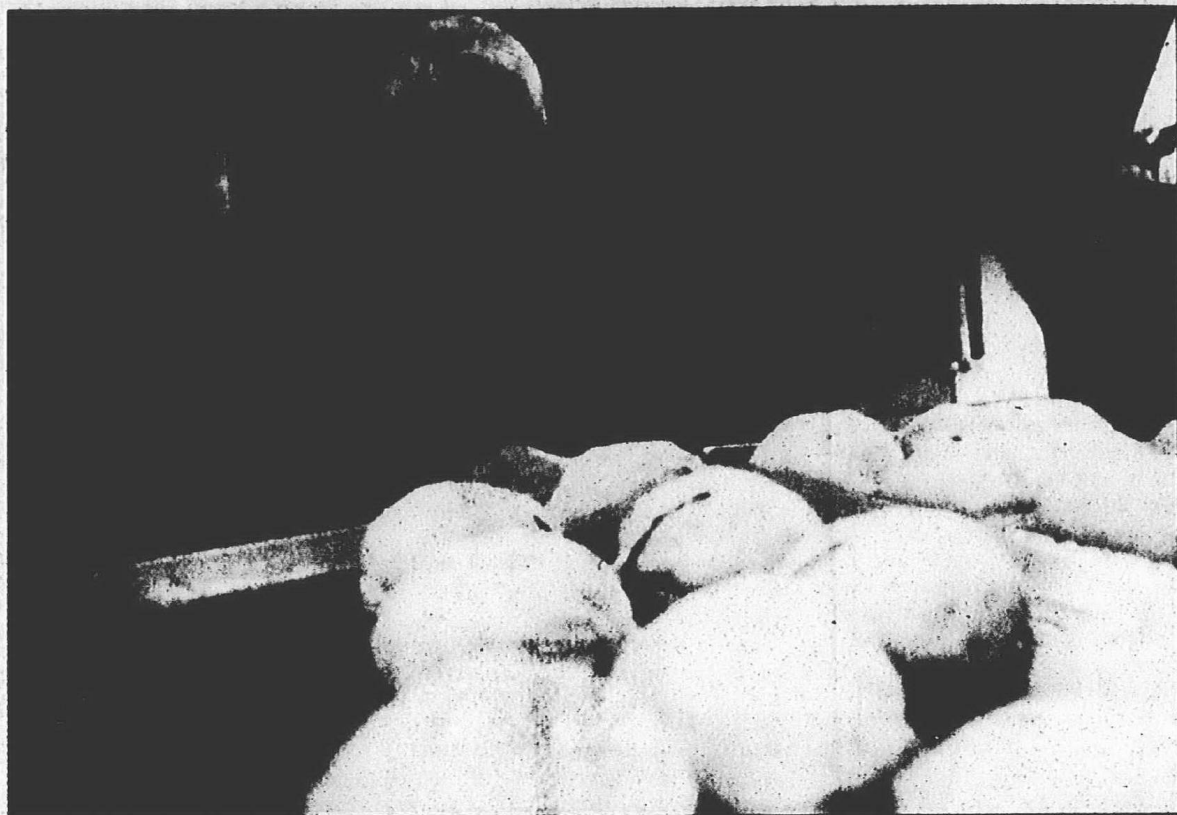
"Where can you eat a home-made product for that price?" (\$3.40) she said. "And pasties are a lot of work. There's only one way to peel a carrot, a rutabaga, an onion, and that's by hand."

As for the gravy, Barb said she prefers ketchup anyway. "My grandmother would turn over in her grave if she saw gravy on a pastie."

The original Barb's Copper Country Kitchen in Royal Oak has been in operation for 16 years and sells some 400 pasties per day. The Livonia location opened almost 2½ years ago and sells 200 pasties per day.

Barb's brother Mike runs the Livonia store. He keeps chicken and beef pasties ready to go at all times. But if you want a vegetarian pastie, call an hour beforehand so he can thaw one out for you.

There are other things on Barb's menu, and I wish I could



STAFF PHOTO BY BRYAN MITCHELL

Perfect pasties: Barb Sell, owner of Barb's Copper Country Kitchen, removes pasties from the oven at her Livonia store.

tell you about them. But no one at my office gets anything but the pasties.

Ralph Echtinaw welcomes your comments and questions about takeout food. Call him at (734) 953-2054. Or send e-mail to rehtinaw@oe.homecomm.net

Prentice to infuse Star Southfield eateries with local flavor

BY ALICE RHEIN
 STAFF WRITER
 ARHEIN@OE.HOMECOMM.NET

A healthy economy, bad timing and poor planning were to blame for the decision earlier this month by New York-based Ark Restaurant Corp. to bail out of the Star Theatre in Southfield, closing two restaurants and abandoning two still under construction, according to a local restaurateur.

"Ark made some very big mistakes. They are very strong in New York and Las Vegas, but they don't know the Detroit market and didn't do their homework," said Matt Prentice, of Unique Restaurant Corp., who signed a deal with the Star Southfield multiplex to take over and manage the four restaurants.

Prentice's group was approached to operate the restaurants during the project's planning stages, but at the time, told the theater it had no interest.

Prentice, who owns nearly a dozen local restaurants including Morels in Bingham Farms and Northern Lakes Seafood in Bloomfield Hills, agreed to the Star's proposal after Ark failed to meet its obligations as owner and operator of Volcano Grill, Z-Dim, Fat Anthony's and Starlight Brewery.

Through much media wooing, but very little marketing to the public, Volcano Grill opened in December, followed by Z-Dim in early January of this year.

But even early on, there were problems. Staff was difficult to attract, in part because of the low unemployment rate, and also

because few in the service industry were looking to switch jobs during the height of the holiday season.

But Prentice said it was Ark's mistaken philosophy of "what works in New York will work in Detroit" that brought the restaurants to a swift close. "Z-Dim, with its wild screens and dim sum, was very cool, but I knew this would never work. It wasn't Detroit. A friend even said it was too weird for SoHo," he said.

Plus, people in this area don't think of the theater as a restaurant. It's a whole mindset that Prentice doesn't think was taken

into consideration. Ark did not return calls for comment placed to its New York office.

But Prentice said the restaurant group paid dearly, estimating that Ark spent \$14 million on the failed venture.

"It was a pretty big mistake," he said.

Under Prentice's management agreement, the new venture won't cost him anything but a lot of hard work. He says finding employees once all the restaurants are ready to open will be his biggest obstacle.

"I'm going to need 300 people. That's the only thing that wor-

ries me," he said.

Plans are to keep Volcano Grill's southwestern theme, though the menu will be retooled, according to Prentice. But dramatic changes are in the works for Z-Dim, he added.

"That will become Mash, a restaurant focused on mashed potatoes which are very popular with Detroiters," said Prentice.

He is also looking into ditching the bizarre screen art and showing famous comedy clips instead.

"We are going to focus on

entertainment. We will have live entertainment at Volcano Grill and comedy at Mash," he said.

And after construction is complete, the Italian restaurant, Cosmo's Pizza, Pasta & Brew, will have family fun including clowns and kid-friendly food. The brew pub will offer a sports bar atmosphere.

No opening dates have been set, but Prentice hopes to have Volcano Grill up and running within a few weeks, with the rest to follow.

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