

Plymouth Observer

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TODAY

Let us pray: Motivational speaker Carol Kent will be the featured speaker at this year's Community Prayer Breakfast Thursday, May 6, at the Summit on the Park in Canton. /A3

Draw me a circle: Kids get tattoos at the library, but it's only temporary. /A3

OPINION

Hands off: Determining the school calendar should be the responsibility of local school boards, not the state. /A12

COMMUNITY LIFE

A trend: Pokemon, a Japanese cartoon show with an American makeover, is becoming the latest craze among kids who watch it on the WB, play its card games and collect its stuffed toys. /B1

AT HOME

Empty nests: Rooms change with the times and are put to different uses after the children have left home. /D6

ENTERTAINMENT

Theater: "Fame" is what University of Michigan graduate Gavin Creel prepared for. Now he's learning what it's really like. /E1

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Court payments come in low



Lower-than-expected interest rates are expected to save taxpayers \$30,000 a year on bond payments to pay for construction of the new Dunbar Davis Hall of Justice, planned for completion in March.

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
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While groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Dunbar Davis Hall of Justice are being put together for next Monday, 35th District Court officials have already received a break on their mortgage payments.

The court has sold \$4.25 million in bonds to help pay for the \$8.25 million

project, with interest rates coming in lower than expected.

"We received four bids, with the lowest headed by Prudential Securities with a net interest rate of 4.85 percent," said Bob Bendzinski, a municipal finance adviser. "We were very pleased, since we had been expecting interest rates to come in at about 5.5 percent."

What it means in real money is

about \$30,000 a year, Bendzinski said. The court will pay \$340,000 per year for 20 years instead of \$370,000 per year for 20 years.

"We're very pleased to hear that," said Court Administrator Kerry Erdman. "With the project taking so long to get off the ground because we wanted to make certain everything was done right, it worked out perfectly."

The delay appears to have worked in the favor of the court, allowing the bonds to be sold in a favorable market.

"These are probably the lowest rates we've seen in nearly 30 years," added Bendzinski. "It's a good time to be in the market."

Of the total project cost, the remaining \$4 million will be paid with \$2.4 million in insurance proceeds, plus another \$1.6 million in excess court revenues that have been held back from the five local communities that use the court since the July 1997 fire. They include Canton Township, Plymouth Township, Northville Township, Plymouth and Northville.

Groundbreaking at 4 p.m. Monday will certainly be ceremonial as contractors have been working at the site since March 8.

The 44,000-square-foot building will be three stories high and house four courtrooms. Completion of the project is scheduled for March 2000.



Wearing ribbons: In the photo above, Laruen Cilia, 14, (at left) and Natalie Thomas, 15, both of Canton, sign the banner at Salem. In the photo below, Krystal Lynett, 16, of Canton pins a white ribbon on Jessica Young, 17, of Canton (at right), as other Plymouth Salem High School students sign the banner.

STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL EUBENHANN

Kids sport symbol of sympathy

The Close-Up students at Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Salem high schools handed out white ribbons to students, faculty and staff during lunch Monday. The ribbons came with a statement: "Wearing this white ribbon expresses my sympathy for the tragedy in Littleton, Colorado."

It further states, "I affirm my personal commitment:
— to respect and show kindness to all people
— to not prejudice anyone because of how they look or what they wear
— to seek peaceful solutions to grievances"



Cops huddle with schools about safety

BY TONY BRUSCATO
STAFF WRITER
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Security was a bit tighter at Plymouth-Canton Educational Park Tuesday as rumors persisted among students that something like the Colorado shootings would occur.

Canton police sent two bike patrol officers to Plymouth Canton and Plymouth Salem high schools to help the liaison police officers and high school security team in case of a problem.

No problems occurred. However, Canton Public Safety Department Director John Santomauro said his department will continue to patrol the high schools.

Santomauro met with public and private school officials Tuesday to give an overview of what his department can do in case of a critical incident at any school in Canton.

The meeting was in response to hundreds of calls to his department and to schools in light of the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, Colo.

"Most of us didn't anticipate the amount of reaction we're getting," Santomauro told the group, representing approximately 10 schools. "All of us are surprised by the reaction we've gotten from parents."

Judging by the calls his department has received, Santomauro said, "there's almost some level of panic out there with parents. Some of the calls are real alarming. The rumors potentially have some real problems for us."

Santomauro told the group his department has a plan in place just in case a situation like that in Colorado were to occur at the high schools here.

"We have a tactical operations plan for the high school, which has been intact for more than six years, of what we're going to do and how we're

'There have been a few hundred calls, and we've been running ragged checking out every single story.'

Gerald Ostoin
—Salem principal

Please see SAFETY, A2

Register for training

Name: _____

Organization(s) you represent: _____

Address (street, city and zip): _____

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Your own Web site? It's free and easy



If you've ever been surfing the World Wide Web and decided that everyone in the world has a Web site except you, here's your chance.

A new service being offered by the Observer Newspapers allows nonprofit community organizations to set up their own Web sites. And the best part is: It's easy and it's free.

"Mihometown.com is a new community Web site service designed to serve and promote community organizations in the state of Michigan," said Brion Roberto, manager of the Observer & Eccentric Enhanced Media Department. "We want mihometown.com to be a local hub for community information."

Using software developed by KOZ.com, the site allows organizations to set up sophisticated Web sites with just a few clicks of a mouse. You don't need to write code or know HTML. You simply connect to mihometown.com, click on "Create a New Site Now," and follow the on-screen instructions.

Training sessions are scheduled for 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 12, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 15, and 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, May 19, at CompUSA in the Novi Town Center. Each session will last two and a half hours, after which, Roberto said, you will be ready to set up your site.

The \$15 fee includes training, materials

and refreshments. You can fill out the attached coupon and send a check payable to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers or register online with a credit card at this secure site <http://oeonline.com/mihometown> or call Jennifer Murray at (734) 953-2038 for more information. Space is limited.

After the brief training session, you can create a Web site complete with an online newsletter, a calendar of events, discussion groups and a live chat room. The site also includes a built-in search engine. The sites can be customized by following on-screen instructions and can include graphics or pictures that you upload, feedback forms, and one-click e-mail to participants.

You can open your site to the public or password protect it so that only members or participants can access it. Or you can keep some areas public and make others private. It's all up to you.

Roberto said that while other services offer free Web sites, the mihometown.com site is able to serve community organizations and bring them all together on the main page. He compared that to the community news provided by the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

"We offer community news in our newspapers and our online services. Mihometown.com completes the service by offering groups the ability to promote themselves and by serving as a community resource for these groups."

The service is available for schools, PTAs, school clubs, libraries and government agencies, as well as such diverse organizations as churches, arts and culture groups, sports and recreation clubs and teams, alumni associations and so on.

Roberto said that groups that already have a Web site might want to set up another one through mihometown.com simply because of the sense of community of having many local sites accessible through one source.

"There's strength in numbers by combining many organizations in one place," he said. And he plans to promote the service through newspaper advertising and through the oeonline.com and observer-eccentric.com Web sites.

"The notion of 'Build your own Web site and they will come' is not working for many people," he said. "There are millions of sites out there and they aren't always easy to find."



CAMPUS NEWS

GRADUATE
 Susan M. Stemmer, a 1994 alumna graduate, has been nominated for membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Michigan State University Chapter, the honor society for high achieving freshman and sophomores. The induction ceremony will be held on campus in the fall. She is in the College of Engineering and intends to pursue a career as a chemical engineer.

STUDENT LIST
 John L. Chick, Christopher E. Kutka, Craig W. Marshall and Raymond E. Norton of Plymouth were all named to the Dean's list at Lawrence Technological University. To be named to the honor roll, a student must maintain at least a 3.5 grade point average for the term and

be a full-time student.
GRADUATE
 Susan Elizabeth Weycker, daughter of Joseph and Nancy Weycker, both Plymouth-Canton teachers, will graduate from Michigan Technological University on May 22 with degrees in environmental engineering and microbiology. A graduate of Salem High School, she has been accepted in the University of Michigan's College of Engineering.

SCHOLARSHIP
 Madonna University business student Ryan Bayer of Plymouth was awarded a \$250 scholarship from the Detroit chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors. Bayer is a senior majoring in accounting. He won the same scholarship last year.

Safety from page A1

going to respond," said Santomauro. "Last year we had our special operations team meet with school personnel to make sure it's still functional, and to provide some levels of training for staff personnel."

Rumors

Canton police Officer Mike Steckel said rumors are persistent at the high schools.

"There are a lot of rumors floating around, and every one is being looked into," said Steckel. "So far, every one has been unfounded."

Plymouth Salem High School principal Gerald Ostoin noted "there have been a few hundred calls, and we've been running ragged checking out every single story. We've told parents we have an internal plan with the teachers and an external plan with the police department if anything happens. I think parents are satisfied we are doing everything we can."

Letter sent

Ostoin and Canton High School principal Patricia Patton sent a six-paragraph letter to parents in an effort to ease the fears. The letter, in part, states:

"You need to know that we take our responsibility as for your children's safety as seriously as you do. It is not possible to guard against every conceivable event. However, an emergency

action plan is in place."

Plymouth-Canton Superintendent Chuck Little is satisfied everything possible is being done to prevent a disaster at the high schools.

"We've taken every precaution we can to address the rumors, and I think we've done everything we can," said Little. "I understand people being concerned. And I'm concerned anytime there are large numbers of people in one place."

While Santomauro stressed that his department will help any public or private school in Canton, it appears most of the concerns are at the high schools.

"Quite frankly, we haven't had any concerns expressed at our school," said Mary Rita Allen, principal at All Saints School in Canton. "I think parents feel safe since we've just completed our security system, putting in doorbells and locks and video cameras at entrances to the school."

"The kids at our school are talking about it and recognizing there are some students who need help," added Bonnie Varney from Plymouth Christian Academy. "They're also recognizing that what they can do in response is just being kind, which is really stressed at our school."

"We've taken every precaution we can to address the rumors, and I think we've done everything we can."

Chuck Little
 -superintendent



Getting together: Plymouth-Canton Schools Superintendent Chuck Little (left) talks with Canton Department of Public Safety Director John Santomauro after a meeting with Canton Police and Plymouth-Canton educators Tuesday at the police station.

The school district is holding an informational program for parents to tell them on how to spot "at-risk" behaviors, and discuss safer Internet use for children and teens. The meeting begins 7 p.m. Thursday, May 6, in the Canton High School Little Theater.

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Kids try on temporary tattoos at the library

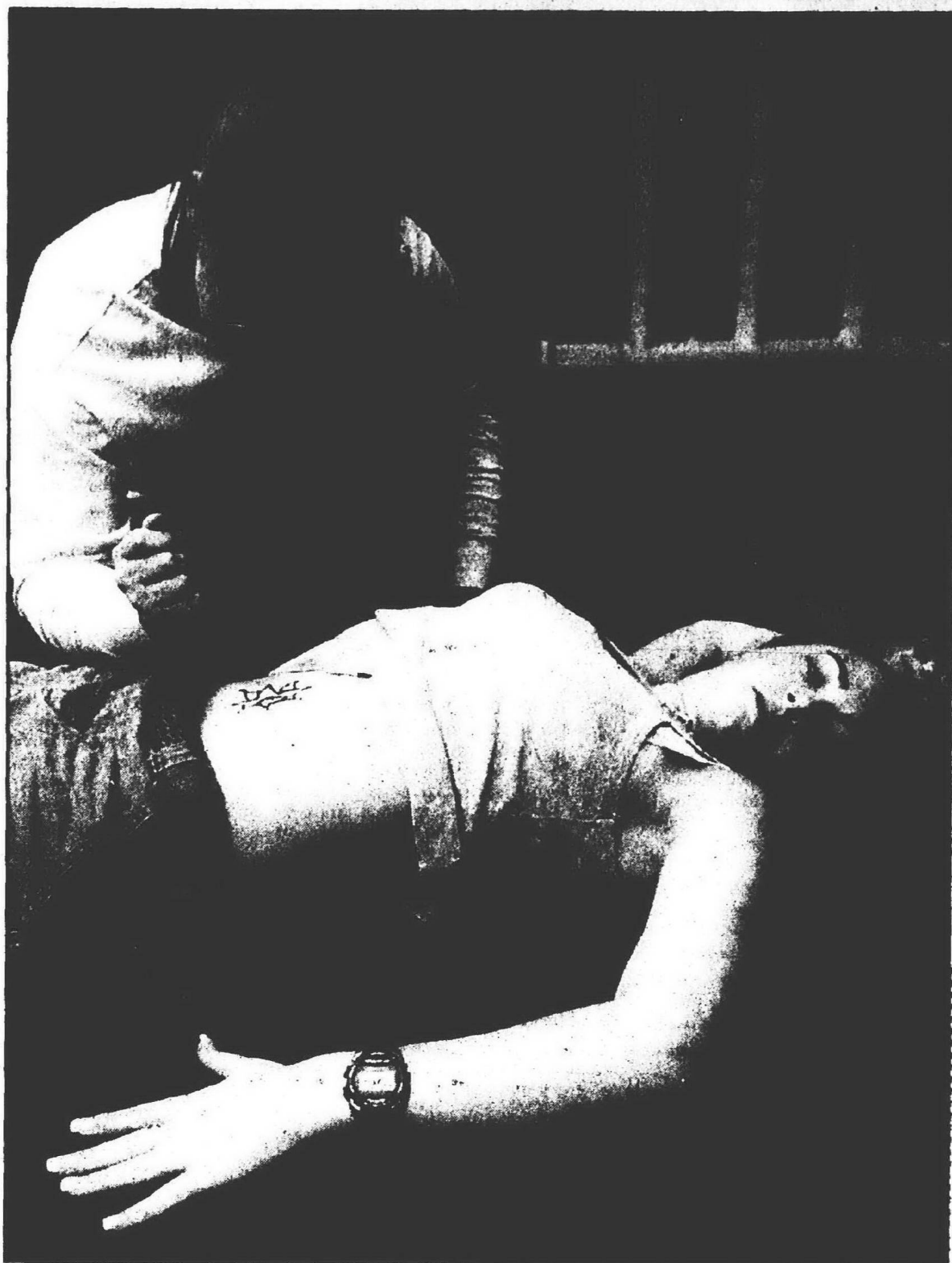
The Plymouth District Library Teen Advisory Board presented an introduction to Mehndi (henna tattoo) at the library last week featuring Professional Mehndi artist Colleen Flannery of Milford.

The temporary tattooing has a long history based in Egypt.

Teens in attendance had an opportunity to learn about the history and rituals of the art of Mehndi, and then got to experiment with the techniques on their own skin.



Tattoo you: Kate Szubeczak, 17, of Plymouth, applies a tattoo to Ariel Schepers, 10, of Plymouth.



Artistic expression: In the photo above, Kara Vidusic, 17, of Canton lies on her back as Susan Szubeczak, 17, of Plymouth applies a Mehndi tattoo design to her belly. In the photo at left, Brooke Stokanovich, 18, of Plymouth (left) applies a Mehndi tattoo to Krista Slawski, 18, also of Plymouth.



Prayer breakfast set for May 6

BY SCOTT DANIEL
STAFF WRITER
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This year's Community Prayer Breakfast will be held Thursday, May 6, at the Summit.

According to chairwoman Phyllis Redfern, the event's purpose is to bring Canton and Plymouth closer together. It will also stress the importance of prayer in daily life.

"We're a group of Canton and Plymouth people who are trying to bring area churches together," said Redfern. "We want to bring everyone in the communities together."

Reservations for the breakfast, which will be held from 7:30 to 9 a.m., can be reserved by calling (734) 495-9253. Tickets are \$10 while \$80 reserves a table.

The Community Prayer Breakfast, which is sponsored by the L.J. Griffin Funeral Home, broke away from the Canton Community Foundation several years ago.

A committee made up of both Canton and Plymouth residents has worked since then to coordinate the event. A kickoff luncheon, which was attended by 13 local church representatives, was held about a month ago at Sheldon Place in Canton.

Redfern said the committee has worked hard, but has also had a little help.

"We try to listen to what God's direction is," she said, "to see what direction he wants the prayer breakfast to take."

Motivational speaker Carol Kent highlights the ninth annual event. A Port Huron resident, she regularly appears on national radio and television broadcasts.

Kent heads up "Speak Up With Confidence" seminars, which aims to help Christians develop communication skills. She holds a master's degree in communication arts and a bachelor's in speech education.

Redfern said Kent will speak for about 30 minutes. Her talk will touch on the breakfast's "Light Your World with Prayer" theme, she added.

The gospel band "Resurrection" will also be featured. Since 1986, the three-man group has performed at numerous events around the country.

A continental breakfast will be served. Redfern said it will con-

Motivational speaker Carol Kent highlights the ninth annual event. A Port Huron resident, she regularly appears on national radio and television broadcasts.



Carol Kent
Motivational speaker

sist of coffee, juices and baked goods.

Last year, 230 people attended the prayer breakfast. Redfern is hoping for a few more this time.

"We want it to continue to grow," she commented.

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COP CALLS

School shipping thief

A 17-year-old Plymouth Township boy faces home invasion charges for breaking into a residence in the Greenview Plaza Apartment complex in Plymouth Township on April 12. He could receive up to 15 years in jail and/or a \$3,000. According to police reports, a resident reported \$101 missing from her bedroom and said the 17-year-old boy was probably responsible. Police found a "piggy bank" with \$100 in it and three compact discs addressed to the victim in the boy's bedroom closet. The boy was supposed to be in school, according to police.

Computer missing

A soft leather briefcase and a Toshiba laptop computer valued at nearly \$2,000 were reported stolen from the front seat of a vehicle parked at 11322 Aspen in Plymouth Township on April 13. The vehicle, a 1987 black Mercury Merkur, showed no signs of forced entry, according to police.

Robbery

A 34-year-old Plymouth Township resident reported having \$1,400 taken from his wallet on March 31 while getting jumped by two acquaintances on the Allen Elementary School playground. Police reports state that the victim had come into the police department before but claimed that he was "work-

ing things out with the suspects' father." According to police, the victim and two other men were walking back to the victim's residence after bowling at Plaza Lanes at approximately 5 p.m. The three purchased beer and drank it on the playground of the school. Upon leaving, the two other men "jumped" the victim, took \$1,400 in cash from his wallet and fled the scene. The victim claimed that he was saving the money for a car and that it would be "safer in his back pocket than at home or in a bank." Police said that, according to the victim, the two suspects did not hit him but only held him down to take his wallet.

Check fraud

According to a police report filed on April 14 by officials from National City Bank, two men cashed forged checks at the bank's location at 39475 Ann Arbor Road in Plymouth Township earlier this month. According to the report, two checks, worth more than \$600 each, were discovered by National City Bank's loss prevention division, and the branch's manager was notified. The report also said that a similar fraud occurred at the National City Bank located at 535 S. Main St. in the Plymouth involving the same two suspects.

- Duncan E. White

MISSING NURSE FOUND

Services for Marie Hester Ford, 89, of Canton were April 18 in Vermeulen Funeral Home in Plymouth Township. Burial was in Riverlawn Cemetery in Marysville, Mich.

A registered nurse, Mrs. Ford was born Aug. 30, 1909, in Ontario, Canada, and died April 16 in Livonia. Survivors include her son, Richard A. (Linda) Ford of Canton; three grandchildren, John (Tess) Ford of Texas, Robert Ford of Canton and Kristine (Jason) Hunt of Canton; and four great-grandchildren, Courtney, Ashley, Andrew and Brenden. Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Affiliate Inc.

JOSE VEGA

Services for Jose Vega, 95, of Canton were held at Vermeulen Funeral Home in Westland. Burial was in Parkview Memorial Cemetery.

Born June 18, 1903, in Seroni, Spain, Mr. Vega worked as an automotive inspector. He died April 18 in Canton. He is survived by his daughter, Marie Oltersdorff of Westland; brother, Rafael Vega of Spain; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild; niece, Karen Pelez, and many other nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Francisco Vega, and mother, Marie Antoinette Vega.

FLORA MURPHY

Services for Flora Murphy, 84, of Canton were April 19 at R.G. & G.R. Harris Funeral Home in Garden City

with the Rev. Michael Kirila officiating. Burial was in Knollwood Memorial Park in Canton.

Mrs. Murphy was born Feb. 1, 1915, in Ledford, Ill., and died April 14 at home.

She worked as a seamstress in women's apparel.

Mrs. Murphy was preceded in death by her husband, William; brothers, Trefan, Theodore, Charles, George; and a sister, Nettie Ottlinger.

She is survived by a sister, Mary (Thomas) Crows of Florida; and many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews.

RAY ELWART

Services for Dr. Ray Elwart, 73, of Wayne were April 22 at St. Aloysius Catholic Church with funeral arrangements made by Vermeulen Funeral Home in Westland. Burial was in Fort Custer National Cemetery, Augusta, Mich.

Dr. Elwart was a chiropractic doctor. He was born March 4, 1926, in Ecorse and died April 20 in Detroit. His practice was in Romulus until 1998.

He was preceded in death by his father, Anthony Elwartowski, and his mother, Mary Elwartowski.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; son, Daniel (Dolly) Elwart of Dearborn Heights; daughters, Linda Atkinson of Romulus and Cynthia (Michael) Shaft of Plymouth; brother, Walter Elwartowski of Phoenix, Ariz.; sister, Geraldine Roberts of Winter Springs, Fla.; granddaughters Jackie, Joy and Sher Elwart and Alexis, Kayla and Heather Shaft; grandsons, Derek and Devin Atkinson, Jacob, Jason and Joshua, Scott and Shane Elwart, Ben, Jeremy, Jonathon and Jordan Shaft; and five great-grandchildren, Abigail, Sabrina, Emily, Olivia and Zachery Elwart.

CRAIG ALLEN JANIK

Services for Craig Allen Janik, 37, of Canton were April 22 at Santeu Chapel in Garden City with the

Rev. Jack Baker of St. Mary Catholic Church presiding. Burial was in St. Hedwig Cemetery in Dearborn Heights.

Mr. Janik was born July 6, 1961, in Garden City and died April 19 in Detroit. He was a locksmith.

Survivors include seven brothers, Edwin (Linda) Janik, Robert Janik, Terry Janik, Shawn (Julie) Janik, Darryl (Nicole) Janik, Darren (Lorie) Janik, Michael Janik; three sisters, Candace (George) Sharp, Kim (Matt) Redlinger and Roxanne (Kenny) Duneske.

ROSE D. BAGNASCO

Services for Rose D. Bagnasco, 85, were Thursday, April 29, at St. Kenneth Catholic Church in Plymouth Township with the Rev. William Pettit officiating.

Mrs. Bagnasco was born Sept. 23, 1913, in Detroit and died April 26 in Plymouth.

She was a homemaker and worked for the Ford Motor Co. from 1957 to 1968 as an executive assistant in the food division.

She moved from Florida to Plymouth in 1988 and also lived in Rogers City, Mich.

She was a member of St. Kenneth Catholic Church in Plymouth Township, a member of the Women's Guild at St. Kenneth and a member of St. Mary's of Redford Mother's Club and Altar Society.

She was a Red Cross volunteer in Dearborn and Rogers City. She was a hospital volunteer in Rogers City.

She enjoyed swimming, yoga, cooking and loved family gatherings.

Mrs. Bagnasco was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph, in 1995.

She is survived by two sons, Thomas (Gail) Bagnasco of Waterford and Joseph (Mary) Bagnasco of Plymouth; two sisters, Eleanor Gaviglio of Farmington Hills and Virginia Bagnasco of Farmington Hills; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

Burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield. Memorials may be made to the Heartland Hospice.

Arrangements were handled by the Schrader-Howell Funeral Home of Plymouth.

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CANTON 6 MOVIE GUIDE, OUT OF TOWNS (PG-13), OPUSHIN TIN (PG-13), OSOBBYE LOVER (R), 18 THINGS I HATE ABOUT YOU (PG-13), FORCES OF NATURE (PG-13), SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R).

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County sues gun makers, dealers

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
k.abramczyk@oc.homescomm.net

Wayne County filed a lawsuit Monday seeking \$400 million in damages from 35 gun manufacturers, distributors and dealers.

Six county officials believe that gun manufacturers, distributors and dealers are liable for damages because they have acted with negligence by failing to supervise gun sales by dealers named in the complaint.

To support the county's argument, officials showed surveillance videos of investigators conducting stings on gun dealers allegedly selling to people identified to the dealers as minors or felons.

The city of Detroit and Mayor Dennis Archer also filed a similar complaint. The county's complaint includes Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara, Prosecutor John D. O'Hair, County Commission Chairman Ricardo Solomon, and Commissioners Edna Bell, Robert Blackwell and Kathleen Husk. As a commissioner, Husk represents Redford and part of Livonia.

Investigation

County officials decided to sue after a four-month investigation. Several months ago, gang members told Wayne County and Detroit police investigators that straw purchases — that is a purchase of a gun by a felon or an underage person buying a gun

through a partner who is a qualified purchaser — were common throughout Wayne County.

The county said a recent study by the Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms also showed that up to half of guns used in the commission of crimes are obtained through straw purchases.

Under Michigan law, rifles and shotguns may not be sold to persons under 18. Selling and delivering handguns or handgun ammunition to anyone under 18 also is prohibited.

Between March 31 and April 9, 1999, undercover teams from the Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Wayne County Prosecutor's Office and Wayne County Airport police teamed in undercover sting operations to buy weapons at 10 different gun dealers.

County officials said in each case the person trying to buy the weapon advised the dealer early in the transaction he was either a convicted felon or underage, and that his friend, the straw purchaser, would have his name on the legal paperwork.

Illegal purchase

Of the 10 dealers, eight sold the guns in an illegal straw purchase. The eight gun dealers are located in Inkster, Taylor and Detroit. Reporters were shown video of the sales where the dealers were told that the purchaser was a felon, another a juvenile.

One dealer said: "This is highly illegal" — not once, but twice. A dealer in Detroit joked about how a parent may cry about guns and a murdered son, all while that dealer was selling to county investigators.

McNamara called that video "sickening."

"I've seen it five times, and every time I see it, I can't believe someone feels that way," McNamara said.

"It gives you a sense of what a joke this all is to them," said Mike Duggan, deputy county executive.

Duggan said the lawsuit sought damages for Wayne County taxpayers, who must pick up the tab for crimes committed with guns, including the jail, the criminal courts, the prosecutor's office and the morgue. County officials estimate they have spent \$440 million in the last 10 years.

County officials believe the gun manufacturers sell thousands of guns to local dealers who they "should have known" allow straw purchases. "The manufacturers of handguns are 'willfully blind' to what the dealers are doing," Duggan said.

In the complaint, the county has cited a sworn statement made by Robert Hass, a former vice president of marketing and sales for Smith & Wesson, who the complaint attributes a statement that the company and the industry "are fully aware of the

extent of criminal misuse of handguns."

The black market in handguns "is not simply the result of stolen guns but is due to the seepage of guns into the illicit market from multiple thousands of unsupervised federal handgun licensees," Hass said, according to the complaint.

Duggan emphasized that the lawsuits weren't aimed at stopping the sales of guns to qualified purchasers, only to ensure that manufacturers make certain that their products were sold properly.

The county believes the failure to supervise those dealers has led to criminal activity, violence and death, which makes the manufacturers liable for damages caused. From 1990-98, 5,264 children ages 16 and under were arrested and charged with carrying a concealed weapon in Wayne County. Detroit police are confiscating 4,000 guns a year from the street, double of that rate just four years ago.

In 1997 and 1998, more than 100 youths 18 and under were killed by gunfire in Wayne County, an average of one a week.

Lobbyist calls lawsuit 'attempt to get money'

Robert O'Donnell, a legislative vice president for the Michigan Rifle and Pistol Association and a member of the board of directors for the Michigan Coalition of Responsible Gun Owners, believes the gun sales industry probably is the most regulated industry in the United States and that the alleged actions of a few dealers shouldn't ruin reputation of the law-abiding ones.

O'Donnell calls lawsuits against gun manufacturers a "pretty poorly veiled attempt to get money."

"Most federally licensed firearms dealers are very honest, family-oriented people," O'Donnell said. "To demonize the industry because of the criminal use of firearms is intellectually lazy."

O'Donnell cites statistics from the National Rifle Association.

Please see LAWSUIT, A7


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Township woman guilty in Red Wings tickets scam

BY DUNCAN E. WHITE
STAFF WRITER
dwhite@ea.homescomm.net

A Plymouth Township woman pleaded guilty April 22 to filing a false police report last May and received one-year probation as a result of a scam involving Detroit Red Wings playoff tickets from last season.

Ann Louise Dean, 38, was in 35th District Court to face charges of filing a false police report and obstructing and hindering police during their investigation of four Red Wings tickets that were reported stolen last spring.

According to police records, Dean filed a report in May of 1998 claiming that her vehicle was broken into at the Fruit Basket Marketplace and that the tickets, belonging to her fiancé's business, were stolen from within.

Police then contacted Joe Louis Arena security, and four individuals sitting in the seats during that game, including Hamtramck Mayor Gary Zych, were removed and questioned about how they came to possess the tickets.

Police have determined that all four individuals in question had legitimately received or purchased the tickets. Zych reportedly received two of the tickets from his law firm, and the other couple had purchased them from a ticket dealer, said police.

"They were sold to a scalper and legitimately given to the mayor of Hamtramck through his law firm," said Jarvis. "(The law firm and the other couple) got them from this guy, who owns a limousine company in Westland who says that he deals in tickets."

Zych and the three other ticket-holders were allowed to return to the game in standing room only, according to police.

According to police reports, the tickets were for the third-round series against the Dallas Stars, and Dean sold each ticket for \$100.

Jarvis said that the case took nearly a year because it was a low priority and there was a lack of cooperation on Dean's part. "It took so long because she

turned herself in to the court and was issued a court date," said Jarvis. "She never appeared for her court date and they issued another warrant for her arrest. We finally had to send (a couple of officers) down to knock on the door."

As for the ticket dealer from Westland, Jarvis said that Joe Louis Arena security will be watching.

"I'm going to get a hold of Joe Louis (Arena) security and give them his name," he said. "They can check him out if they want to."

With the recent success of the Red Wings, demand for tickets is high. Theft of tickets is also high according to Plymouth Township Police Chief Larry Carey.

"It's probably high any time of year but they're especially sought after now that the play-offs have started," he said. "When I was in Troy, one of the company's in the area was having a promotion, and I remember they had a bunch of tickets stolen. That shows that they are becoming a hot item."

Carey said that simple, old-school logic will protect you from getting tangled in an embarrassing situation such as Zych's.

"I guess it's the old adage," he said. "If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is."

To submit business notes, send the material, printed or typewritten, to: Plymouth Observer, 794 S. Main, Plymouth, MI 48176.

Mary Beth Powers, who grew up in Plymouth and graduated from Plymouth Salem High School in 1980, was selected to serve as a delegate from the United States at the Commission on Population and Development meetings at the United Nations in New York.

Powers, the daughter of Plymouth residents Jack and Jean Bologna, works as a reproductive health adviser for Save the Children.

The 1999 Light of Hospice Award was presented to Beth L. Lurtz of Plymouth by Community Hospice and Home Care Services of Westland and Plymouth. The award is presented annually to an

individual who exemplifies the humanitarian concept of hospice care.

Lurtz got involved with CHHCS in 1992 as a volunteer. Soon after, she joined the Community Hospice Foundation as a board member working on fund-raising events. Serving as a member of the board, and later as its president, she has guided the foundation's "Halloween Bash," and golf outing events.

She and her husband, Terry have two daughters, Kristin and Erin. Her husband was there to share the evening when Beth Lurtz was recently honored at a CHHCS event. She was presented a Waterford crystal candleholder characterizing the meaning of the Light of Hospice Award.

John W. Keros, a resident of Plymouth, was granted emeritus status by the Eastern Michigan University Board of Regents in March.

Keros, an associate professor of accounting at EMU for 33 years, retired Dec. 18. He served from 1964 to 1988.

Janice Terry, a resident of Plymouth and a faculty member who works in the Department of History and Philosophy, was granted a one-semester sabbatical leave from Eastern Michigan University to write four to six chapters of a book named "Lobbies and the Formation of U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East."

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF CANTON BOARD PROCEEDINGS

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Canton was held Tuesday, April 20, 1999 at 1150 South Canton Center Road. Supervisor Yack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL
Members Present: Bennett, Burdick, Kirchgatter, LaJoy, McLaughlin, Sheffery, Yack
Staff Present: Durack, Ager, Martin, Weidenbach

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
Motion by Bennett, supported by LaJoy, to add a closed session to the agenda for the purpose of discussion of purchase of property. Motion carried unanimously.

ITEM 1 PROPOSED PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
Supervisor Yack introduced Don Soenan, President of the Plymouth Symphony Orchestra, and Chair of Partnership for the Arts. Proposals are being sought for a final needs assessment and detailed business plan.

Discussion topics included school participation/partnership, possible site locations, theater ambience, seating capacity, compatibility of users, ongoing funding sources, operating cost, management credentials/contracts, and staffing issues.

ITEM 2 EXPANSION OF HUMAN SERVICES CENTER
Director Durack introduced Mary Jane Weidenbach, Chair of CDBG and Lonny Zimmerman from Siegal/Tuomasala. He gave a background on the Canton Human Services Center (CHSC). In January 1999, the consultant met with a study team consisting of staff members from Engineering Services, Planning, Resources Development, the Building Official, and Director Durack. The study team reviewed the options of adding to the existing facility or demolishing the existing building and building new. The consensus of the committee was that building a new facility was preferable.

Lonny Zimmerman presented drawings of the existing building and the two options proposed for the CHSC and reviewed renovation, redesign, demolition and construction costs for both options.

Discussion and questions. Topics included site demolition and building demolition costs, disposal cost for demolition, and other possible sites for building a new facility.

Mike Ager, Resource Development, reviewed the budgeting for the proposed construction. He was optimistic that construction could begin as early as next spring and that the project could be entirely funded through CDBG.

Consensus of the Board was to proceed with the demolition of the existing building and construction of a new facility and to investigate other Township owned property for site location.

Motion by Bennett, supported by Sheffery, to move to a closed session at 8:23 p.m. for the purpose of discussion of property purchase. Motion carried unanimously. All Board members were present along with Director Durack. Motion by Sheffery, supported by Burdick, to return to open session and adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

The above is a synopsis of discussions taken at the Regular Board meeting held on April 20, 1999. The full text of the approved minutes will be available following the next regular meeting of the Board on April 27, 1999.

THOMAS J. YACK, Supervisor
TERRY G. BENNETT, Clerk

Published: April 29, 1999

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Published: April 25 and 29, 1999

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High court backs Engler on state board issue

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER
trichard@ec.ehomecomm.net

The Michigan Supreme Court has upheld Gov. John Engler's effort to strip the State Board of Education of much of its power, particularly its regulation of so-called "charter schools."

The high court's 5-2 party-line decision was a rebuff to Democratic board members who had challenged the constitutionality of Engler's two December 1996 executive orders. The board members, led by Kathleen Straus of Detroit, argued that their constitutional powers had been trod on by Engler.

The five Republican justices — Elizabeth Weaver, James Brickley, Clifford Taylor, Maura Corrigan and Robert Young Jr. — didn't write an opinion. Instead, they adopted the entire text of a Court of

Appeals opinion upholding Engler.

That opinion concluded: "We do not believe that either executive order ... infringes any of the board's constitutional powers or prerogatives ..."

"Given that the governor has protected the board's ultimate authority over our educational system, we hold that the governor has made no improper transfer of its powers or responsibilities. We further hold that the executive orders at issue are within the scope of the governor's authority ..."

'Given that the governor has protected the board's ultimate authority over our educational system, we hold that the governor has made no improper transfer of its powers or responsibilities.'

Michigan Supreme Court

The majority reasoned that the Department of Education is part of the executive branch and therefore subject to the governor's powers of reorganization. Engler transferred many board powers to its top hired hand, Superintendent of Public Instruction Art Ellis.

"Because members of the board are neither appointed nor directly overseen by the Legislature or the judiciary, the board must be part of the executive branch. There is no fourth branch of government."

Dissenting were Democratic Justices Michael Cavanagh and Marilyn Kelly. "Article 8, sec. 3 explicitly vests the Board of Education with (l)eadership and general supervision over public education," Cavanagh wrote. "It also subordinates the superintendent to the authority of the board, making him responsible for the execution of the board's mandates."

Cavanagh called Engler's arguments "superficial," saying they "fail to give weight to the constitutional authority vested in the Board of Education. The governor cannot reorganize the Department of Education in such a way that infringes the board's constitutional role, regardless of whether the executive order purports merely to shift 'statutory' functions."

Lawsuit from page A5

ciation:

■ 99.8 percent of all firearms in the U.S. are used lawfully.

■ On about 2.5 million occasions, handguns have been used annually to prevent a crime or injury, according to a survey completed by criminologist Gary Kleck;

■ A U.S. Department of Justice survey found that 40 percent of felons chose not to commit at least some crimes for fear their victims were armed and 34 percent admitted being scared or shot at by armed victims;

■ Approximately 85 percent of Americans believe people should have the right to use firearms to defend themselves in the home, while 72 percent favor stiffer sentences for criminals who use a gun in crime rather than more gun laws;

■ Accidental firearms deaths are at their lowest rates in 74 years, which O'Donnell attributes to the industry's efforts at promoting gun safety. The NRA said it has spent \$100 million on firearm safety and education programs over the past eight years.

Accidental deaths of children at 138 annually are far exceeded by the 9,700 killed in traffic. "More children die of drowning in bathtubs, ingesting poisons, falls and accidental injuries," said O'Donnell.

O'Donnell doesn't believe lawsuits and more laws are the answer.

"They are learning to attack an industry for financial gain and advancing a political gain," O'Donnell said.

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Award-winning journalist takes over state beat

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabranczyk@oe.hometown.com

A 22-year veteran community journalist who has won numerous awards for his work will succeed Tim Richard as the news service regional editor for HomeTown Communications Network. Mike Malott, 43, of Commerce Township served as managing editor of The Northville News and The Novi News, both part of the HomeTown Communications Network. That network also includes Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, the Mirror News-

papers, HomeTown Newspapers and Lansing Community Newspapers, totaling 39 newspapers with a circulation of 420,000.

Malott will be covering state government, ranging from the Legislature, regional agencies and the courts.

Malott said he had his eye on his new position even when he covered state government for another newspaper in the late 1980s. "I've always wanted to get back," Malott said.

"I think the state is a critical part of our coverage," Malott said. "The state sets all the rules

for school districts, cities, townships and counties. A lot of the policy begins at the state level."

For Malott, the challenge is to decipher policy decisions and craft it for readers to understand. "It's important to find out why the policy is being set, and why this is important in their daily lives," Malott said.

Malott was honored as HomeTown Newspapers Journalist of the Year in 1992. He has won numerous awards from the Michigan Press Association, the National Newspaper Association and Suburban Newspapers of

America. Richard praised Malott. "He has a very inquiring mind," Richard said. "He's an extremely sharp person."

Richard, who worked with Malott, remembers watching Malott plan his coverage, instructing a Novi reporter to look for certain crimes, particularly drunken driving. The police chief gave a quarterly report to the city council, in which he reported 14 drunken driving arrests, when the reporter found three, all non-residents of that community, Richard said.

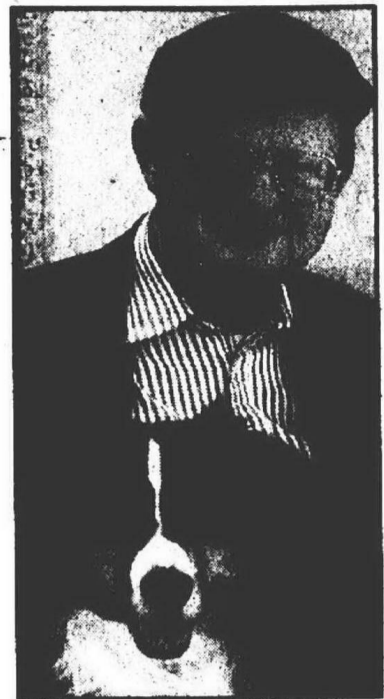
"That made Mr. Malott extremely suspicious that certain kinds of important misdeeds were not being reported by the police," Richard said. "This is the kind of person who will be doing this job."

As a managing editor for The Novi News and The Northville Record, Malott was responsible for managing a staff of 11, assigning stories, editing copy, writing editorials and laying out the newspaper. In 1990, Malott served as a managing editor at



Mike Malott

Please see MALOTT, A10



Tim Richard, veteran newsman, ends 32-year career at O&E

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER
kabranczyk@oe.hometown.com

Anyone who files a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act probably has veteran newspaperman Tim Richard to thank.

Though Richard downplays his role in the passage of that law and the Open Meetings Act, his advocacy on that issue helped get the news service regional editor for HomeTown Communications Network elected to the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame last year.

And this week, Richard, 63, has decided to retire and relocate from Livonia with his wife, Nancy, to Bear Lake in Manistee County, where he plans to

pursue hobbies of fishing and training his Australian shepherd, Sheila, for agility competition.

"The lake is near the shore of Lake Michigan, in a great fruit and vegetable growing area, where there are a lot of pine trees and lakes teeming with fish," Richard said.

Career history

Richard ends a 32-year career with the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, where he worked after stints at the St. Joseph Herald-Press and Kalamazoo Gazette. After graduating from Redford High School in 1953, Richard attended the University of Michigan where he received a bachelor's degree in economics in 1957 and a master's degree in

business administration in 1959.

Richard is credited for his work toward the eventual passage in 1976 of the Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act.

Stan Soffin, chairman of the Michigan Journalism Hall of Fame Committee, said last year the committee was impressed by Richard's "courageous leadership on behalf of a free press."

Phil Power, owner and chairman of Hometown Communications Network Inc., wrote in his nomination letter that Richard is the "single most competent" political and governmental reporter in Michigan.

"Tim's journalistic output is

Please see RICHARD, A10

Retiring: Tim Richard plans to spend more time training his dog, Sheila.

Healthy Aging

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We know that early prevention can improve activity and independence, and reduce disease rate in old age. Most of the current preventive measures, however, concentrate on heart disease and cancer. With the continued "graying of America," conditions such as dementia, degenerative arthritis, hearing and visual impairments are more common than before. These conditions cause functional disability and increased dependency on others. The role of health care professionals is essential in screening and detecting these problems in order to provide early intervention to restore health and functionality.

Although it is helpful to be genetically programmed to age slowly, optimal aging with minimal health decline can be achieved by adhering to some healthy strategies. Intellectual stimulation, dietary modification and exercise (including resistance training) are beneficial. Old age should not prevent people from making meaningful contributions to society. Physicians can help by encouraging older adults to enjoy an active and creative life. Finally, do not let your age decide how old you are. Dwight Eisenhower once said, "I'm saving that rocker for the day I feel as old as I really am."

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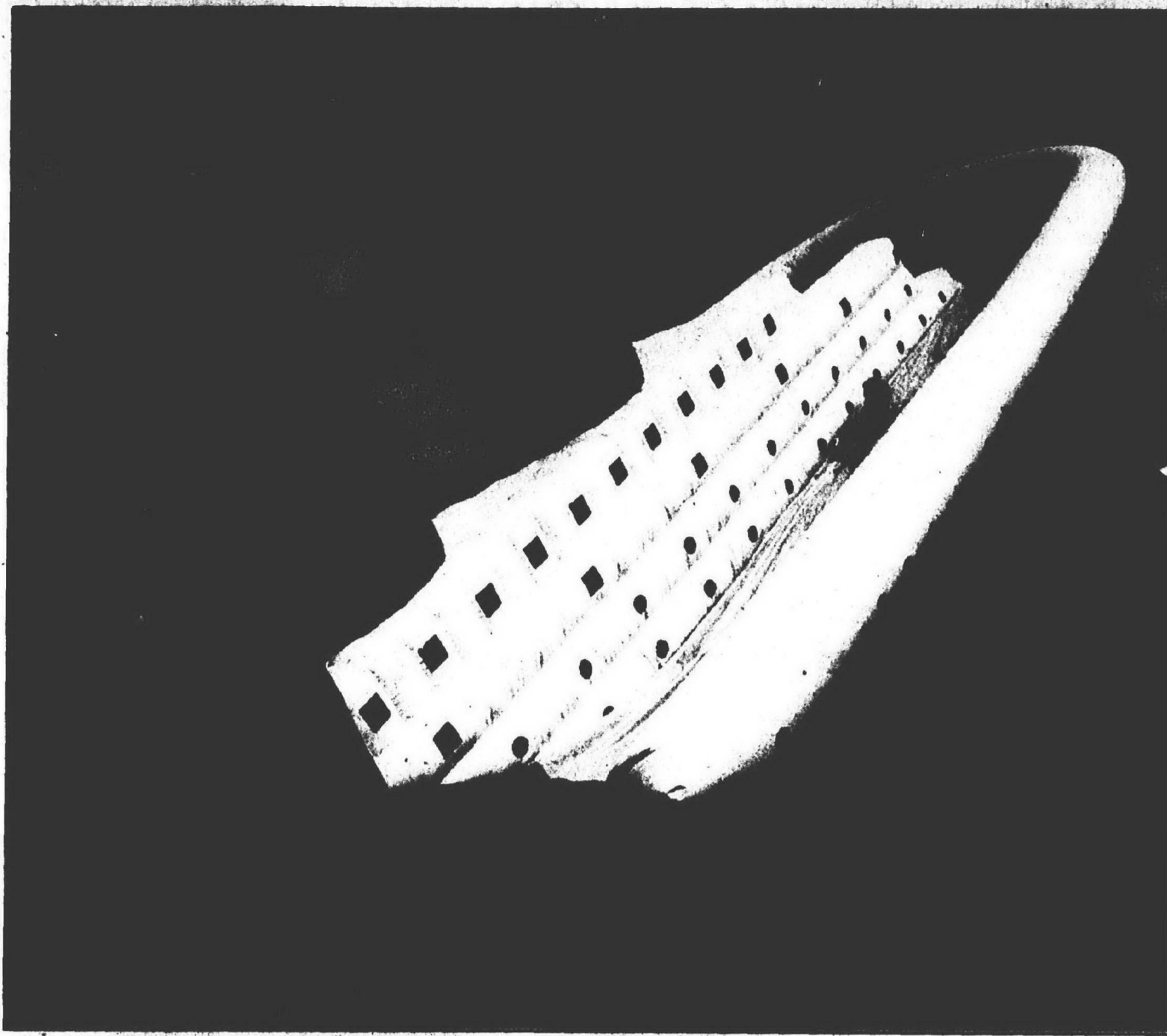
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Don't forget to register to win exciting prizes! The grand prize of tickets to "Forbidden Hollywood" at Regency & Century Theatres, includes dinner for four at the Century Grille (\$130) and a limousine to the theatre.

Let's go Shopping!

Titanic 'floats' into Hines Park for family fun



The Titanic is coming to Hines Park, but this one isn't going to sink.

It's actually a 100-foot inflatable replica of the ship. Residents of all ages can climb on it Saturday during Wayne County's Family Fun and Fitness Day scheduled 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Nankin Mills Area in Hines Park in Westland.

Residents also can grab their blades and bikes to celebrate National Fitness Month and "Saturday in the Park." Families from across the county can participate in activities to promote physical fitness and good health.

Visitors can enjoy fitness walking, in-line skating lessons, bicycle inspections and new safety gear, disc golf, kite kits sponsored by North Brothers Ford and golf demonstrations. Exhibits feature health, fitness and safety-related organizations, and learn more about parks and recreation departments in Wayne County. In addition, there will be free T-shirts to the first 1,000 people.

Residents also can enjoy two children's entertainers — Renee and Company, and Mary Ellen Clark, a strolling clown with balloons, the Detroit Pistons Auto-mation Dance Team, local saxophonist Marty Montgomery and

the Next Generation Big Band.

"It's important for families to emphasize good health and physical fitness," said Wayne County Executive Edward McNamara. "May is National Fitness Month and this event was designed to offer an opportunity for our residents to learn more about the importance of how physical fitness, health and recreation can positively impact their families."

This event, sponsored by Wayne County Parks and Recreation, Detroit Inline Skate School, The Sports Authority, Westland Parks and Recreation, Get Active Detroit and Rollerblade, also highlights the return of Saturday in the Park. This program closes six miles of Hines Drive 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday beginning the first Saturday in May through the last Saturday in September for the public of all ages to run, walk, skate or cycle safely.

Hines Park-Nankin Mills Area is located on Hines Drive just east of Ann Arbor Trail in Westland. Parking is available off of Hines Drive, and can be reached even if the road is barricaded by flooding.

For more information on this or any other parks event, call (734) 261-1990.

STAFF PHOTO BY TOM HAWLEY

That sinking feeling: Karen Blankeslee, 8, and an unidentified county worker slides down the 100-foot inflatable float of the Titanic. The inflatable slide will be part of the family fun and fitness day 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Nankin Mills Picnic Area on Hines Drive at Ann Arbor Trail. The inflatable Titanic is sponsored by Detroit Inline Skating School and Interactive Inflatables.

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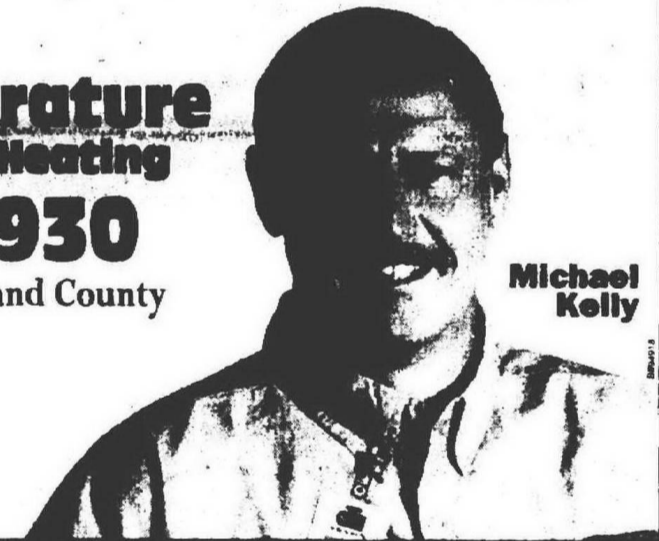
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Richard from page A8

truly prodigious," Power said. "He regularly writes core stories on significant events with local-ization possibilities scattered throughout."

Richard praised

Power also cited Richard for single-handedly reporting policy issues associated with the State Board of Education and with its attempt fundamentally to change the nature of Michigan public schools.

"He is particularly the greatest example I know of a disciplined, serious and perceptive reporter relating statewide events to the needs of individual readers in their hometown communities."

But today Richard downplays

his role. "I was given the lion's share of credit, but I was part of a movement for open government."

In 1966, Richard, who was a reporter with the Kalamazoo Gazette, was excluded from secret meetings of the board of Western Michigan University. Richard asked for minutes of past meetings and the board secretary accidentally gave him the minutes of the secret meetings, during what they had made policy decisions.

Richard wrote the story and the editor killed it, which gave Richard "a fire in my belly about the issue of open government."

The unpublished WMU expose in 1966 led directly to his advocacy of the Open Meetings Act,

and activity in the Society of Professional Journalists and Michigan FOI Committee Inc. to defend the "sunshine" laws and teach people how to use them through seminars and newsletters.

In 1971, Richard wrote about the "age of majority" in the Observer and sold the idea to Gov. William Milliken, which resulted in the state laws lowering legal ages from 21 to 18.

"People are physically maturing younger by two or three years than they were in the 19th century," Richard said. Richard reasoned that 18-year-olds were fighting in wars. "Let's give them a chance to vote," Richard said.

Richard admires

Richard's most admired politicians are former Gov. William Milliken and Lt. Gov. James Brickley. "They were moderates. They solved problems without adherence to ideology."

Richard also admired former Gov. James Blanchard's knowledge of facts and his "feel for history."

Richard says the press and the public should continue to watch government with attorneys now chipping away at the FOI and Open Meetings acts. Richard also sees politicians "using the tools of government to promote themselves."

"You have a right to know what the government wants to do to you before it does it to you. You have a right to know the amendments before the final product comes out, who's really on your side or who's voting yes at the last minute."

For now, though, Richard looks forward to relaxation with his wife and his dog, and casting into Bear Lake and other waterways in northern Michigan.

"I've been married to the same woman for 37 years, and she's a better fisherman than I am."

County parks to expand seasonal offerings for '99

This season will be one of the busiest ever for Wayne County Parks.

New for '99 are interactive programs offered through the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center and Holliday Nature Preserve. The programs are geared for naturalists of all ages.

A Floral Fantasy Hike is scheduled Saturday, May 8, at the Cawan section of the Holliday Nature Preserve so people can observe various woodland wildflowers. Kids age 3-5 can explore colors in nature and create colorful crafts at the Colors of the Rainbow program at the Nankin Mills Interpretive Center on Saturday, May 15, while Watercolors in the Wild is scheduled for Saturday, May 22.

Crosswinds Marsh Wetland Interpretive Preserve in Sumpter Township also offers interactive opportunities for ani-

mal lovers to learn more about creatures which inhabit wetlands.

The Summer Family Entertainment Series has expanded, offering more than 15 concerts, more than 15 children's events and seven movies at various park locations. Movies in the Park begins with a showing of "A Bug's Life" Friday, June 11, at the Nankin Mills area.

Other events include a Fishing Derby Saturday, May 15, at the Waterford Bend Area in Northville; a Backyard Birder program, Saturday, May 8, at Crosswinds Marsh; and rentals of canoes and paddleboats at Newburgh Lake, which begin after Memorial Day.

For more information, view Wayne County's Web site at www.waynecounty.com or call (734) 261-1990.

Malott from page A8

The Milford Times and The South Lyon Herald in South Lyon.

Malott also worked as news editor for six years at the Spinal Column Newsweekly and Oakland Business Monthly, and prior to that, as a staff writer, covering the state, county and

regional issues.

In 1977, Malott received a bachelor's degree in applied arts and sciences from Central Michigan University with majors in journalism, psychology and sociology.



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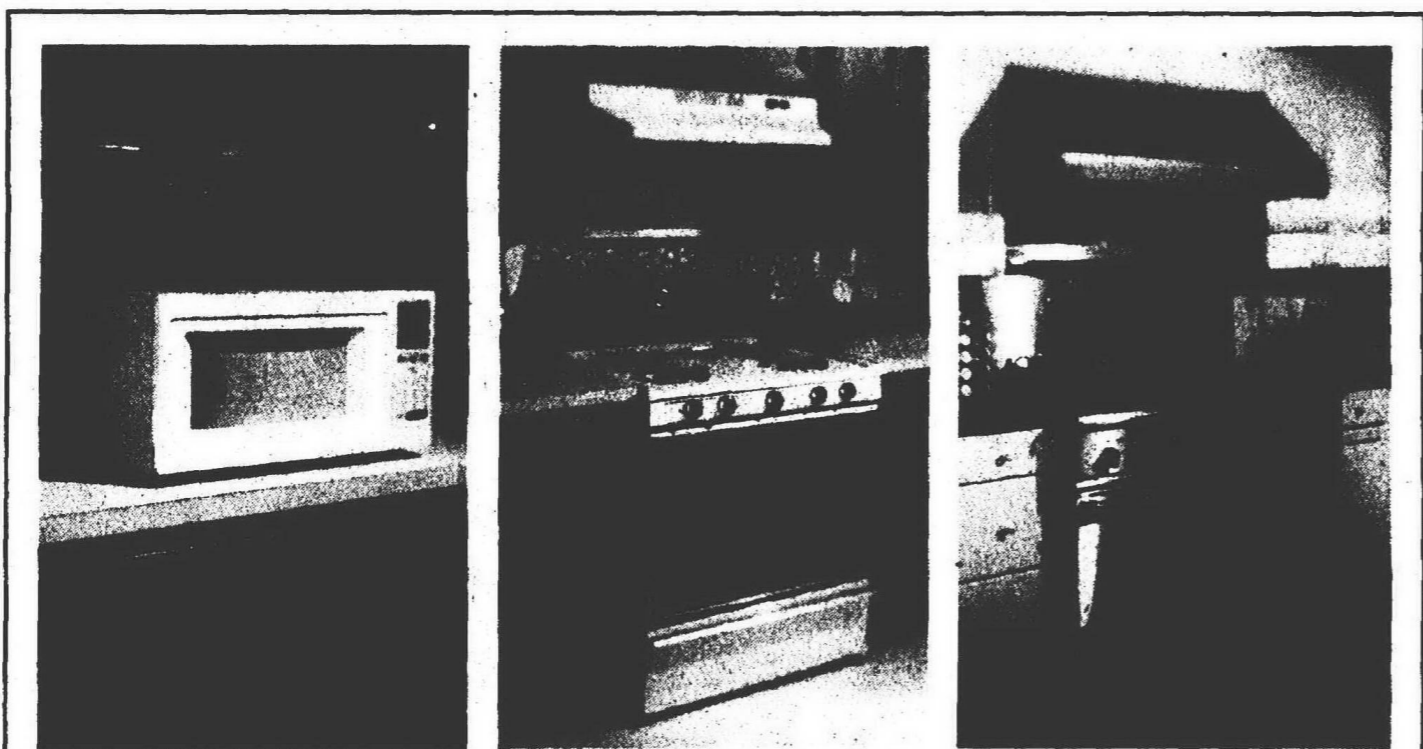
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Festival kicks off 4-day national town meeting

Wayne County, General Motors, the city of Detroit and Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength (MOSES) have joined together to host "A Festival Celebrating Sustainability" on Saturday, May 1, on the campus of Wayne State University and throughout the Detroit Cultural Center.

This local festival is a pre-event activity for the scheduled National Town Meeting for a Sustainable America. The festival is free and open to the general public.

The kickoff festival will highlight local development that maintains or enhances economic opportunity and community well-being while protecting and restoring the natural environment upon which people and economies depend.

The festival begins at noon with a naturalization ceremony of 500 new citizens sworn in by U.S. District Judge Denise Page Hood on Cass Avenue behind the Detroit Public Library.

Exhibits and workshops will be scheduled with organizations and groups including Wildlife Habitat Council, DTE Energy, General Motors, state universities and Friends of the Detroit

River. Entertainment includes magicians, dancers, singers and performance groups.

Workshops and presentations will focus on sustainable initiatives from local groups throughout the festival site. Workshops will include a student-faculty-business roundtable discussion on international sustainability, a "Meet your Congressman" session, geographical information systems demonstrations and a talk on sustainable design in architecture and construction.

The Fannie Mae Foundation is sponsoring a fair on home ownership.

The National Town Meeting for a Sustainable America will take place on May 2-5 at the Cobo Conference and Exhibition Center in Detroit.

The NTM will highlight the work of communities, businesses and individuals that offer solutions to help America continue to prosper without environmental and social impacts.

The festival will be centered on Cass Avenue behind the main branch of the Detroit Public Library. Free parking is available on Wayne State's campus in a parking structure at the north-west corner of Palmer and Cass Avenue. For directions, call (313) 577-2246.

Death penalty vote shut down

BY TIM RICHARD STAFF WRITER trichard@a.com

State House lawmakers publicly criticized their leaders for rushing a vote on the death penalty and then cutting short an April 21 roll-call vote before the measure could be openly defeated.

Rep. Mike Bishop, R-Rochester, pushed the measure through his Constitutional Law and Ethics Committee in two meetings and three working days after it was introduced.

"There was a surprise vote in committee. There was not enough input from the public, from corrections officials, from law enforcement, from the judiciary," said Rep. Keith Stallworth, D-Detroit.

"The Senate Judiciary Committee gave several weeks notice of its public hearing, and 400 people showed up in Pontiac," said Rep. Liz Brater, D-Ann Arbor.

Bishop brushed aside the criticism. "This debate has been open hundreds of years," the freshman lawmaker said. "The Senate (hearing March 23) did an educational job."

It takes a two-thirds vote of both chambers to put a proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot, but it was clear the proposal was going

STATE HOUSE NEWS

down about 3-2 in a sea of red (no) lights on the House tally board. There is no official record of the vote other than reporters' hastily written notes.

But in a procedure often used to save leaders from the embarrassment of defeat, House Majority Floor Leader Andrew Raczkowski, R-Farmington Hills, shouted, "Clear the board," before the roll call could be completed. Raczkowski then won a voice vote to refer the measure back to Bishop's committee.

"Parliamentary shenanigans," Sen. David Jaye, R-Macomb County, said of Raczkowski's move. Jaye supports a similar measure in the Senate.

Bishop said the maneuver means House Joint Resolution H, as it's formally known, is still alive and can be brought out of his committee any time before Dec. 31, 2000. But House Speaker Chuck Perricone, R-Kalamazoo, said there aren't enough votes to warrant another attempt.

Michigan abolished the death penalty in the mid-19th century after the wrong man was hanged for a murder. The ban

was part of the Michigan Constitutions of 1808 and 1863. A majority of voters would have to approve a constitutional amendment to reinstate it for first-degree murder, and the Legislature would have to write a follow-up statute implementing it.

The Senate Judiciary Committee intends to study the issue through summer, said chairman William VanRegenmorter, R-Jenison. But after the House's negative vote, the idea is effectively dead in the Legislature.

Voters could petition for a death penalty amendment. Past efforts, however, have foun- dered.

Here is what area representatives said about HJR H.

Bishop: "There is substantial proof that executions deter future murders... an undisputed fact. There have been 821 murders by persons convicted of murder. Prisoners on Death Row are 250 percent more likely to kill other prisoners and guards."

Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, voted no because "My core belief is that the death penalty is wrong."

Laura Toy, R-Livonia: "I believe in the right of the people to vote on this. It's time to give the people a chance." Toy put up a green light.

Gerald Law, R-Plymouth, didn't speak but put up a green light.

Paul DeWeese, R-Williamston, put up a red light. "Our criminal justice system fails the test. Wealthy defendants can hire the F. Lee Baileys and Johnny Cochranes (top defense lawyers) of the world," but others run a greater risk of conviction and execution. Nationally, there have been 500 convictions since the death penalty was allowed by the U.S. Supreme Court in the late 1970s, but 75 convicts on Death Row have been exonerated. Illinois has executed 11 and exonerated nine, he said.

Lynne Martinez, D-Lansing, voted no, arguing the death penalty "is not a deterrent" and is applied with "race bias and economic bias. A person of color is more likely to be questioned, detained, arrested, tried and sentenced to death." She, too, complained that the measure was rushed through Bishop's committee and to a floor vote less than a week after it was introduced.



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Answer up Survey is good for everyone

Last week, most city and township residents received a community survey in their mailbox. We urge everyone to take a few minutes to respond. It's your turn to be heard.

It's a very simple form that will take only a short time to fill out. The survey will provide valuable information to assess community satisfaction. The 22 questions ask about the quality of life in the Plymouths, including aesthetics, safety and schools. It asks what influenced your decision to buy your home and what would cause you to sell. There is also a section that addresses current issues, such as the proposed merger of city and township governments, recreation services, and the Sheldon Road underpass.

Each question asks residents to rate the level of service in Gallup Poll-style using five levels of significance: extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not very important and not important at all.

Residents should return the form to the Plymouth Volunteer Center by May 7. A mid-May Summit on Excellence is being planned to address the issues raised in the survey.

The survey is sponsored by the Century Society of Plymouth, which is paying for the postage, and the Plymouth Community Foundation, which is paying for the printing.

It also has the support of government, business and service club leaders, many of whom helped design the questionnaire. Plymouth Township Supervisor Kathleen Keen McCarthy and Plymouth Mayor Don Dismuke support the effort.

Never before has an in-depth survey been conducted in the Plymouth community. Telephone surveys were done on single issues, such as recreation and library services, prior to past millage requests. However, this survey covers a variety of issues.

Other communities, such as Canton, send out surveys to residents every few years. The results have proven to be useful tools to rate strengths and weaknesses of services. The school district is one agency that has benefited from the Canton survey. In future years, the current Plymouth survey will provide a benchmark to measure community performance.

We also encourage residents to get involved. The survey gives community-minded individuals the opportunity to do so by simply filling out the first section of the questionnaire. It lists most, if not all, service clubs, organizations and groups. Those interested in learning more about the group or groups can check the corresponding box. The Volunteer Center will see that the form gets to the right club.

Leave school calendar alone

When it comes to paying bills, the state Senate is strongly for local control, home rule, grassroots government. Area schools had to sue the state for 17 years to get their special education money.

Too bad the Senate didn't apply the local control principle when it voted April 22 for a bill to restrict the school calendar by discouraging classes prior to Labor Day. Senate Bill 53 doesn't actually dictate the calendar, but it would shut down schools on the Friday prior to Labor Day and set up a commission, heavily loaded with tourism interests, to study the calendar question.

State government is quite within its limits in saying there should be 182 or more days of school. It's doing the right thing when it requires certification of teachers, inspection of buildings, a list of academic outcomes.

But tinkering with the calendar? Hands off, please.

School boards should have maximum flexibility to set their calendars. They need flexi-

bility in collective bargaining. They need flexibility to allow for snow days or fires that may force a building to be closed. A district may want to try a 12-month calendar, providing for winter vacations.

Teachers want the K-12 calendar to match universities' calendars. Why? So they can attend summer college and earn advanced degrees. The Legislature should be encouraging teachers to upgrade, not toying with impediments to satisfy the tourism industry.

We applaud Sens. Bill Bullard Jr., R-Milford, John Cherry, D-Clio, George Hart, D-Dearborn, and Shirley Johnson, R-Royal Oak, for opposing Senate Bill 53.

We ask Sens. Loren Bennett, R-Canton, Mat Dunaskiss, R-Lake Orion, and Thaddeus McCotter, R-Livonia, to reconsider their positions in the future. This battle isn't over.

SB 53 is in the House. Write to your state representative, State Capitol, Lansing 48909-7514, and ask him or her to vote no.

Phone companies bear watching

Hollywood in 1967 produced a satirical movie called "The President's Analyst," with James Coburn in the title role. The villain was TPC, The Phone Company, which took control of the U.S. government. It was supposed to be funny.

In 1984, a federal court ordered the breakup of our then-giant phone company, the Bell system, into AT&T, a long-distance carrier, and a bunch of "baby Bells," including Ameritech.

Unable to take "no" for an answer to monopoly, the companies are busily trying to reconstruct the pre-1984 Bell system.

Item: Ameritech is merging with SBC, the Texas outfit with a bad reputation for treating customers - as if Ameritech needed any instruction in axing thousands of employees and gouging on intraLATA rates.

Item: AT&T is bidding for control of MediaOne, a cable company. AT&T's reported goal is to get into local telephone, cable TV,

Internet and other telecommunications enterprises. It would supposedly be competitive with Ameritech.

Item: MediaOne was starting to offer phone service in competition with Ameritech.

Item: MediaOne took over an earlier company called Omnicom. Lately, MediaOne has made a merger agreement with Comcast Corp. of Philadelphia.

Item: MetroVision, a cable TV company, several years ago was swallowed up by Time Warner, which produces movies and magazines with movie reviews.

What we may wind up with is an oligopoly (a handful of companies) in a multiplicity of industries. In time, will the oligopoly want to merge into the TPC? In part it's up to President Clinton's Justice Department and the Anti-Trust Division.

Forgive our cynicism, but as customers, we smell a telecommunications rat.



ARKIE HUDKINS

Vacant building is worrisome

This letter concerns the vacant building located at 800 Junction St., formerly known as Stahl's Manufacturing.

As a current member of the Plymouth community and a mother of small and teenage children, I am concerned about the proposed rezoning and potential sale of the above mentioned property. I am well aware that the building has been vacant for a number of years and that anything that could or would be done to that building could be good for the area. However, for the city of Plymouth to not take into consideration all the major and maybe not so major concerns of the residents who live in the surrounding area is an injustice to all citizens of the community. I also would like the city commission to inform residents as to just who is the current owner of the property and what party or parties have been paying taxes on it. If none, of course the city does own it!

Another item of interest to myself and other neighbors is that in December 1998, there was a proposal in front of the planning commission to have the area rezoned to R-1, RM-1 and RT-1.

Why was the proposal turned down since none of the area residents opposed such an option? Is the reason being that this planning commission already had insight into what Jim Jabara had planned for this area?

Also, if the property is considered contaminated, what is going to happen when a new owner starts to renovate the building?

Who will bear the cost of all that is necessary?

I wonder if the EPA is aware of everything that is wrong with the building!

I am beginning to wonder if I should contact them myself since no one that is a member of the city commission has!

Lastly, if the property is needed for the renovation that Jabara is now proposing and is still zoned residential, how can he request for it to be rezoned to light industrial when all of the residents are opposed to this matter?

I would like the planning commission and the city commission to take this matter seriously and to take every resident's feelings into consideration prior to having this area rezoned and a residential area turned into an industrial fiasco.

If this can happen in my neighborhood it can also happen in yours!

Joan Stuebben
Plymouth

Listen to teachers

After 24 years of teaching in the Plymouth-Canton school district, I have finally arrived at a state of mind concerning an issue

that has potential drastic implications for us all such that I feel it necessary to address the public.

I have just spent the majority of my free time over the last two days soaking up as much information as I could concerning the shootings in Littleton. I spent each class period on April 21 talking to my classes at Canton High School on the subject.

That there is a slight chance that such a thing could happen in any district or even this one seems to be the common wisdom. Theories abound as to why such school violence has become so hideously frequent. But what has concerned me most in all this coverage is that the people from whom we least frequently hear theories and insights concerning the nature of the problems in schools are teachers. We hear from principals and school psychologists and district superintendents, grief counselors, university researchers, students, parents and all manner of worthy personnel. I'm glad that they're heard, but it concerns me that so rarely are the insights of the regular classroom teacher sought. We spent hours daily engaging your children. We do it for nine months of the year. Many staff have developed great insight into our youth. It depresses me to think that our insights aren't considered of paramount value.

And this should be of especial concern to parents in this district. The recent battle over plans for the new high school clearly demonstrates a lack of effective communication between district administration and staff. Many of the long-time high school staff who will soon be departing under the first year of a two-year buyout plan are doing so because of the generally unpleasant atmosphere surrounding labor/management relationships in this district. And in a national climate where the public is urging the people in our school systems to teach American youth how to better respect and communicate with each other it should be of immediate concern that those so charged are having such a hard time communicating with each other.

Sitting around our staff lunch table the last few days, I have heard a level of insight into the nature of this epidemic of murder in our schools superior to most of what I've heard or read in the national media. Teachers have an important piece of the solution. Many of us would welcome the opportunity to be heard.

Larry Francis
Canton English staff

Opinions are to be shared: We offer this space on a weekly basis for opinions in your own words. We will help by editing for clarity. To assure authenticity, we ask that you sign your letter and provide a contact telephone number. Letters should be mailed to: Editor, The Plymouth Observer, 794 S Main, Plymouth 48170.

COMMUNITY VOICE

QUESTION:

Do you think the Red Wings will win a third consecutive Stanley Cup?



"They're playing pretty well, but I don't think they'll win No. 3."

Jim Balsom
Garden City



"They'll win the Stanley Cup again. They have the momentum and made good trades."

Joanne Peters
Plymouth



"The Red Wings will win, of course."

Michele Brown
Garden City



"I don't think they'll do well. Winning three times in a row is tough."

Sandy Weger
Plymouth

Plymouth Observer

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— Philip Power

POINTS OF VIEW

Parents to blame for Colorado murders

The question still rolling around in the minds of most Americans this morning is, how? How could such an unthinkable act of violence occur at Columbine High?

How could Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold even conceive the idea of what they eventually carried out? And, perhaps most importantly, how can we as a community avoid becoming the next Littleton?

By all accounts, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were outcasts at Columbine High. They were not athletes and didn't hang with the "Jocks." Nor were they "Brains," "Goths," "Burnouts" or anything else for that matter. They were kids that didn't quite fit into any group - except the one they formed with others like themselves, the so-called "Trench Coat Mafia."

Members of the group espoused hatred against minorities and athletes. According to a former pizza shop co-worker, Harris and Klebold's rage went well beyond this, however. They hated everyone and everything. For them, she said, this was the only

way out. At least that's what they believed.

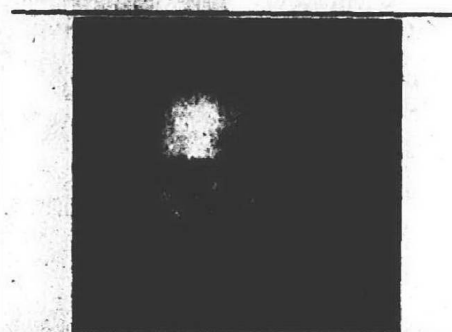
So, for more than a year, the duo hatched their plan of "revenge." Colorado police believe Harris and Klebold began making pipe bombs and stockpiling weapons as far back as April of 1998. One officer said such items were in "plain view" in one of the boys' bedrooms.

In the 10 days that have passed since the shooting, many have wondered how so many people at the school, teachers, students and administrators, could have missed so many warning signs coming from Harris and Klebold.

This may be a valid question. A more important question, I believe, is how could their parents have missed so many warning signs?

Focusing on the schools' responsibility misses the mark. It wasn't the job of any Columbine teacher or administrator to raise Eric Harris or Dylan Klebold correctly. It was their parents'.

While these teens were old enough to know right from wrong, to be



SCOTT DANIEL

responsible for their own actions, it was the inaction of their parents that made this tragedy possible.

The sad truth is that these parents were so uninvolved with their children's lives that they didn't know they were making pipe bombs, buying automatic weapons and posting hate-filled Web pages. They had no clue of what was really going on.

I'm not sure why this was the case. Perhaps each parent worked 50 hours a week. Perhaps they were too involved with their own lives to notice.

What scares the hell out of me, though, is that there are parents like these in every town. Not necessarily bad people, but people who have their priorities in the wrong order.

It's often said today that two people must work to support a family. I have no doubt that this is true for some.

But, for many others, it's not a question of "must," it's a question of paying to maintain a certain lifestyle. We have to have that 3,000-square-foot home. We must make enough money to pay for our new cars, our two-week vacations and weekly golf outings. We just can't eat out less than three days a week.

The truth is, we can. Do you think it really matters to your kid if you live in a 1,500-square-foot home? Does your 3-year-old notice if you drive to the grocery store in an Escort instead of a Jeep Grand Cherokee?

What really matters to your child is that you care about them and that you love them enough to be involved in their life. That means every day of every week of every year. Not when

it's convenient or when you "have the time."

Need proof? Try hanging out an elementary school for a day. It takes all of about one hour to figure out which kids come from homes where parents really care and are really involved.

As a fourth- and fifth-grade student teacher, I saw it up close and personal. Children with these types of parents do better in school, have better social skills and are more self-confident. The difference is like night and day.

I think this is the best way to avoid any more Columbines.

Be active in your child's life. Spend time with them. Put your career in neutral if you have to and give up a few damn trinkets. My hunch is that you and society will be the richer for it.

Scott Daniel is a staff writer for the Canton Observer. He can be reached at (734) 459-2700 or via e-mail at: sdaniel@oe.homecomm.net

LETTER

Schools are responsible

I sadly must respond to the heartwrenching tragedy that took place in Colorado last week.

I am a father with a deep love for my little girl, Tamara. When you see me walking around Plymouth, you always see my little girl with me. I don't believe that I could go on if anything happened to her. I couldn't walk the streets of Plymouth without her - or pass our old spots where she and I would stop and eat ice cream.

I can only imagine the horror of receiving the news that your child has been shot to death in school. The question is who is to blame? How do you prevent this from happening? When the ship runs aground, you blame the person steering the ship. So

you can the superintendent and recall the board.

They knew that other killings took place around the country and made a lousy effort to prevent it. How long were those boys crying out?

I believe in most of the killings that the killers were known to have been outcast or picked on by some of the students. That tells me that there is no communication between the students and staff.

I am sure that there were signals floating around before the shooting that the staff could have passed on to the top people. I work for the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools and I know that kids always travel in cliques, or groups, it is a way of life in school. Most of the time, if someone is doing something wrong, it always gets

to the top people.

Are you going to tell me that the superintendent, staff and board never heard of the Trench Coat Mafia? Sure they did and have done nothing to show their boys that their way of thinking was wrong.

Also they should have counseled the other students in not singling out people and picking on them. The safety and well-being of the students is the first responsibility of the board and superintendent of any district. They have failed and should be fired.

It is my opinion that if the guns came from a parent that didn't lock them up and swallow the key, then he or she should be charged for a crime.

I am a gun owner and my first thought is kids are in my home lock them up and hide the key.

In conclusion I would like to extend my deepest heartfelt sympathy to the families of the students that perished in Colorado and a stern warning to the staff, superintendent, board of education and parents of all districts. Do not ignore anything that you child has to say, they could be crying out and need to be heard. To ignore your child could be first like pulling the trigger yourself.

John Pappas
Plymouth

Share the road

This letter does not refer to any articles in your paper. It is just a letter to remind everyone that spring/summer is here and we are out

bicycling.

My husband while on Geddes Road was told by an automobile driver to "Get out of the road!" (He was to the far right!). I would just like to remind everyone who drives in Michigan, it is legal to share the road with bicycles. In the booklet issued by the Secretary of State, "What Every Driver Must Know," it states: "Bicycle and moped riders are allowed to ride in a traffic lane, but must stay as far to the right as possible, obey traffic signals, not ride more than two abreast in a single lane, and must ride in the same direction as other traffic."

Thanks! And share the road!
Theresa Ritter
Canton

Michigan's economy needs entrepreneurs and investors

Here's a capsule economic history of Michigan in just five paragraphs.

Our first industry was fur trading in the 17th and 18th centuries. Furs were so scarce in Europe and yet so plentiful in the Great Lakes that the business turned out to be very profitable, forming the fortunes of many families back East, such as the Astors in New York.

Mineral extraction was next. The great copper deposits in the Upper Peninsula were known to the Indians but not exploited commercially until the end of the 18th century. Profits from copper helped fund the iron ore mining that continues in the UP to this day.

Much of the capital from copper mining also financed the lumbering boom that clear-cut the white pine across most of the northern Lower Peninsula in the 19th century. More money came out of Michigan's white pine forests than out of the California gold fields during the famous gold rush.

Profits from lumbering formed much of the capital for the emerging automobile industry that began developing in Michigan at the start of the 20th century. After the industry consolidated in the 1920s, automobile manufacturing turned out to be an enormous worldwide industry with extraordinarily high profit margins.

Since the automobile industry matured in the last half of this century, business folks, investors and public policy-makers have been casting around some new thing that might form the basis for the next great industry to drive our state's economy - something like the computer industry in Silicon Valley or the software industry in Seattle.

That's not as easy as it looks.

First, you don't just decide you're going to create some giant new industry out of whole cloth and expect that intention alone will get the job done.

Lots of governors tried, going all the way back to Bill Milliken, who in the early 1980s helped create publicly funded institutions like the Industrial Technology Institute in Ann Arbor and the Molecular Biology Institute in East Lansing. These never worked very well, nor did Jim Blanchard's attempts to use the Michigan Strategic Fund as a sort of governmental venture capital firm.

After a while, it became clear - even to governors - that new industries were not going to be created as a result of government policy. The best government could do was to level the playing field.



PHILIP POWER

Dominant industries - in Michigan's case, auto manufacturing - always tend to use their political muscle to set public policy in their own interests.

The Michigan Single Business Tax is a classic example. Written in the 1970s by lobbyists from General Motors who finalized their work at 2 a.m. and rushed the complex bill through an exhausted Michigan Legislature that had little idea what it was voting on, the SBT benefits manufacturing companies with high margins and hurts small business start-ups.

Give credit to Gov. John Engler and Doug Rothwell, CEO of the Michigan Economic Development Corp., for at last recognizing this problem and leveling the playing field.

Last week, Rothwell announced a "Gold Collar Jobs Tax Package" that will give high-tech companies the same sales tax exemptions and tax breaks on buildings and equipment now given to manufacturing firms. Rothwell estimates the tax changes will save \$5-10 million per year for Michigan high-tech companies.

More and more, people are recognizing that the main barrier to finding and nourishing the next great industry in Michigan's economic history is cultural.

We can't afford to think like giant manufacturing companies; we've got to cherish entrepreneurs and risk-takers. We can't just complain about lack of venture capital; we've got to create an environment that is attractive to investors. We can't depend on state government to do much more than level the playing field.

Changing culture is a long, slow process. But there are signs that that process has started at last.

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@eonline.com

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PLANNING COMMISSION NOTES

The following is a list of events from the last Plymouth Township Planning Commission meeting.

Remaining recommended

The rezoning from residential to industrial of 6.2 acres near Five Mile and Beck was recommended for approval by the township board.

According to a report submitted by McKenna Associates of Farmington Hills, this "general vicinity of the township is in transition from residential to non-residential uses, particularly light industrial."

Development to pave Gottschalk

The commission voted to recommend approval of a cluster housing option on 20 acres being developed by S&R Michigan, LLC. The decision was based on a 32-unit development plan submitted by the applicant who then asked for a 33rd unit.

Issues of road paving (along Gottschalk) and land use are still being worked out and will come before the commission during final site plan approval.

Land use approved

The PM Group Investment Corp. received approval for land use subject to special conditions for a senior assisted living center near the intersection of Five Mile and Northville Road.

The applicant has offered to deed 3 feet of the property line to area residents to settle an on-going battle of ownership issues. Residents have claimed

that the land's former owner deeded the property to them in the 1970s. A two-building facility is planned for the site.

Pulte phase six approved

The Pulte Land Development Co. received approval for its final site plan for "phase six" of its developments in western Plymouth Township.

The site, near Napier and Ann Arbor Road, is approximately 59 acres and will be developed with detached, single-family houses.

Site plan approved

The final site plan by Kallis Enterprises for a self-storage business near Canton Center and Ann Arbor Road was approved.

Tentative site plan approval

A single-family, residential housing plan by Triangle Wellworth Homes, LLC, received tentative site plan approval.

According to the proposal, 16 units are planned for the 5.6-acre site.

Land split

A land split was approved for Unisys Corp. in an industrial park near Plymouth Road and Haggerty.

No one was available from Unisys to say what the future use of the property will be.

— Staff Writer Duncan White

Safety fair set for May 16

The Plymouth Township Police Department is having a "Safety Fair" noon to 3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 16, at McClumpha Park.

The event will include K-9, SWAT and accident investigation demonstrations and a firearms display. There will be literature available on child identification kits, drunken driv-

ing, the burn center, crime prevention, Growth Works and First Step.

The Plymouth Community Fire Department will have several items on display, including the fire safety house.

For more information, call Officer Jamie Senkbeil at (734) 453-3869, Ext. 380.

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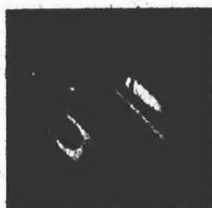
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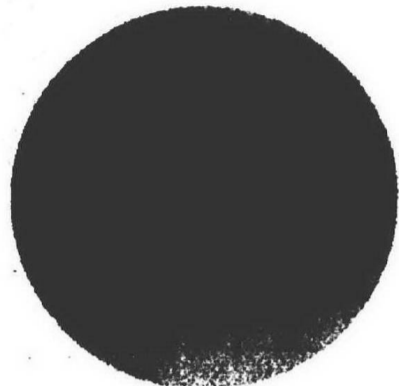
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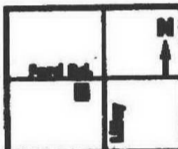
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ANNIVERSARY SALE



JACK GLADDEN

Weather here, weather there, they've got it

Ever been driving along the freeway, listening to the traffic and weather report on the radio, and heard something like "Well, Joe and Roberta, we're gonna have lots of sunshine today with just a gentle breeze out of the west. Temperatures will climb into the low 70s and it's gonna be a great day just to be outside."

As you flick the wipers on to get that liquid sunshine off your windshield, you look up and around, trying to find the sun. Nothing but clouds. And light rain. The clock/thermometer at the bank you're passing flashes its message: 45 degrees.

And you wonder aloud: Where is this guy? He's not seeing what I'm seeing.

Well, of course he's not. He's not even here. He's in a studio in New York or somewhere, looking at radar screens and computer images.

Maybe I'm naive - and maybe it doesn't matter, anyway - but I just figured that out the other day when I was poking around on the Internet. I got on to the Web site for my local traffic and weather station and started looking at the bios of the on-air "personalities."

So that's what Joe and Roberta look like. And there's John Bailey, the traffic reporter. And here's the weather people Joe and Bob and Heather and ... wait a minute!

These guys don't work for the radio station. They work for AccuWeather. Somewhere else. And listen to what it says about Lisa Moldovan

At a distance

"Now a Senior Forecaster, Moldovan speaks to nearly 35 stations a day, from Portland, Maine, to Albuquerque, N.M., to Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada. Moldovan does a good deal of driving, looking firsthand at the sites she forecasts for, and is a real geography buff."

Well, that's just dandy. Thirty-five stations a day. No wonder they talk about sunny days when the windshield wipers are going, or forecast gloom and drizzle when there isn't a cloud in the sky. They're not here.

Now I'm not trying to pick a fight with the radio station or with AccuWeather or with the forecasters. They're usually pretty accurate. They're certainly as accurate as those television meteorologists, and they are here. And with all the high-tech stuff around today, I can get on the Internet from home and check out the weather in San Francisco or Orlando. So I don't suppose you have to be here in order to forecast for here.

But it's just the way it's packaged. Here's Joe and Roberta talking about the latest local news, then along comes Tracy Gary in Chopper 950 looking down on the Lodge and talking about a major accident on the I-94 interchange. She's there. She can see it.

Then along comes Heather or Lisa or Bob, saying something like: "We're gonna have a beautiful day today. A balmy breeze, just a few high clouds, temps in the 70s. A great day to get out on the links and just enjoy."

Next they throw in something like "Current temperature at Metro is 69, 71 at City Airport and in Mount Clemens it's 72."

Too far for personal

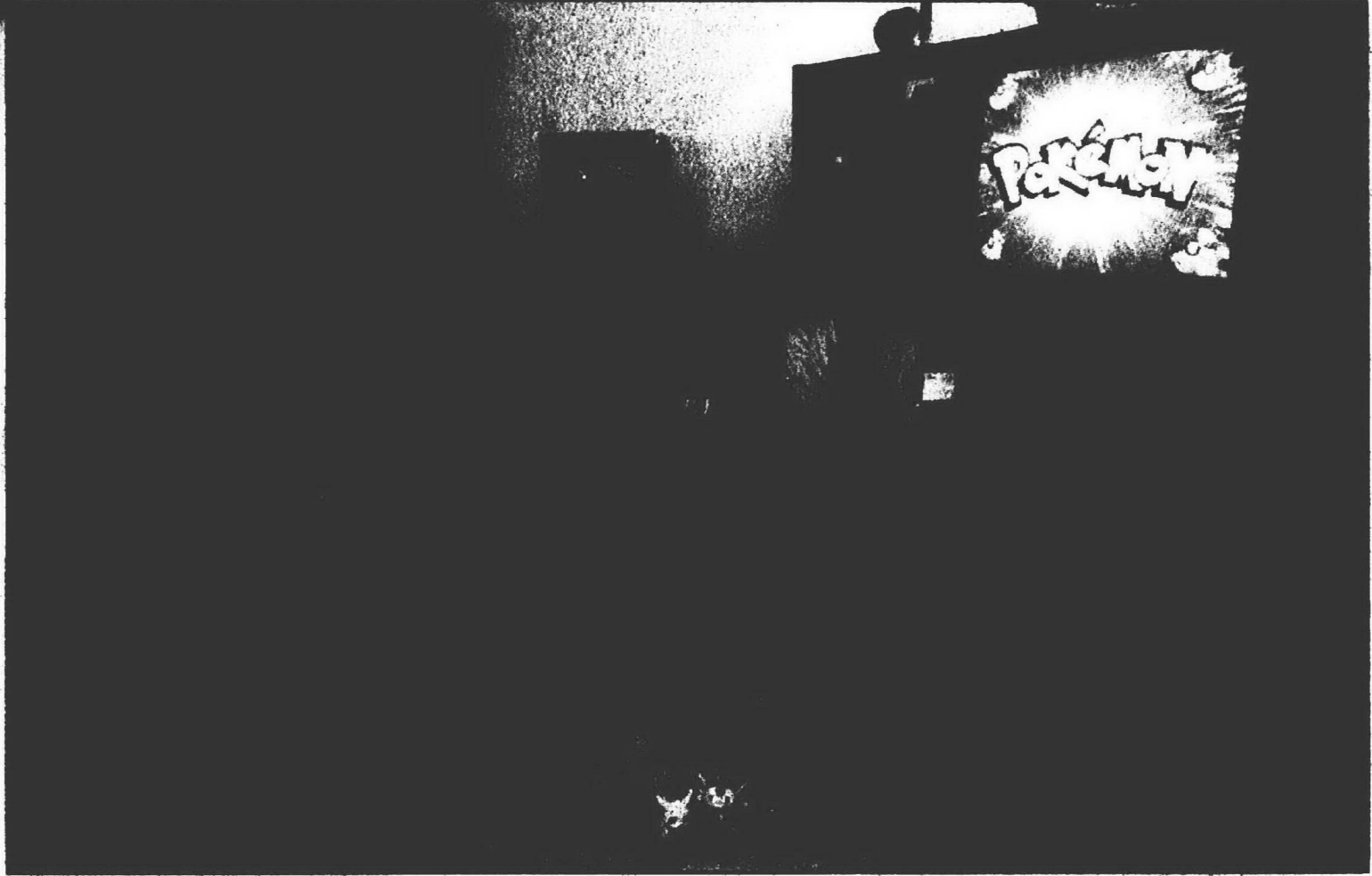
What's this "we" stuff? You aren't going to enjoy that balmy Detroit day, if you're in New York with thunder, lightning and major downpours. You're gonna get wet.

It's that first-person pronoun approach that makes them seem local, along with those references to "Metro," "City Airport," etc. Like they're sitting in a Southfield studio, looking out the window at the same sunny or drab skies that you're seeing.

But it's all being done by remote control. I guess it kind of reminds me of an old radio promotion spot produced by Stan Freiberg, "The Cherry in Lake Michigan."

The point of the promo was to show

Please see GLADDEN, B3



STAFF PHOTO BY PAUL EUBSCHMANN

Pokemon party: The Pokemon craze has made its way into Matt and Cindy Johnson's Canton Township home. Their son, Nick, and his friends buy anything Pokemon. Showing off their toys are Travis Pelt, 9, Dave Isakson, 12, Tyler Pelt, 11, Nathan Gardner, 11, Brad Law, 12, Paul Isakson, 12, and Nick Johnson, 12.

Kids turn cartoon into latest fad

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER
cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net

Excitement erupts in the living room of Matt and Cindy Johnson's Canton Township home. The collective of eight boys, affectionately known as the Keystone Gang, freaks at the mere mention of Pokemon.

When the topic comes up, they talk over each other, try to outdo each other with trivia, and even get wacky when one of them sings the cartoon's theme song.

"I think the beginning theme song is pretty weird when they go, 'I wanna be the very best,'" 9-year-old Travis Pelt of Canton Township sings faux dramatically.

Pokemon is the latest fad among children roughly age 8-14. The Pokemon phenomenon began three years ago as a Game Boy game in Japan, where the Pokemon characters are known as Pocket Monsters.

It has since exploded in a myriad of collectibles. Anything Pokemon is a must-have for the Keystone Gang, ranging from the Nintendo game to the stuffed animals.

Pikachu, a cuddly little yellow guy whose name is pronounced Peek-a-Chew, is the most popular Pokemon, according to the boys.

The "Pokemon" Kids WB television series and the related games are centered around its hero Ash Ketchum, who tries to catch as many Pokemon as possible. It's an ongoing effort because each of the Pokemon possesses special powers and abilities.

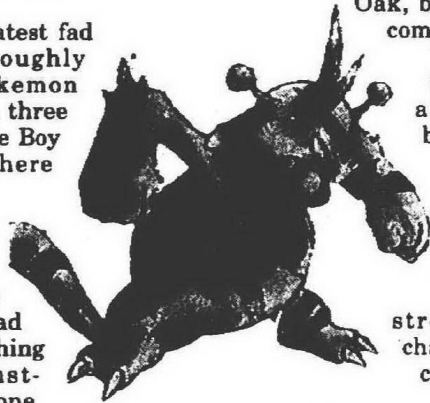
"He (Ash) goes around, and there's trainers and boss trainer people that you fight at Pokemon gyms," said Nathan Gardner, an 11-year-old student at East Middle School. "They're the leaders of it. You fight them and you get a badge when you beat them. After you get all eight badges, you get to the Pokemon league."

"If you beat them and then you beat your rival, in the show it's Gary Oak, both Gary and Ash are competing to get all eight badges and go beat the Pokemon league and each other to become the Pokemon masters."

Got all that? Nick Johnson, a 12-year-old student at Lowell Middle School in Westland, stressed that Pokemon characters are politically correct.

"In Pokemon, Pokemon don't die, they faint. They never die," Nick said.

The cartoon series "Pokemon" was originally produced by Shogakukan Productions in Japan where it is the No. 1-rated children's show. 4Kids Pro-



Playing for keeps

For Pokemon enthusiasts, a Pokemon CCG and a sanctioned Pokemon tournament will be held during The Motor City Comic Con Friday-Sunday, May 14-16, at the Novi Expo Center, 43700 Expo Center Drive, Novi.

Admission is \$12 per day or \$28 for a three-day pass. Parking is \$4 per car per day. For more information, call (248) 426-8059 or visit <http://www.ticketmaster.com>. There are several Pokemon-related Web sites including: <http://www.pokemon.com> and <http://www.nintendo.com> or <http://www.wizards.com/pokemon>



ductions adopted the series for the United States incorporating all new music, voices and scripting. "Pokemon" earned its best numbers in mid-March making it the top-rated children's show.

Nathan attributes the cartoon's popularity to its creativity.

"It's (American cartoons) not as creative. In these kinds of shows, they have special powers and stuff," Nathan said.

"It's more real life because in American cartoons they just run around and hit each other; run around with mallets and go, 'Aaaaaah,'" added Dave Isakson, 12, who also goes to Lowell.

But if they do get sick of the television show, there are plenty of other Pokemon activities to keep them busy.

There's the Pokemon collectible card games, Nintendo games, television show, stuffed animals, you name it.

Game Boy player

Brad Law, a 12-year-old student at Roosevelt Elementary School in Livonia, is already bored with the television show. So he imbibes in Pokemon Game Boy.

"The game doesn't get boring. The TV show is good, but I've seen most of them, except the new ones," Brad said.

"I think people like the game, though, because you can actually catch your own little animals and control them and use them in battles," Nathan added. "They have special moves that they learn as they grow and you can

Please see POKEMON, B2

Build a Web site for your club, organization



Trying to set up a class reunion? Want to notify members of your church group about a change in meeting times? Looking for people to exhibit work in the local art fair?

You need a site on the World Wide Web. And thanks to a new service being offered by the Observer Newspapers, you can have one with just a few clicks of a mouse. It's easy to set up and there is no charge to nonprofit groups for the service. (See related story on Page A1.)

"Mihometown.com is a new community Web site service designed to serve and promote community organizations in the state of Michigan," said Brion Roberto, manager of the Observer & Eccentric Enhanced Media Department.

You don't need to write code or know HTML. All you need is a computer, a modem and an Internet connection. Connect to mihometown.com and follow the on-screen instructions.

The sites allow community groups to post their newsletters and calendars of events online, to post messages in discussion areas or to engage in live chat with other participants. You can also send e-mail to all members of the organization with just one click of the mouse.

You can even stack pages within pages, Roberto said. "An alumni organization might have a site set up for general

members," he said. "Within that, you could create another site for board members, to which only they have access. Or you might create a link to another site for the reunion committee."

Bringing many local groups' Web sites together in one location creates a sense of community, Roberto said. And it makes the sites easier to find.

Training sessions are scheduled for 6:30-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 12, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 15, and 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday, May 19, at CompUSA in the Novi Town Center. Each session will last two and a half hours, after which, Roberto said, you will be ready to set up your site.

The \$15 fee includes training, materials and refreshments. You can fill out the attached coupon and send a check payable to the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers or register online with a credit card at this secure site <http://oeonline.com/mihometown> or call Jennifer Murray at (734) 953-2038 for more information. Space is limited.



Register for training

Name: _____

Organization(s) you represent: _____

Address: (include city and zip code) _____

Telephone: (work and home) _____

Current e-mail address: _____

Type of computer you have: _____

First choice for training session: _____

Second choice for training session: _____

Other: _____

Sorority fashion show benefits women and children

By DEAN GALE ANDREAS
Special Writer

Livonia teachers spend their work days devoted to the children of the community. And in their spare time, a Livonia teachers' sorority is raising money for women's and children's organizations.

The Livonia branch of Alpha Kappa Tau chapter, an international professional teachers' sorority, is planning its second annual fashion show 6 p.m. Tuesday, May 4, at the Holiday Inn Livonia West at Laurel Park, according to Sandra Naasko, who is chairing the event with Holly Fehlig and Lynne Waskin.

Tickets are \$30 each. For more information and for tickets, call Charlotte Worthen at (248) 473-8129. No tickets will be sold at the door.

Guests will dine as they watch

a parade of models, mostly teachers and students, show off fashions from Talbots and Talbots Kids at Laurel Park Place. Desmond of Laurel Park is providing the tuxedos for the fashion show.

"What the fashion show does for the community is that it gives us the funds to help organizations and groups that need funding, particularly for First Step and Mott Children's Hospital," said Worthen, chapter president. "It's women's and children's issues that we support. We're also involved in Race for the Cure and we are making a donation to International Methodist Children's Home Society."

Helping students
Last year, the organization raised \$3,000 from the fashion show. Three students, one from

each of Livonia's high schools, are chosen annually to receive a \$500 scholarship from the organization.

"Anyone can apply for it, but we look for students who have done service projects," Naasko said.

This year's scholarship winners are seniors Bethany LaOnde from Churchill High School, Melissa Sobier from Stevenson High School and Kristi Kalousek from Franklin High School.

Sobier's extensive involvement included visiting Appalachia in Pennsylvania while she was a sophomore, teaching first-grade catechism at St. Colette Catholic Church in Livonia, working at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen on numerous occasions with her church youth group, helping out at a church silent auction that benefits Angela Hospice and the

church, as well as other church activities.

"I'm very honored and surprised to get the scholarship," said Sobier, who is considering an elementary education program at Michigan State University. "It means a lot knowing the hard work I've done I have something to show for it other than something personal and that satisfaction."

The scholarships are an annual award presented by the 60 member retired and currently working teachers' group. They also donate to Safe House for battered women, Mott Children's Hospital, First Step and try to meet the needs of groups on an individual request basis.

"One year, my daughter was in the Peace Corps and the village she was in didn't have a library and they donated money to help support their village library,"

Naasko explained.

Aiming for success
Keeping these worthy causes in mind, members of the teachers' organization is making sure that this year's event is a success. Special gratitude goes to prize committee chair Bette Grainger and Madonna Bailey who donated all the table prizes, Naasko said.

Fashion show guests will have a chance to win 50 door prizes, donated by local businesses, as well as raffles with gift and cash prizes.

Some of the prizes include a pair of earrings from Tapper's Jewelry in West Bloomfield, a video cassette recorder from Paul James of VCR Presentations and Solutions Inc., a day at the salon from Vision 6 Salon in Novi and an evening out co-sponsored by Livonia Marriott and J.

Alexander's.

More than 30 other businesses made donations for the raffle, including Fonte D'Amore Ristorante in Livonia, AMC Theater, Joe's Produce, Frames Unlimited, Holiday Inn Livonia West, Wing Yee's, Ground Round, Kurl 'n' Cut, Mountain Jack's, Kacee's Hallmark, Boston Market, Mesquite Creek Steakhouse, Outback Steakhouse, Cooker's Bar and Grille, Max & Erma's, International House of Pancakes, Pick-a-Bone Rib House, Champ's Americana, Witch Craft Gift and Craft Shop, AP Impressions, Merri-Craft Florist and Rick Dionian Photography.

"The community is behind us," Worthen said. "We're altruistic. Helping other people, that's what we're all about."

Day One teens honor Columbine students

More than 73,000 teens from all 50 states and throughout the world gathered last weekend at the Silverdome to declare their faith in Christ and to proclaim their intention to lead their generation into the new millennium.

They also took time to specifically pray for and send a message of hope to their peers in Littleton, Colo.

"We are here to fight for the soul of a generation and for the hearts of your peers," said Ron Luce, founder and president of Teen Mania, the Texas-based ministry that organized "Acquire the Fire Day One." These school shootings are a wake-up call for our country. When you leave, burn a path all the way home and start a revolution of righteousness, love and forgiveness."

During the opening session Luce, whose wife, Katie, grew up in Littleton, was joined by fellow Christian leaders the Rev. Jack Hayford and Dr. E.V. Hill, to lead the gathering in prayer for those affected by the tragedy at Columbine High School. More than 400 teens from Colorado stood while the other attendees prayed for them and their state.

"Our hearts are in the middle of one of the most poignant weeks in the history of our nation," said Hayford, pastor of Church of the Way in Van Nuys, Calif., and whose twin granddaughters moved to Littleton six weeks ago. "This tragedy is so frightening because of what it says about this time in the life of our nation. Let something transforming happen in every one of us her, something neutralizing."

Cassie Bernali, a Columbine High School victim shot when she told the gunman she believed in God, was remem-

'This tragedy is so frightening because of what it says about this time in the life of our nation.'

the Rev. Jack Hayford
—Church of the Way

bered as an active member of her church youth group. She had attended the Teen Mania Acquire the Fire meeting in Denver last spring.

Paper lined the walls of the Silverdome concourse and teenagers stood in lines to write personal messages and prayers of encouragement that is being assembled into a massive card to send to students at Columbine High School.

On Saturday, a collection was taken and a portion will be used to buy Bibles for each of the Columbine students as a gift from the Day One teenagers at the Silverdome gathering.

The event culminated with the reading in unison and signing of the Teenage Bill of Rights, outlining the teen's commitment to redefine American culture and lay claim to their right to chart a new course for their generation based on honor, respect and truth, even when it may be unpopular.

"We need to find a way to make our every action count for God to change this world," said Luce. "I believe there will be a day when teenagers are no longer known by the bad statistics, but the good they are doing and the difference they are making in the world."

Pokemon from page B1

name them. It's like a role-playing game."

Paul Isakson, a 12-year-old Lowell student, thinks differently.

"It's a good game, if you have nothing else better to do," he said.

The newest Pokemon game is a trading card game which sold 400,000 copies less than six weeks after its Jan. 9 release, according to its manufacturer, Wizards of the Coast in Renton, Wash.

"It's the hottest card game or trading card game going right now," said John Kirchoff, manager of Rider's Hobby in Livonia. Rider's, which also has locations locally in Canton, Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti, sells the trading cards and videos.

"We haven't been able to keep inventory in stock; we've probably been fielding 50 calls a day whether or not Pokemon's in stock," he said. "What's really interesting, too, is these kids have a really fantastic underground network available. If we do get a shipment, it's incredible how word spreads in the neighborhood."

Electronics Boutique, located at 12 Oaks Mall in Novi, has seen the same response.



Take your pick: Among Pokemon merchandise for fans are Game Boy cartridges, a card game and toys.

"Consumers are flocking to our stores for the Pokemon trading card game," said Dena Dicandilo, buyer for Electronics Boutique. "Anticipation for the trading card game had been so great that we pre-sold 50,000 booster packs before the first decks were even shipped."

These kids may be over-

whelmed with Pokemon paraphernalia, but they are savvy enough to know that businesses just want to make money.

"You can tell that some of the little keychains they make are just for making money. The card game, it didn't seem like they put (a lot of thought to it). It's real boring, you just do the same

thing over and over. They just did it to make money," said Tyler Peltó, an 11-year-old Miller Elementary School student.

Nick even contends that the Pokemon craze is getting out of hand.

"Pokemon is such a big deal, it's like advertised all over the Internet. It's on everything," he said.

Group offers support during divorce process

The Women's Resource Center of Schoolcraft College is sponsoring a divorce support group that meets the second and fourth Tuesday of the month in Room 225 of the McDowell Center, Haggerty north of Six Mile, Livonia.

The group provides a forum for discussion and the receiving and sharing of information for those contemplating, in the process or having difficulty adjusting to divorce. There is no charge and

registration isn't required.

The discussion group meets the second Tuesday of the month and is facilitated by Cynthia Koppin, a professional counselor.

The speaker's session takes place on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The sessions address the legal, financial and emotional concerns that arise during the divorce process.

Upcoming speakers include Koppin talking about dealing with anger, grief and depression

on May 25, attorney Patricia Smith giving an overview of the process of filing for a divorce and what to expect on June 22, and social worker Florine Bond discussing the strategies for coping

with the stress of divorce on Aug. 24.

For more information about the group, call the Women's Resource Center at (734) 462-4443.

Gladden from page B1

radio as a more powerful medium than television. Using voice-overs and sound effects, Freberg proceeds to "drain" Lake Michigan, then turn it into a giant hot fudge sundae, complete with a cherry on top. His tag line was something like "Try that on your television!" The reality, of course, was all in the mind of the listener.

Maybe that's why I'm bothered by those remote meteorolo-

gists, who sound like they're here but who really aren't. It's sort of like the Stan Freberg school of forecasting. But then twice a day, we do get a real live and local report from Sonny Eliot, who's been here forever. And with Sonny around, who needs Stan Freberg?

Jack Gladden is a copy editor for the Observer Newspapers. He lives in Canton Township.

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PUBLIC NOTICE OF FACILITY CLOSING

Effective April 31, 1999, Health South Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Center, Plymouth, Michigan, a certified rehabilitation agency, will cease operations and voluntarily withdraw from the Medicare program. Questions concerning patient transfers and medical records should be directed to the custodian of patient records, Michael Leither, P.T., at (734) 422-0893.

Public: April 15, 16, 22, 25 and 29, 1999.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF PLYMOUTH

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1999

TO AMEND INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES EXEMPTION CERTIFICATE NO. 98-496 FOR ILMOR ENGINEERING, INC.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: That a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 1999, during a regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Plymouth to consider a request from Ilmor Engineering, Inc., located at 49920 Plymouth Oaks Blvd., Plymouth Oaks Business Park, to amend Industrial Facilities Exemption Certificate No. 98-496, increasing the final total project cost by more than 10% of the estimated cost approved by the Board of Trustees during a regular meeting held on April 14, 1999.

The request of Ilmor Engineering, Inc., is on file in the Clerk's Office where it is available for public perusal from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Any Township resident or member of any taxing authority within the Township of Plymouth shall have the right to appear and be heard. Written comments directed to the Clerk and received prior to the meeting will be considered. Following the public hearing the Board of Trustees may consider the request.

The public hearing commencing at 7:30 p.m., will be held in the Meeting Room at Plymouth Township Hall, 42350 Ann Arbor Road, Plymouth, Michigan 48170, on Tuesday, May 11, 1999, during the regularly scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting. Telephone number 734-453-8840 x 234.

MARILYN MABBENGILL, CMC
Clerk, Charter Township of Plymouth

Public: April 29, 1999

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ENGAGEMENTS

Clark-Liske

Mr. and Mrs. James Clark of Livonia announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Candace, to Steven R. Liske, the son of Kay Liske of Garden City and Gerald Liske of Leonard, Mich.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Livonia Stevenson High School. She is employed as the leasing acquisition representative by the Detroit Medical Center.

Her fiancé is a graduate of Garden City High School. He is owner of Contrast Building in Southfield.

A May wedding is planned at the Grosse pointe Academy Chapel in Grosse Pointe Farms.



Ferko-Sourbeck

Thomas and Judith Ferko of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Susan Lynn, to Wayne Fredrick Sourbeck III, the son of Wayne and Linda Sourbeck of Lincoln Park.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Miami University. She is employed with the Plymouth-Canton Community Schools as a teacher.

Her fiancé attended Liberty University. He is employed at Southwest Airlines.

A June wedding is planned at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Canton.



Wiseman-Devereaux

Robert and Judy Wiseman of Northville announce the engagement of their daughter, Sheryl Ann of Plymouth, to Scott Douglas Devereaux, the son of Bill and Vicki Devereaux of Oakley, Mich.

The bride-to-be is a 1979 graduate of Northville High School graduate, 1983 graduate of Michigan State University and a 1987 graduate of the Wayne State University School of Medicine. She is employed as a physician with Glennan Medical Group in Detroit.

Her fiancé is a 1986 Chesham High School graduate, and a 1991 General Motors Institute graduate. He is employed as an electrical engineer at TRW in



Washington, Mich.

A May wedding is planned at Links at Pinewood in Walled Lake.

Smith-Mozina

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Smith of New London, Ohio, announce the engagement of their daughter, Traci, to Eric James Mozina, the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Mozina of Port Clinton, Ohio, formerly of Livonia.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Defiance College in Defiance, Ohio. She is employed as a teacher in Sidney, Ohio.

Her fiancé will graduate from Defiance College in May. He is currently employed by General Motors in Defiance, Ohio.

A June wedding in Sidney is being planned.



Wolfe-Skonieczny

Frederick and Christina Wolfe of Royal Oak announce the engagement of their daughter, Sonja Maria, to Paul Anthony Skonieczny, the son of Muriel Skonieczny of Plymouth and Paul and Celine Skonieczny of Berkley.

The bride-to-be is a graduate of Shrine High School. She is attending Oakland Community College where she is studying education. She is employed at Northpointe Internal Medicine in Berkley.

Her fiancé also is a graduate of Shrine High School. He is attending Oakland Community College and Wayne State University. He is employed at Bayview Electric in Redford Township.

A May wedding is planned at



the National Shrine of the Little Flower Church in Royal Oak.

Steinhebel-Wressell

John and Betty Steinhebel of Canton announce the engagement of their daughter, Rebecca Ann, to Matthew Michael Wressell, the son of Michael and Vivian Wressell of Bay City.

The bride-to-be is a 1994 graduate of Plymouth Canton High School and the University of Michigan College of Engineering.

Her fiancé is a 1992 graduate of John Glenn High School in Bay City and the University of Michigan College of Engineering.

Egloff-Schafer

Mel and Gerie Egloff of Plymouth announce the engagement of their daughter, Sara Ellen, to John Clayton Schafer, the son of Ryszarda (Ricky) Schafer and Earl Schafer, both of Allen Park.

The bride-to-be is a 1991 graduate of Plymouth Salem High School. She is attending Wayne State University, where she is pursuing a degree in physical therapy. She is employed as a physical therapy technician at S.K.Y.L. Sports Medicine and Physical Rehabilitation in Dearborn.

Her fiancé is a 1989 graduate of Melvindale High School and a 1994 graduate of Wayne State University with a bachelor of science degree in psychology. He also received his bachelor of science degree in allied health sciences in 1996 and a master's degree in physical therapy in



1998 from WSU. He is employed at Oakwood Hospital's Heritage Center in Taylor.

A June wedding is planned at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Canton.

Wade-Bowen

Lee and Melba Wade of Canton and Marie Wade of Detroit announce the engagement of their daughter, LaKeisha, to Damon Bowen, the son of Paul and Sandra Bowen of Detroit.

The bride-to-be expects to graduate from the University of Michigan in May with a degree in industrial operations engineering. She plans to pursue a master's degree in business administration or management in the fall.

Her fiancé is an assets protection team leader, a part of the executive team for Mervyn's California Corp. He plans to complete work on a dual degree in architecture and criminal justice.



A July wedding is planned in Detroit.

Get the scores in Sports



Reed-Miller

John and Cathy Reed of Ypsilanti announce the engagement of their daughter, Jamie Lynn, to Terry Michael Miller II, the son of Terry and Elayne Miller of Garden City.

The bride-to-be is a 1997 graduate of Ypsilanti High School.

Her fiancé is a 1993 graduate of Garden City High School. He is employed in the security field.

A May wedding is planned at the Little Wedding Chapel in Farmington Hills.

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ANNIVERSARIES

McLean

Donald and Catherine McLean of Livonia celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Oct. 9, 1998, with family and friends at the Livonia Elks Lodge.

The dinner-dance was given by their daughter, Dorothy, son-in-law Ron and son Donald. They also have three grandchildren — Dean Malkiewicz and wife Jennifer, Damon Malkiewicz and Dawn Malkiewicz.

The McLeans renewed their wedding vows during a ceremony conducted by the Rev. Ruth Hillington at Rosedale Gardens Presbyterian Church in Livonia. The couple exchanged vows on Oct. 9, 1948, in Fargo, Mich., when he was serving in the U.S. Air Force. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and retired from the Air Force in 1969.



She is an avid gardener and is interested in church activities and crafts.

They have been active in the community and the Disabled American Veterans since moving to Livonia in 1956.

Kietur

Alex and Mary Jane Kietur of Garden City will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on April 23.

The couple was married at St. Raphael Catholic Church in Garden City in 1949. She is the former Mary Jane Brossoit.

They have three married sons — Alex and wife Patrice, David

and wife Carol and Edward and wife Katie — and five grandchildren — Kevin, Matthew, Lucas, Nicole and Jessica.

He retired from General Motors in 1993. She was a long-time employee of Woolworth's. They enjoy gardening, camping in the Upper Peninsula and spending time with their grandchildren.

Rocholl

Harold "Rocky" and JoAnn Rocholl of Plymouth are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary by spending a weekend at the Valley Plaza Resort in Midland with their children.

The couple exchanged vows on May 11, 1949, in Florida. She is the former JoAnn Cole.

They have four children — Lynn Horne of Inkster, Rick of Dearborn Heights, Gordon of Jefferson City, Mo., and Mary of Grosse Ile. They also have seven grandchildren.

Retired for 12 years, the Rocholls enjoy monthlong driving trips out West, golfing, spending time at the casinos and



helping keep their condominium association running smoothly.

BY SUE MASON
STAFF WRITER
smason@ea.homecom.net

Pam Stenzel has a message for high school students: Sex has a price tag.

Stenzel will take her message to teens at 10 area high schools and present to parents and teens at a youth rally and dinner benefit during a three-day visit May 5-7.

"I firmly believe that young people are capable of making good, healthy decisions, if they are given the facts," said Stenzel, the founder and director of Straight Talk, an organization established for the purpose of educating teens about the issues of sexuality and the importance of chastity. "The problem with most 'sex education' is that teens are given half truths and are not made aware of all the consequences of their decisions."

This is the fourth year that the AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center in Livonia has brought Stenzel to the metropolitan area to speak to teens about abstinence.

The center tries to get Stenzel into nine-10 schools each year and broke new ground this year with five schools signing on for the first time, according to David West, the center's executive director.

"There are some schools we're still not able to get into, but most that have had her want her back," West said. "She talks about all the things that can happen with premarital sex and getting pregnant is not the worst. She encourages teens to abstain and tells them there's no such thing as safe sex. Condoms don't work 100 percent every time."

"She's not pushy, she gives consequence for actions," said counselor Claudia Turnquist of Stenzel's talk at Ladywood High School. "She was very positive. Kids waited after to talk to her and parents called later to thank the school."

"Pam is very sincere, very well-informed, an excellent com-

Sex's price tag

Teenagers to hear abstinence message

■ 'She talks about all the things that can happen with premarital sex ... and getting pregnant is not the worst.'

David West
—AAA Crisis Pregnancy Center

unicator, and has great rapport with the audience," said student activities director Ron Pode of her presentation at Livonia Franklin High School. "All eyes were on Pam for the entire hour."

Busy schedule

This year, Stenzel is scheduled to make one-hour presentations at Divine Child, Detroit Northwestern, Southfield Christian, Novi, Crestwood, Walled Lake Central, Western Fairlane Christian and Redford Union High schools and Henry Ford Academy.

She also will conduct an area-wide abstinence youth rally 7-8:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 5, at Ward Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 40000 Six Mile, Northville Township.

Previous rallies have attracted up to 500 teens and West is hoping to do better this year. The church auditorium can seat up to 1,700 people.

She will close out her stay by being the keynote speaker at the AAA Crisis' ninth annual banquet 6 p.m. Thursday, May 6, at St. Mary's Cultural Center, 18100 Merriman, Livonia.

Tickets for the banquet are \$25 each or sponsorships of tables of 10 for \$225. They can be ordered through Monday, May 3, by calling Ginger Bloomfield at (734) 425-8060.

The banquet is a major fundraiser for the center which relies heavily on donations to minister to the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of women with crisis pregnancies. It also holds a walkathon in September and an auction in November to meet the

needs of its clients.

The center also gets 5 percent of every Meijer, Farmer Jack and Kroger gift certificate it sells. But much of the financial support comes from businesses, individuals, 20-30 churches that help on a regular basis and one-time donations.

West admits it's getting harder and harder to meet the budget as the demand for its free services increases. The center currently is \$10,000 under budget.

Free services

The center provides pregnancy testing, counseling about abortion alternatives and sexually transmitted diseases, birth and parenting classes and material goods (infant clothing, diapers, infant care products and furniture and maternity clothing) to its clients.

"Each year, it's a struggle to make budget," West said. "People like to donate for the babies, but there's the bills for the rent

and the lights. We can't do the ministry without money. It's the only way to keep the doors open and keep responding to the needs of the clients."

West has a plan — a \$1 million trust fund that, once fully invested, would provide proceeds for two-thirds of the money needed to keep the center open. Started a year ago, the fund has \$11,000 in it and it has shown a \$1,200 return since being invested in a mutual fund. West estimates the return would be \$127,000, if the trust topped \$1 million, almost three-quarters of this year's \$160,000 budget.

West is open to any and all contributions, adding the if 10,000 people want to give \$100 or 1 million people want to give \$1 to reach the goal it's OK with him. The Garden City Christian Center which supports the center year-round, contributed \$1,000 to the trust in monthly installments.

"Our only recourse is the trust fund; it keeps pumping out money," West said. "We would keep the fund-raisers, but they could be fun raisers, a fun time for people who support the ministry."

"It would be nicer if we could have fun and not have to worry about the money."

Area Alzheimer's chapter seeks respite volunteers

The Alzheimer's Association Detroit Area Chapter is recruiting volunteers to assist with its in-home respite program for residents of Wayne, Oakland and Macomb counties.

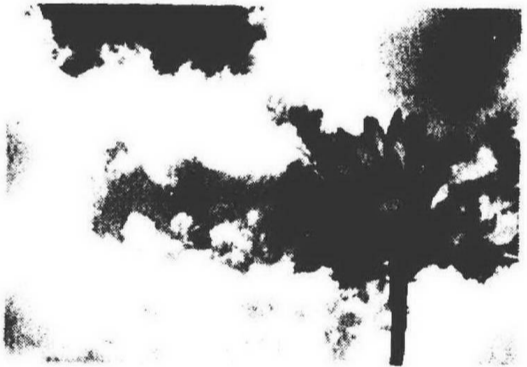
Trained volunteers provide respite for the caregivers of people afflicted by Alzheimer's disease or another memory impairment.

Volunteers donate four to 16

hours per month. They receive extensive training by skilled professionals prior to placement. They also are reimbursed for mileage during the training and travel to and from placement sites. Day, evening and Saturday hours are available.

People interested in becoming a volunteer and attend training in May can call (248) 557-8277 for more information.

Read Taste on Sunday



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RELIGIOUS NEWS

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.

WOMEN'S SALE
Table space is available through Thursday, April 29, for St. Theodore Parish's annual Moms to Moms Market 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturday, May 1. The resale fair will be held in the church social hall, 8200 N. Wayne Road, Westland, and will feature gently used baby and children's clothing, toys and miscellaneous equipment plus maternity items. For more information, call (734) 425-4421 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. 522-6138.

RUMMAGE SALES
Newburg United Methodist Church will have a spring rummage sale 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, April 30, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 1, at the church, 6500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Clothes, housewares, toys, furniture, craft items, Christmas store, jewelry and more will be featured.

Unity of Livonia will have a "Previously Owned Treasure Sale" 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday, May 2, in the fellowship hall of the church, 28860 Five Mile, Livonia.

The First United Methodist Church of Wayne will have its Spring Rummage Sale and Plus Room 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, May 7, and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 8, at the church, 3739 Newberry, across from the post office, Wayne. There will be a bake shop and refreshments and the Plus Room, featuring collectibles, antiques, designer clothes, glassware and better furniture. Saturday will be \$1.50 a bag day (excluding the Plus Room). For more information, call the church office at (734) 721-4801.

ART AUCTION
St. Edith Christian Service will host an art auction by Park West Galleries 7 p.m. Friday, April 30, at the church 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. Admission will be \$5. There will be an hour-long preview, featuring hors d'oeuvres and champagne punch,

Hosts speak church and family

Rev. Michael A. Van Horn, pastor of St. Edith Christian Service, will speak at the church on Sunday, May 9, about the importance of family in the church. He will discuss the challenges of raising children in a secular society and how the church can provide a supportive environment. His sermon is titled "The Church as First Family." The church is located at 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 721-4801.

Rev. Michael A. Van Horn, pastor of St. Edith Christian Service, will speak at the church on Sunday, May 9, about the importance of family in the church. He will discuss the challenges of raising children in a secular society and how the church can provide a supportive environment. His sermon is titled "The Church as First Family." The church is located at 15089 Newburgh, Livonia. For more information, call (734) 721-4801.

with auction starting at 8 p.m. The works of popular contemporary artists as well as lithographs of more prominent artists will be auctioned off. Proceeds will benefit St. Edith Christian Service and St. Edith Youth Ministry. For more information, call (734) 464-1222.

IN CONCERT
World-renowned composer-singer David Haas will be in concert 7:30 p.m. Saturday, April 30, at St. Thomas a' Becket Church, 555 S. Lilley Road, Canton.

Haas is highly regarded as one of the preeminent liturgical composers in the English-speaking world. He has produced more than 25 collections of liturgical music.

Haas will be joined by local musicians Stephen Petrunak and Zack Stachowski, both of Sterling Heights. Petrunak has distinguished himself as a guitarist and composer. At age 15, Stachowski is an accomplished violinist who performs with the

Metropolitan Youth Symphony Orchestra. Concert tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for children and \$20 for an entire family in advance and \$10, \$5 and \$25, respectively, at the door. Haas's recordings and related materials will be for sale the evening of the concert. Call (734) 844-8404 for tickets.

On Saturday, May 1, Haas will conduct a Day of Renewal for people involved in liturgical ministry - eucharistic ministers, lecturers, musicians and choir members, ministers of hospitality, liturgists and pastoral staff. Participants will gain a stronger understanding of their role in the church and come away with a renewed sense of purpose and spirituality. The workshop costs \$20.

'CHANGING WORLD'
The deadline for registering for St. Andrew's Episcopal Church program for women, "Coping in a Changing World," will be Saturday, May 1. The program will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 15, at the church, 16360 Hubbard, Livonia.

Registration is \$30 and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Registration fees can be sent to Char Camfeld, 17235 Cove Drive, Northville 48167. For more information, call (248) 348-7549.

Featured will be Elise Arndt, director of Women's Ministries at Faith Lutheran Church in Troy and host of the radio program, "Common Sense Living."

FRIENDS DAY
The Church of Christ-West will have Friends Day Sunday, May 2, at the church, Six Mile and Farmington roads, Livonia. Bible study will be at 10 a.m., worship at 11 a.m. and a fellowship dinner at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call (734) 513-5056 or (248) 478-1499.

PEACE TALK
Ronald Stockton will present "Jerusalem and the Israeli-Palestinian Peace Talks" 9:45 a.m. Sunday, May 2, at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church,

27475 Five Mile, Livonia.

Stockton is a professor of political science at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and a research associate at the University of Michigan Center for Middle East and North African Studies. He has a special interest in the role of religion in the political process, a topic which he has written several articles and co-authored a book, "A Time of Turmoil."

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

PARISH NURSING

A new program of parish nursing will begin at Nativity United Church of Christ in Livonia, following the 11:45 a.m. worship service in the library of the church, 8435 Henry Ruff at West Chicago, Livonia.

The program will be directed by the Rev. Ida Reifmeyer, who has a degree from Bangor Seminary in Maine, attended Yale University as a public health nurse and completed training in certified pastoral education.

Please see MILLER, B5

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As a special attraction, the new limited edition collector's figurine "Peaceful Offering" will be available as part of an amazing offer. Purchase the matching vase and forest friends, and you'll receive the "Friendship in Bloom" Hummel figurine at no additional charge.

A \$298 value, this sequentially numbered set can be yours for only \$199! The Hummel figurine display piece is designed to accommodate "Peaceful Offering."

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Religion from page B7

Parish nursing assists and empowers individuals to become active partners in the management of their personal health resources and helps transform the faith community into a greater source of health and healing.

On Wednesday, May 5, the church also will begin its Women of the Bible series. Lead by Reifmayer, the group will meet 7-8:30 p.m. For more information, call the church at (734) 421-5406.

TRUST AND FAITH
Life in the Holy Spirit Seminars will be presented 7 p.m. Mondays through May 17 at St. Bernadine of Sienna Church, 31463 Ann Arbor Trail, Westland. For more information, call the church at (734) 522-0138.

RETIREMENT SEMINAR
Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church will sponsor a "Money Matters at Retirement: What You Don't Know Could Hurt You" seminar Tuesday, May 4, at the church, 14175 Farmington Road, Livonia. For more information and reservations, call the church, at (734) 458-7932.

The seminar is one of the requirements for the church's And Association for Lutherans Branch 5058 to receive a Gold Star rating by the fraternal benefit society in recognition of outstanding volunteer service to the community.

The branch has 540 members,

led by Charles Gray of Livonia as chairman, Kay Gray of Livonia as recorder and Mel Tornow of Garden City as treasurer.

NEW BEGINNINGS

The Rev. Kurt Stutz will speak about "Help for the Family in Grief" when New Beginnings, a grief support group, meets 7 p.m. Thursday, May 6, at St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 30900 W. Six Mile, east of Merriman, Livonia. The program is for people suffering as the result of the death of a loved one. There are no fees. Anyone may attend any or all sessions as they feel the need. For more information, call the church office at (734) 422-6038, Marilyn Wilkinson at (248) 380-7903, or Rosemary Kline at (734) 462-3770.

PRAYER AND PRAISE

As part of the National Day of Prayer, a prayer and praise service will be held 7 p.m. Thursday, May 6, at Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church-Canton campus, 46001 Warren Road. The service, sponsored by the Board of Women's Ministry, will focus on the greatness of the Lord and petitions for the nation and its leaders, churches, community and families.

The theme for the National Day of Prayer is "Light the Nation ... with Prayer." The observance was established by federal law in 1952 when the U.S. Congress signed a joint res-

olution, signed by President Harry Truman. The law was amended in 1986, designating the first Thursday in May as the official National Day of Prayer.

For more information, call Suann Dibble at (734) 522-6830.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Church Women United Suburban West-Detroit will celebrate Fellowship Day, Friday, May 7, at the First United Methodist Church, 33112 Grand River, Farmington. The program, "God's Sweet Surprises: Angels, Mentors and Friends," will be at 9:15 a.m. and includes a continental breakfast. The cost will be \$2. Participants should bring their Love pillows for the children's hospitals.

For reservations and baby-sitting, call Betty Haines at (313) 535-8355. The deadline for registering is May 2.

MYSTERY DINNER

St. Matthew's United Methodist Church will stage a mystery dinner, "The Mild, Mild West," at 6:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 7-8, at the church, 30900 W. Six Mile, Livonia.

An evil villain is trying to wrest control of the Bar-B-Q dude ranch from Sweet Sue Sobright. Her only hope rests with a clumsy and not-very-bright cowboy named Tex Toogood.

Can the hero save the ranch? Come and see if you can solve the mystery. Compete with other

tables to see if you can win the evening's prize.

Tickets, including dinner, are \$12 for adults and \$10 for youth 8-12 years old. The deadline for ordering tickets is Saturday, May 1. They are available from Nancy Wasson, St. Matthew's United Methodist Church, 303900 Six Mile, Livonia 48152, or by calling (734) 425-2325.

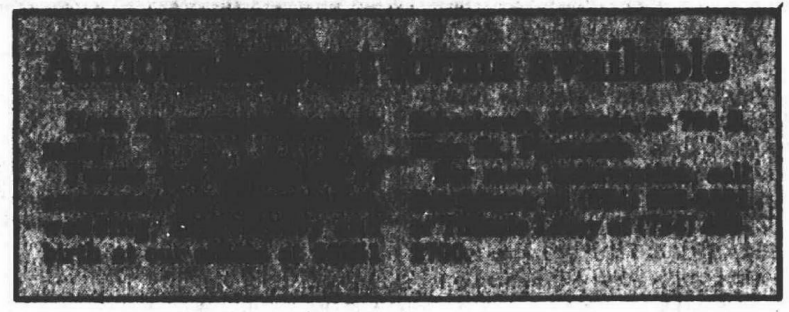
'DOLLS GALORE'

"Dolls Galore" will be the theme of a mother and daughter banquet Friday, May 7, at Newburg United Methodist Church, 36500 Ann Arbor Trail, Livonia. Isabel Stanton will talk about "The Joy of Loving and Making Dolls." Participants are invited to bring a favorite doll to share at the doll table (security will be provided).

Tickets are \$7 for mothers and daughters ages 13 and older, \$4 for daughters ages 4-12 and free for daughters age 3 and under. For tickets, call Bev Breest at (734) 459-9765.

SPRING CARD PARTY

St. Hilary Rosary Altar Society will have its annual spring card party 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 14, at the church, 23901 Elmira, Redford. There will be a dessert buffet table, table prizes, door prizes and raffle prizes. The cost will be \$6 and reservations can be made by calling Betty at (313) 533-8239 or Dorothy at (313) 533-5698.



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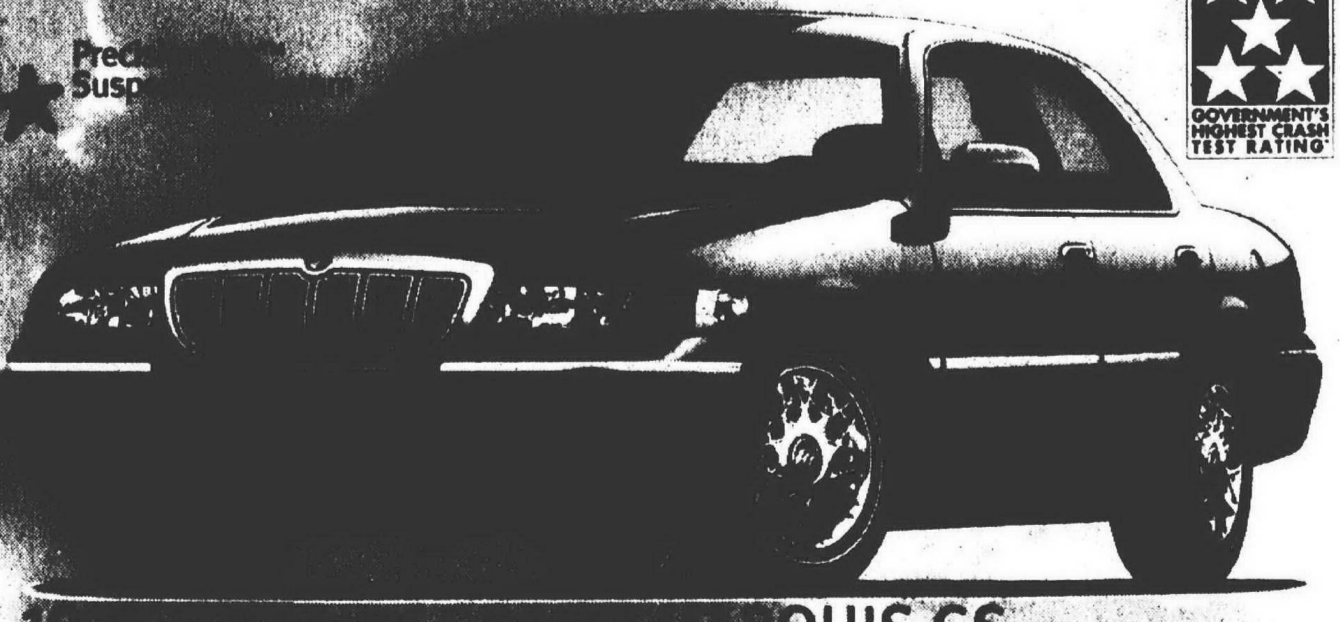
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Soccer icon is dead

BY BRAD EMMONS
SPORTS WRITER
hemons@oe.homescomm.net

Nearly 1,000 turned out Wednesday to pay tribute to Paul Scicluna, the man who championed and nurtured the sport of soccer in this area.

Scicluna, the head women's soccer coach at Eastern Michigan University, was killed Saturday afternoon during a one-car rollover accident while traveling in his 1999 Chevy Blazer heading northbound on US-23 in Monroe County.

Scicluna, 57, was returning from a recruiting trip in Ohio.

Mourners packed the indoor field at Total Soccer of Wixom, one of four metro area facilities Scicluna co-operated with EMU men's coach Brian Tinnion.

Scicluna, a native of Malta who came to the U.S. at age 14, was remembered as father figure who put soccer on the map in the Livonia community and branched out into other areas.

EMU assistant men's coach Walt Barrett, who played for Scicluna in the old Bonanza Express League (now Little Caesars) as a 13-year-old, may have summed up best Scicluna's influence on his beloved game.

"He got everything going 25 years ago, he's the Godfather of soccer, at least on the west side of town," said Barrett, who coached the Livonia Stevenson High team to two state titles. "No, he's the Godfather of soccer for the entire state of Michigan."

Tinnion called the Farmington Hills resident "an originator, a creator and a composer."

"He was like a father, big brother, business partner and co-coach — all rolled into one," said the former Detroit Express player and Detroit Rockers coach. "I've probably had more debates and discussions with him over



Paul Scicluna
Soccer leader

the years than anybody else — we always voiced our opinions and he had to be right 70 to 80 percent of the time, but when it was over there was never any animosity."

Olympic Development program (1980-93).

"I don't think there's many youth groups he hasn't been a part of," said Livonia native and Mid-Michigan Bucks co-owner Jim Duggan, a longtime friend who played and coached under Scicluna. "He was in the kid business."

"He was always teaching players life lessons, and his integrity and honesty were unparalleled. Paul was interested in helping us mature into responsible adults more than in winning. The things he did that drove us crazy while we were players are the same things that hundreds of us are doing now as coaches with our kids. He was the ultimate role model and family man."

Scicluna is survived by his wife Jan and four children, Eric, Lisa, Amy and Kim, along with eight brothers and one sister.

In 1989, Scicluna became majority owner of the indoor team, the Rockers, bringing pro soccer back to Detroit after a seven-year absence. Gus Moffat, Tinnion and Duggan were also partners in the venture.

The franchise won the NPSL championship at Cobo Arena in 1992 under the coaching direction of Tinnion.

Mike Ilitch of Little Caesars, the Red Wings and Tigers, then purchased the franchise following the 1992 season.

Known as a fiery competitor and a tireless promoter of the game, Scicluna became EMU's first women's soccer coach in 1995.

His 1997 Eagle squad made it to the championship final of the inaugural Mid-American Conference Tournament before bowing to Northern Illinois in the finals, 3-2, in overtime. His 1998 team also qualified for the MAC tourney and finished the year 13-7-1.

In four seasons as EMU's coach, Scicluna was 38-32-3 overall.

"This is a devastating loss to the Eastern Michigan University athletics program," Interim EMU Athletic Director Carol Huston said. "Paul was a great coach and had a tremendous love of promoting soccer on all levels. He related well not only with our players, but also with the entire athletic department staff. He will be greatly missed by everyone that knew him."

Tom Coyne, who coached with and helped turn the Livonia Y Hawks into a national club power in girls soccer, wonders if anyone can carry on Scicluna's legacy.

"I came from Pittsburgh 17 years ago and I was in awe of the new sport he introduced me to," Coyne said. "The first thing he did was recruit me as a coach. He helped me get in."

"But what I remember most was his passion and his unadulterated enthusiasm for the game."

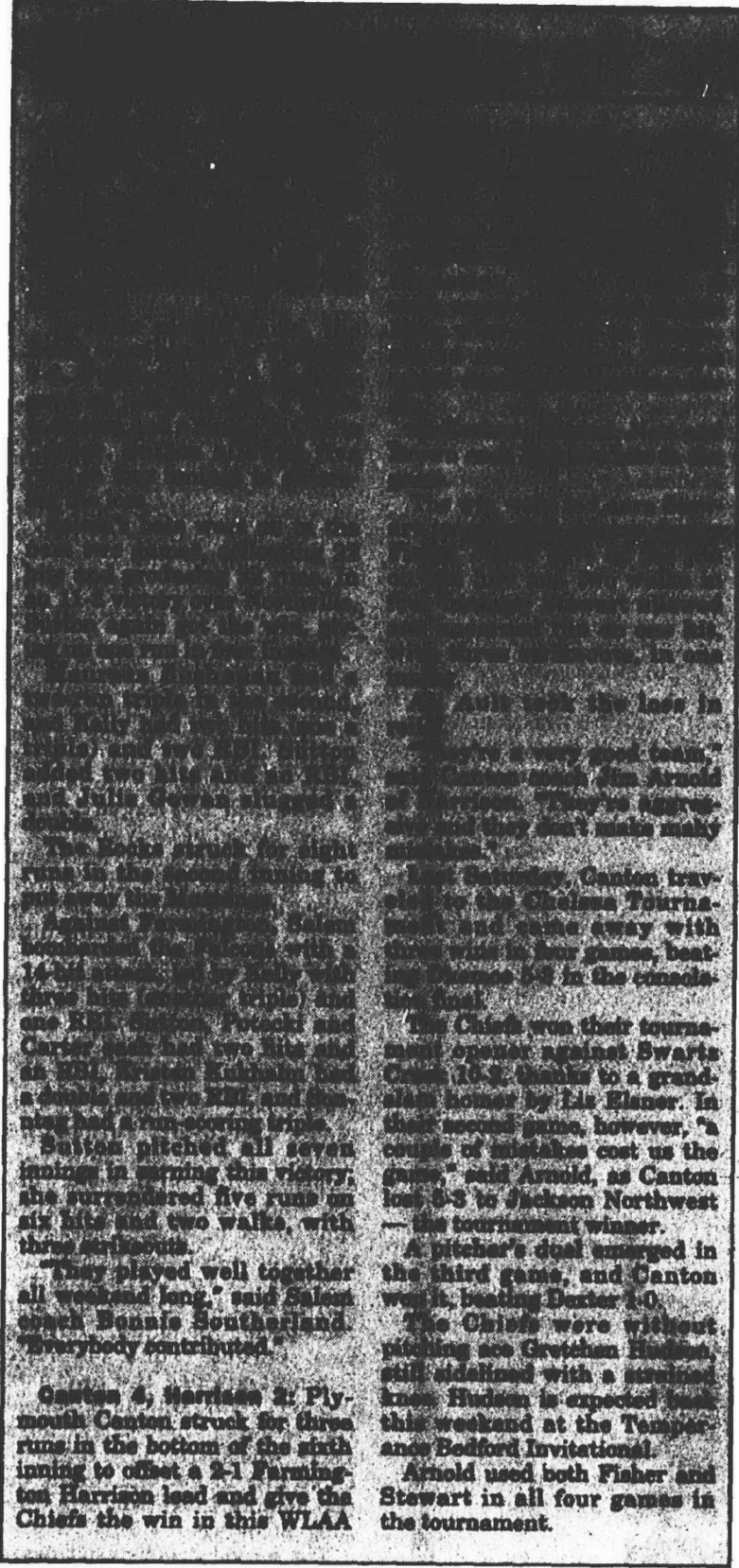
Although Scicluna sometimes clashed with referees, on occasion he took a turn at blowing the whistle.

"I got my first red card (ejection) from Mr. Scicluna when I was 12 years-old," said Paul Tinnion, Brian's son.

Added Brian Tinnion from Wednesday's visitation at Wood Funeral Home in Livonia: "For a guy who supposedly never got along with referees, I've never seen so many in one place. What does that tell you?"

Burial was held Wednesday at Glen Eden Memorial Park in Livonia.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in Paul's name to the EMU Foundation, care of Paul Scicluna, 2000 Huron River Drive, Ypsilanti, Mi. 48197.



Golf from page C1

52. Julie Dziekan, a junior, had a 54 and Christina Slupek, a sophomore, shot 55. Katie Herbeck, another sophomore, fired a 65.

For Salem, Kristine Pollice had the low team score with a 53. Kim Tamme was next best with a 55, followed by Angie Jones with a 57 and Grace Yelonek with a 63.

What buoys Riggs' confidence is the play of his three low scorers, Koppe, Dziekan and Slupek. "Those three are capable of shooting scores that will keep them with anybody," Riggs said. "Now, it's just a matter of the mental aspect of the game."

The magic number, of course, is 200. Put four players' scores together and get in that range — or an average of 50 per golfer — and your team will be in the hunt for a victory.

Canton has flirted with that number at times this season. Salem has not.

Which may indicate that, while Monday's outcome was close, the gap between the two could widen by season's end.

Spartans stun Canton
Livonia Stevenson remained unbeaten in WLA A dual meets, beating Plymouth Canton 195-220 Tuesday at Whispering Wil-

lows. Stephanie Koppe and Christina Slupek led the Chiefs (4-2 overall) with 53s. Julie Dziekan had a 54 and Katie Herbeck shot 60.

Mara Mazzoni's 45 paced Stevenson (5-0 overall). Carli Heppner had a 47, Katie Carlson a 48 and Teresa Layman a 55.

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WAYNE CITY COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The Wayne County Commission will hold a public hearing on a proposed ordinance to establish within the Sheriff's Department an Electronic Monitoring Program and to establish eligibility criteria and requirements for the use of the program. (98-69-016)
The hearing will be held:
THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1999, 10:00 a.m.
Wayne County Building
600 Randolph, Commission Chambers
Detroit, Michigan
Copies of the above item may be obtained or reviewed at the Commission Clerk's Office, 406 Wayne County Building, 600 Randolph, Detroit, MI 48226. (313) 224-0903.
Publish April 29, 1999

WAYNE COUNTY NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS
PAY YOUR 1996 AND PRIOR YEARS COUNTY TAXES NOW
Lands delinquent for 1996 and prior years taxes will be offered at the State Tax Sale on May 4, 1999.
Lands sold for 1995 taxes at the 1998 State Tax Sale are redeemable only until April 30, 1999.
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OFFICE HOURS: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY
Telephone: (313) 224-5990
Publish April 22 and 29, 1999

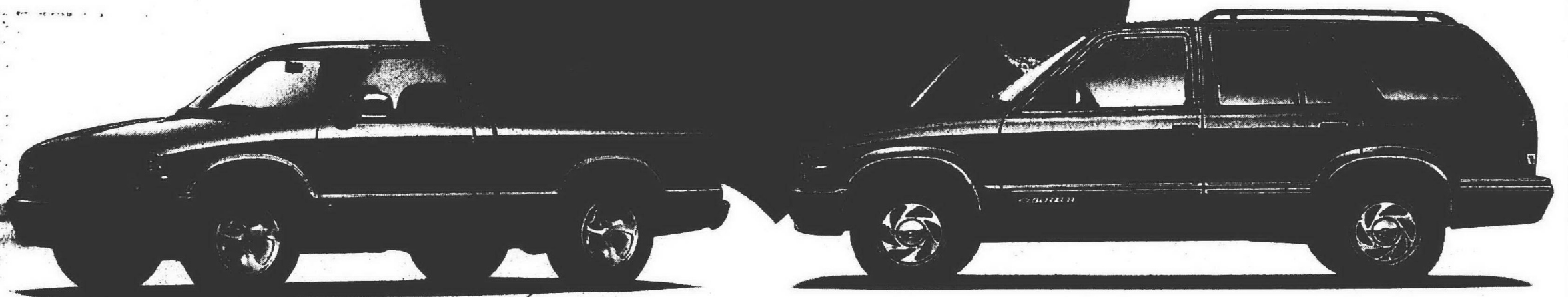
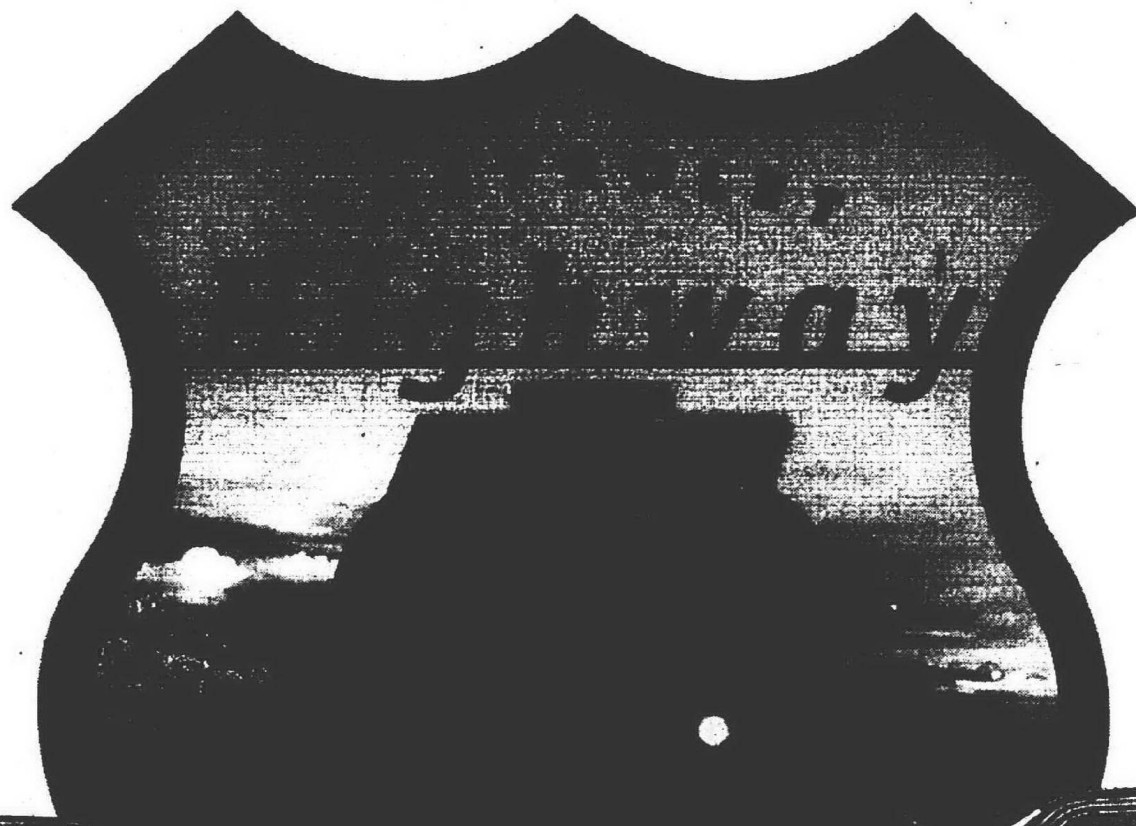
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**S-10 payments based on 1999 Chevrolet S-10 2WD, Regular Cab and MSRP of \$14,273; 36 monthly payments total \$3,528. Blazer payments based on 1999 Chevrolet 4-Door, 4WD Blazer and MSRP of \$28,295; 36 monthly payments total \$10,764. Option to purchase at lease end for amount to be determined at lease signing. GMAC must approve lease. Mileage charge of \$.20 per mile over 36,000 miles. Lessee is responsible for excess wear and use. Payments may be higher in some states. Special financing, Cash Back, SmartLease and SmartBuy may not be combined. If lease terminates early, lessee is liable for all unpaid monthly payments. You must take retail delivery from dealer stock by 4/30/99 on S-10 lease or 6/30/99 on 4-Door Blazer lease. ©1999 GM Corp. Buckle up, America!

FRIDAY



Pianist Awadagin Pratt performs Beethoven's Concerto No. 3 with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, 8 p.m. at Orchestra Hall in Detroit. Tickets \$13 to \$48, call (313) 576-5111.

SATURDAY

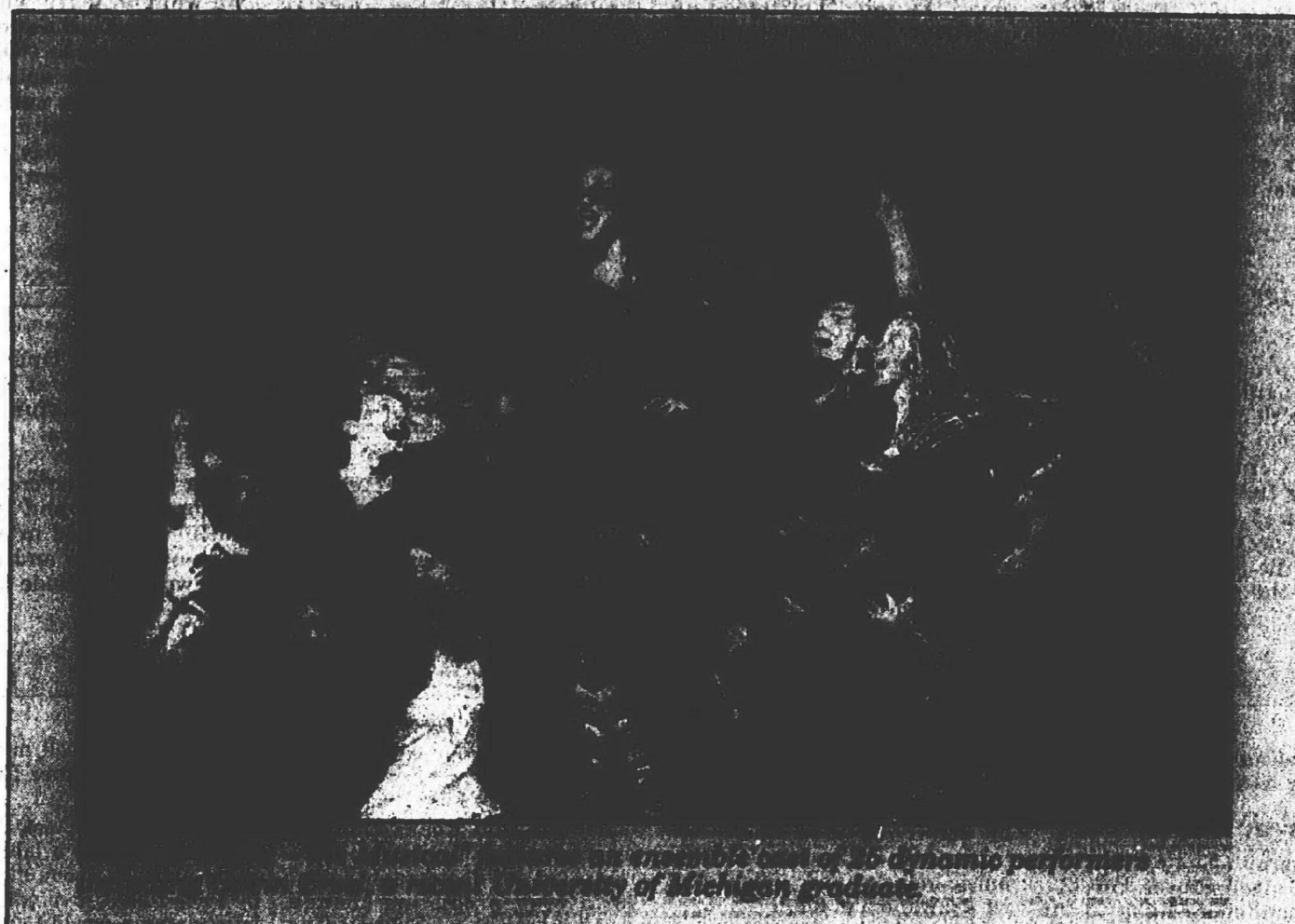


Helen Springer is one of 180 artists participating in the 21st Ann Arbor Spring Art Fair 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 6066 Ann Arbor-Saline Road. Admission is \$5, children under age 10 free. For more information, call (800) 888-9487.

SUNDAY



The Duttons bring their blend of country, folk, classical and toe-tapping bluegrass to the Southfield Centre for the Arts, 24350 Southfield Road. Admission to the 3 p.m. concert is \$10 per person. Call (248) 424-9022 for tickets and more information.



'Fame' is fun, but sometimes lonely for actor

By KEELY WYGONIK

Gavin Creel, the actor who plays the role of Nick in the musical 'Fame', is one of the most popular characters in the show and gets more than his share of attention.

Creel, who is from Montreal, Canada, and across the U.S. David De Silva who created the show and is called "Father Fame" said Creel is one of the most popular characters in the show and gets more than his share of attention.

Creel and I talked by phone from Montreal, where the production was playing on April 22. "It's a lot of fun," he said. "The music is mostly around my age, 22. It's a nice, good group of people." "I feel like I'm lucky to be a working actor a lot of people are not."

You have to have a business mind in addition to being a talented, good actor. It's invaluable. "Fame" wasn't what Creel set out for when he moved to New York.

Creel about his audition in "Fame." They were looking for a young, energetic, high school age looking actor, said Creel. "Everyone tells me I look young. I figured I had a good chance, so I went to open auditions and stood in line with everyone else. I got called back, and knew I was pretty much right for the part."

"Fame," set in the 1980s at New York's High School of Performing Arts, follows a group of students over four years. Nick, the role Creel plays, is a serious actor who has done some commercials, TV and a movie. A child star, he wants to work hard and learn the classics. "It's a journey to see where he fits in," said Creel. "He learns to loosen up."

"Fame - The Musical"

WHEN: Continues through Sunday, May 2.

PERFORMANCES

- 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 29
- 8 p.m. Friday, April 30
- 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, May 1
- 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. Sunday, May 2

WHERE: Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison Ave., Detroit.

TICKETS: \$27.50 to \$50, call (248) 645-6666. For more information, call (313) 983-6611.

recorded the new soundtrack in Toronto. I didn't want to just throw songs out there. "Fame - the Musical" seems to have hit a nerve. It's popular.

Arts in education It also draws a young audience, in addition to the usual mature theater crowd. "A lot of kids don't know what they want to do. But the arts are important no matter what they decide to do. You'll be a better lawyer if you study acting, even if you don't become a professional musician, you'll go to concerts and buy recordings if you study music. The arts feed the spirit. We're bringing up a generation of children in some school districts that are not exposed to the arts. When I was in school we had music appreciation classes, I doubt if they do anymore."

Students from Abbott Middle School in West Bloomfield and Thurston High School in Redford, are among the thousands of students in southeast Michigan who will tune in via teleconference 10-11 a.m. Thursday, April 30 to watch a live education presentation with the cast of "Fame - The Musical." The program will show students how the work they do in

JET premieres 'The Caregiver'

BY KEELY WYGONIK STAFF WRITER kwygolik@oe.homecomm.net

It's unusual for the Jewish Ensemble Theatre to present a play that hasn't had a full production, but they're making an exception for "The Caregiver" by Ian Strasfogel, which opened Wednesday, April 28, for previews. It will be JET's third world premiere of an original work in 10 years.

It is the story of an aging, retired world class conductor who suffers from dementia, and the relationships he has with his only son, Eric, and caregiver Laura. Eric is beginning his career as a conductor and on tour as the play progresses.

"I loved it," said Evelyn Orbach, artistic director of JET Theatre.

She heard about the play from an old friend, Max Wright, an early graduate of the Hilberry Theatre program at Wayne State University.

Wright and Orbach appeared on stage together at the Theatre Company at the University of Detroit in 1976 and kept in touch.

A successful actor, Wright did a reading of Strasfogel's play, and invited a friend, Sol Frieder, who performs often at JET Theatre, to attend.

"They talked and realized both had worked with me," said Orbach. "Sol and Max said I should do this play. The playwright set up a reading at his apartment in New York. Sol read the part of the conductor. He was perfect for the part, and I decided to do it. This is Sol's fifth or sixth production at JET. Our audience is always pleased to see him. He's a fine actor with strength."

Partly autobiographical, Strasfogel was inspired by the experience of caring for his father, a renowned opera coach and conductor who developed Alzheimer's when he got older.

"When his father got very ill he could still sit down at the piano and improvise," said Orbach. "He was still a very sophisticated musician."

He used other source material, which helped inspire the story.

The leading man falls in love, it's a very charming role for Sol," said Orbach. "It's funny and, in some places, sad and poignant."

In the play, the conductor and his caregiver, portrayed by Kate Willinger, recently seen locally in "I Love You, You're Perfect - Now Change" at the Gem Theatre in Detroit, fall in love. She sparks his creative spirit, and he

Please see CAREGIVER, E2



Drama: Sol Frieder and Kate Willinger in a scene from "The Caregiver."

On Stage

WHAT: Jewish Ensemble Theatre presents "The Caregiver" by Ian Strasfogel

WHERE: Aaron DeRoy Theatre, lower level of the Jewish Community Center, 6600 W. Maple Road (corner of Maple and Drake Roads), West Bloomfield

WHEN: Previews continue through Sunday, May 2. Show opens 7:30 p.m. Sunday, May 2. Show dates May 5-9, May 12-16, May 19-23, and May 26-30. Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday; 8 p.m. Saturday; and 2 p.m. Sunday.

TICKETS: \$15 to \$23, discounts for seniors and students. Call (248) 768-2900.

POPULAR MUSIC

Julian Lennon won't be manipulated by Yoko

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO STAFF WRITER cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net

Surrounded by McDonald's wrappers in a Highland Park photo studio, Julian Lennon kicks back and takes a long drag off a cigarette. Funny and personable, Lennon chats up his new album "Photograph Smile," his seven-year hiatus from the music business and the days he spent relaxing in his home in northern Italy.

Upon the mention of his stepmother, Yoko Ono, Lennon's disposition changes.

He leans forward, puts his hands on his knees and peppers his conversation with the word "manipulative."

Lennon explained that it's more than a mere coincidence that "Photograph Smile" was released in the United Kingdom on May 18, 1998, the same day as his brother Sean Lennon's "Into the Sun."

"She indirectly had me taken off the priority list on some of the distribution labels we were with. Many other scenarios which are not nice at all will come

Please see JULIAN, E3



Visiting Detroit: Julian Lennon stopped in Detroit briefly to talk about his latest album "Photograph Smile," as well as his rocky relationship with Yoko Ono.

STAFF PHOTO BY ELIZABETH CAHNGER

Fame from page E1

the character relates to musical theater, inspiring students in one of the reasons De Silva, a former history teacher, believes "Fame" is so popular.

He said he always thought the story about New York's High School Performing Arts (now called the Fiorella La Guardia High School of Music and Art and Performing Art) was a good idea waiting to be born.

"We're not moon in June out of the blue," he said. "This story

is reality based."

"The dancers are the stars of the show," said Creel. "It's all about dance. They keep the energy up. We're all on stage all the time."

Creel is part of an ensemble cast of 26 people. "Each of us have our own responsibilities," he said. "We're each equally important. We all have the same responsibilities and everyone carries it. It's not one person slacks off we all hold it."

For Creel the hardest part is

learning how to keep things fresh and keep his sanity off stage.

After Detroit the play moves to Kansas City. By then, Creel will have done it 200 times.

"I've never done anything 200 times," he said. "I'm signed up until Nov. 17, 1999. I'm living forever, baby."

On tour he's seen some beautiful cities, but with the exception of Toronto, where the group stayed six weeks, he hasn't seen much of them.

When his time for "Fame" is done, he wants to get an apartment in New York City.

The North American tour will continue into 2001.

De Silva said he's happy to let "Rent" be the 1990s and "Fame" the 1980s.

"We've become retro," he said. "But there aren't many shows that come back and do it for the 1980s. It's a lot of fun. Kids, but there's only so much they can do. But many kids in

the show, this is their first job. It's a show they can get into. It's inspiring to so many people. It has a romantic vision that's important."

Roundtable discussion

We want to learn what you think about arts education.

You're invited to "Opening the Book" — a roundtable discussion about arts curriculum in school districts, Tuesday, May 18, at the Southfield Centre for the

Arts, 94850 Southfield Road, Southfield.

Panelists will answer questions from the audience, and address their concerns about arts education and curriculum in the school districts the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers cover. There is no charge to attend.

Call Frank Provenzano, (248) 901-3557, Keely Wygonik (734) 953-2105, or Linda Chomin (734) 953-2145 if you have any questions.

Caregiver from page E1

begins to play the piano again.

Eric, portrayed by David Wolber, recently featured in JET's production of "Never the Sinner," worries about taking care of his father, finding a proper caregiver and being able to measure up to his father.

JET commissioned original music by composer Allen Shawn

for this production. Shawn's credits include scores for the New York Shakespeare Festival, the La Jolla Playhouse and the Lincoln Center Theatre, and music for the film, "My Dinner With Andre."

In the play the conduct improvises at the piano, and Orbach believed the production had to

have music appropriate to a man of his talent.

"We couldn't just ask someone to plunk a few keys on the piano," said Orbach. "We were very lucky to get Allen. The playwright recommended him. He's done a quality job. Sol is quite musical. The music just

gurgles out of him."

Shawn also composed music to introduce the second act and for scene changes.

Strasfogel has directed all over the world. His productions of both classical and contemporary operas have been presented at the San Francisco Opera, the

New York City Opera, The Washington Opera at Kennedy Center, the Frankfurt Opera and Stuttgart Opera.

As a librettist he created the text for "Icarus" and "Talking Heads," performed in Austria, Germany, France and Boston. Other writings include dramatic

portraits of classical composers which have been performed by Tom Hulce and Roddy McDowall working with leading American symphony orchestras.

Strasfogel was in town for the opening week of rehearsals and will return for opening night on Sunday, May 2.

Julian from page E1

out in public at a later date," he explained.

Ono wasn't trying to pit the stepbrothers against each other, he added. She had another mission.

"It was a question of manipulation and how much Yoko was willing to spend as far as his promotion, as opposed to mine and how obviously she could afford that and overshadow my costs by great amounts," Lennon said.

"That's nothing against Sean. I used to baby-sit him. I think he's incredibly talented, but she's already, as far as I'm concerned, manipulated one Lennon too many."

The 36-year-old Lennon told of Ono's disrespect for him and how she puts Sean Lennon on a pedestal.

"She wanted Sean to be seen as the shining, genius Lennon son, and me to be the drunk, old, drugged, useless son, you know?

I wasn't about to play that game. The work speaks for itself."

Seven-year itch

"Photograph Smile," released in the United States Feb. 23, marks Lennon's return to the music industry after taking seven years off to regroup after his last album, 1991's "Help Yourself," failed commercially. Lennon said he felt disenchanting with the industry after the single "Saltwater," which was in the top 10 worldwide, barely made a splash in the United States.

"In America, zilch. There's only one reason for that. The record company withdrew support. There was no play on the radio. Radio tried to play it but there's only so much you can do without the support of the label," Lennon explained.

"So I said, 'Enough.' I called it quits and it took me approximately five years to be released from the contracts, not only from

the record company but management as well."

He spent the time reflecting on life and trying to figure out who in the hell I was outside of the music industry and to figure out what I wanted in life."

Lennon rediscovered his love of painting, photography, "the written word," sailing and cooking. Soon, the songwriting nipped at him.

"I just started writing again a couple years ago because I love to write music. It's as simple as that. I was actually writing to challenge myself to see how good a songwriter I could be and to prove my own sort of self worth as a songwriter."

After coming up with 20 or 30 song ideas, he ran into producer Bob Rose who persuaded Lennon to return to the studio — no pressure, just to lay down a few tracks.

"We were only supposed to be

there three or four days. By the end of the first week we had 11 tracks recorded."

Lennon and Rose, who had worked with Roy Orbison, concentrated on "Photograph Smile" for a year, producing enough material for three albums. The duo utilized vintage equipment to give the 14-track album a warm feel.

"The ideas that I took with Bob Rose were all about doing this natural, honest, as raw an album as possible using the natural ambience of the room. I just wanted to use great-sounding instruments that were not samples, that were not keyboards."

When they wrapped up "Photograph Smile," Lennon's next hurdle was releasing the album which he had financed himself. He was skittish about returning to the major-label fold so he weighed his options.

"The last decision I had to make was, 'Do I want to sign to a

major label and sell my soul to the devil for another five to 10 years?'"

Instead, Lennon took the reins. He started his own label, Music From Another Room, distributed by Fuel 2000/Universal. Lennon is planning a world tour for this summer.

Lennon legacy

"Photograph Smile," dedicated to his late stepfather, Roberto Bassanini, is, at times, painfully autobiographical. In the acoustic-based ballad "Good to be Lonely," Lennon sings "And it's good to be lonely sometimes/It's better than nothing at all/It's good to be lonely sometimes/at least I'm prepared for the fall."

Manipulation is the subject of "Crucified," "I'm just one that sees the world with open eyes/the countless lies, the truth denied/whichever way the wind blows/and we're crucified."

On his earlier works, including

1984's "Valotte" which spawned the hit "Too Late for Good-byes," Lennon eschewed his father's musical influence. That has changed with the critically acclaimed "Photograph Smile."

"Day After Day," with its soaring instrumentation, and "I Don't Wanna Know" are replete with Beatles/John Lennon influences. On the closing track, "Way to Your Heart" he references "Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds."

If there was anyone who should have those influences, he said, it's him. Lennon, donning a T-shirt that read "Lennon and proud of it," made his point clearly during a Feb. 17 appearance on the "Late Show with David Letterman."

"I thought that was the perfect opportunity to wear that T-shirt. A friend made it up for me a couple of years ago and I've never worn it, but I thought this is the time to wear it. Finally."

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'American Enterprise' closes Hilberry season

The Hilberry, Wayne State University's graduate theater company, presents Jeffrey Sweet's historical drama, "American Enterprise," in rotating repertory through May 15. Performances are 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, with selected Wednesday and Saturday 2 p.m. matinees. The Hilberry Theatre is at 4743 Cass, at Hancock, on the campus of Wayne State University in Detroit. For more information or to order tickets by phone, call (313) 5 7-2972.

BY SUE SCHRITA SPECIAL WRITER

The Detroit premiere of "American Enterprise" paints a brilliant picture of the challenging and complex contradictions of capitalism and philanthropy by taking a historic and colorful ride with George Pullman, the man made rich by the railway car that bears his name.

Pullman, a self-made man with an equally strong ego and a myopic point of view, created his own version of a Utopian

town for the workers at his Pullman car factory. In an era of slums and sweatshops, his ideal town was met with suspicion by the rich and an early rush of euphoria by the workers.

However, the paternalistic dictatorship of his town began to crumble when Pullman slashed wages during an economic depression without lowering the rent workers paid for company-owned housing. Pullman had lowered wages to keep the company open during the depression by selling Pullman cars at a loss. However, after rents were deducted, workers had very little left to live on.

Quoting capitalism and free enterprise the way a preacher quotes Scripture, Pullman's ego and stubbornness prevented him from agreeing to any compromise that might have eased his workers' plight. The anger and desperation of the workers triggered the infamous railway strike that led to the formation of the American Railway Union.

The historical reality of the story is reinforced by a fascinating montage of historical photos projected above the stage onto different screens. Sepia images of George Pullman, his town, the workers are paired with poignant images of Chicago fires and starving children, lending a startling realism to the story.

Aaron Lake endows the larger-than-life role of George Pullman with a strong mix of confidence and angry stubbornness. He helps synthesize Pullman's puzzling contradictions: his benevolent idealism and his staunch, unbending worship of capitalism. Lake also captures the vulnerability of Pullman, who was emotionally unprepared for the labor violence that erupted or the government's pronouncement of the moral unsoundness of his choices.

Mike Schraeder as J. Patrick Hopkins is delightfully fresh faced and boyish as Pullman's protégé. Schraeder takes Hopkins from a naive youth to a shrewd politician and business-

man — and Pullman's bitter rival.

Sara Wolf creates a strong yet likable persona for Jennie Curtis, one of the worker representatives, by using a seamstress' simple stories to capture the poignancy of the workers' struggles.

Lucas Caleb Rooney as union organizer Eugene V. Debs exhorts the workers into a united front with a passion and strength of purpose that reverberates off the house. Rooney's strong stage presence creates an image for Debs that allowed him to believably and powerfully confront the iron will of George Pullman.

In a break from typical Hilberry tradition, the theater company delivers much of the play's emotion with voices raised in song. While the show is not billed as a musical, the songs it presents — strong, folk-like ballads — capture the mood of the play and create an emotional union rallying cry. And while the talented Hilberry ensemble was not chosen for their musical prowess, the actors held their own vocally and created a likable chorus.

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'Rugrats — A Live Adventure' for actress

BY KEELY WYGNIK
STAFF WRITER
kwygnaik@oe.homecomm.net

It's easy to get discouraged when you're 24, living in New York, away from family and friends, and trying to break into show business.

"Wherever you go there will be someone better than you, but you'll be better than someone else," said Amy Sonne, a 1992 graduate of North Farmington High School who is appearing in the "Rugrats — A Live Adventure," opening April 30 at the Fox Theatre in Detroit. "As long as you love it, it will work out. You'll be happy that you did it."

Sonne started taking dance lessons when she was three years old.

"I wanted to be 5-foot-6 and have long legs," said Sonne who is 5-foot, 3-inches tall.

After graduating from Michigan State University, Sonne moved to New York City in 1997 after graduating from college. She got the part in "Rugrats" after answering a dance call for female dancers, 5-foot 3-inches and under last September. She's been touring with the show since October, and called from Knoxville, Tenn.

"It turned out pretty good," said Sonne who is doing something she never dreamed of, portraying Phil in the "Rugrats — A Live Adventure."

"I wanted to go on tour," she said. "Dressing up as a baby Rugrat has been a good adventure."

Sonne worked in children's theater for two years in college. One of the things she likes "Rugrats" is that it's for children. "This show is often their first

"Rugrats — A Live Adventure"
When: 7 p.m. Friday, April 30; 11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, May 1 and May 8; 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. Sunday, May 2 and May 9; and 7 p.m. Tuesday-Friday, May 4-7.
Where: Fox Theatre, 2211 Woodward Ave., Detroit.
Tickets: \$25, \$19.50, and \$12.50, call (313) 983-6611 for information, or (248) 433-1515 to charge tickets.

exposure to live theater," she said. The show draws everyone from babies to adults, but especially children ages four to eight who regularly watch the popular Nickelodeon series show on TV.

"Rugrats — A Live Adventure" brings the show to life with music and colorful sets. It's the same show that came to Detroit last May with some changes.

"Some of the characters are different," said Sonne. "We have a new cast and crew." As the curtain rises, it's a

rainy day, and the babies are left in Grandpa's care. Chuckie's afraid of thunder. Tommy invents a "People-A-Tor," an invention that makes toys come alive. As long as there are people around, Chuckie isn't afraid, but the bratty Angela steals it. With help from his friends, Chuckie tries to get the "People-A-Tor" back.

Imagination, sharing and friendship are some of the lessons children learn as they enjoy this fun-filled production.

Sonne describes her character as "crazy. His twin is Lil. They love to play in the dirt and eat worms."

Because her character is so playful, Sonne said she can be creative. "There aren't many restrictions for physical movements."

Detroit is the end of the road for Sonne who will be leaving the show to spend the summer at Michigan, a family camp for University of Michigan alumni in Boyne City.

She won't be dancing. "I've been director of the nature center for the past three summers, they offered me the job again," said Sonne. "I love camp, it's a great way to work with children. I'm interested in environmental education."

After the summer, Sonne plans to move back to New York City.

Her dream is to teach dance and dance history at the university level. In the meantime, she'd like to dance or perform in musical theater. "I'd really like to dance with a modern dance company, but there aren't many opportunities," she said.

Dancing is what's she doing now, but Sonne isn't sure if it will be her life's work. "Who says it's what you have to do forever," she said.

Having the support of her family has meant a lot. They go to all of her shows, big and small. Besides "Rugrats" Sonne's theater credits include productions of "West Side Story," "Hello Dolly!" "Anything Goes," and "Company."

"My family has supported me all the way," she said. "I've met people who don't have family support."

Immunity among top winners at Detroit Music Awards

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER
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The diversity of the Detroit music scene flourished Friday night as the reggae band Immunity, the folk group The Luddites, the country act Forbes Brothers and pop singer/songwriter Stewart Francke came up the top winners at the Detroit Music Awards.

Immunity took home Outstanding Reggae Artist/Group, Outstanding World Artist/Group and Outstanding Artist/Group Deserving Wider Recognition, while its "Live" album won Outstanding World Music Recording at the ceremony held at the State Theatre. Immunity members Jonathan Pettus and Bill Koggenhop were named Outstanding World Music Vocalist and World Music Instrumentalist, respectively.

The Forbes Brothers swept the

country awards adding Outstanding Country Recording, Country Artist/Group, Country Vocalist, Country Instrumentalist and Country Songwriter to their resume.

Some of the winners

Ruling the pre-show award ceremony held in the mezzanine level of the State Theatre, The Luddites won Outstanding Acoustic Artist/Group, Outstanding Folk Artist/Group, and Outstanding Artist/Group Deserving Wider Recognition in the folk category. Its album "100 Years of Lunacy" was named Outstanding Acoustic/Folk Bluegrass Recording.

After a four-song set, Francke added Outstanding Local Rock Artist/Group, Outstanding Rock/Pop Songwriter, and Outstanding Local Rock/Pop Recording for "Sunflower Soul Serenade" to his mantle.

His organization, the Stewart Francke Leukemia Foundation, was given this year's Special Achievement award for community and charity work. Francke was diagnosed with the disease and had a bone marrow transplant last year.

"I just want to point out that as far as the Leukemia Foundation goes, a lot of people worked very hard on it. My sister Kit is somewhere out there. She worked very hard on it and also gave me bone marrow," he said.

Distinguished Achievement honors also went to Detroit radio DJ the Electrifyin' Mojo, jazz trumpeter Marcus Belgrave and rockers The Romantics. The ska/punk bands Telegraph and The Suicide Machines paid tribute to The Romantics through song. Romantics singer Wally Palmer played harmonica during The Suicide Machine's cover of "What I Like About You," which

will be included on "Before You Were Punk Vol. 2" due out in July on Vagrant Records.

Other multiple winners included Jill Jack, Johnny Bassett and the Blues Insurgents, Thornetta Davis, Jazzhead, Howling Diablos, Sun Messengers, and Fred Hammond and Radical for Christ.

In a moment of pure brilliance, novelist Elmore Leonard gave the Immortal Winos of Soul the Outstanding Band Name prize.

Live energy

The live performances, however, injected energy into the event. The Miracles, without Smokey Robinson, took the stage for four songs — "The Tears of a Clown," "I Second That Emotion," "Ooh Baby Baby" and "Love Machine" — forcing the stagnant audience out of their seats. Punk rockers and oldies fans alike sang and danced in the aisles.

The four-and-a-half hour ceremony also featured performances by Esham, Derrick Starks and Today's Generation, Demolition Dollrods, Willie Max, Jeff Haas with Marcus Belgrave, Enemy Squad and the Rat Pack All-Star Rhythm and Blues Revue with a variety of Detroit blues performers.

Rap ruled the roost at the Detroit Music Awards. Kid Rock, who was playing in Grand Rapids Friday night, took Outstanding National Album for "Devil Without a Cause," National Single for "I Am the Bullgod" and Hip Hop Writer/Producer.

Eminem, whose major-label debut "The Slim Shady LP" isn't eligible until next year, was honored with Outstanding Hip Hop Recording for his "Slim Shady" EP, Hip Hop Artist/Group and Hip Hop MC.

Support your local artist

"We tried for so long just to get to this point. MTV showed us so much love. I'm sure he'd want to thank his mom, whatever, she's not here. You should start supporting your local artists. You didn't give him any love at first now he's blowin' up," said a man who accepted on Eminem's behalf who only identified himself as a producer.

The seven-and-a-half minute, much-touted trailer for "MC5 * A True Testimonial" lived up to its hype until director/co-producer David C. Thomas took the stage. He used the opportunity to shamelessly beg for money.

"If everybody contributed the price of a dinner we could finish our principal photography," he said.

For a complete list of winners, visit <http://www.detroitmusicawards.com>.

Farmington Players shine in madcap 'Don't Dress for Dinner'

The Farmington Players present "Don't Dress for Dinner" by Marc Camoletti, 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 30-May 1, 2 p.m. Sunday, May 2; and 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, May 7-8 and May 14-15 at the Players Barn, 32332 W. 12 Mile (1/2 mile west of Orchard Lake Road), Farmington Hills. Tickets \$12, call (248) 553-2955.

BY BOB WEIBEL
SPECIAL WRITER

The Farmington Players' string of excellent productions continues with "Don't Dress for Dinner," a madcap French farce by Marc Camoletti, (adapted by Robin Hawdon), that starts slowly, then swiftly catapults into one hilarious scene after another.

Under director Bill Salisbury, the cast appeared in great form

on opening night, no easy task when performing a fast-paced physical comedy before a audience for the first time.

Best of all, seldom did any of the outrageous situations appear "staged;" they flowed naturally from the well-developed comic characters. For example, they had great fun with a repeated gag whereby cast members stamp out imaginary insects to hide what's really going on — adultery and deception.

The setting is a converted French farmhouse. Bernard has planned the perfect weekend. His wife (Jacqueline) will visit her mother (otherwise known as the "old buzzard"). His sleek Parisian mistress (Suzanne) will stop by to keep the home fires burning, so to speak. Unfortunately for Bernard, and happily

for the audience, the rendezvous doesn't go according to plan.

The scheme quickly unravels, when his wife learns a Cordon Bleu cook (Suzette) has been hired, and his best friend, Robert, is also coming over.

It turns out that Robert and his wife are also lovers. She decides to stay home for a little double adultery.

Bernard tries to cover up his intentions, but this only leads to misunderstandings, mistaken identities and clever double-entendres. Mix the movie "Clue" with Abbot and Costello's "Whose on First?" and you have some idea of the comic absurdity.

Nick Szczerba (Bernard) and Jan Salisbury (Jacqueline) are terrific as the dueling spouses. Mike Megerian (Robert) is suave and debonair and a per-

fect foil for Bernard. His smooth comic timing is first rate.

Julia Spina-Kilar (Suzette) creates one of the most definitive characters seen in some time. She brings energy, comic timing and a flair for farce that is a joy to behold. She enters as the cook, but if these folks want to play games, she's game, for a price — as she charges 200 francs for each role she's asked to play (niece, mistress, etc). Her line, "I've never been so many people or had so many affairs with so many different men in my life" sums up the show itself.

Georgina Schuetz (Suzanne) has that certain "je ne sais quoi" one expects of a seductress, which made her all the more funny as she impersonates the cook and practically destroys the kitchen and the meal.

Erick Carlson (George) caps the evening's fun when he appears near the end (looking

very French) and confused as to what his wife (Suzette) has gotten herself into.



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Don't expect smooth flight in 'Pushing Tin'

BY VICTORIA DIAS
SPECIAL WRITER

"Pushing Tin" stars John Cusack, Billy Bob Thornton, Cate Blanchett, and Angelina Jolie, four of the most capable young screen actors around these days. It's directed by Mike Newell, who counts "Donnie Brasco" and "Four Weddings and a Funeral" among his stellar accomplishments.

Also, it's a film that takes a long-neglected subject that would seem to be utterly replete with excitement and dramatic potential — the world of the air traffic control room.

Maybe one of this movie's

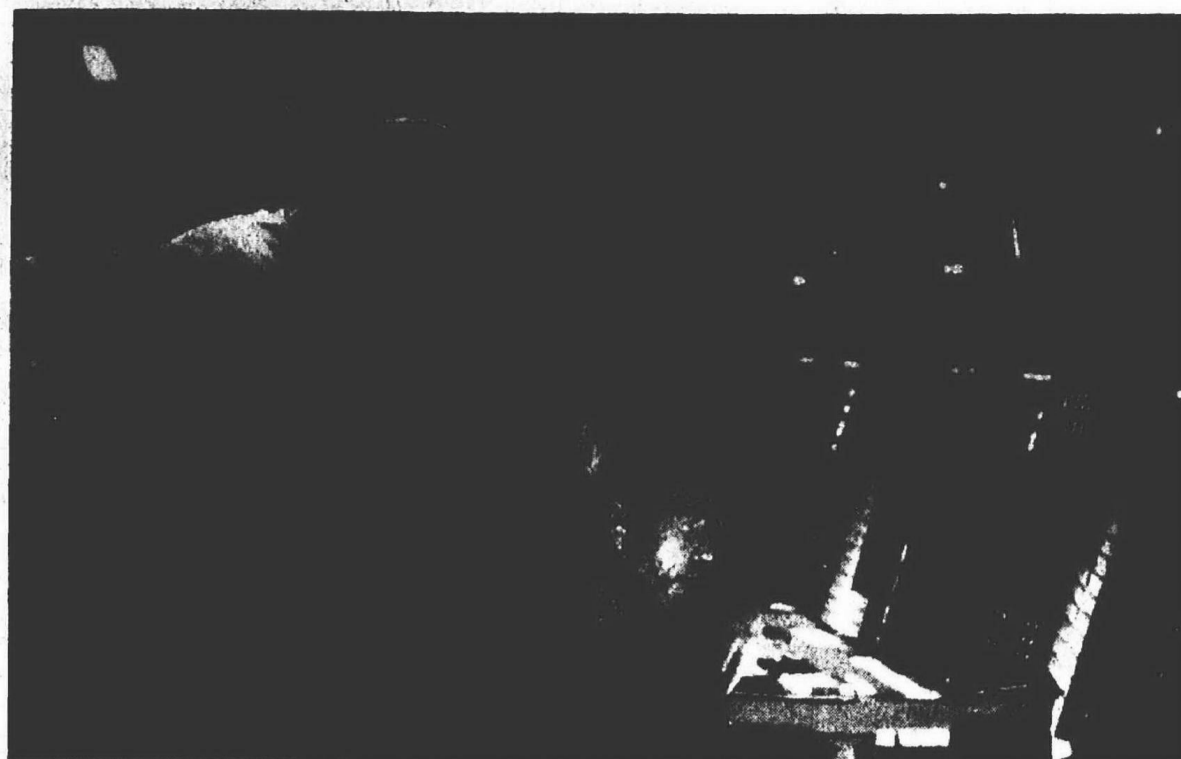
problems is that it holds too much promise for its own good. It's not really an awful film, crashing and burning on take-off in one big, dreadful heap. Nevertheless, it does have some trouble getting off the ground.

In it, Cusack is Nick Faisone, a fast-talking controller who hums golden oldies as he works the radar scopes, "pushing tin" in the overcrowded skies above New York City. Nick is one cool guy. In fact, he's the coolest guy in the control room. He never messes up. He makes his nail-biting job look effortless. And though he knows he's one heckuva traffic controller, he's so friendly and down-to-earth that everyone

likes him anyway. He has a loving wife (played by Cate Blanchett), two cute kids, and a nice home in the suburbs.

And then, something happens to really gum up the works for Nick. Competition rides into town on a gritty motorcycle, in the form of a guy named Russell Bell (Billy Bob Thornton), to make a job in the same control room. Half-Irish and half-Cherokee, the taciturn Russell proceeds to take Nick down several pegs and, almost before we can say "Mayday," Nick is losing his wife, his kids, maybe his job, and most definitely his composure.

Despite some especially good



Drama: John Cusack (clockwise, left to right), Billy Bob Thornton and Jerry Grayson monitor the scopes in "Pushing Tin."

performances by Cusack and Blanchett, much of what happens in this movie about man-to-man competition seems vaguely silly instead of funny or amusing, and oddly fragmented instead of cohesive or fast-paced. At the film's conclusion, you may feel as if you've taken an over-long trip that's grown especially tiresome as it lumbers toward the finish line.

"Pushing Tin" is also hampered often by its own split personality. It's one of those movies that can't seem to decide quite what direction it wants to take. Does it want to be funny? Does it want to be poignant? Does it want to be a "message film"? Because of its schizoid tendencies, often what it ends up being is implausible.

Some scenes seem especially nonsensical. Take, for instance, the boys-will-be-boys fight that breaks out in the control room between Nick and Russell, while all that tin is stacking up like

lethal sardines over LaGuardia, Kennedy, Newark, etc. Even as competitive as these two characters seem, and even as much as a moviegoer may yearn to suspend disbelief, as it's presented here, such a scenario is hard to swallow.

A few scenes feel as if they've wandered over from some other movie or TV show (Glen Charles & Les Charles of "Cheers" fame wrote the screenplay). At one point, Nick leaves Long Island and the control room, and goes to Colorado in search of Russell and some answers to the mysteries of his life. Because this is the kind of movie that it is, he finds him right there in great outdoors, fishing in a cold, mountain stream.

This gives Russell the chance to say things like "He knows I caught him, and I know I caught him," referring to a trout he's just hooked and let go. It also gives him the chance to say things like "Jump into the water!" and to deliver other brief sermonettes that sound as if they might have been intended for a segment of SNL's "Deep Thoughts." The two cohorts then conclude the day by standing in the turbulence wake of a 747 as it comes in for a landing. Maybe it's a guy thing.

Billy Bob Thornton's Russell Bell is often so wooden and remote that he's like somebody's slightly overdose on an anti-psychotic medication. The eccentricity may lie more with the character than with the actor, but it's hard to empathize with wooden and remote, and consequently, a challenge to care about such a character, which further disables this picture. The Screen play for "Pushing Tin" was adapted from Darcy Drey's "Something's Got to Give," an absorbing New York Times article about controllers at the New York Terminal Radar Approach Control on Long Island. Too bad this movie doesn't fly nearly as effectively as Frey's article.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Scheduled to open Friday, April 30

"ENTRAPMENT"
An insurance investigator sets a trap to catch a legendary gentleman thief who's never been caught. But things take a turn and now both the hunter and the prey may have to pay a high price for freedom. Stars Sean Connery.

"OPEN YOUR EYES"
Exclusively at the Maple Art. Thriller about a young man who has everything going for himself until a tateful crash kills his ex-girlfriend and leaves him disfigured, only beginning a most bizarre nightmare. (In Spanish with English subtitles)

Scheduled to open Friday, May 7

"WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM"
New version of Shakespeare's most magical comedy. Stars Christian Bale, Rupert Everett, Calista Flockhart, Kevin Kline, Michelle Pfeiffer and Stanley Tucci.

"THE MUMMY"
Sci-fi epic about an expedition of treasure-seeking explorers in the Sahara Desert in 1925 who stumble upon an ancient tomb and unwittingly set loose a 3,000 legacy of terror. Stars Brendan Fraser.

Scheduled to open Friday, May 14

"THE CASTLE"
A warm hearted comedy about a working class man who takes enormous pride in his property and family must



Thriller: Sean Connery and Catherine Zeta-Jones meticulously execute their plan in "Entrapment."

defend his home from being taken to make room for airport expansion.

Scheduled to open Wednesday, May 19

"STAR WARS — EPISODE 1 THE PHANTOM MENACE"
Story of a 9-year-old boy named Anakin

Skywalker and Obi-Wan Kenobi, a brash young Jedi Knight. This first chapter in the Star Wars saga follows Anakin's journeys as he pursues his dreams and confronts his deepest fears in the midst of a galaxy in turmoil. Stars Liam Neeson, Jake Lloyd.

'Sliding Doors' has interesting plot

BY LEANNE ROGERS
STAFF WRITER
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How someone's life turns out can be altered by some bits of good or bad luck — like whether you caught the subway train and got home sooner than if you had taken a taxi. That's the premise of a rather flat 1998 British film "Sliding Doors."

The plot device of the film is interesting enough — it shows parallel plot lines that happens if a woman, played Gwyneth Paltrow, arrives home early enough to find her boyfriend in bed with another woman or just after the other woman has left.

In the first instance, the woman breaks up with the boyfriend — a loser she has been supporting while he stays at home to work on his novel. Conveniently, she met a very nice man on the subway train and

goes blonde and gets a short haircut in one version.

Directed by Peter Howitt, "Sliding Doors" can't decide if it's a drama or a romantic comedy. Neither effort is successful due to a weak script and equally weak performances by most of the cast. Paltrow is very earnest in her performance. As her unfaithful boyfriend, John Lynch has too many strained scenes that are apparently supposed to be funny. Even worse is the shrill Jeanne Tripplehorn as the other woman — she doesn't have a real moment in the whole film.

Upon further reflection, another problem with "Sliding Doors" is that despite the events and choices made in the two scenarios, Paltrow's character basically ends up in the same place. Maybe the real message, is that like the movie itself what happened really didn't matter in the end.

GUIDE TO THE MOVIES

National Amusements Showcase Cinemas	MATINEE (R) GO (R)	THE PRINCES OF NATURE (PG13)	LIFE (R)	DOOGY'S 1ST MOVIE (G)
Shearson Autumn Hills 1-14 2150 N. Opdyke Rd. Between University & Wabikon Blvd 248-373-2668 Bargain Matinees Daily, All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed-Thurs, Fri, Sat.	10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT YOU (PG13) DOOGY'S 1ST MOVIE (G) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	ANALYZE THIS (R) SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	NEVER BEEN KISSED (PG13) TWIN DRAGONS (PG13) THE OUT OF TOWNERS (PG13) 10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT YOU (PG13) THE MATRIX (R) TV ANALYZE THIS (R) THE CHINESE (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	FORCES OF NATURE (PG13) ANALYZE THIS (R) BABY GENIESES (PG) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES <i>VHS & Mastercard Accepted</i>
Shearson Woodland 1-8 6800 Wayne Rd., One blk. S. of Warren Rd. 313-729-7900 Bargain Matinees Daily, All Shows until 6 pm Continuous Shows Daily Late Shows Wed-Thurs, Fri, Sat.	DOOGY'S 1ST MOVIE (G) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	NEVER BEEN KISSED (PG13) TWIN DRAGONS (PG13) THE OUT OF TOWNERS (PG13) 10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT YOU (PG13) THE MATRIX (R) TV ANALYZE THIS (R) THE CHINESE (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	NEVER BEEN KISSED (PG13) TWIN DRAGONS (PG13) THE OUT OF TOWNERS (PG13) 10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT YOU (PG13) THE MATRIX (R) TV ANALYZE THIS (R) THE CHINESE (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	FORCES OF NATURE (PG13) ANALYZE THIS (R) BABY GENIESES (PG) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES
Shearson Bourbon 1-9 Michigan & Telegraph 313-561-3449 Bargain Matinees Daily, All Shows until 6 pm. Continuous Shows Daily * Late Shows Fri. & Sat. & Sun.	DOOGY'S 1ST MOVIE (G) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	NEVER BEEN KISSED (PG13) TWIN DRAGONS (PG13) THE OUT OF TOWNERS (PG13) 10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT YOU (PG13) THE MATRIX (R) TV ANALYZE THIS (R) THE CHINESE (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	NEVER BEEN KISSED (PG13) TWIN DRAGONS (PG13) THE OUT OF TOWNERS (PG13) 10 THINGS I HATE ABOUT YOU (PG13) THE MATRIX (R) TV ANALYZE THIS (R) THE CHINESE (R) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES	FORCES OF NATURE (PG13) ANALYZE THIS (R) BABY GENIESES (PG) CALL FOR COMPLETE LISTINGS AND TIMES
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Big Sugar celebrates latest album release

Standing on a stage at Joe Louis Arena, Big Sugar players Gordie Johnson and Kelly Hoppe are starstruck. Johnson and pompadoured keyboardist Hoppe, both natives, glance around at the championship flags hanging from the rafters.

They're even thrilled when they see part of the ice sticking out from a makeshift wood floor. Fashionably stylish with his Hugo Boss red sweater, dark pants and bright red cowboy boots, Johnson is one band member who feels at home in the Joe.

"Some of the crew are die-hard Maple Leafs fans but they're gonna just have to bite the bullet today because me and Kelly are so (in awe), walking around the place going, 'Oh, look at the picture of Gordie Howe,'" singer/guitarist Johnson said while picking at his guitar.

Big Sugar was in town April 17 to play during the "Made in Hockeytown Rally" at the Joe. The group, which also includes bassist Garry Lowe, returns to the area Saturday, May 1, to celebrate the release of its latest album "Heated" at the Magic Bag in Ferndale.

"Heated" boils with rock and blues influences as well as '70s classic rock, reggae and psychedelia. Johnson, who produced "Heated," attributed the

variety to "hundreds of gigs a year and different personnel."

"Different people have come through the band over the years and they all leave their influence. They all leave their mark," said Johnson, who has also produced Govt. Mule and Chris Duarte.

Toronto, the city in which he has lived for 10 years, has also had a hand in Big Sugar's music.

"Since I've been living in Toronto for 10 years, I really got into reggae music 'cause it's a really strong community there. It's the largest concentration of West Indians outside of Jamaica. That was just a natural resource that was just there waiting for me in Toronto. That brought a lot of reggae music into our sound, like working with Garry."

Music has been a lifelong aspiration for Johnson, 35. Growing up in Windsor, his musical preferences were Jimi Hendrix, Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath and Deep Purple. As he got older, he indulged in Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, John Lee Hooker, and acoustic blues.

"When I was 8 years old, I was telling my mom, 'Don't worry about that D on my report card. I know I'll never need mathematics 'cause I'm going to be a rock star.' Parents don't want to hear that when you're 8 years old," he said with a smile, stray hairs hanging over his right eye.

"They love it now. They see our videos on TV. They've got platinum records hanging on

their wall with their names on it. They're a little more understanding now. It's only taken them 20 years to convince them."

The real sign of success, he explained, appeared during a drive through Detroit.

"When I was a little kid I grew up listening to stations like the RIF (WRIF 101.1-FM), all the FM rock stations in Detroit, man, from the time I was 6, 7 years old. All of a sudden to hear our song on the RIF driving through Detroit is like, it's making me crazy."

Big Sugar and Keller Williams perform Saturday, May 1, Magic Bag, 23920 Woodward Ave., in Ferndale. Doors open at 8 p.m. for the 18 and older show. Tickets are \$8 in advance. For more information, call (248) 644-3030 or visit <http://www.themagicbag.com>.

Edge good-bye

DJs from WXDG-FM (The Edge) are saying good-bye to listeners on Saturday, May 1, with a live Internet broadcast from the attic of former morning show host Spike. The former Edge radio personalities will spin on the net, via Real Audio at <http://www.radioedge.com>, from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Spike said they may slip in a few previously unheard "Edge Sessions." SV3 Media Group of Rochester Hills is donating its services for the event. A chat room will be set up for listeners to chat live with the DJs and each other.

Cyber news



Amazon.com is offering free digital downloads of two new recordings from Sarah McLachlan's upcoming live album "Mirrorball," due out on Arista/Netwerk June 15. Live versions of "Building a Mystery" and "I Will Remember You" may be downloaded from <http://www.amazon.com/sarah-exclusive>. ... Coal Chamber is taking time out from mixing its upcoming

Roadrunner release "Chamber Music" to chat with fans at 11 p.m. Thursday, April 29, via <http://www.soniconet.com/channels> or <http://chat.yahoo.com>. Coal Chamber is tentatively scheduled to play Detroit's State Theatre with ICP and Kool Keith on Friday, July 2.

Christina Fuoco is the pop music reporter for The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers.

If you have a question or comment for her, you can leave her a message at (734) 953-2047, mailbox No. 2130, or write to her at The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, Mich., 48150, or you can send e-mail to cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net

George Friend, Black Beauty live for the blues

BY CHRISTINA FUOCO
STAFF WRITER
cfuoco@oe.homecomm.net

Happiness slowly creeps across the face of blues guitarist George Friend. During an impromptu soundcheck between sets by Harbinger's Mile and Jill Jack at the Magic Bag, Friend keeps his head down, engulfed in the blues.

When the crowd rises to their feet as he and Black Beauty hit the stage, Friend looks up pleasantly surprised. When special guest Thornetta Davis confidently struts on stage, they go crazy.

"It was scary," Friend said enthusiastically. "After we finished that first song by Booker T and the MGs, everybody just jumped out of their seats. It was great. It's a rush."

That's pretty much the reaction every time Black Beauty plays. At the Lower Town Grill in Plymouth, fans hit the dance floor when Black Beauty plays songs off its debut CD "Senor Smoke."

Friend began writing the material a year ago and of the eight songs he penned, five made it on the CD.

"I was just starting to get used to writing songs. I had never really written that much before. It was scary to say the least. I started to get the hang of it and I started writing material for Thornetta too. I started to feel more comfortable with it," Friend explained.

At first, Friend was focusing on writing rockabilly and jump blues songs. When he eased up on his self-imposed limitations, the music kept coming.

"They (the songs) were all right, they just felt like I was trying to do something instead of just writing a song and letting it be what it is. That's why the CD was a little more varied. My influences definitely came through once I just let it flow."

The opening track "Beaten Down" has all the swagger of Keith Richards while surf owns the seductive "Gonna Do It." The eight minute and 11 second

title track winds its way through rock, blues and soul.

Holding the reins

Friend has "played all sorts of different kinds of music" since he was a child growing up in Marquette. Upon graduation in 1983, he moved to San Francisco for four years with his band Pedxing, a "quirky kind of pop, new wave, like the Talking Heads and Devo. It was kind of a funny band."

In 1988 he returned to Michigan, this time settling in Detroit where he studied jazz at Wayne State University. Expanding his already vast musical resume, Friend hooked up with Alex Trajano and formed the avant jazz act Blue Dog in 1988. Friend then spent time in Spanking Bozo and the Sun Messengers before getting caught in the Twistin' Tarantulas' web.

For 1-1/2 years, Friend played with the Tarantulas. When he left the band, he looked to old friend Thornetta Davis, with

whom he had played in the Sun Messengers. Friend formed Black Beauty in early 1998.

"I formed this band to do a wider variety of music instead of just doing rockabilly or whatever we were doing, jump blues. I really had an interest in doing more Chicago blues and funk and different things," he said.

Davis plays select gigs with Black Beauty, which also includes bassist Jim Simonson of Detroit and drummer Todd Glass, formerly of the Twistin' Tarantulas, of Westland. In January, keyboardist Chris Codish, who won Outstanding Blues Instrumentalist and Outstanding R&B/Urban/Funk Instrumentalist at the Detroit Music Awards April 23, joined the band.

There's a mutual admiration thing going on between Black Beauty and Davis, who is working on her sophomore effort. When she's not performing with Black Beauty, the band is backing her.

"She loves us," Friend said.

Davis was also on board for the Scandinavian tour Black Beauty did with rockabilly singer Robert Gordon.

"They're just nuts about rockabilly over there. We played in Helsinki for 1,200 people, and another small town in Finland with another 1,200 kids. There were kids there just 16 years old with giant pompadours and leather jackets. Every single kid was dressed up."

No matter what he's playing, Friend knows the blues is in his heart.

"I had always been listening

to a lot more blues records. I never played it a lot. I really enjoy the music. I feel like everything that I've played comes pretty much from there."

Black Beauty performs at 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 30-May 1, at Fox and Hounds, 1560 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Hills. The free show is all ages, call (248) 644-4800; 9 p.m. Friday, May 7, at Memphis Smoke, 100 S. Main St., Royal Oak. The 21 and older show is free, call (248) 543-4300. Black Beauty's Web site is <http://www.bkbeauty.com>

Advertisement for the movie "ENTRAPMENT" featuring Sean Connery and Catherine Zeta Jones. It lists various theaters and showtimes across Michigan, including Livonia 20, Canton 6, Pontiac 1-12, Great Lakes Crossing, Taylor, Southfield, Sterling Ctr., Birmingham 8, Dearborn, Westland, Gratiot, and Southfield.

Advertisement for the movie "Lost & Found" featuring David Spade and Sophie Marceau. The ad includes quotes like "HIP, EDGY AND HOWLINGLY FUNNY!" and "HILARIOUS! SPADE IS ON FIRE WITH HIS RAZOR SHARP WIT." It also lists showtimes at various theaters.

Advertisement for the movie "IDE HANDS" featuring a group of people. The ad includes the quote "A SICK AND TWISTED LAUGH RIOT!" and "The comedy that gives horrorfilms the backbone." It lists showtimes at various theaters, including Star Theatres and Showcase Cinemas.

For casual or special dinners try Bonfire Bistro & Brewery

BY KEELY WYGNIK
STAFF WRITER

Bonfire Bistro & Brewery is an appropriate name for this newly opened restaurant in Northville. The earthy smell of burning wood greets diners as they open the door to upscale, yet casual Bonfire Bistro & Brewery. It's the kind of restaurant you can go to for a quick pizza before a movie ... or anniversary dinner.

Wood fuels the ovens here, everything from the pizza oven to the rotisserie and char-grill.

"It gives the food great flavor," said manager Rob Bennett. "We have a great menu, not just beer and sandwiches. Our staff is very knowledgeable and friendly."

Three brightly colored murals decorate the restaurant, which is decidedly urban with rich wood tables and booths.

Wood is piled up along the open kitchen where you can see your meal being prepared.

Chef David Platzer studied at

Bonfire Bistro & Brewery
 Address: 38550 Seven Mile (near Haggerty), Northville, (248) 735-4570
 Hours: 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m. to midnight Friday-Saturday; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday.
 Reservations: Lunch only, parties of five or more. Call-ahead seating for dinner.
 Menu: Fresh seafood, steaks, chops, chicken, pasta, hand-tossed pizzas. Some vegetarian items. Handcrafted beers and rootbeer. Children's menu for ages 12 and under.
 Cost: Salads and sandwiches, \$3.95 to \$9.95; Pizza (6 pieces, served as an appetizer) \$7.95 to \$8.50; lunch entrees \$7.95 to \$12.95; dinner entrees including pasta \$12.95 to \$26.95. Children's menu items \$4.50 to \$6.95.
 Carry-out: Available
 Credit Cards: All majors
 Seats: 240 people, additional seating (6 tables) on outdoor patio.

the Culinary Institute of America. Ron Jeffries is the Brewmaster, and tours of the brewery can be arranged if you call the restaurant in advance.

For lunch or dinner, Bonfire Bistro & Brewery offers a truly memorable dining experience. The lunch menu features more sandwiches than the dinner

menu. For starters, Bennett recommends the Gorgonzola Ale Dip or Beer-Steamed Mussels.

Pizzas are hand-tossed and cooked in a wood-burning oven. Choose from Chicken & Artichoke Pizza; Pizza Classico - Italian sausage, Roma tomatoes and wild mushrooms with wood-roasted tomato sauce and mozzarella; Wild Mushroom Pizza or Roasted Vegetable and Goat Cheese Pizza.

The Onion Porter Soup - sliced Spanish onions and shallots in a hearty beef and porter broth with crispy haystack onions and Swiss cheese - is a specialty.

For dinner, Bennett points to Planked Salmon, available for dinner or lunch - a fresh Atlantic filet, wood fired on a cedar plank with honey mustard glaze - served with wild rice pilaf and fresh vegetable.

Grilled Lamb Chops, and Herb Chicken Linguine - rotisserie chicken tossed with wild mushrooms, scallions, roasted garlic, sun-dried tomatoes and sage cream sauce over fresh linguine - are also often-requested dishes.

Vegetarians will enjoy Portobello Penne - Fire-roasted portobellos, onions, peppers and roast-



STAFF PHOTOS BY PAUL HUBSCHMANN

Popular dish: Executive Chef David Platzer presents Mediterranean Seafood Farfalle, an often requested dish at the newly opened Bonfire Bistro & Brewery.

ed garlic with penne noodles in a tomato fennel broth, topped with grated Parmesan cheese.

From the rotisserie, choose from Herb Crusted Prime Rib, Spit Fire Duck or Chicken, all slow-cooked over a hickory fire and served with fresh vegetable.

If you're hungry for a sandwich for lunch or dinner, Bennett recommends Beef & Boursin - shaved prime rib with creamy boursin cheese, red onions, lettuce and tomato on a hoagie roll with horseradish mayo.

The lunch menu features the popular Cherry Chicken Salad, Honey Mustard Chicken Wrap Sandwich, Black Forest Ham & Cheddar Sandwich and Grilled Portobello & Vegetable Wrap.

There are six items on the children's menu - Bowtie Pasta with tomato sauce and cheese, Chicken Tenderloins, Grilled Cheese with fries, Cheeseburger and

fries, Fish and Chips, and Cheese Pizza.

Toast a special occasion with one of Bonfire's handcrafted beers. There's a wide variety - from the Firelight Lager, to Vulcan's Ale, Burning Brand Bitter-Extra Pale Ale, Promethean Porter, and a seasonal specialty.

"For something really different, try one of Bonfire's two cask-conditioned beers - Smoldering Coals Imperial Stout or a Special Rotating Cask. These English-style ales are naturally carbonated and served at room temperature.

Wine by the glass, beer by the bottle, draft cider, martinis and other cocktails are available also.

Desserts are made in house. The Vanilla Malt & Porter Praline ice creams are made exclusively for Bonfire Bistro & Brewery using the sweet extract of malted barley, fresh cream and

sugar. Other delicious ways to satisfy your sweet tooth include Cappuccino Creme Brulee, S'More Cheesecake, Hot Fudge Brownie made with a white chocolate brownie, Apple Cherry Pie, Fresh Fruit Anglaise, and a Rootbeer Float.

Bennett said they plan to revise and change the menu to keep it fresh. Every attempt will be made to accommodate special requests.



Pizza: Michael Ollie gets ready to put a wild mushroom pizza into the wood fire pizza oven.

WHAT'S COOKING

Send items for consideration in What's Cooking to Keely Wygnik, Entertainment Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, fax (248) 591-7279, or e-mail kwygnik@oe.homecomm.net

OLD MEXICO
Celebrates Cinco De Mayo, Mexico's independence from France, Wednesday, May 5 at their restaurants in Livonia, 28407 Five Mile Road (734) 421-3310 and West Bloomfield, 5566 Drake Road, (248) 661-8088. Piñata breaking 4 p.m. at the Livonia restaurant; 5:30 p.m. at the West Bloomfield Restaurant. Both locations will have menu specials. The West Bloomfield location will also have Latin music 7-11 p.m. including a Mariachi Band at 10:30 p.m.

GOLDEN MUSHROOM
French Wine dinner, Monday, May 3, 18100 W. 10 Mile Road, Southfield. Cost \$90 per person, plus tax and gratuity, call (248) 559-4230 for information and

reservations.
COMEDY DINNER THEATER
Tony & Maria's Wedding, Saturday, May 8, Livonia American Club, 39200 Five Mile Road. Cost \$44.95 per person, call (800) 817-6279 for information, reservations.

MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON
At the Italian American Club of Livonia, 39200 Five Mile Road Livonia, 12:30-3:30 p.m. Sunday, May 9. Family-style luncheon, music by the Eddie DeSantis Ensemble, adults \$25 per person, \$10 children (ages 6-12), \$3 children (ages 4-6), children age 3 and under, free. Call (734) 953-9724 for reservations/information. No tickets sold at the door.

CORBI'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT AND BANQUET CENTER
Mom's Day Buffet, noon, 2 p.m. or 4 p.m. Sunday, May 9, 27910 W. Seven Mile Road, Adults \$12.95, seniors \$12, children under age 10, \$6. Call (248) 777-4960 for reservations/information.

FOX HILLS
Mother's Day Brunch, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Fox Hills Club House, 8768 N. Territorial Road, Plymouth, \$15.95 per person, call (734) 453-7272. Fox Hills serves brunch every Sunday, 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. the cost is \$14.95 adults, and \$5.50 (children ages 3 to 12).

MCDONALD'S RESTAURANTS
Introduced a new line of breakfast bagel sandwiches - Steak, Egg & Cheese Bagel Sandwich, Ham, Egg & Cheese Bagel Sandwich, and Spanish Omelet Bagel Sandwich. The sandwiches are the first new breakfast item to be introduced at McDonald's in 10 years.

P.F. CHANG'S CHINA BISTRO
Popular P.F. Chang's China Bistro in Somerset Collection South, Troy, does not take reservations, but has adopted "call ahead seating." Just give the

restaurant a call (248) 816-8000 a half hour before you plan to arrive and if there's a wait list (which there will be on weekend evenings), your name will be added. Upon arrival, notify the host staff that you called ahead. When your name reaches the top of the list, you'll be seated at the next available table.

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ner for two at any URC restaurant including the popular Duet, Fusion, Morels and No. VI Chop-house & Lobster Bar. Enroll at (248) 646-0370 Extension 216 or any URC restaurant or Deli Unique.

OUTDOOR DINING
Big Rock Chop & Brew House, 245 S. Eton, (south of Maple) Birmingham (248) 647-7774; Paint Creek Cider Mill & Restaurant, 4480 Orion Road, Rochester (248) 651-8361 and the three East Side Mario locations 2273 Crooks Road (north-east corner of M-59) Rochester Hills (248) 853-9622; 31630 Plymouth Road (west of Merriman) Livonia (734) 513-8803 and 29267 Southfield Road (between 12 and 13 Mile Roads) in the Southfield Commons Shopping Center (248) 569-9454 have officially opened their patios.

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