

Child seat clinic

The Plymouth Township Police Department hosts a free Child Safety Seat clinic 10 a.m. Saturday, March 8, at the Plymouth Township Police Department, located at 9955 N. Haggerty.

The inspections will be by "appointment only," and limited space is available. If you would like to have your child's seat inspected by a national certified Child Passenger Safety Technician, make an appointment by calling Officer Jamie Senkbeil at (734) 354-3232.

'Black Coffee' auditions

Barefoot Productions of Plymouth conducts Auditions for the group's Spring mystery, Agatha Christie's 'Black Coffee', 7-9 p.m. March 3-4 at The Book Cellar & Cafe, 840 W. Ann Arbor Trail in downtown Plymouth.

Roles are available for nine males and three females, with character ages ranging from late 20s to early 60s. Auditioners should bring a resume/headshot and a prepared monologue (if available). There will be cold readings from the script.

For more information call Craig at (734) 582-9688 or check out the Barefoot Productions Web site at



PHOTO BY GARY TURNQUIST

Special bowling

For over 30 years, the Plymouth-Canton Civitan Club has sponsored Special Olympics Bowling. Some 45-60 enthusiastic bowlers can be found every Tuesday from 4-5:30 at Plaza Lanes on Plymouth Road through March 25. Special Olympics coach and program organizer, Maria Welgosh, announced that Plaza Lanes will also be the site for the Area Games to be held on April 26, with some 400-500 bowlers expected to participate. For more information, call (734) 459-1896.

www.justgobarefoot.com

Performance dates are Mother's Day weekend, May 8-11.

Crafters wanted

The Plymouth-Canton Music Boosters hosts its annual Spring Arts and Crafts Ensemble Saturday, March 15. Exhibitors who hand-craft their own items are invited to submit an applica-

tion to exhibit at the fourth annual event to be held at Plymouth High School in Canton, Mich.

The juried art event is produced each year by the PCMB to assist the music programs at the Plymouth-Canton Education Park.

Artists and crafters who are interested in applying for consideration to exhibit should

visit www.pcmbe.net/artcraft to download an application. Only 100 exhibitors will be permitted to exhibit at this artistic event. Last year, over 1500 attendees visited the Spring Arts & Crafts Ensemble.

Plymouth High School is located at 8400 Beck Road in Canton, Mich. The Arts & Craft Ensemble will be held 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition to over 100 exhibits, there will be food, baked goods, a raffle, and entertainment by local musicians and artists throughout the day. Admission is \$2.

Council on Aging

The Plymouth Council on Aging will host Sanford Burr, president of the Plymouth Historical Society, who will deliver

a presentation on "The History of Plymouth," 1:30 p.m. Monday, March 10 at the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Refreshments will be served. Call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 for more information.

On Friday, March 14, from 10-11:30 a.m. the Plymouth Council on Aging will host "Oil Painting by Sharon Dillenbeck," who will present a demonstration using oil and water colors.

This demonstration takes place at the Plymouth Cultural Center. Refreshments will be served. Call (734) 453-1234, Ext. 236 to register for this free demonstration. Space is limited.

Newcomers' craft party

Plymouth Newcomers & Neighbors hosts a kids craft party 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. March 15 at Michael's Crafts on Ford Road in Canton.

Kids will enjoy a snack, beverage and treats while creating an Easter craft to bring home. The cost is \$12 per child payable at the event in form of cash or check (payable to Plymouth Newcomers). This fee includes the non-refundable room charge and supplies.

This event is suitable for kids 4 years and older. Parents are welcome to stay and join in the fun. Please note that Family Fun event volunteers will not be responsible for items left behind.

RSVP to Amy Hoover before March 8 at info@plymouthnewcomers.com or visit the Web site at www.plymouthnewcomers.com.

McCotter staff

The staff of Congressman Thaddeus McCotter (Michigan

District II) will conduct office hours in several locations. This time is set aside so that the citizens served by the congressman have the opportunity to speak with a staff member one on one regarding any federal issue that they might have.

Congressman McCotter's staff will be available Thursday, March 6, from 9-10 a.m. at the Canton Summit Senior Center and 1-2 p.m. at the Plymouth District Library.

McCotter has two offices in the district to serve his constituents. The Livonia office can be reached by calling (734) 632-0314 or the Milford office is available at (248) 685-9495.

Bowling fund-raiser

Students from East and Pioneer middle schools in Plymouth and Marshall Middle School in Westland are raising money for the People to People Student Ambassador Program, which sends students to other countries as Student Ambassadors to meet and learn from foreign students and representatives of other nations.

The students - Richard McCutcheon of East Middle School, Abbey Jarrett of Pioneer Middle School and John Puterbaugh and John Hollenbeck of Marshall Middle School - had to qualify for the honor.

The Bowling Fun Raiser will be at Vision Lanes, 38250 Ford Road, 4-7 p.m. Sunday, March 2. Tickets are \$15 and include three games of bowling, shoe rental, two slices of pizza and a soft drink.

For tickets or more information, call Roy McCutcheon, (734) 398-5676 or (734) 748-5803.

Montessori Open Houses. Includes text about student benefits and event details for Livonia Montessori Center and Plymouth-Canton Montessori School.

Save on Your 2007 Income Tax Preparation. Advertisement for Schultz & Associates, PLC, featuring tax preparation services and a \$25 OFF offer.

MGIA Trade Show & Convention. Advertisement for the 21st Annual MGIA Trade Show & Convention, March 4-5, 2008, featuring John Deere Commercial Zero Turn Mowers.

Thesier's Is Extending Their Open House To 3 DAYS!! Advertisement for Thesier's equipment company, extending open house hours to Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Thesier's Open House. Advertisement detailing open house dates (March 11-13) and contact information for Thesier Equipment Co.

I CAN BE A... Advertisement for Childtime Learning Centers, featuring a child and a list of career options like Lawyer, Researcher, Architect, and Doctor.

OPENING SOON! Advertisement for Childtime Learning Centers, highlighting a state-of-the-art premier education facility and a \$200 OFF offer.

What are you waiting for? Cash in Savings Bonds

I recently met with a new client who has a substantial number of U.S. Savings Bonds. The majority of the bonds had already matured, which means they were no longer paying interest. This is a problem I see with many

individuals. They put the bonds in a drawer and forget about them or they don't want to cash out because they would have to pay taxes. This strategy makes no sense and ends up costing money. I have always said don't

let the tax tail wag the dog. Savings Bonds grow tax-deferred. When redeemed, the individual is taxed on the interest that has accumulated. The interest is subject to both state and federal income taxes. If you redeem U.S. Savings



Money Matters
Rick Bloom

Bonds for \$2,000 and you originally paid \$1,200, \$800 would be subject to ordinary income tax.

Between state and federal income taxes, it will cost most people between \$200-

\$250. After taxes, you'd be left with approximately \$1,800. Someone who does not cash out U.S. Savings Bonds because of the tax consequences is losing \$1,800.

Another issue with matured U.S. Savings Bonds deals with the Internal Revenue Service. Under federal law, when a bond matures is when the income — whether the bond is cashed in or not — should be reported. If the IRS decided to be aggressive in enforcing this provision, it could cause many taxpayers to pay interest and penalties.

When U.S. Savings Bonds mature, cash them out, pay the taxes and then focus on what to do with the rest of the money.

One mistake people make with U.S. Savings Bonds is that they think the bonds are all the same. That is not the case. The maturity of the bonds and the interest paid has changed dramatically over the years.

When I was a kid, you bought a bond for \$18.75 and down the road it was worth \$25. In today's world, some U.S. Savings Bonds pay a substantially higher rate than other bonds. Some U.S. Savings Bonds pay a fixed rate throughout the life of the bond, while others have an interest rate that adjusts.

If you own U.S. Savings Bonds, know what the bonds are worth and what interest rate is paid. One online resource is the U.S. Treasury at www.publicdebt.treasury.gov.

I am often asked about U.S. Savings Bonds as an investment vehicle for a child's or grandchild's college education. U.S. Savings Bonds are

a patriotic investment and that is why people should purchase them. However, there are better ways to save for a child's college education. Unfortunately, the rate of return on U.S. Savings Bonds does not keep up with the increased cost of a college education. I recommend other investment vehicles, such as the Michigan Education Savings Plan (MESP).

Most U.S. Savings Bonds have a 30-year maturity. Therefore, if you purchased U.S. Savings Bonds before the late 1970s, there is a good chance the bonds have matured. Instead of giving the government an interest-free loan, a better alternative would be to cash out, pay your taxes and put the money to work for you.

Rick Bloom is a fee-only financial adviser. Observer & Eccentric readers can submit questions at moneyatters@hometownlife.com. For more information, visit Rick's Web site at www.bloomassetmanagement.com. You can hear Rick from noon to 3 p.m. Sundays on WDTK-AM (1400).

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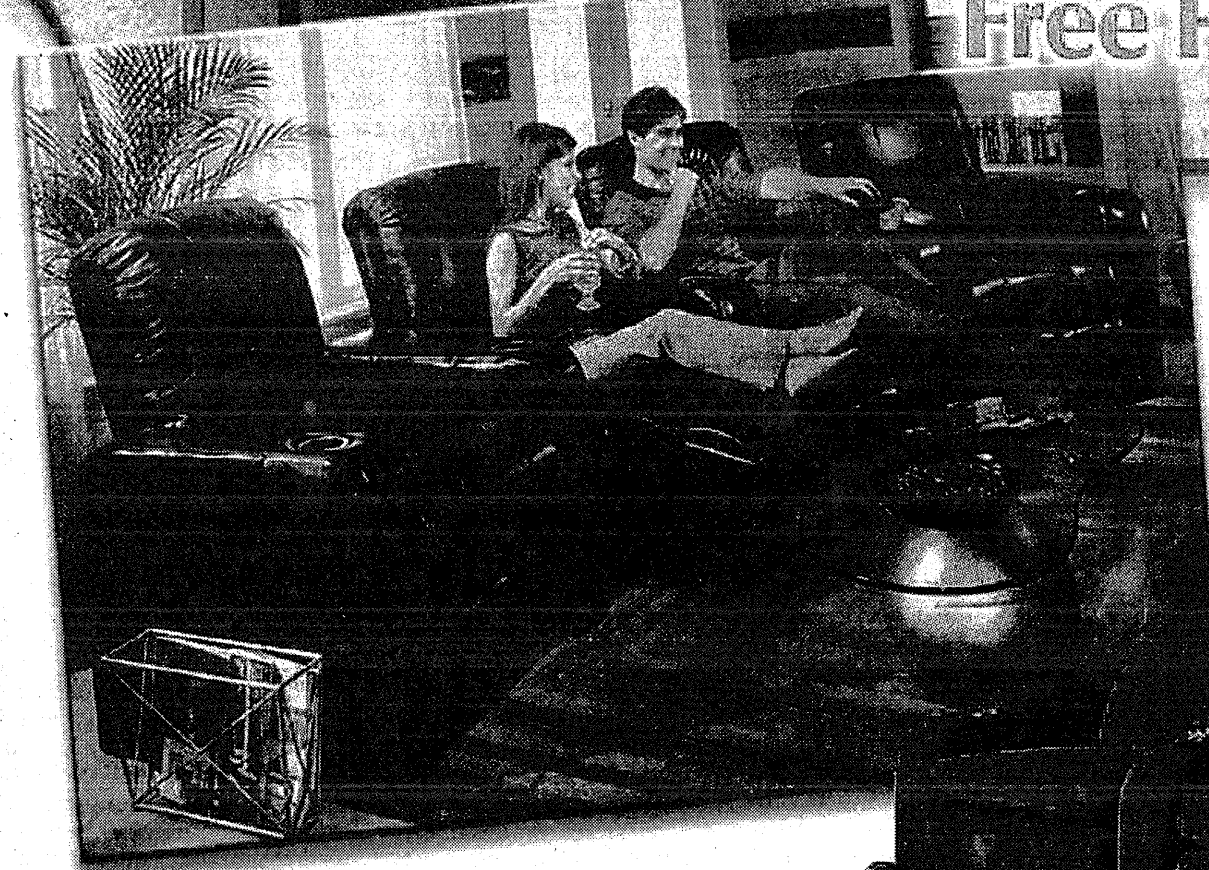
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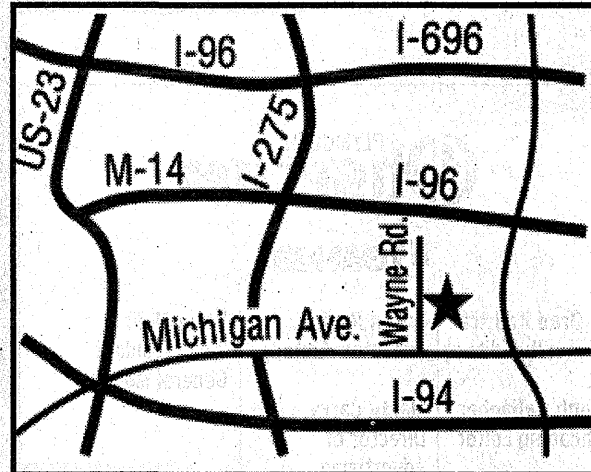
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OUR VIEWS

Every little bit helps businesses

Business owners in the area of the Sheldon Road underpass project probably think Wayne County officials are moving agonizingly slowly in getting some help for their businesses, declining since the closing of Sheldon Road more than a year ago.

But at least things are moving.

The county is adjusting its own Web site to include information or actual Web links to businesses in the Five Mile and Sheldon area, and is seeking input from retailers as to what sorts of information would best benefit them on the site.

The plan, although it hasn't happened yet, also calls for variable message boards along both east- and westbound M-14 letting drivers know the area is open for business, with additional signage around the intersection itself promoting those businesses.

Local government officials are also trying to help. Sherrie Pryor, director of operations for the Plymouth Downtown Development Authority, said the DDA's Web site includes directions to downtown Plymouth and a detour map.

In a recent e-mail blast to residents, Plymouth Township Supervisor Richard Reaume said, "Sheldon Road at Five Mile includes banks, a grocery store, gas station, car dealership, dry cleaners and several options for dining ... While this area is not as easily accessible during the Sheldon Road underpass construction, please consider supporting these Plymouth Township businesses."

He's right; it's certainly not as easy as it used to be to get to some of these businesses. But it's not impossible, either, and the hope obviously is shoppers will find those businesses well worth the effort.

One businessman said people's perception is that the Five Mile/Sheldon intersection is closed. We don't think it's quite that bad, but the feeling among retailers in that area is understandable.

To be fair, it might not necessarily be the county's responsibility to ensure the viability of those businesses. But county officials, especially Assistant Executive Alan Helmkamp, recognize the hardships placed on these businesses by the closing of the road and then the subsequent lack of actual work being done until recently.

It was nice to see Wayne County Commissioner Laura Cox finally get involved, although she's coming a little late to the party. Still, any help she can provide would be beneficial.

It's tough to know, especially since the plans haven't been executed yet, how much these ideas will help. But at least, by implementing them, officials are trying to recognize, as Helmkamp said, "those who have made the biggest sacrifice" in this whole deal.

Green consensus forming on state's energy future

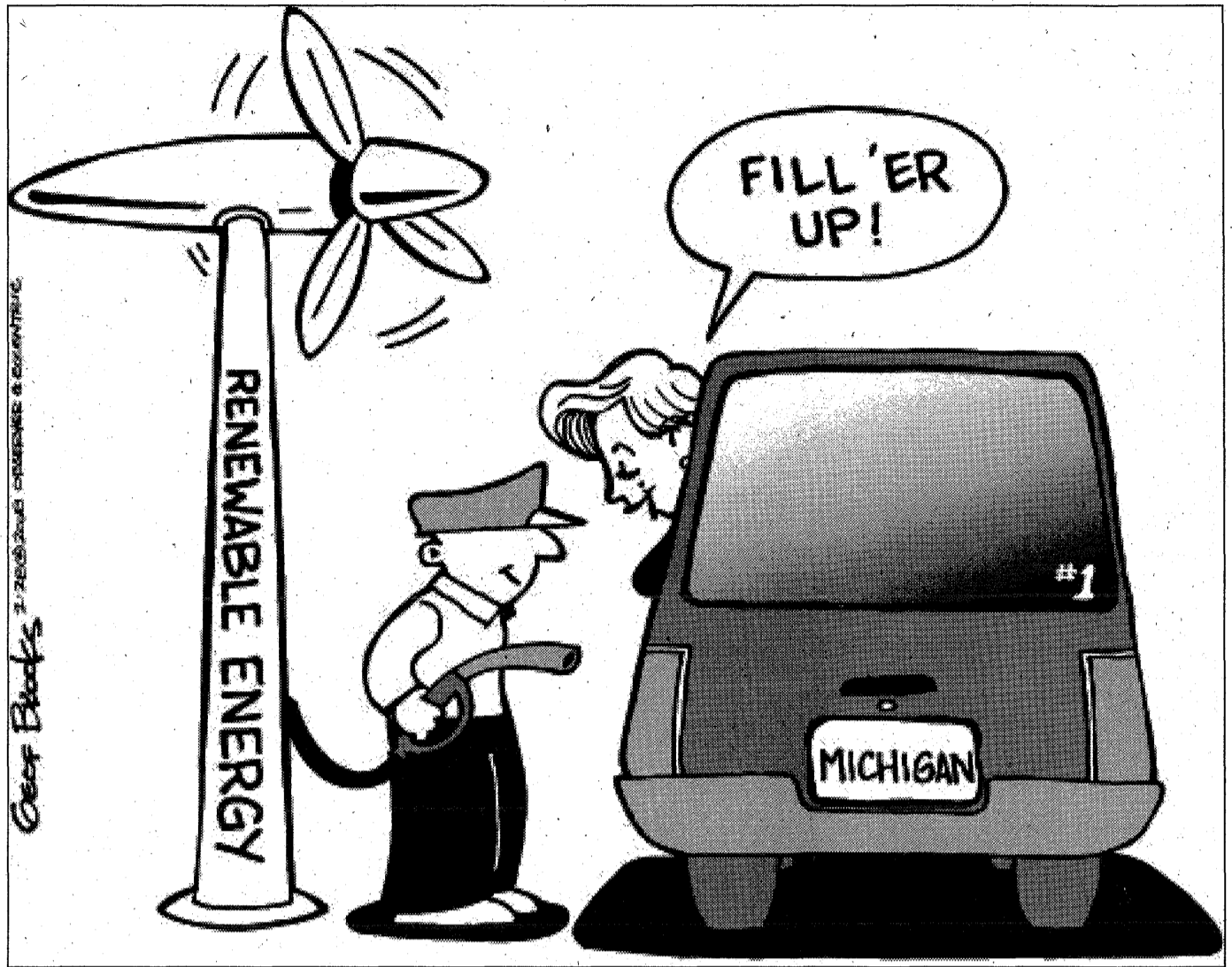
Gov. Jennifer Granholm has been in Washington, D.C., this week at the winter meeting of the National Governors Association on a mission to promote alternative energy and energy research.

Michigan, other state governments and the federal government have all been wrestling with ways to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, cited by many as the major factor in global warming. In a volatile global political environment, we are also trying to find ways to decrease our reliance on foreign oil.

Granholm and other state leaders have long touted alternative energy as a growth industry for Michigan, an industry that would build on Michigan's engineering and manufacturing history. In addition to finding alternate methods for fueling automobiles, the state is working on developing a workable renewable energy portfolio standard to partially replace coal-generated electricity with alternate renewable energy sources (wind, solar, biomass, etc.).

State Sen. Bruce Patterson, R-Canton, chairman of the state Senate Energy Policy and Public Utilities Committee, has been taking testimony from the state's "energy stakeholders," everyone from the two dominant utilities, DTE Energy and CMS Energy, to environmental groups, to alternative energy companies, to the Big Three auto companies, to property rights groups. While there seems to be a growing consensus on the need for alternative energy, how much and when are still major issues. Also at issue is the role of nuclear energy and whether it is still necessary to proceed with new coal plants.

Patterson is confident that an acceptable energy bill will emerge, but it won't be easy. Still, it is encouraging that everyone on all sides of this issue understand that it is critical to Michigan's future that we move toward a cleaner, greener energy future.



Appreciate police

As with many police departments I am sure that the news you often hear about your staff and department is more negative than positive.

I would, however, like to share with you a positive observation I had Feb. 10 around 11. As you may recall, (it) was extremely cold, perhaps the coldest day we have experienced this winter season. While looking out of my front window I noticed a patrol car with the lights on with a car stopped in front.

I thought that it was probably a "routine" traffic stop; to my surprise I noticed one of your officers pouring gas from a can into a stranded motorist's tank. Even though a gas station was (nearby) and the lady wasn't in the middle nowhere, it was a very refreshing sight to see and I am certain that the lady was as appreciative as I was of the officer's deed.

I have known for some time that the township motto of "People: Our Priority" is more than a saying by all the wonderful things that have occurred since I made it my home. Keep up the great work and please let your officers know that their service is appreciated.

David Johnson
Plymouth Township

(Note: According to Police Chief Tom Tiderington, to whom the letter was originally addressed, the officer involved was Officer Steve Coffell.)

30 great years

I was talking with a friend the other day and he congratulated me for practicing dentistry for 30 years. That's when it hit me just how fortunate I have been to enjoy a successful dental practice with a dedicated staff and loyal patients — not for 10 years or 20 years, but for 30 great years. To think — my practice is now starting its fourth decade!

It got me thinking that this would be a great time to thank this great hometown community of Plymouth and Plymouth Township for their loyalty and support over the years. It has been an amazing run and for that I am appreciative.

Later this spring we will be hosting a 30th anniversary party to thank the community, our patients and staff. I hope on May 8 many of you will stop by to join us in this celebration. We will pass along more details later.

It seems like just yesterday that I was receiving my diploma from the University of Michigan and showing up for work on my first day as a dentist. How time flies! When you enjoy what you are doing, it makes for some great memories. This is a time to sit back and thank everyone — the community, patients, staff and colleagues who have helped me pursue and be successful at my profession.

Thank you, Plymouth. You have been kind to me. In this hectic life most of us lead we need to pause, step back and occasionally acknowledge what is good and to express appreciation. Thank you to this great hometown. We enjoy being a part of the vibrant business community and great place to work and play.

Dr. Gary Feucht
Plymouth

LETTERS

Bad tax choices

Only in Michigan ... Does the 2008 assessed value of private property decrease from its 2007 value. But the taxable value increases.

A decrease of 12.7 percent in value, and an increase in taxable value of 2.3 percent.

"Estimates by the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that Michigan's population has decreased by 30,500 from 2006 to 2007. According to the new estimates, Michigan had the nation's third-highest rate of net domestic out-migration in 2007, surpassed only by New York and Rhode Island. Michigan has the nation's seventh-highest rate for the entire period since the 2000 Census, surpassed by New York, the District of Columbia, Louisiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey and Illinois."

— www.michigan.gov.
Tax decisions such as those recently made by our Legislature and that described above will only exacerbate the migration to other states. And they will not serve to beckon new people and manufacturers to our state.

Tom Shipley
Birmingham

No right to work state here

Back in the fall of 1971, I bought a new Ford Mustang. In the spring of 1972, I went to Georgia to visit family. Even though I was employed, I decided to job hunt in Atlanta.

I went to an employment agency in Atlanta, and the interviewer made three appointments for me. I don't remember the first appointment at all. The second interview turned into a nightmare, as the salary was less than my monthly car payment. When I mentioned the low salary, I was told, "Women don't make much here."

The third interview was for the position of art director for a well-known insurance agency. I could have been hired here. Again, this super position was for less than I was making in Michigan. I bargained for more money, and wanted to know about advancement in the company. "That's it," was the reply.

I came back to Michigan and retired from DTE Energy after 47 1/2 years of service.

No right to work state for me.

Dolores Kapanke
Garden City

Hope for Obama

The media and Obama's chief strategist David Axelrod have packaged and promoted Barack Obama as a Lincolnesque, black (yet flawless) JFK as the best person to lead the U.S. during these crucial times. The campaign has stressed character and inspiration instead of policy, issues and experience in leadership skills.

With Oprah as his chief "lobbyist" and using quasi-religious allusions in messianic messages, Obama has embodied the hopes of dreams of all Americans. We have lived with lies, fear, loss of personal privacy, an illegal, unjust war, and have watched our country lose respect throughout the world since 2000.

Yet, his tenure in the Senate has not been notable. He has voted "present" rather than yes or no.

If he is the Democratic nominee for president, let us hope his conciliatory views are not overcome by confrontational views and tactics. Let us hope he can survive real, bitter, personal negative attacks from the opposition. Let us hope his youth can compete with and overcome McCain, the experienced elder statesman.

Hannah Provenge Donigan
Commerce

Grateful for generosity

I am writing on behalf of the 30,000 children who received holiday gift packages from the Old Newsboys' Goodfellow Fund of Detroit this past Christmas. The Detroit Goodfellow organization is extremely grateful for the overwhelming support we received from the metropolitan Detroit community.

Our thanks go to the generous individuals who purchased a newspaper from a Detroit Goodfellow member or a Detroit police officer on our Sales Day. We also appreciate the individuals, corporations, churches and foundations, which made contributions through the mail or on our Web site, www.oldnewsboysgoodfellows.org.

Their donations enabled us to surpass our goal of raising \$1.375 million for 2007 and helped to ensure our 93-year pledge of "No Kiddie without a Christmas."

We are truly grateful for the continued support and generosity of the residents of metropolitan Detroit especially during these difficult economic times. On behalf of all of the children in Detroit, Highland Park and Hamtramck who benefited from your generosity, thank you, thank you.

Peter W. Waldmeir
president, 2007, Detroit Goodfellows

Experience a concern

Hope is not a presidential platform. In reading *The Audacity of Hope*, I grew very concerned at a potential Obama presidency. This light, uplifting but low-calorie book screamed of a lack of experience.

One can hope that he will not make the same mistakes of a JFK (Bay of Pigs, escalating the arms race, venturing into Vietnam, sex scandals, the Cuban missile crisis, etc.) due to his lack of experience or others' perceptions of that actual lack, should he become president. Here's hoping.

Edward A. Johnson Jr.
Royal Oak

SHARE YOUR OPINIONS

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

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QUOTABLE

"We've done very well the first few months, we've always got people in here ... We're really excited about being here. We chose Plymouth because of all the activities that happen here, the lovely downtown and all the shops and restaurants."

- Carol Uber, co-owner, Home Sweet Home, on why Plymouth has made a successful new home for her business

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

Merger between 'legacy' airlines would be promising for Michigan

There are lots of reasons the much-anticipated merger between Northwest and Delta Airlines would be good — very good — for Michigan. But as happens all too often when a good idea comes along, it's met by noisy objections from Washington.

Both Northwest and Delta are "legacy" airlines, survivors of the companies that dominated the industry before government deregulation in 1978. Many of their sisters — Pan American, Eastern and TWA, to name a few — no longer exist, victims of high costs, poor labor relations, bad management and newly aggressive competition.

Both Delta and Northwest recently emerged from a brush with bankruptcy. But both are still relatively high-cost companies, pressed on one side with more and more expensive jet fuel, and pressed on the other by new, vigorous and low-cost competitors like Jet Blue, Spirit and Southwest. Both economics and competitive pressures are combining to push Northwest and Delta together, and both managements are serious about trying to make it work.

So far, the biggest hangup has been getting pilots to agree on a combined seniority list. But that shouldn't prove insurmountable.

Why would a merger be good for all of us? Well, a merger could play to Northwest's Michigan-based crown jewels: the magnificent airport hub at Detroit Metro and the airline's profitable and rapidly growing routes to China, Japan and the rest of rapidly booming Asia.

Combining these with Delta's excellent trans-Atlantic routes would make Detroit the premier gateway to Asia and a tremendously attractive hub for travelers to Europe and South America.

That can't but help the proposed "airport city," a consolidated passenger and freight logistics center that would include Detroit Metropolitan Airport on the east, Willow Run on the west and some 27,000 now relatively undeveloped acres in between.

Airport City represents one of the very few possible economic development projects on the drawing board with the potential to produce thousands and thousands of jobs in southeast Michigan.

So what's the problem?

Much of it is political, in the person of U.S. Rep. James Oberstar, D-Minn., the chairman of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. He tore into the proposed merger a couple of weeks ago in a piece in *Business Week* that ended, "We should just say no. Hell, no!"

Oberstar is threatening a hearing on what he sees as the evils of the merger, mainly "further consolidation in the airline industry, further reductions in choice for consumers, and probably fewer flights, fewer jobs and higher fares."

Naturally, alert readers will remember that all politics are local — and realize that Oberstar is concerned about what it would mean to Minneapolis if Northwest's corporate headquarters jobs vanish as a result of the merger. Moreover, organized labor is grumbling about possible job losses; Northwest is

heavily unionized, while Delta is mostly non-union. (The pilots, however, are union at both airlines.)

Oberstar also misreads the economic history of the airline industry. Despite the raft of consolidations that have taken place since the Airline Deregulation Act was passed in 1978, the inflation-adjusted cost of air travel has dropped by half, from eight cents per mile to four. Not only that, but a look at the route structures of Northwest and Delta shows very little overlap, which suggests service reductions from a merger would be slight indeed.

But the real potential problem for the merger is not going to be overtly political, no matter how loud Oberstar fumes. It's antitrust law, which puts the matter squarely into the hands of the Department of Transportation and the antitrust division of the Justice Department. The legal issue is whether the merger in and of itself will tend to suppress competition and, thus, increase prices for customers.

One important part of antitrust doctrine has to do with something economists call "ease of entry," which addresses whether a merged company gains sufficient power to deter potential competitors from entering its market. That hasn't been the case so far.

Instead, what's striking about the airline industry is how relatively easy it is for competitors to get into the business — witness the new, low-cost and successful airlines like Jet Blue and Spirit. They're eating the old established carriers' lunch. In economist-speak, the airline industry offers low barriers to entry.

And because those barriers to entry are so low, big and established airlines find it tough to sustain high prices in a given market without attracting new, cheaper competition.

Back in the 1980s, the airline industry began to discover that the revenues of all airlines are hostage to whatever pricing strategy the lowest-priced competitor decides to adopt. If Jet Blue offers cheap fares from Detroit to Chicago, for example, Northwest — or, say, Northwest-Delta — will find it hard to compete successfully on that route without matching that low fare.

Over the years, legacy airlines tried to establish pricing power by setting up "hub and spoke" route systems, all feeding into big hub airports which they could dominate. The strategy worked for a while, but the economic structure of the industry — ease of entry and pricing transparency — doomed the idea. Northwest says that today, low-cost carriers serve all the legacy airline hubs and successfully put downward pressure on airline fares.

Undoubtedly the cut-rate carriers will have a different view. All these arguments will take considerable time (and very high legal bills) to play themselves out before the scrutinizing eyes of the Justice Department. Such scrutiny is important, but at the end of the day the regulators would be wise to approve the Northwest-Delta merger. And folks in Michigan should jump for joy at the prospect.

Phil Power is founder and president of The Center for Michigan, a centrist think tank based in Ann Arbor. The opinions expressed here are his and do not represent the official views of The Center. Power welcomes reader comments at ppower@thecenterformichigan.net.

Doug Fraser worked tirelessly to improve all Americans' lives

We lost a good man. Doug Fraser, the retired president of the United Auto Workers from 1977-83 and distinguished professor of labor studies at Wayne State University, died Feb. 23. He was 91.

Doug Fraser was a measuring stick of goodness. There was a sense of decency and integrity that seemed to permeate his very being.

There was never a time that I had the opportunity to be with him that I did not walk away feeling good about the world and knowing that I had learned and grown from our conversation. This happened recently as we bumped into each other in our hometown of Northville. We talked about state and national politics and how there is a need for leaders, at every level, to realize the economic anxiety and stress that many working people are under in Michigan, America and across the globe and the need to take action to help.

Doug, as he liked to be called, lived a long and productive life. Born Dec. 18, 1916, in Glasgow, Scotland, he spent his life working — and looking out — for the working people of this country. He understood that America's success was built on the blood, sweat and tears of the American worker.

Today, America is a better place because of labor leaders like Doug Fraser. Yet, in that brief encounter standing in the doorway of a Northville restaurant a month or so ago, Doug Fraser lamented about how it seems we have lost the shared sacrifice and common good of what has woven us together as a country.

"A great country extends a ladder, a helping hand, to those below and helps lift them up; this is slipping away," he bemoaned as he took a deep breath, inhaling oxygen from his portable respirator, a remnant of a lifetime of smoking.

Doug had a room-illuminating smile and a quick wit. His roots and rooting for the working man began in the working-class neighborhood of Glasgow, were varnished during the struggles of the Great Depression and were cemented in the auto plants in Hamtramck and Detroit. He was a tough adversary during labor negotiations. He carried out his role with integrity that earned the respect of his members and management alike.

He was a leading American trade unionist and advocate for civil and human rights around the world.

As a Ford Rouge Plant employee, I knew of the legendary Fraser and his fight to save Chrysler Corp. from bankruptcy in 1979. With then-young congressman and later Gov. James Blanchard, they successfully lobbied Congress

Upon retirement from the UAW in 1983, Fraser began a second career as a distinguished professor of labor studies at Wayne State University. It was there that he shared his wisdom and experience with students who were growing up in the 'irrational exuberance' of the past 20 years. I recall seeing the young students gather around the gray-haired old labor leader on the WSU campus as he spun a labor or political tale and challenged them to get involved in the struggles to make America the best it could be for all.

and President Jimmy Carter to support \$1.5 billion in federal loan guarantees. I admired the work Fraser did not only to save a company, but also the lives and livelihood of many working people. This should never be forgotten.

Further, as a life-long Democrat, he proudly marched with the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil rights struggles of the 1960s. He was a strong champion for the auto industry to recruit more minorities and women.

I met Doug Fraser during the first Blanchard for Governor campaign, where I served as deputy campaign manager. The awe and admiration only grew from there.

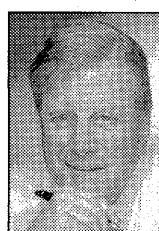
His wife and partner, Dr. Winnie Fraser, a psychologist, shared Doug's passion for people and remains a strong advocate for the weakest among us, the mentally ill.

Upon retirement from the UAW in 1983, Fraser began a second career as a distinguished professor of labor studies at Wayne State University. It was there that he shared his wisdom and experience with students who were growing up in the "irrational exuberance" of the past 20 years. I recall seeing the young students gather around the gray-haired old labor leader on the WSU campus as he spun a labor or political tale and challenged them to get involved in the struggles to make America the best it could be for all.

The former UAW president is now in heaven — organizing the angels, doing what he has done here on earth, focusing his energies on improving the economic and social well-being of working men and women everywhere.

Doug Fraser was a good man and he will be sorely missed.

Tom Watkins is a business and education consultant. He served as Michigan's state superintendent of schools from 2001-05. He welcomes reader comments at tdw@tdw@aol.com.



Phil Power

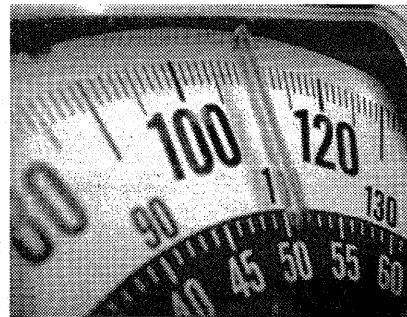


Tom Watkins

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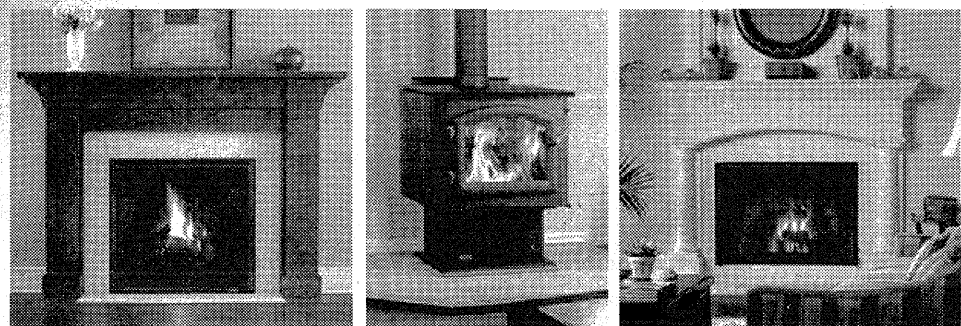
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*Average weight loss based on a random sample of 58 men and 61 women on the medically prescribed diet.

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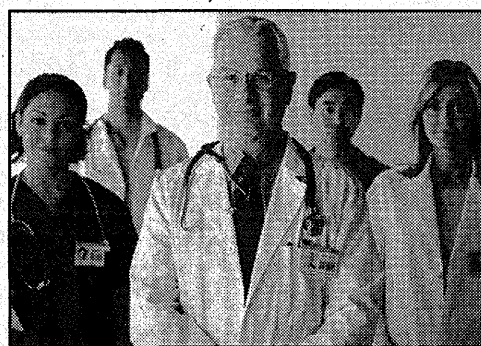
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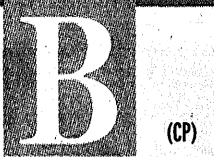
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2008 Boys District Basketball Tournament

TEAM EFFORT

Several 'Cats contribute to 65-58 win over Salem

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Most high school basketball teams turn to a star to lead them in the post-season.

Plymouth turned to a galaxy of stars Monday night in a first-round Class A District showdown against Salem at Novi High School.

The Wildcats received double-digit scoring efforts from four players — and a dynamite blue-collar effort from a fifth — on the way to a thrill-a-minute 65-58 victory over the Rocks.

Senior point guard Brandon Roberts led the winners with 17 points, but he had plenty of help from fellow seniors Garrett Rebain and Navraj Sandhu (12 points each); Mike Hanchett (11); and David Harvey, who only scored five points but was as valuable as anyone on the court with his eight rebounds, five steals and never-ending hustle.

"This was definitely a team effort tonight," said Plymouth coach Tom Van Wagoner. "Our role players did more than just their role, and that's what made the difference."

"We've been playing a lot better during the second half of the season. We're digging in defensively and creating transition baskets. We're playing unselfish basketball and it's showing because we're getting more kids in the scoring column."

Plymouth will take an 8-13 record into Wednesday night's 5 p.m. semifinal clash against Detroit Catholic Central. Novi will take on Northville in the 7 p.m. semi showdown.

Salem finished 9-12 despite exceptional efforts from senior Grant Stone, who capped his stellar career with 19 points and eight rebounds, and junior Joe Posler, who finished with 16 points (eight in the fourth quarter) and five boards.

Van Wagoner said containing Stone was his team's biggest challenge.

"We definitely ran some extra people at Grant tonight," said Van Wagoner. "When he entered the post, we had someone come in early. A couple times we didn't get there quick enough, but overall we defended pretty well."

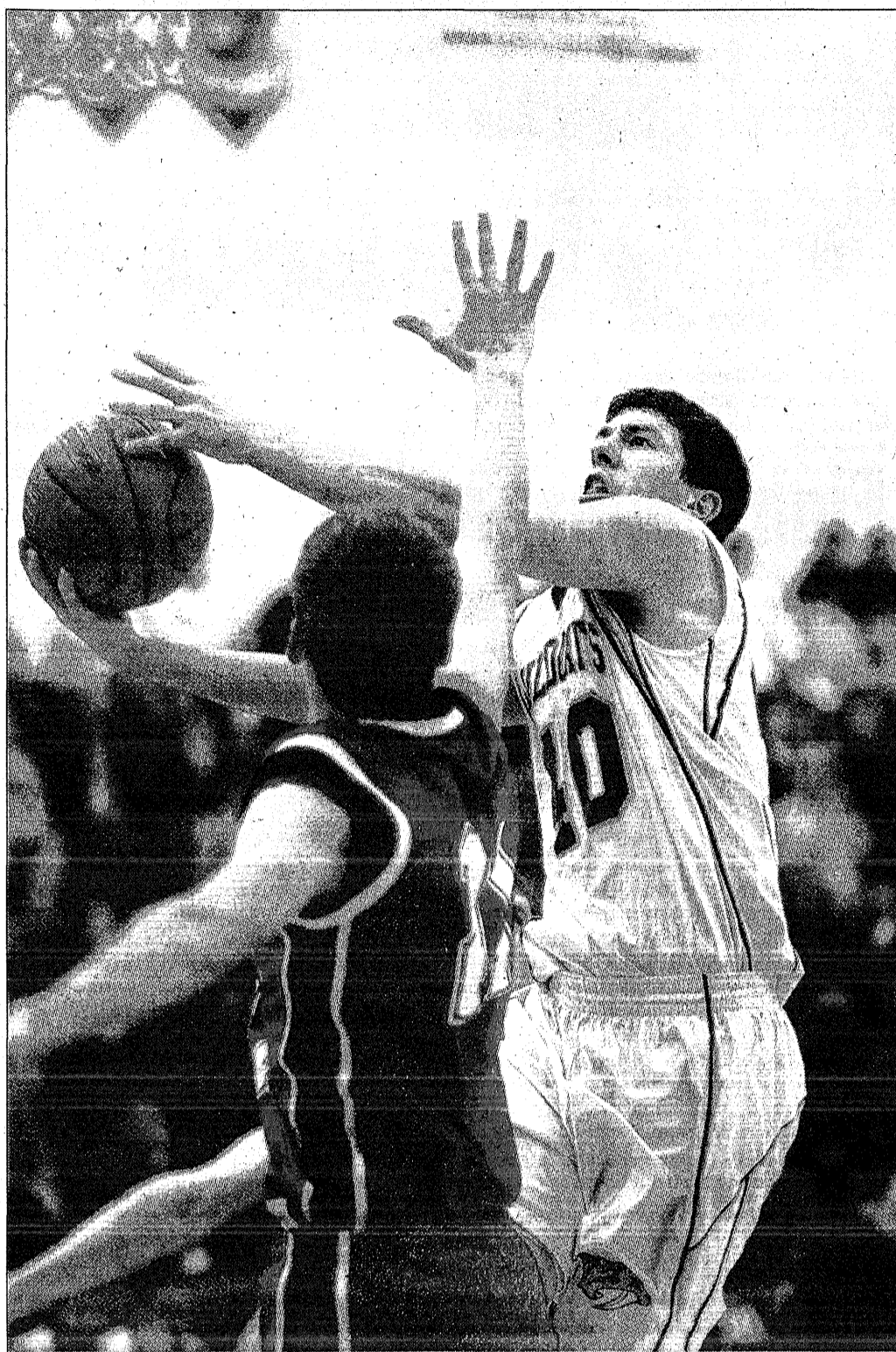
One of the game's pivotal plays turned out to be a dazzling missed dunk by the 6-foot, spring-loaded Roberts on a wide-open fast-break opportunity with 2:30 left in the third quarter.

Following the near-miss slam, the Wildcats went on a 9-0 run to turn a 43-40 deficit into a 49-43 lead.

"The kids really care about Brandon and they knew he was just trying to make a special play, so they seemed to dig in after that," said Van Wagoner.

The Rocks battled back to

Please see **CATS, B3**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Garrett Rebain elevates over Salem's Joe Posler for two of his 12 points in Monday night's 65-58 victory.

Eat your heart out, Dickie V!

I'm not exactly sure how many high school basketball games I've covered since early December, but if each one was a grain of sand, I'm certain they'd fill up a decent-sized sand box.



Ed Wright

I've seen enough hoop games to make even Dick Vitale's head spin.

The back of my right hand has been stamped so many times that it now has a permanent tattoo that resembles something you'd get if you crossed a wildcat, chief, rock, patriot, viking/spartan/warrior and every letter in the alphabet.

Yes, I've seen a lot of hoop, and I've loved just about every minute of it.

That said, none of the games has been more pulse-quickening, up-and-down-the-court exciting than the two Class A District games I witnessed Monday night at Novi High School.

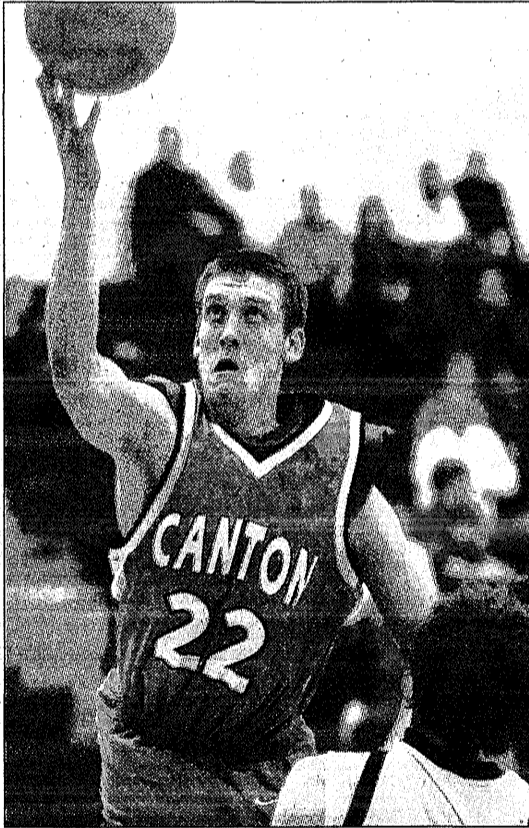
Talk about saving the best for last.

Non-stop highlights

From the opening tip of the Salem-Plymouth nail-biter to the final buzzer of the Canton-Novi cliffhanger, I saw more jaw-dropping spin-dribble drives, oh-my-gosh! fade-away three-point

Please see **WRIGHT, B3**

Canton's Dan Stoney goes strong to the hole during the Chiefs' down-to-the-wire 72-67 setback to Novi Monday night. Stoney, a junior, finished with nine points.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Canton's rally falls just short

Agape bounces Lutheran South. See Page B3.

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton's conversion to "small" ball Monday night nearly resulted in a big-time comeback in its first-round Class A District game against Novi.

With his team trailing 48-39 at the outset of the fourth quarter, Canton coach Dan Colligan inserted a smaller, quicker line-up that nearly could have qualified for a six-foot-and-under league.

The strategy almost worked as the Chiefs scrapped back to within 64-63 on a Chris Bailey put-back with 50 seconds left before eventually falling, 72-67, to the host Wildcats.

The season-ending loss left Canton with a 7-14 mark. Novi, which earned a berth in Wednesday's semifinal game against Northville, improved to 16-5.

"I couldn't be more proud of my team right now," said Colligan. "They battled, didn't give up and kept working. We told them all week to play in the moment — don't worry about the past or what's ahead — and I thought they did that."

"Who knows — if we get a couple more breaks or the ball bounces the right way one more time, we may have been looking at a win. My hat's off to Novi, though. They did an outstanding job tonight."

The Chiefs reached their most dire straights with 30 seconds left in the third quarter when Novi's Brandon Bradford rolled in a driving layup to put the Wildcats up, 48-36.

However, Canton's Dan Stoney delivered a sign of things to come when he swished a long triple to bring his team to within 48-39 at the close of the third quarter.

At the 7:47 mark of the fourth quarter, Canton's 6-foot Donald Haron did an impression of a 747 when he soared high

to challenge Novi's 6-9 Caleb Dean, who was moving in for a potential slam.

Haron was called for a foul on the blocked shot, but the play sent a charge through his teammates and the Chiefs' cheering section.

After Dean misfired on both free throws, Canton freshman guard Dietrich Lever canned a pair of freebies to bring the Chiefs to within 48-41.

With 1:50 left and the Chiefs trailing 61-59, junior guard Marlan Glenn stole the ball at mid-court and attacked the basket before delivering a behind-the-back pass to a trailing Neil Sharma, whose potential game-tying layup rolled around the rim and out.

A second later, Sharma committed his fifth foul, which sent him to the bench after a sterling 14-point, six-rebound effort. Chris Bellamy drained a pair of free throws to give the Wildcats a 63-59

Please see **CANTON, B5**

Haburne's a star on ice, in class

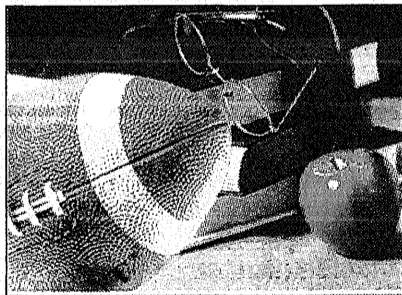
BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

If you think Salem's 6-foot-4, 200-pound hockey defenseman Mike Haburne is talented, productive and intimidating with a hockey stick in his hand, you should see him gripping a No. 2 pencil.

Judging by his 3.8 grade-point average, the Rocks' ultra-successful defenseman has never met a test or an essay he couldn't conquer.

Haburne is a shining epitome of the term student-athlete: The senior National Honor Society member excels as much on the ice as he does sitting at a desk — so much so that he has earned Academic All-State recognition.

"When I was named coach before this season, it was a foregone conclusion that Mike was going to be one of the captains," said first-year Salem coach Ryan



Prep Profile

Ossenmacher. "He's one of those kids that excels off the ice, on the ice and in the community. He's just a well-rounded kid."

"As a captain, Mike's more of leader by example than a screamer. But when he does speak, everybody on the team listens."

More than numbers

Heading into Tuesday night's pre-Regional contest against state-ranked Livonia Churchill, Haburne had compiled two goals

and 11 assists. Although the numbers are solid for a defenseman, they fall way short of describing Haburne's contributions to the team.

"Mike's one of the top defensemen around," said Ossenmacher. "He logs a ton of time and he always plays close to half the game. He provides a good mix of offense and defense."

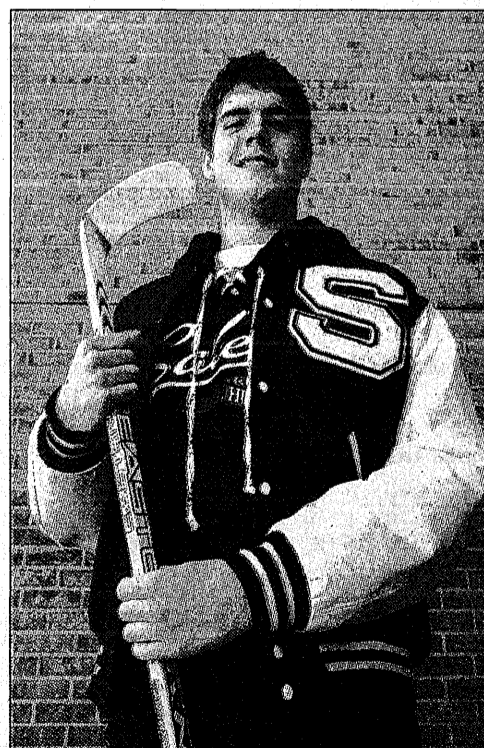
"He's a big, imposing figure out there on the blue line. Guys will shy away from him when they see he's in their path."

Young achiever

Haburne's passion for hockey started burning a short time after he laced up his first pair of skates at the age of "4 or 5."

"I like the sport because you never know what's going to happen every time you step on the ice," he said. "Everybody's never in

Please see **HABURNE, B6**



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Senior Mike Haburne excels on the ice and in the classroom at Salem. The defenseman carries a 3.8 grade-point average.

MHSAA honors two Wildcats

Two Plymouth High School student-athletes earned the Michigan High School Athletic Association's most-distinguished honor recently when they were named recipients of its Scholar-Athlete scholarships.

Seniors David Harvey, who competes in basketball and baseball, and Pam Bhullar, who excels in cross country and track, were among 14 student-athletes from Class A-sized schools to receive \$1,000 scholarships from the MHSAA.

Harvey and Bhullar, who were chosen for the honor based on their academic, athletic and community-service achievements, will be honored at half-time ceremonies of the Class C boys basketball final game, at the Breslin Student Events Center in East Lansing on March 15.

'CATS

FROM PAGE B1

cut their deficit to 51-49 with 5:45 to play on Ross Davis's put-back, but Plymouth countered with a 5-0 run on a Hanchett free throw and baskets from Harvey and Roberts.

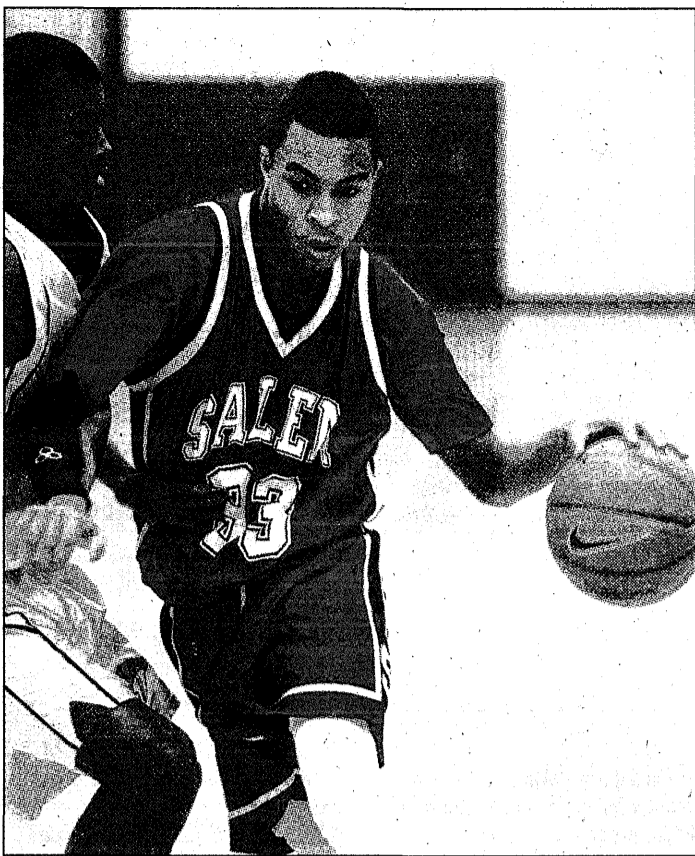
Posler kept Salem in the hunt with eight points over the final 2:50, but the Wildcats hung on thanks to clutch free-throw shooting from Roberts (4-for-4) down the stretch.

Salem led 14-10 after one quarter before the Wildcats rallied to grab a 29-28 half-time lead on Rebin's jumper with 1 tick left.

Plymouth led 46-43 heading into the fourth quarter. Led by Harvey's eight boards, the Wildcats out-rebounded Salem, 29-28.

"Along with rebounding, playing great defense and just scrapping, David does a great job of leading these kids, too," said Van Wagoner. "He may not be our best basketball player, but he has the heart of a lion."

Davis finished his outstanding career at Salem with 10 points and three rebounds. Junior Jim Dexter also played well, contributing six points



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The brilliant high school career of Salem's Grant Stone (with ball) ended Monday night with the Rocks' 65-58 loss to Plymouth. Stone, guarded by Chris Daniels above, finished with 19 points.

and three rebounds in a reserve role.

Plymouth hit 22-of-49 field goals (44.8 percent) and 15-of-25 free throws (60.0). Salem was 22-of-52 from the floor (42.3) and 11-of-19 from the

line (57.8).

Plymouth committed 12 turnovers; Salem registered 17 miscues.

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especially in the case of Lever, who sank 10 of 12 free throws just a few days after getting promoted to the varsity.

During one dead-ball moment when Lever was standing next to Novi's 6-foot-9 center Caleb Dean, I thought somebody's little brother had wandered onto the court.

A few seconds later, Lever dribble-drove through about four Novi players — including Dean — and converted an acrobatic layup.

At that point, I realized, no, that's nobody's little brother — that's a future star.

What's up, MHSAA?

I'd like to interrupt this 99 percent positive column with a mini-rant: In this age of shrinking crowds at high school sporting events, why would the Michigan High School Athletic Association require the Novi gym to be emptied after the first game of Monday's doubleheader so that anyone who wanted to watch both games would be required to pay twice?

I could almost understand it if it were a Public School League District and the crowds were standing-room-only huge.

But the attendance was so low at the beginning of the

first game, I think I knew everyone in the gym on a first-name basis.

Quick goodbyes

Before I close, I'd like to give props to two incredibly talented players who capped their high school careers Monday night: Salem's Grant Stone and Canton's Neil Sharma.

Stone finished up as the Rocks' fourth all-time leading scorer — a feat he accomplished in just three years on the varsity. I always looked forward to watching Salem play because I knew — sooner or later — Stone was going to pull off a move that made you go "WOW!"

When it came to players who combined tenacity, talent and smarts, Sharma was among the best. When he was a sophomore, he played with the poise of a senior.

And in this, his senior season, he played like a junior — a college junior.

The best news for basketball fanatics like myself is that March doesn't even start until Saturday.

I'm not sure how much more I can take — but I'm more than ready to find out.

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Agape cagers sprint past Lutheran South

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

Canton Agape Christian's boys basketball team threw a large helping of pressure defense, several scoops of pinpoint perimeter shooting and a dynamite fast-break attack into the blender Monday night and came away with an impressive 74-50 victory over Lutheran South in the opening round of the Division 4 District tournament at Wyandotte Mt. Carmel High School.

The Wolverines improved

to 14-7 and moved into Wednesday night's semifinal round against Taylor Light & Life.

Agape excelled from the opening tip and raced to a 20-7 advantage during the opening eight minutes.

The Wolverines' lead was cut to 30-19 at the half before they stretched the margin to 55-231 with eight minutes to play.

"Our pressure defense was outstanding," said Agape coach Keith Anleitner. "We forced a lot of turnovers with it and it stimulated our fast

break. We also shot well from three-point range. Ty Majeski had three by himself."

Majeski topped the winners' scoring ledger with 19 points. Other key contributors included Mark Mullett (13 points), Jared Miller (six points, eight rebounds and three blocked shots) and Kevin Reith, who added seven points in a reserve role.

"And Daniel had an excellent game," Anleitner noted. "He had nine points and nine rebounds, and really played well defensively."

WRIGHT

FROM PAGE B1

swishes and get-that-weak-stuff-outta-here blocked shots than a basketball junkie has a right to see in one four-hour span.

Here's how wild Monday night was: I saw a dunk and a near-miss dunk — and the near-miss dunk was more breath-taking.

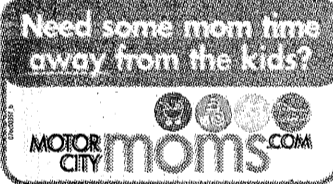
What was amazing was that all of the pressurized shots and highlight-reel passes that unfolded on the Novi High School court Monday night were performed by kids who were barely old enough to shave.

(O.K., the Novi players with the freshly cut mohawks were definitely old enough to shave — or, at least their friends are — but there were only four of them.)

On several occasions, I thought to myself: Are these guys too young to realize that 16-, 17- and 18-year-old kids (and in Canton, freshman guard Dietrich Lever's case, 14-year-old kid) should be firing up rim-bending jumpers and throwing the ball into the fourth row of the stands with their team's season on the line?

Leave it to Lever

Apparently, they were —



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Plymouth icers edge Chiefs in showdown

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

The Plymouth and Canton hockey teams have met numerous times over the past few years, but never were the stakes higher than during Monday night's Division 2 pre-Regional showdown at Eddie Edgar Arena.

Clutch goal-keeping by senior Christian Blick and senior forward Colin Rolfe's second-period goal combined to make the difference in the Wildcats' 3-2 triumph.

The victory earned Plymouth (14-9-2) a berth in Wednesday night's pre-Regional final against WLAAs rival Livonia Franklin, which received a first-round bye.

The opening face-off is set for 7 p.m. at Edgar Arena.

The Wildcats are 1-0-1 against the Patriots this season. They won the first encounter, 4-2, before battling to a 5-all draw last month.

Visit www.hometownlife.com Thursday morning for results of Wednesday night's clash.

Justin Gilliam put the 'Cats on the board first three minutes into the game when he scored off a nifty pass from senior captain Ricky Cigile.

The Wildcats doubled their lead to 2-0 three minutes later on a goal from Jake Jossey that was set up by slick pass from Rolfe.

"We came out a little flat in the second period and Canton scored the first minute in," said Plymouth coach Paul Fassbender.

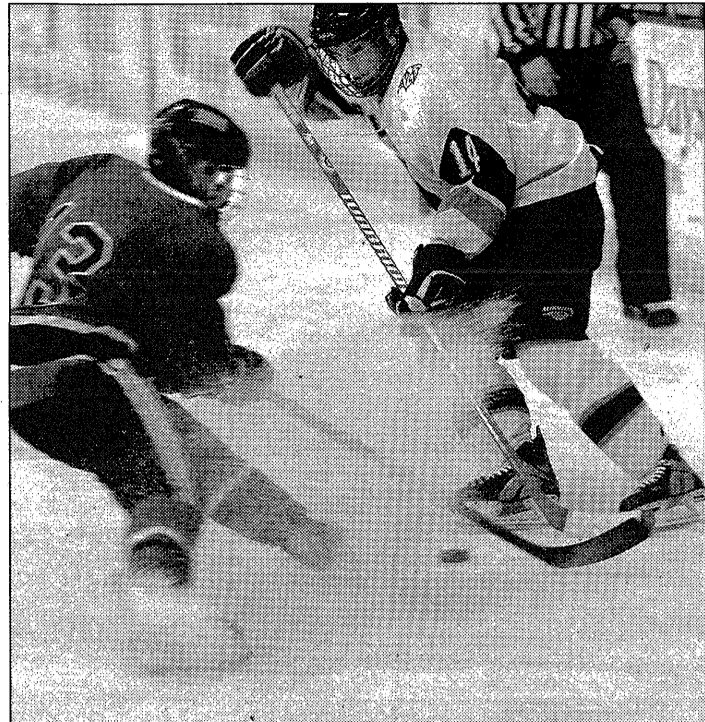
Rolfe scored on a 2-on-1 with four minutes to play in the second period to make it 3-1.

The Chiefs made a strong run in the third period, cutting their deficit to 3-2 with just under four minutes left, but the Wildcats managed to hang on.

"Canton must have had 17 shots on goal in the third period alone," Fassbender noted. "Christian did a great job of covering up the puck and not giving up any rebounds."

Fassbender said he could see his team maturing before his eyes Monday night.

"One example was our sophomore Noel Aspinwall," he said.



BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Plymouth's Colin Rolfe (right), pictured above in a game earlier this season, notched the game-winning goal in Monday night's 3-2 victory over Canton in a Division 2 pre-Regional contest at Eddie Edgar Arena.

"Noel's never been thought of real highly defensively; he's always looking for his points. But with about eight or nine minutes left Monday night, he was the one making sure they didn't get the puck in deep and making sure we had a third guy high. And when he was on the bench, we was constantly reminding his teammates to get the puck out of our zone. "This is a great experience

for our entire team because we're so young."

The Wildcats are one victory away from setting a new school single-season win record.

Zane Birchler played well in net for the Chiefs, Fassbender said.

Details of Canton's goals were not available as of Tuesday night's deadline.

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Churchill skaters power past Salem

BY ED WRIGHT
OBSERVER STAFF WRITER

An accurate gauge of the Livonia Churchill hockey team's adrenaline level Tuesday night was scattered in a thousand tiny pieces just beyond the west boards prior to its Division 1 pre-Regional game against Salem.

There lay the remains of a section of Plexiglass a Charger had shattered with a pre-game warm-up shot.

Adrenaline reading: high. Following a 13-minute glass-replacement delay, the No. 2-ranked Chargers shattered the Rocks' hopes of a long post-season run by skating to a dominating 8-2 victory.

Churchill will take a 20-5 record into Thursday night's pre-Regional final against cross-campus rival and No. 1-ranked Livonia Stevenson.

"We broke one at practice last week Thursday, so something you can go a lifetime without seeing we saw twice in a week," said Churchill coach Pete Mazzoni said of his team's recent Plexiglass-breaking ways.

"I thought we played with a great sense of urgency tonight after the delay. The second half of the first period I thought we really played to our speed. We had a lot of guys going to the net and we kept things simple."

Salem coach Ryan Ossenmacher said his team was done in by its own penalties and its opponents' high skill level.

"Overall, I thought we played well when it was 5-on-5," noted Ossenmacher, whose squad finished 7-17-1 in his first year behind the bench. "It was 2-2 in the third period, which was the period we played 5-on-5 the most."

"We just got beat by a better team. I think they have as good a shot as anybody to win the whole thing."

The Chargers led 3-0 after one period thanks to power-play net-finders from Joshua Proben (from Travis Satkowiak and Daniel Bostick) and Cody Atkins (Stefan Kubus and Mitchell Carpenter); and an even-strength lamp-lighter from Atkins, who was assisted by Bostick and Kyle Burke. Churchill started the second

period with a two-man advantage after the Rocks were whistled for a charging penalty when Charger goalie Derrick Daigneau was slammed into the boards from behind while corraling a loose puck.

Salem quickly learned the following lesson: Never charge a Charger.

Thirty-one seconds later, it was 5-0 in the wake of power-play goals from Nathan Milam and Kyle Burke, who banked a shot off the back of Salem goalie Mark Barkoff's pads.

"If anything, I think the (charging) penalty got the kids excited because it gave them a chance to go on the power play, which has been pretty good for us all year," said Mazzoni. "I think the hit was more coincidental than intentional."

Kubus made it 6-0 at the 11:23 mark of the second when he scored off a pass from Burke.

Despite its large deficit, Salem remained feisty and scored the first two goals of the third period.

Rock junior forward Nick Gennety buried a slick pass from Ian Barnaby with 7:24 left and Joel Cheesman followed suit less than three minutes later when he banged the puck home after securing a rebound shot off the stick of Sam Ott.

Churchill capped the scoring with late goals from Tyler Cotter (from Proben and Nicklaus Harakas) and Keith Yackley (unassisted).

The Chargers outshot the Rocks, 32-13.

"I thought guys like Cody Atkins and Travis Satkowiak had real good games tonight," said Mazzoni. "I was pleased with the way our grinders played tonight."

Daigneau stopped all three shots he saw in the first period before getting replaced by Aaron Crouse, who notched eight saves over the final 30 minutes.

Barkoff and Eric Fiorentino split time between the pipes for the Rocks.

Ossenmacher said his team made strides as the season wore on.

"I thought we made a lot of progress over the course of the season," he said. "We have a very young team, so we have a lot of guys coming back."

Whalers come 'Soo' close to upending Greyhounds

The Ontario Hockey League playoffs do not start for another month, but the Plymouth Whalers and Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds played a game with a playoff atmosphere Saturday night before 3,211 at Compuware Arena.

Brandon MacLean's shootout goal gave the first-place Greyhounds (38-15-2-4, 82 points) a 2-1 victory over Plymouth, which slipped to 32-22-2-3.

There was no scoring through the first two periods as Plymouth goaltender Jeremy Smith and Sault Ste. Marie Kyle Gajewski hooked up in a netminder's duel. In the end, Smith was the game's first star in stopping 46-of-47 shots (including Matthew Lyall's penalty shot at 13:00 of the second period) and Gajewski the second star in stopping 35-of-36 shots.

Plymouth took a 1-0 lead at 10:18 of the third period on Vern Cooper's 17th goal of the year. Gajewski stopped Ryan Hayes' shot from the right wing and Cooper bat-



WALT DMUCH

Plymouth goal-tender Jeremy Smith stopped 46-of-47 shots Saturday night against Sault Ste. Marie.

ted home the rebound into an empty net from the left circle.

Michael Fine tied the game at 11:21 of the period with his eighth goal of

the season as he redirected Wayne Simmonds' pass from the right boards in the Plymouth zone past Smith at the right doorstep.

Sault Ste. Marie outshot Plymouth, 48-36, through 65 minutes.

After a scoreless overtime, the Greyhound sandwiched shootout goals by Matt Caria and MacLean around Smith saves on Dustin Jeffrey, Fine and Simmonds. Plymouth got a shootout goal from Hayes, but Gajewski denied Chris Terry, Andrew Fournier, A.J. Jenks and Joe McCann.

After playing in Sarnia on Friday, Plymouth returns home Saturday against Belleville at 7:05 p.m. and Sunday against Saginaw at 2 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased for all Plymouth games by calling the Compuware Arena at (734) 453-8400 or by going to Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com.

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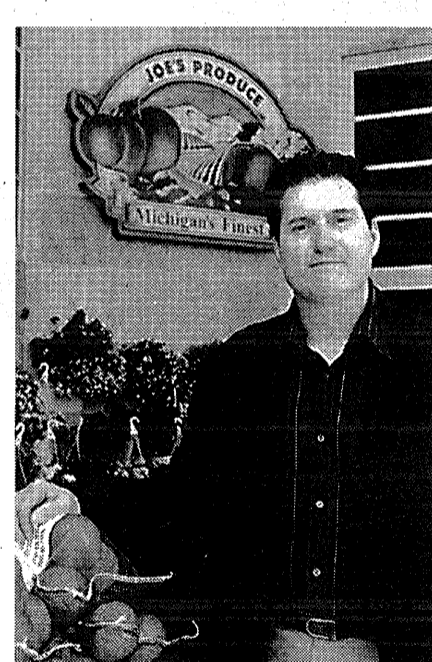
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HABURNE

FROM PAGE B1

the same spot, so you have to read each play as it happens."

Haburne graduated to travel hockey at the age of 9 when he made the Plymouth Stingrays' Mite-A team.

"I have great memories of those days," he said. "I remember traveling around a lot to different places — we went to Toronto a lot. We'd play mini-sticks hockey in the hallways in the hotel rooms. It was a lot of fun."

Haburne went the travel hockey route until his 10th-grade year when, on the advice of a fellow classmate, he joined the

high school ranks.

"I heard how fun (high school hockey) was from Joel Cheesman," said Haburne. "One of the reasons I switched was that I wanted to play in front of more than just parents and grandparents. We get some pretty good crowds at our high school games, especially when we play Canton and Plymouth."

High school hockey: No. 1

Haburne countered the notion that travel hockey is a more-skilled version of the sport than the prep offering.

"Personally, I think high school hockey is a faster, more physical game with deeper teams," he said.

Haburne has not let a pre-season knee injury slow him down this season. If you couldn't see the brace he wears to help stabilize a re-attached torn meniscus, you'd never know he was hurt about a week before the season started.

"The doctors were surprised I was able to come back as fast as I did," he said. "I was a little apprehensive at first, but once I got used to the brace, I was fine. It hasn't slowed me down at all."

An academic future at Western Michigan University awaits Haburne in the fall. He plans on majoring in business with an emphasis in marketing.

"I'm going to try out for their club team, but from what I understand it's pretty com-

'I have great memories of those days,' he said. "I remember traveling around a lot to different places — we went to Toronto a lot. We'd play mini-sticks hockey in the hallways in the hotel rooms. It was a lot of fun.'

MIKE HABURNE

petitive," he said. "Even if I don't make it, I'm still going to keep playing hockey somewhere, hopefully, as long as I can skate."

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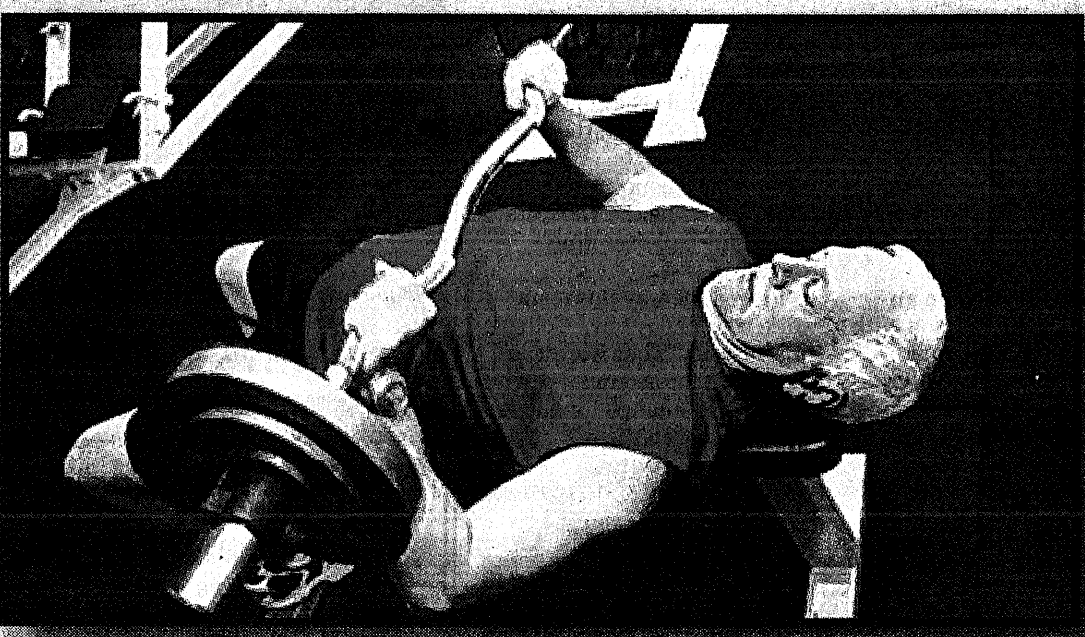


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Heat up winter with catered organic Caribbean cuisine

BY LANA MINI
O & E STAFF WRITER

Everyone, it seems, is so over winter and dreaming of warmer lands.

Here's an idea to escape the blahs: host a dinner party with Caribbean recipes — spicy dishes to heat both the body and spirit.

Fried plantains. Apple Cinnamon Empanada. Stir-fries with island spices and coconut plus a garden winter soup with tortilla toast, and seasonal vegetables like squash, asparagus, carrots, and corn.

Metro Detroit is packed with secrets the rest of the country isn't aware of, and that's lucky for us.

For example, there's actually a catering business, based in Rochester Hills, that specializes in Caribbean food.

Amazingly, it's also organic. Maria LeMay Erlandson is the owner of OrganiKiss, a catering company that serves corporate events, weddings, summer BBQs, winter house parties, non profit groups and more. Erlandson's catered meals reflect several themes. There's the Italian-inspired menu of Italian stew with gnocchi; and a Japanese-themed party menu that includes Teriyaki Vegetables with battered tofu. The *Bambino* kids parties include organic items like pizza bagels and Neapolitan Ice cream with melon balls. After the *Sports Game Parties* feature battered ravioli and *A Night in Acapulco* includes black bean tamales.

There's also the *Night At the Chocolate Party* with lick-able wallpaper and daffodil shaped cups with a main course example of "Luxury Nut and Seed Loaf" with cranberry, apple and brandy sauce. The meal ends with desserts like a chocolate fountain and personalized organic candy bars.

Whew! That's a lot of party ideas! For now, let's focus on the islands.

Erlandson relocated to Michigan from New York just recently. Her business there was strong and now she is launching it in the metro Detroit market.

She tries to be as organic as possible. "Domestic vegetables, grains and produce are 100 percent organic," she said. "Imports like mangoes and plantains are not always organic. Poultry is sometimes organic, always free range and hormone free."

Erlandson specializes in world fusion cuisine. "Which means I use and mix techniques and flavors from Caribbean, Chinese, Indian, Italian, Puerto Rican, Mexican, and of course American cuisine."

Her training? "Life," Erlandson said. "My mother was a chef. She inspired my love for cooking. Also, I've moved around a lot. I spent four years living with a girl from Taiwan and learned about Chinese cuisine from her. I lived in California, and while there I learned a lot about Indian cuisine. I'm Puerto Rican, so all of my Caribbean food knowledge comes from my upbringing. I also took Gourmet Cooking, Food Safety, and Catering certification courses."

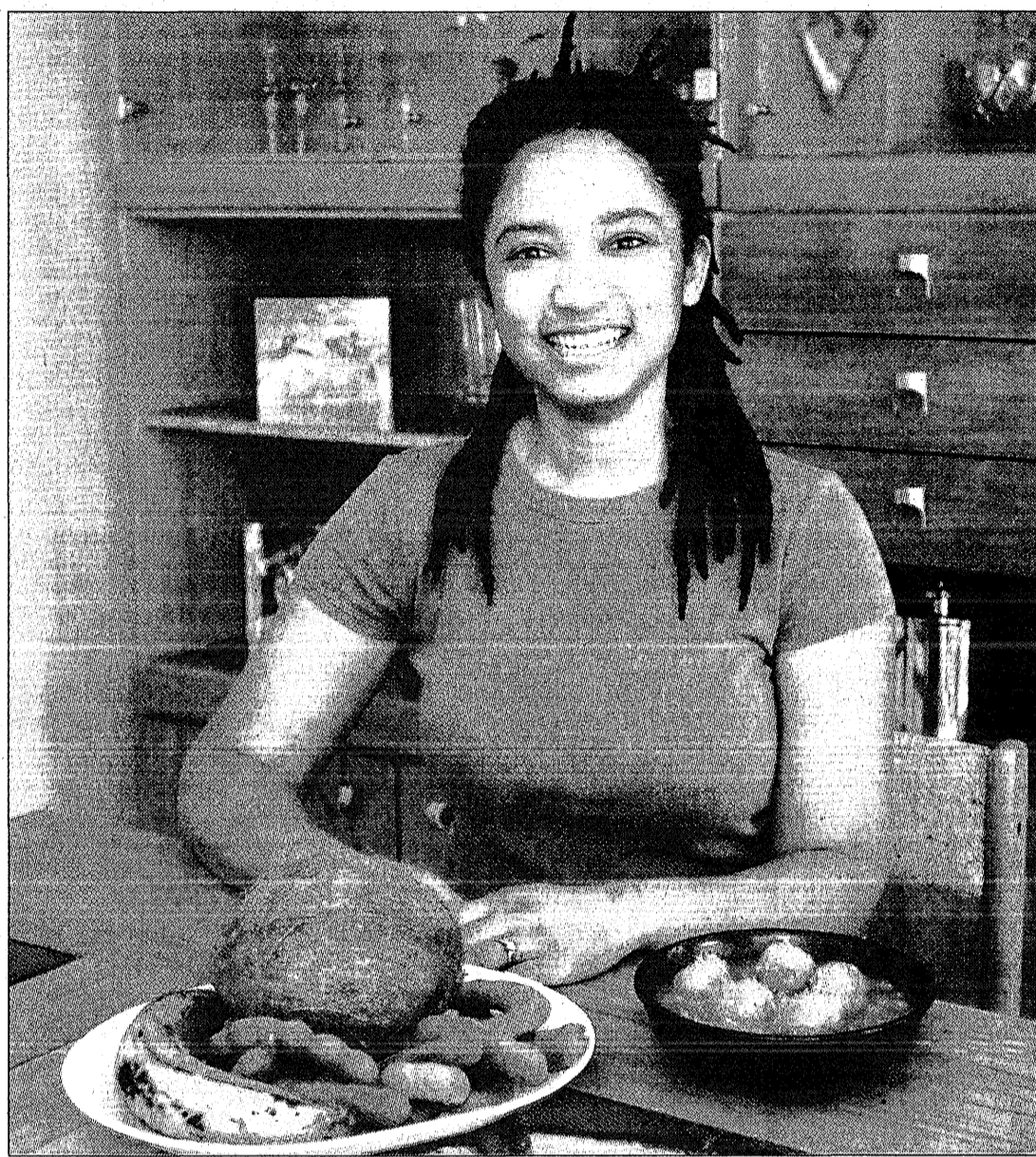
She's been an unofficial caterer since childhood, when she would help her mom cook for parties.

"After moving out on my own I continued doing the same. I just love cooking and watching people eat food I've prepared. That may sound semi-creepy but it's true."

Her reason for going organic is because she wants to serve her clients foods that are healthy, but also at their optimum flavor.

"Looking a little deeper at current day conventional agricultural practices is disturbing," she said. "The effect that pesticides, hormones, etc. have on our ecosystem: Pollution, destroying our planet in a way that will eventually lead to our own extinction. It all just sounds crazy to me."

For more information visit www.organikiss.com



Maria LeMay Erlandson strives to use organic ingredients in her catering company that focuses on a variety of themes from Caribbean to Sushi bars.

STEVE CANTRELL | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Recipes

CARIBBEAN STIR FRY

2 tablespoons olive oil
1 yellow plantain (If you can only find green plantains, place green plantains in paper bag and let sit in a cool dry place for about a week or until they fully ripen.)
5 ounces firm or extra firm tofu
1/2 teaspoon Sofrito (can be found in most major supermarkets with an international or ethnic foods aisle)
1 tablespoon soy sauce
salt to taste
head of broccoli (cut into florets)

In a wok, heat the oil on medium high for 3 minutes. Peel and slice yellow plantain. Single layer plantain slices into wok and let fry for three minutes each side.

Once the plantain is slightly browned on both sides, add tofu, soy sauce and Sofrito, and salt. Stir to distribute seasonings evenly and let simmer (covered) for 10 minutes

Add broccoli, cover and let simmer for another 5 minutes. Serve warm.

TAMARIND COCONUT PLANTAIN BALL

Sweet, Tangy, and HOT. Can be served over rice with a side of vegetables. Used as a substitute for



OrganiKiss' Tamarind-Coconut Plantain ball soup.

meatballs in tomato sauce and served over pasta. Or, add in your favorite vegetables and turn it into a vegetable stew.

20 tamarind pods or 5 tablespoons of tamarind paste (the paste may be in the Thai food section of your local grocer)
1 large coconut
1 yellow bell pepper
1 red pepper

1 orange bell pepper
juice from 1/2 lemon or 1 teaspoon real lemon juice.
1/2 red onion
1/2 cup raw cane sugar
3 green plantains

Bring 6 cups of water to a boil.

Please see **RECIPES, D2**

ACCENTS

'BROWNIE POINTS'

Greystone Bakery recently launched a new line of Do Goodie brownies. Profits from the Do Goodie brownie sales help the Greystone Foundation, which supports jobs, child care, health care and housing for the underprivileged. The bakery was founded in 1982 in Yonkers, N.Y. and produces baked goods and desserts for many of New York City's top restaurants.

The Do Goodie is made with Belgian chocolate and all natural ingredients. Flavors range from the original Chocolate Fudge Brownie, Walnut Fudge, Espresso Bean Brownie and a Brown Sugar Blondie.

Locally, the Do Goodie brownies are available at Good Foods East, 74 W. Maple, in Troy; Plum Market, 3675 W. Maple in Bloomfield Township and Westborn Market, 14925 Middlebelt in Livonia, and 27659 Woodward in Berkley.

HELP THE HOMELESS

For three more days, Kroger customers can help the homeless. Kroger will help feed hungry families within the Detroit metropolitan area by donating a loaf of 24 oz. Kroger White Buttercrust Bread to the Salvation Army Bed and Bread program for every 24 oz. of Kroger White Buttercrust Bread that customers purchase.

According to Rick Going, president of Kroger's Michigan Division, more than 80 stores in the greater Detroit Metro area are participating in the program with a goal to donate 15,000 loaves of bread to the Bed and Bread program. The donation period will continue through March 1.

IT'S CRUNCH TIME

Time is running out to get your Girl Scout Cookies. Cookie booths throughout Wayne and Oakland counties will be set up through early March, selling old favorites as well as two new flavors for 2008 — Lemon Cremes and Sugar Free Chocolate Chips.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program helps girls gain valuable knowledge while providing the community with wonderful treats. Through voluntary participation in this comprehensive leadership program, girls ages 6-17 gain experience and expertise in finance, marketing, and public speaking. Troops that sell Girl Scout Cookies earn money to fund their troop's activities, with additional proceeds benefiting the troop's council. Financial aid, tutoring, diversity awareness, drug abuse and teen pregnancy prevention programs, leadership, creative arts, science and technology programs, and camp maintenance are among the council programs and activities funded in part by the Girl Scout Cookie Program.

To find cookies in your neighborhood, visit www.girlscoutcookies.org.

Morel hunter highlights our favorite fungi



Theresa Maybrier, a morel mushroom hunter from Missouri, appears at Outdoorama Feb. 28-March 2 at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi.

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
O & E STAFF WRITER

It's time to look beyond the icy sidewalks and snow shovels, and think about the outdoors, with a little warmer temperatures, thank you very much.

Outdoor sport enthusiasts can attend the 36th Annual Outdoorama Feb. 28-March 2 at the Rock Financial Showplace in Novi. The show is a popular destination for hunters, anglers, campers, boaters, hikers, conservationists and canoeists.

Show attendees will have a chance to think more about spring with seminars from Theresa Maybrier, a morel

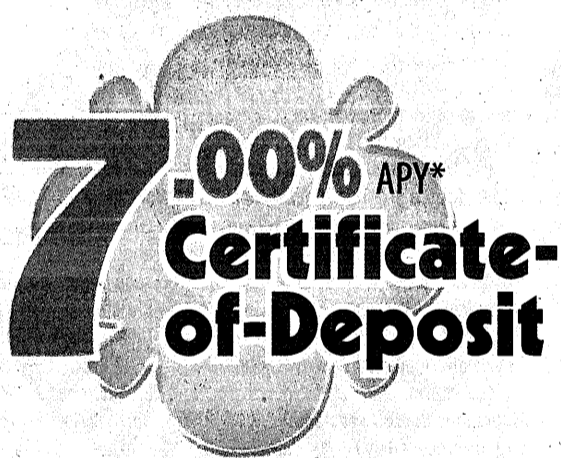
OUTDOORAMA

Dates: Feb. 28-March 2
Hours: 2-9:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday.
Where: Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave., Novi.
Admission: \$9 adults; \$4 children 6 to 14; free for children 5 and under.
Information: www.Outdoorama.com or 800-328-6550.

mushroom hunter from Missouri. Maybrier will speak at 7 p.m. tonight (Thursday) and Friday, 3 p.m. Saturday, and 1 p.m. Sunday.

Other hunting and fishing seminars will be conducted by Greg Abbas, Denny Geurink and Mark Martin, along with special appearances by *Michigan Outdoors* hosts Jimmy Gretzinger and Kelly Gotch and MUCC magazine editor Tony Hansen. "Big Buck Night," "Wildlife Encounters," a daily fish fry, and Milt Wilcox's "Ultimate Air Dogs" are among many special features. Kids' activities include a trout pond and beach play area. The show will be held in conjunction with the first annual Cottage and Lakefront Living Show, providing the public with

Please see **OUTDOORAMA, D2**



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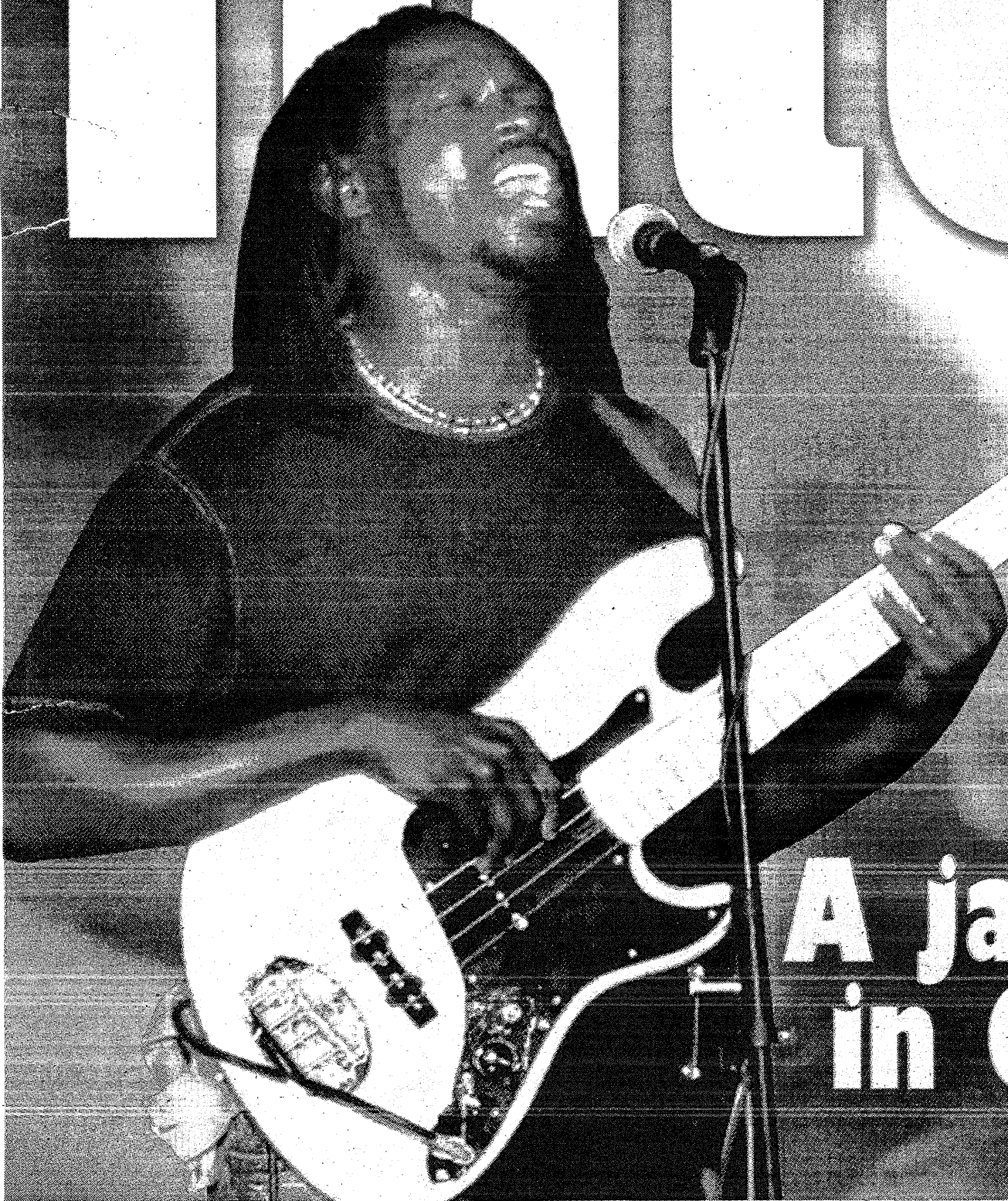


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Michigan Opera Theatre takes on Neverland

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Canton native Dawnell Dryja has been dancing since she could walk - courtesy of lessons from her mom. Now the Grand Rapids Ballet Company dancer takes on the magical role of Tinkerbell in the childhood classic *Peter Pan*, coming to the Detroit Opera House.



Dryja

The show follows on the heels of 2007's successful *Where the Wild Things Are*. The company will perform a limited

two-show run in which fairies like Tinkerbell will soar through the sky.

Currently in her sixth season with the Grand Rapids Ballet, Dryja moved back to Michigan after working with the Tulsa Ballet. "I wanted to be closer to home," she said. "It's a smaller company. There are a lot of performances."

PETER PAN

What: The Grand Rapids Ballet Company presents "Peter Pan."
When: 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 1.
Where: Detroit Opera House, 1526 Broadway, Detroit.
Tickets: \$15-\$35, call (313) 237-SING (7464).
Ballet Class: Dancers ages 10-13 can register for a special ballet class at 11 a.m. Saturday, March 1, in the 5th floor dance studio of the Ford Center for Arts and Learning at the Detroit Opera House. Cost is \$15.
More information: Visit www.MichiganOpera.org.

Dryja performed in a two weekend run of *Peter Pan* in Grand Rapids. "It's been well-received," she said.

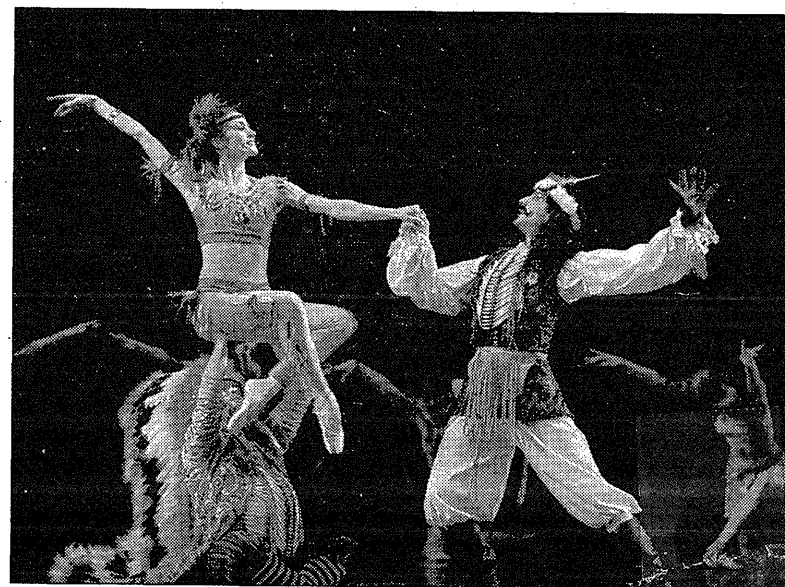
This is the first show Dryja's done that requires flying. Her costume is just elaborate enough to hide the harnesses, she said.

"Having to wear a harness is not very conducive for ballet. But we make it work."

The story, originally penned by Scottish playwright J.M. Barrie, is meant to appeal to all ages. Michigan Opera Theatre General Director Dr. David DiChiera called the ballet "timeless" and "something both kids and adults can enjoy."

Dryja, who also teaches dance, said the show is not only appropriate for young audiences, it includes young cast members. The Grand Rapids Ballet Company has cast 10 children from the metro Detroit area to perform as Lost Boys. Dryja's nephew, 9-year-old Ian Smith of Grosse Ile, will be among them. She's looking forward to seeing family and friends in the audience as well.

While the story is familiar, the show - crafted by artistic director Gordon Peirce Schmidt - is new to Detroit audiences. It includes music like Rossini's *William Tell Overture*, Gounod's *Funeral March for the Marionettes*, and Saint-Saëns' *Samson and*



TEREZ PHOTOGRAPHY

The Grand Rapids Ballet brings characters like Tigerlily, Smee and Hook from 'Peter Pan' to the Detroit Opera House March 1.

Delilah.

Those who attend the 2 p.m. matinee performance are welcome to join in the Peter Pan Parade, and audience members can meet the entire cast.

"It's a classic," said Dryja of *Peter Pan*. "I hope (the audience) enjoys it as much as we enjoy doing it."

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Inside this week's

PURE ENTERTAINMENT
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GANNETT

FAMILY - 2

Canton native Dawnell Dryja has been dancing since she could walk, and now she takes on the magical role of Tinkerbell in "Peter Pan," coming to the Detroit Opera House.

HOT TICKET - 4

Find out why Kristen Doyle of Bloomfield Hills enjoys Gogol Bordello.

GET OUT - 5

Stepping out this weekend? Check out our Entertainment listings. (And for a longer list, visit www.hometownlife.com.)

TABLE HOPPING - 6

La Marsa Mediterranean Cuisine has opened a second location in Bloomfield Township.

FILM - 9

Jessica Lange plays a widow in a silent battle to fulfill her husband's wishes in "Bonneville."

TV - 9

ABC's "Lost" keeps getting better and better.

ART - 10

A dinner auction takes on a 1960s costume theme, and helps out the Plymouth Community Arts Council.

CLASSICS - 11

Michael Feinstein sings American songbook classics Saturday at the Music Hall for the Performing Arts.

Observer & Eccentric
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Pathe Jassi performs at the Black Lotus in Clawson on Tuesdays.

World Music Experience

Pathe Jassi crosses literal, musical boundaries

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

Jazz musician Pathe Jassi is recognized on the streets of the metropolitan area of Dakar, Senegal in West Africa (population 2.5 million) by strangers.

Genre: Senegalese with Latin and jazz

Where: Black Lotus Brewing Company, 1 E. 14 Mile, Clawson, (248) 577-1878

When: 8-11 p.m. Tuesdays

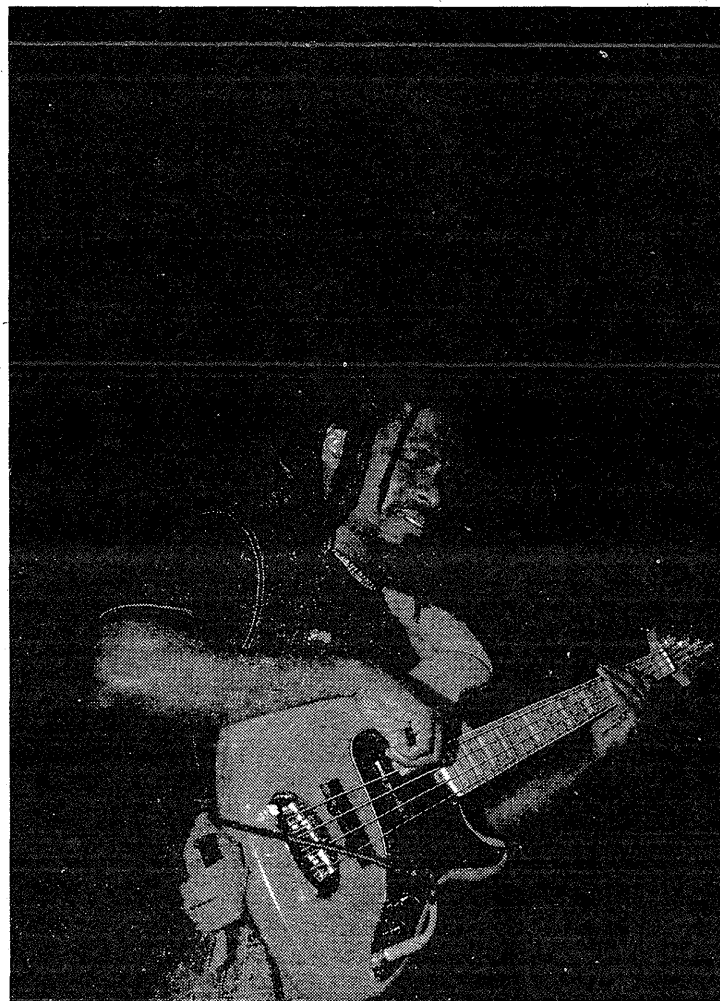
Band members: Pathe Jassi, singer and bass player; Wesley Renolsrey, keyboardist; Jeff Canady, drummer; and Tom Stoetker, guitarist

Here in metro Detroit, as Jassi unloads his musical equipment in the parking lot of Clawson's Black Lotus Brewery, where the seating capacity isn't more than 200, passers-by notice him by his dreadlocks and bright smile, not by his fame.

Unfolding on Tuesday nights over the last three weeks at Black Lotus is a new chapter in Detroit's rich jazz history.

Jassi is a bass player who has toured and recorded with West Africa's greatest musicians such as Youssou N'Dour, mainstream Africa's most celebrated singer; and Cheikh Lo. In Detroit, Jassi plays along side the big jazz names here - trumpeter Marcus Belgrave, clarinetist and saxophonist Wendell Harrison and guitarist Sean Blackman.

The Senegalese-born and raised musician, residing in the Motor City for just six years, is emerging onto Detroit's jazz forefront, finally as a



Pathe Jassi tours and records with West Africa's most well-known musicians. Now he performs regularly in Clawson, leading his new band.

frontman in his newly created band, Pathe Jassi and the World Music Experience.

He sings and plays bass in the quartet.

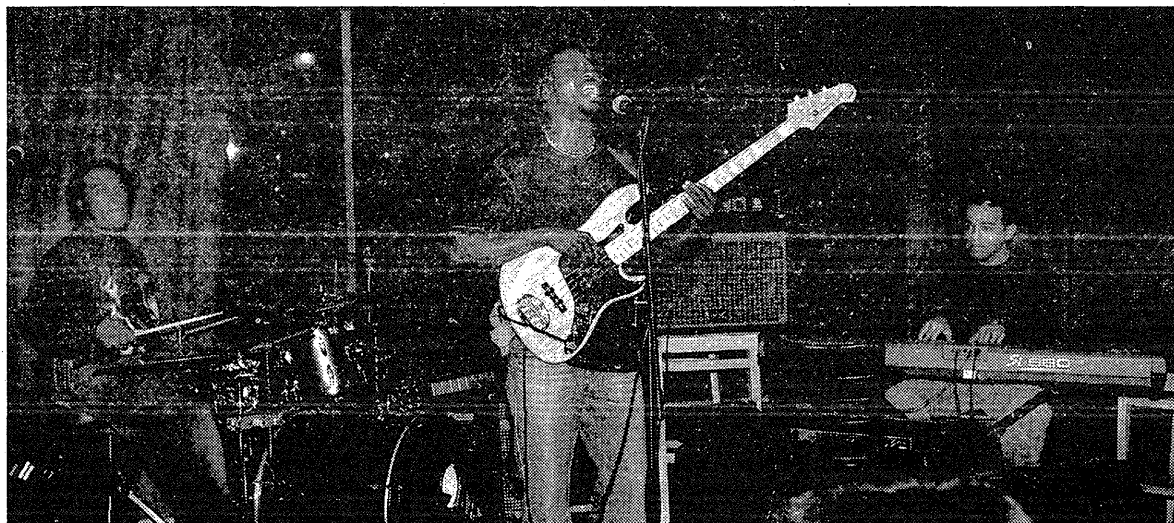
The music is a joyous, jazz blend of influences of Latin/Cuban/Detroit jazz and Senegalese.

Word-of-mouth is spreading about Pathe Jassi and the World Music Experience at Black Lotus. Jassi takes to the stage at 8 p.m. on Tuesdays, and many don't leave until the show ends at 11 p.m.

"For me it's all about the groove," Jassi said enthusiastically with a thick accent. Although his lyrics are in Senegalese

Hot Ticket

Please see **WORLD, E11**



The band's members hail from the Dominican Republic, Senegal and Detroit and those origins add elements into the music.

Hot
Ticket

Gogol Bordello

SEE THEM LIVE

When: 7 p.m. Monday, March 3

Where: Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 W. Fourth, Royal Oak, (248) 399-2980

Genre: A multi-ethnic gypsy punk band with most members from Eastern Europe. The band is known for its highly energized, unique gypsy rock shows and extremely loyal fan base.

Admission: \$20 in advance or \$23 at the door.

Hear them:

www.myspace.com/gogolbordello
The song "Start Wearing Purple" is becoming the band's anthem.



Gogol Bordello performs in Royal Oak March 3. Frontman Eugene Hutz's style is the inspiration for Gucci.

Eastern Europe meets punk rock

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

One of Kristen Doyle's favorite recent memories was singing side-by-side with Gogol Bordello's frontman Eugene Hutz before she stage-dived into the audience at the Majestic Theatre.

Doyle, 17, of Bloomfield Hills, is a diehard fan of the band Gogol Bordello, folkloric eastern European sounds fused with punk rock, an emerging musical trend of gypsy punk rock. The fan base for this genre is rapidly growing as Bordello, a band that appears gypsy-like as a constant touring tribe, returns to Michigan for its second show in less than a year.

On Monday, March 3, they play at the Royal Oak Music Theatre and just a few months before, they played soldout shows at the Majestic Theatre. The venue size increases each time Bordello rolls into town.

Today Gogol Bordello has become so influential that Hutz is the inspiration behind Gucci designer Frida Giannini's Fall 2008/2009 collection. Gucci's collection is reminiscent of gypsy folklore fused with rock and avant

garde antiques - as branded by Gogol Bordello.

For Doyle, Bordello shows aren't just concerts, they're events to celebrate. She attended the band's shows several times in Detroit and has "road-tripped" out of state to catch them.

"Their music just emits this energetic weirdness that's unheard of anywhere else," Doyle said. "Also, the obvious influences of Romani (the traditional term for gypsy), Eastern European, and other cultures make their entire sound so much more intense and memorable than anything else I've heard."

Doyle had the pleasure of meeting the band after their last show.

"We walked out late and there were frontman Eugene (Hutz) and (violinist) Sergey sitting in the parking lot," Doyle said. "Both of them were so welcoming and energetic, despite the fact that I'm sure they get fans swamping them all the time. Sergey wanted to give me his jacket because he thought I looked cold."

"Eugene has this twinkle in his eye, and his gold tooth, that just embodies the entire gypsy-punk culture. I also met bassist Thomas

Gobena at the Cleveland show and had an interesting conversation with him about Ethiopian politics."

The band members are from Ethiopia, Florida, Russia, Ecuador, the Ukraine and Asia. Their influences are The Clash, The Pogues and Romani.

"Gogol blasts this energy of 'amazingness' (sic) at everyone," Doyle said. "Hutz is up there dancing like a mad man and sweating until it looks like he just jumped into a pool. "Drummers and dancers Pam Racine and Elizabeth Sun add their crazy percussions, and then you see an older bearded violinist, wearing a Slayer t-shirt. The crowd is so into that everyone is just in this huge pit of love. I've been to so many shows were people throw punches, trample people, get in fights, and knock each other's beers over. At Gogol its different, there's none of that stuff."

Bordello is also featured in Madonna's new upcoming film *Filth & Wisdom*. The tour promotes the band's critically hailed CD *Super Tantra*, earning a No. 14 spot on Rolling Stone's Top 50 Albums of the Year in 2007.

Send, fax or e-mail items for consideration in Get Out! at least two weeks in advance to Ken Abramczyk, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009, fax (248) 644-1314 or e-mail kabramcz@hometownlife.com. Be sure to include a short summary with details of the event, address, date and time, a phone number and/or Web site that members of the public can contact for more information. For an extended calendar listing, visit the Filter section online at www.hometownlife.com.

ART EXHIBITS

Detroit Society of Women Painters and Sculptors: Juried Art show March 2-30, reception 2-4 p.m. March 30, Livonia Civic Center Library, 32777 Five Mile, (313) 885-2368.

Plymouth Coffee Bean: "You Are What You Eat," pop art by Plymouth resident Tony Hope, through March, artist meet-and-greet, 8 p.m. March 7, 884 Penniman Ave., (734) 454-0178, www.myspace.com/plymouth-coffeebean.

Waterford Cultural Council: "Quiet Moments," group exhibition of Oakland County painters, Feb. 29-April 3, opening reception 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 29, WCC's de la Ferriere Gallery, 2303 Crescent Lake Road, Waterford, (248) 618-7529.

ART GALLERIES

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: "Take a Look Inside the BBAC" through Feb. 29, free. "2008 Michigan Fine Arts Competition," largest all media competition in Michigan, March 14-April 11; opening reception 6-8 p.m. March 14, free. Competition juror Brian Rutenberg will give a talk 11:30-12:30 p.m. March 15, free. 1516 Cranbrook (between 14 and 15 Mile roads), Birmingham, www.BBArtCenter.org, (248) 644-0866.

Clay, Etc. Studio and Gallery: Tea Time at Clay, Etc., through March 31, 701 Livernois, Ferndale (248) 399-3294.

Lawrence Street Gallery: Visual Music by Frances Cocagne, March 5-29, opening reception 6-9 p.m. March 7, 22620 Woodward, Ferndale (248) 544-0394, www.lawrencestreetgallery.com.

Sherry Washington Gallery: Winter Solstice: Paintings, group exhibition, through April 12, 1274 Library Street, Detroit. (313) 961-4500, www.sherrywashingtongallery.com.

Susanne Hilberry Gallery: Winterfresh, Brian Mahoney, through March 1, 700 Livernois, Ferndale (248) 541-4700, www.susanehilberrygallery.com. The Print Gallery: 29173 Northwestern Hwy., Southfield www.EverythingArt.com, (248) 356-5454.

ART, ETC.

4th Avenue Gallery: Good-bye to winter party, refreshments and live music, 7-11 p.m. March 7, 210 S. 4th St., Ann Arbor.

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: Winter workshops: Portfolio Development for the Fashion Designer, 12:30-4:30 p.m. March 1, high school students welcome, \$30, members/\$70 guests, \$10 materials; Digital Photography, 7-10 p.m. March 3 & 12, \$115/\$155, \$25 lab fee; Flower Painting Workshop, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. March 8, \$60/\$100; 1516 S. Cranbrook, Birmingham, www.BBArtCenter.org, (248) 644-0866.

Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center: Spring break art camps, grades 1-8, March 24-28, 1516 Cranbrook Rd., Birmingham, (248) 644-0866, www.BBArtCenter.org.

D & M Art Studio: Oil and Acrylic painting classes for teens 11 and up, 4:30-5:30 p.m. Fridays; register for 18th Summer Art Camp "Wild Things"; free portfolio consulting for college bound art students. 8491 N. Lilley Rd., Canton, \$24, (734) 453-3710, www.dmartstudio.com.

Janice Charach Gallery: Arts Events Lecture Series with David Morrison and Lisa Van Allsburg on "Carpets of Israel from the Bezalel School of Arts and Crafts," at 7 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 28, Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit, 6600 W.



Maple Road in West Bloomfield.

Plymouth Community Arts Council: An Artful Affair: Mod, 18th Annual Dinner Auction, '60s era costumes optional, 6 p.m. March 7, Laurel Manor Conference Center, 39000 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, \$85 (734) 416-4278, www.plymoutharts.com.

BALLET

Detroit Opera House: "Peter Pan," 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. March 1, \$15-\$35, 1526 Broadway, Detroit, (313) 237-SING.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Henry Ford Museum: Quilting Genesis 2: The Improvisational Quilts of Susana Hunter; Minds on Freedom, call for times and dates; Montgomery Bus Boycott Tribute Walk, Made in America, Your Place in Time, Rosa Parks Bus, special food offerings at the Michigan Cafe, visit www.thehenryford.org for information.

Rackham Symphony Choir: Michigan premiere of Donald McCullough's "Let My People Go! A Spiritual Journey Along the Underground Railroad," Feb. 29-March 1, choir performs with the Marygrove College Choir and Memorial Bach Choir, Marygrove College Liberal Arts Theatre, 8425 W. McNichols, (313) 404-0222, www.rackhamchoir.org.

CHORAL

Madonna University: Voice master class for high school students, chance to win prizes and perform at March 30 public recital, class is March 1, \$20, to register, call (734) 432-5715, www.madonna.edu/pages/music.cfm.

CLASSICAL

Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival: Fuze the Muze - A Celebration of Musical Expression, with the Arts League of Michigan, 7 p.m. March 2, Christian Tabernacle Church, 26555 Franklin, Southfield, guests are asked to donate a bag of non-perishable food, (248) 559-2097, www.greatlakes-chambermusic.com.

Livonia Symphony Orchestra: Marching into Spring concert, 7:30 p.m. March 8, Schmidt Auditorium, Clarenceville High School, 20155 Middlebelt, Livonia, (734) 421-1111, www.livoniasymphony.com.

Macomb Symphony Orchestra: "The World's Greatest Melodies," 3 p.m. March 2, (586) 286-2222, www.macombsymphony.org.

Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts: Michael Feinstein, March 1, Ticketmaster and Music Hall box office, 350 Madison, Detroit, www.musicall.org, (313) 887-8500.

University Musical Society: Orion String Quartet, 8 p.m. March 5, Rackham Auditorium, 915 E. Washington, Ann Arbor (734) 764-2538.

CLUBS

Edison's: The Push, Feb. 28; Bazooka Charlie, Feb. 29-March 1; 220 Merrill, Birmingham (248) 645-2150.

The Magic Stick: SIA, March 1; Tapes n' Tapes, April 12, 4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 833-9700.

The Majestic Theatre: Yellowcard, March 13; 4120 Woodward Ave., Detroit, (313) 833-9700.

The Park Bar/Underpark Theater: Doop & The Inside Outlaws, March 1, 2040 Park Ave., Detroit. \$7.

COMEDY

Ann Arbor Comedy Showcase: Mark Sweeney, Feb. 28-March 1; 314 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor (734) 996-9080, www.aacomedy.com.

Fox Theatre: Chris Rock, Feb. 29 and March 1, \$65.50-\$99.50; Frank Caliendo, March 8, \$42.75; at 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515.

Holly Hotel: Norm Stulz, Feb. 29-March 1; Don Reese, March 7-8; 110 Battle Alley, Holly (248) 634-5208.

The Second City: Sex and the Second City, opens March 6; 42705 Grand River Avenue in Novi, (248) 348-4448, www.secondcity.com.

CONCERTS

The Ark: Concert Series to honor program director Dave Siglin's retirement, March 6-9, featuring Arlo Guthrie, Anne Hills, Barry O'Neill, David Jones, John Roberts & Tony Barrant, and Michael Cooney, along with Cheryl Wheeler, Chris Smither, John Gorka and Susan Werner, 316 S. Main, Ann Arbor (734) 763-TKTS, www.ticketmaster.com.

Cobo Arena: Rockstar Taste of Chaos Tour with Avenged Sevenfold, Atreyu, Bullet For My Valentine, Blessthefall, Mucc, D'spaysray, The Underneath, March 8, 301 Civic Center Drive, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.

The Fillmore-Detroit: Chevelle and Finger Eleven, March 5; 2115 Woodward, Detroit. Call (248) 645-6666.

The Fox Theatre: Jill Scott, March 21; O'Jays with The Whispers, March 22; Marvin Winans with Tye Tribbett, March 23; 2211 Woodward, Detroit, Ticketmaster.com (248) 433-1515.

Majestic Theatre: Galactic, April 13; Anti-Flag, April 18; Reverend Horton Heat, April 26,

4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit (313) 833-9700.

Michigan Theatre: Steve Earle with Allison Mooré, March 5, 603 E. Liberty, Ann Arbor. (248) 645-6666.

The Palace of Auburn Hills: Three Days Grace, March 21; Avril Lavigne with Boys Like Girls, March 22; Lynyrd Skynyrd and Hank Williams Jr., April 19; (248) 645-6666 or Palacenet.com.

Royal Oak Music Theatre: Nofx, March 6, 318 W. Fourth Street, Royal Oak, (248) 645-6666.

St. Andrew's Hall: Blind Melon, March 16; 431 E. Congress, Detroit, (248) 645-6666.

DANCE

Detroit Ignition Dance Team: The Spark will hold a dance clinic March 8 for ages 7-18 at High Velocity Sports, Canton. Participants will perform at the Detroit Ignition soccer game 4:35 p.m. March 9 at Compuware Arena, Plymouth. \$55 includes game ticket. Register by March 3, www.detroitignition.com, (248) 304-2855 ext. 1355.

University Musical Ensemble: Leila Haddad, March 12, Power Center, 121 Fletcher, Ann Arbor (734) 764-2538, www.ums.org.

FAMILY

Campus Martius Park: Skate at the rink through March 16, (313) 963-9393 or visit www.campusmartiuspark.org for hours and admission prices, Woodward Avenue between Forst Street and Michigan Avenue.

Outdoorama: Feb. 28-March 2, Rock Financial Showplace, 46100 Grand River, Novi, \$9 adults, \$4 children 6-14, www.Outdoorama.com, (800) 328-6550.

The Palace of Auburn Hills: Disney On Ice Presents: "High School Musical The Ice Tour," Feb. 29-March 2, Palacenet.com, The Palace Box Office and all Ticketmaster centers, (248) 377-0100.

FILM

Detroit Historical Museum: "Art in the Stations: The People Mover," part of winter film series, 1 p.m. March 8-9, 5401 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 833-1805, www.detroithistorical.org.

Movies at the Marquis: "To Catch a Thief," March 1; "Some Like It Hot," March 8; "Casablanca," March 29; doors open 7 p.m., 135 E. Main, Northville, www.downtown-northville.co.

Penn Theatre: "A Hard Day's Night," Feb. 28; tickets \$3; free tickets at Michigan Made & More, Plymouth Coffee Bean, Hands On Leather (734) 453-0870, www.penntheatre.com.

FOOD AND WINE

Downriver Council for the Arts: The Art of the Brew, 5-8 p.m. March 2, fund-raiser for council, Fort Street Brewery, 1660 Fort St., Lincoln Park, (734) 287-6103 or e-mail dc4arts@downriverarts.org.

JAZZ

Cliff Bells: Scott Gwinnell Jazz Orchestra, 9:30 p.m. Wednesdays; Jesse Palter Quartet 9:30 p.m. Thursdays; Social Sundays featuring blues, roots, americana at 8 p.m., 2030 Park, Detroit (313) 961-2543.

Detroit Windsor Jazz Club: Saturdays at Shield's (1-4 p.m.), Dave Tatrow and Friends, March 1; Tom Saunders and the Detroit All-Stars, March 15; Ragtime Rick, April 5; Dave Bennett Quartet, April 19; Chuck Moss and the Paint Creek Jazz Band, May 3; Kerry Price and Friends, May 17; 25101 Telegraph, Southfield (248) 356-2720.

Ecumenical Theological Seminary: Jazz Vespers, concert worship services, 6-8 p.m. March 9, 2930 Woodward, Detroit, (313) 831-5200, Ext. 209, www.etseminary.edu.

Southfield Public Library: Jazz & Blues series with Gary T. Winslow, 6:30 p.m. Feb. 28, Southfield Municipal Complex, 26300 Evergreen Road, www.southfieldlibrary.org (248) 796-4224.

University Musical Society: SFJAZZ Collective, 8 p.m. March 13, Hill Auditorium, 825 N. University, Ann Arbor (734) 764-2538.

MORE MUSIC

Mario's of Troy: Expedition, March 7, 1477 John R, just south of Maple, Troy.

Michigan Fingerstyle Guitar Society: Michael Chapdelaine, 7:30 p.m. March 1, 22331 Woodward, Ferndale, www.fingerstyle.org.

Palmer Woods Concert Series: Violinist Jannina Barefield, March 15; Straight Ahead Trio, April 26; A. Spencer Barefield & Donald Mayberry, May 24, tickets \$25 per concert or \$100 for the series, (313) 920-4864.

MUSEUMS

Arab American National Museum: Ferndale's White Rabbit Resources will host six, free, daily hour-long meditation sessions to ease stress, sessions open to the public, 6:15 p.m. Feb. 28 to March 4, at the museum, 13624 Michigan Avenue, Dearborn, (313) 582-2266.

Cranbrook Art Museum: "Richard Knight: Photographing Saarninen," through March 22; "From Frank Lloyd Wright to George Nakashima: Uncovering the John Bloom Bequest," through March 22; "William Massie: An American House," March 7-Sept. 14, all at 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills, call (877) GO-CRANBROOK (1-877-462-7262) or visit www.cranbrook.edu.

Cranbrook Institute of Science: The PGA Championship History Exhibit, golf artifacts and memorabilia, May 23-July 30, museum's west entrance building, free with museum admission, 39221 Woodward, Bloomfield Hills (248) 645-3200, http://science.cranbrook.edu.

Detroit Institute of Arts: MonicaBlair performs 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. Feb. 29; "Julie Mehretu: City Sitings" now through March 30; Nelly McKay performs 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. March 7; March 9 is Target Free Family Sunday; "Life's Pleasures: The Ashcan School's Brush with Leisure, 1895-1925," March 2-May 25; Guided tours in January, 1 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays; 1, 6 and 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 1 and 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, 5200 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Call (313) 833-7900.

The Henry Ford: "With Liberty and Justice for All," through Feb. 29; Alan Axelrod discusses Edison's inventions, March 1, at 20900 Oakwood Blvd., west of the Southfield Freeway and south of Michigan Avenue, Dearborn. Additional charges and varying hours for entry to Greenfield Village, Ford Rouge Factory Tour and IMAX Theatre. Call (313) 982-6001 or visit www.hfmgv.org.

Plymouth Historical Museum: "Batter Up! Generations of Baseball" exhibit open through June 1, at 155 S. Main, Plymouth. Hours are 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Friday-Sunday. Admission \$2-\$10, (734) 455-8940, www.plymouthhistory.org.

Troy Museum & Historic Village: Thursday Tea at Two, 2 p.m. Feb. 28, learn to crochet with Cherie Rolfe, \$4 admission; \$5 for supplies, or bring your own hook and yarn. 60 W. Wattles, www.troymuseum.org, (248) 524-3570.

Museum of Contemporary Art-Detroit: "Holy Hip Hop!" with paintings by Alex Melamid; "ReFusing Fashion: Rei Kawakubo" exhibit featuring 40 items designed by founder of Comme des Garçons: See the film "Johnny 316," 7 p.m. March 1; Harold Koda discusses the work of Rei Kawakubo, 7 p.m. March 6, 4454 Woodward Ave., Detroit (313) 832-6622.

Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm: Balthazar Korab's "Images of Michigan," runs through June, open Wednesdays through Saturdays, 1005 Van Hoosen Road, Rochester, (248) 565-4663, www.rochesterhills.org.

OPERA

Detroit Opera House: "Giselle," March 14-16; "La Sonnambula," March 28, April 2, 4-6; 1526 Broadway, Detroit. Visit www.michiganopera.org.

La Marsa restaurant enjoys steady crowd

Michigan's struggling economy doesn't make the area a hotbed of activity for restaurant openings, but La Marsa Mediterranean Cuisine newest location is thriving.

The restaurant, which just opened a second location month ago in Bloomfield Township, attracts crowds because of its reasonable prices (a hearty rice almond salad is \$6.99), fresh ingredients and smoothies.

La Marsa serves the traditional Middle Eastern fare such as Tabouli salads; charred eggplant Baba Ganoush appetizers, Stuffed Grape Leaves, and traditional Hummus, smoothies with strawberries and banana; fresh-squeezed fruit and vegetable juices

But the eatery also spices things up with options such as hummus spiked with jalapenos, and desserts beyond standard baklava.

Run by restaurateur Fadhel Gannouni, La Marsa is named after a city in Tunisia. "We're doing very well," Gannouni said, "It's the recipes and the freshness."

The original La Marsa is located on Grand River in Farmington. The menu was created by Gannouni's friend, partner and award-winning chef Adel Ahmed. Ahmed worked for the prime minister of Egypt before coming to America and becoming a restaurant chef.

Ahmed's wife Samia, makes desserts like handmade Omo Ali



A sampling of La Marsa food includes chicken shawarma salad, fresh baked pita bread, crushed lentil soup and hummus.

Table Hopping

Please see **LA MARSA, E7**

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written by
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Feb. 22, 23, 29
Mar. 1, 2*, 7, 8, 9*
Fri. and Sat.: 8pm
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Take a culinary tour of Detroit

- French bread cooked with sour cream and honey with mixed nuts. Or try the rice pudding or cream caramel. Try the Cobra juice - a blend of carrot, orange, beet, radish and apple as a beverage.

You can order a traditional Fattoush (Romaine lettuces topped with toasted feta, tomatoes, cumpers, parsley and more) or have the Spinach Fattoush Feta, a different spin on the salad. Other traditional dishes are the lentil and cracked wheat Mjadra and the layered-eggplant/onion/pepper/garlic Mousaka.

LA MARSA MEDITERRANEAN CUISINE

Where: The new location is located in the Kingswood Plaza at Square Lake and Woodward, 43259 Woodward Ave., Bloomfield Township. (248) 858-5800. The original location is 35558 Grand River Avenue, Farmington in the Muirwood Square Plaza. (248) 615-1900

Cuisine: Mediterranean
Web site: lamarsamediterranean.com

At la Marsa, the pita bread is made in the brick oven, which was installed when the space was

remodeled.

The restaurant serves the La Marsa Feast (for eight-10 people) and includes samplings of appetizers, salads, and entrees for \$110. There's daily lunch specials from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for \$10. A satisfying bowl of crushed yellow lentil soup is \$3.49.

Compiled by Lana Mini and Susan Steinmueller

Foodies are invited to join the American Table Culinary Tours for an in-depth exploration of Detroit.

Laboring Over the Stove: A Working Definition of Detroit Cuisine (scheduled for June 26-28) will focus on the distinct culinary tradition that sprung up alongside America's auto industry, shaped by generations of workers drawn to Detroit by the promise of a decent wage. Tourgoers will delve deeply into the contributions of the immigrant groups that manned the city's assembly lines and savor the homespun foods they pioneered, from coney dogs to Faygo pop.

By the end of the adventure, participants will have parsed paczkis with Hamtramck's top bakers, tossed Buddy's pizza dough with a former employee of the legendary pizzeria and earned a nuanced understanding of the city the New York Times called one of 53 places to go in 2008.

"We're very excited to have this opportunity to showcase one of the country's most unjustly neglected cities," American Table director Hanna Raskin said.

"In addition to being a terrific amount of fun, this tour will allow Michiganders and non-Michiganders alike to discover delicious Detroit."

Laboring Over the Stove features UAW

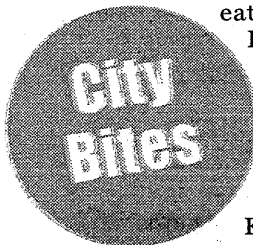
vice-president Jimmy Settles, who will preside over a coney dog showdown; Detroit Tigers outfielder Curtis Granderson delivering a primer on dugout eats, and The Detroit Almanac co-author Bill McGraw conducts a tour of historic houses of worship, complete with social hall snacks.

The event also includes presentations by Ari Weinzweig, who will provide commentary for a special Zingerman's Roadhouse dinner in honor of the Kentuckians who found their way north, and Margaret Thomas, author of Detroit's Eastern Market, who will lead our trek through the city's most notable shopping district.

"Very few culinary tourists are privy to this sort of introduction to the communities which have written Detroit's collective food history," Raskin said.

"These speakers represent the breadth of knowledge, enthusiasm and playful attitude toward eating on which we pride ourselves at the American Table."

The American Table Culinary Tours, a non-profit organization, offers multi-day tours throughout the United States, plumbing its kitchens, cafes and other eating places for food and cultural insight. For more information on the American Table, and a full itinerary for Laboring Over the Stove, visit www.tabletours.org.



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Joan Allen takes a memorable ride in 'Bonneville'

BY STEPHANIE ANGELYN CASOLA
O&E STAFF WRITER

Director Christopher N. Rowley crafts an unlikely road movie in the alternately dramatic and whimsical *Bonneville*. The film finds recent widow Arvilla Holden (Jessica Lange) in a silent battle to fulfill her husband's wishes. While she means to spread his ashes out into the world, Arvilla matches wits with his resentful, wealthy daughter Francine (Christine Baranski). Francine intends to bury the cremated remains of her father in Santa Barbara, alongside her mother - and threatens to sell Arvilla's home if she doesn't comply.

With her friends - strong-willed Margene (Kathy Bates) and straight-laced Carol (Joan Allen) - at her side, Arvilla embarks on a roadtrip to deliver her husband's ashes. They set out from a small town in Idaho in his 1966 red convertible Bonneville, stopping all along the way to mark memories and the passage of time in a 20-year love affair.

Joan Allen's Carol serves as a sort of moral compass within the context of the film. It's a position she knows well. Allen's roles in movies like *The Crucible* and Ang Lee's emotional *The Ice Storm* have centered her as someone who would do what's right at all costs.

Allen said she didn't really know why that happens. "It's one of those mysterious chemistry sorts of things," she said, adding that it might have to do with her Midwest upbringing in a "very grounded,

down-to-Earth family."

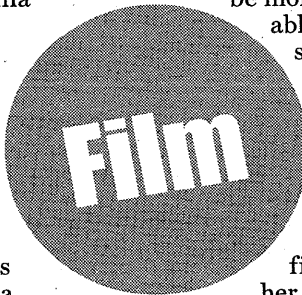
Allen was drawn to the role by Carol's sensibility and the way she played off the irreverence of Bates's character and the sensitivity of Lange's. Of her character's own journey, she said, "She does seem to

be more rigid about what is acceptable and what isn't. She has such a problem with Jessica's character) getting rid of the ashes. But she comes to understand what it means to Jessica. Her connection to her as a friend is more important than any ideal."

Over the course of the film, Carol is stripped from her comfort zone, at home with her husband Arlo (Tom Wopat), and forced to truly experience wherever the journey will take them. When her purse is nearly stolen at a gas station, Margene and Arvilla come to the rescue. Despite the rather serious core of the film, it doesn't feel terribly heavy to watch.

From roadside diners to Las Vegas hotels to the Pacific Ocean, the scenic movie romances the very idea of love and cherishes the joy of friendship. It brought Allen to places she never knew existed - like the Utah Salt Flats, which she compared to the surface of the moon, and a houseboat on Lake Powell or a lonely gambling town in Nevada where, she said: "I couldn't even find a Target."

Allen chose to drive herself to most locations for filming so she could truly experience the places within the film. And the friendship between the actresses onscreen mirrored a real-connection. "Considering we've all been around a while professionally ... we've done theater



Kathy Bates (from left), Jessica Lange and Joan Allen take to the road in the emotional "Bonneville."

... I loved the variety of personalities," Allen said, admitting she's less serious than her character, then adding that Lange could be quite serious and Bates quite bauby.

Allen said the message of the film is a simple one. "Take the ride and value your friends," she said. "Allow yourself to be surprised."

Allen's coming projects show her many sides. In Paul W.S. Anderson's *Death Race* she portrays a "diabolical warden" presiding over deadly car races. Then in the emotional true story *Hachiko: A Dog's Story* she stars opposite Richard Gere. "It's so much fun," said Allen.

"Every actor would say 'Give me more variety please.' I've gotten a lot of it in the past four or five years." For a star of the *Bourne* trilogy, the metro-Detroit based Mike Binder film, *The Upside of Anger*, and romances like *The Notebook*, she's spanned everything from blockbusters to indies - and that's just the way she likes it.

Tie on a headscarf and glasses, it's going to be a bumpy, joyful ride. *Bonneville* hits area theaters Friday, Feb. 29.

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'Lost' gets better each week

Why, why why does Kate have Claire's baby Aaron?

Is Claire dead or did she decide she wanted to stay on the island?

Did Claire and Sawyer hook up? She seemed to want to serve him some coffee, and not just as a way to give him some alone-time with Kate.

And why won't Jack face Aaron - his nephew? Remember, he and Claire are half-siblings. And what, specifically, sends Jack off the emotional deep end?

And Locke, the man who seems most spiritually connected with the island, is seeming a little bit more like evil Ben each week. Is he ruining Utopia by trying to control his surroundings and the people near him?

Rather than try to teach his mates about the power of the island, he's keeping the knowledge to himself.

And what happened to the helicopter? The previews for tonight's episode tells

us something goes terribly wrong. Was it sucked it into magnetic Vortex that caused the Oceanic airline crash?

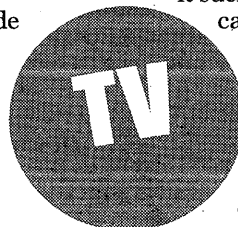
And, were the polar bear bones found buried in Tunisia from the same animal that was originally seen running on the island? Was that polar bear pulled into a vortex and relocated elsewhere on Earth?

And if so, does Ben know how to control that energy? And is that how he can get off the island?

It would seem so. Earlier in the season, questions were being answered. But now...what will happen is anyone's guess.

I love it. Send me your predictions. My guess is that Ben's spy on the ship is Miles.

Write to lmini@hometownlife.com, subject line: *Lost*.



Lana Mini

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Observer & Eccentric | Thursday, February 28, 2008 • (OF*) E9

Arts council throws dinner auction

BY LANA MINI
O&E STAFF WRITER

When the economy is weak, donations to charitable groups decrease.

Like many other organizations dedicated to the arts, Plymouth Community Arts Council is feeling the hit this year.

If you've attended and enjoyed one of community's summer Music in the Park concerts, you may want to attend the Plymouth Community

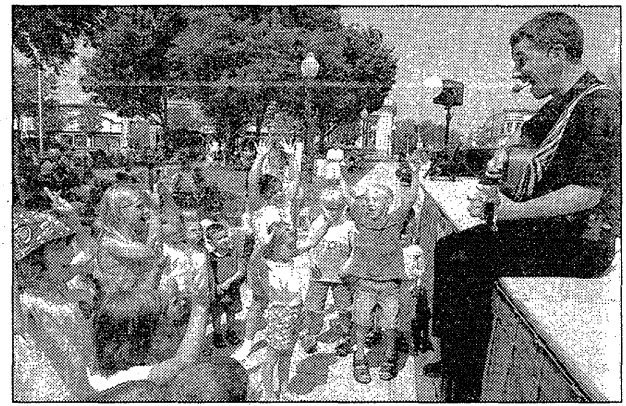
Arts Council's 18th Annual Dinner Auction, *An Artful Affair: Mod* Friday, March 7 at Laurel Manor in Livonia. The event is the group's most important annual event to raise money for arts programs.

"We are seeing a decline in the amount of the sponsorship and the donations," PCAC board president Ted Williamson said. "We're still seeing a large number of people donating, only the amounts have decreased steadily over the past year. It is obvi-

ously due to the economy and often times conflicting requests for donations from other agencies or natural disasters."

Without adequate funds, the caliber of the programs drop.

"None of the programs are specifically in jeopardy, but with the decrease in funding, both on the state level and private sponsorships, the quality of the programs are potentially in jeopardy," Williamson said.



The Plymouth Community Arts Council will throw a dinner auction March 7 to raise funds to maintain the high quality of children's and adults' arts programs in Plymouth.

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Blues for Today
ROBERT CRAY
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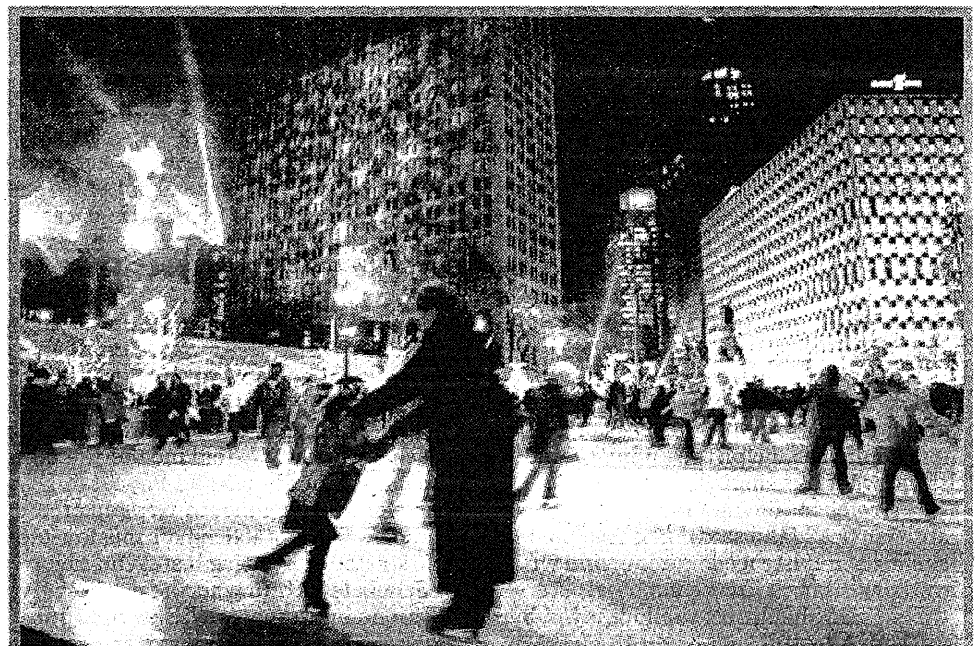
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Feinstein embraces American classics

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
O&E STAFF WRITER

Michael Feinstein was a young man in his 20s when Ira Gershwin hired him to catalogue his extensive collection of phonograph records.

Feinstein spent six years excavating Ira Gershwin's home and the young pianist learned everything he could from the legendary American composer.

"It was the time of my life," Feinstein remembers. "He was a natural born teacher. He taught me most of what I know and how to interpret his songs. It was a highlight of my life."

Those early days stoked Feinstein's interest in preserving the legacy of George and Ira Gershwin, as Feinstein later recorded his first CD, *Pure Gershwin*, a collection of the Gershwin brothers' music, in 1986.

That work and subsequent collaborations and standards collections catapulted Feinstein to the title of premier interpreter



Feinstein

of American popular song. Feinstein will perform many of those classics Saturday, March 1 at the Music Hall for the Performing Arts.

"I like to perform popular songs with a contemporary twist," Feinstein said. He expects to perform selections by George

and Ira Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Harry Warren and others. He will be accompanied by a six-piece jazz band.

Feinstein was born in 1956 in Columbus, Ohio. At the age of five, he studied piano for a couple of months until his teacher became angered that he wasn't reading the sheet music she gave him, since he was more comfortable playing by ear. As his mother saw no problem with her son's method, she took him out of lessons.

After graduating from high school, he worked in local piano bars for two years, moving to Los Angeles when he was 20.

MICHAEL FEINSTEIN

When: 8 p.m. Saturday, March 1

Where: Music Hall for the Performing Arts, 350 Madison, Detroit

Tickets: \$27-\$47 at Ticketmaster and Music Hall box office.

Call: (313) 887-8500, www.musichall.org.

Through the widow of legendary concert pianist-actor Oscar Levant, he was introduced to Ira Gershwin. That introduction enabled him to get to know next-door neighbor Rosemary Clooney, with whom he formed a close friendship lasting until Clooney's death.

Feinstein's repertoire includes many ambitious projects, in which Feinstein performed the music of a featured composer, and was accompanied by the composer.

These works included collaborations with Burton Lane (two volumes), Jule Styne, Jerry Herman, Hugh Martin,

Jimmy Webb and Jay Livingston/Ray Evans. Feinstein recorded two other albums of Gershwin music: *Nice Work if You Can Get It* and *Michael and George*.

His most recent CD, *Hopeless Romantics*, a songbook of Harry Warren classics, was recorded with jazz pianist George Shearing. Currently Feinstein is working on a tribute to Frank Sinatra, but it won't contain the most familiar pieces by him (like *My Way*, for example.) "There will be songs that were written for him that he performed in concert, but never put on an album," Feinstein said.

Feinstein believes American classics from the Gershwins, Berlin and Warren resonate with today's audiences. "These songs are relevant today, and the sensibilities are contemporary," Feinstein said. "All great art transcends the times."

"People relate to the songs. Music can heal your emotions, it is uplifting, and the lyrics are so brilliant."

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WORLD

FROM PAGE E3

and Portuguese creole, his passion on stage somehow helps the audience understand what he's singing.

"I sing about life and love, about women and respect," Jassi said. "I believe the reason for our existence is for love and sharing. If we learn to love each other, everything will be okay because love is the most powerful energy."

Jassi brings his positivity on stage and his head-turning improvisational style often stops the bartenders, waitstaff and sometimes even members of his own band in their tracks during performances.

"As a musician he has the capability of recording an entire album on his own. He plays piano, bass, percussion, sings and has a clear understanding of music theory," said Sean Blackman. "His improvisational skills are extremely powerful."

And Blackman should know - he's one of metro Detroit's best guitarists.

"His sense of rhythm is incredibly powerful," Blackman said. "His compositions and melodies are very strong. The music, the chord progressions are beautifully simple...and simple is a good thing. Some of the best-known songs are simple, but it's the lyrics and the melody that we remember most."

Jassi dreamed of coming to Detroit for years and said living here is his destiny. He credits his musical training to the late and legendary Detroit Jazz saxophonist Sam Sanders, the first American ever to be buried in Senegal (in 2000).

Musically, the connection between Senegal and Detroit is strong.

Jassi considers Sanders his father. They met in Senegal at a jazz festival.

"(Sanders) taught me everything about

music, everything about life," Jassi said. "Every day, every morning, every night, I went to him to study. Every day from Monday to Sunday. No time with friends, no going out, nothing. All I wanted to do was play music. He told me there is no excuse for mediocrity."

Before gaining the mentorship of Sanders, Jassi practiced his music secretly. He started working as a stagehand for a Senegalese band when he was just 13. With no instrument of his own he quietly took the band members' guitars late at night and began to practice.

"I would be in big trouble if these guys caught me playing their guitars," Jassi said with a laugh. "They would never let me play, I was just a kid. But, one day one guitarist was sick and they had a show to perform. I kept telling them 'I can do it, I know the songs.' They let me show them, maybe out of sympathy...and they were so surprised that I could do it."

Over time in Senegal Jassi's reputation grew and he gained attention from the popular African musicians.

After Sanders' death, Jassi came to the U.S. with hopes for musical success here. In his first month, he landed a gigs with prominent Detroit musicians and it helped pay the bills for his family back in Senegal.

"I worry a lot about children, we have to make a better path for them. Today there's chaos in the world and it's the children who suffer most," Jassi said. "I sing about that and I say everybody in their circle can make a difference, but not just through words, also by showing them that you appreciate them and are proud of them."

Jassi's religion of Mouridism, a Sufi Muslim movement founded in Touba - Senegal's holy city, is centered upon work. Be productive, work hard on your passion and you will be rewarded.



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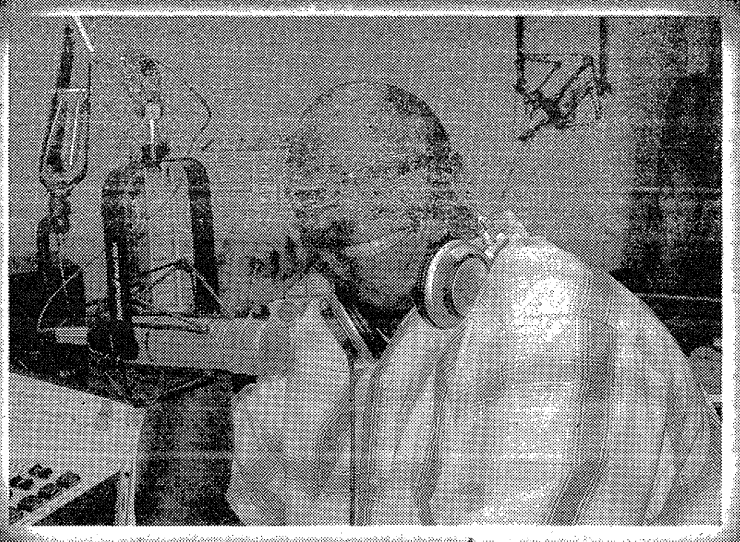
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Wedding Guide

February 25, 2011

Hometown Weddings

*Local couples who
recently tied the knot*

Trash the Dress

*Why are modern brides
destroying their gowns?*

Plus ...

Dresses, veils and wedding trends

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Your wedding is your day

I wasn't a girl who pored over wedding magazines, dreaming of a fairy tale wedding. When Jeff and I got married, the planning was completely spontaneous and personal.

We decided to celebrate our hometown of Northville, where we had met eight years before, so we staged our ceremony at the New School Church in Mill Race Village, and hired a horse drawn carriage to ferry us to the reception at Genitti's, just a few blocks away.



Wensdy Von Buskirk

Jeff is an artist, so he created an oil painting that hung above the altar, and we printed small copies on canvas and rolled them up as scrolls for our wedding favors. Since I am a reporter, our wedding program resembled a newspaper, and my band, the basements, played its last gig — with me on bass in my wedding gown — as I threw the bouquet.

There are so many ways to put your personality into your plans. Although we incorporated many long-standing traditions into our wedding and reception, we also made them uniquely ours. That's what today's couples do.

This edition of the Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspaper's Wedding Guide is full of photos of hometown couples on their special day. I hope you love seeing what other couples wore, what kind of flowers they chose, and where they got married as much as I do.

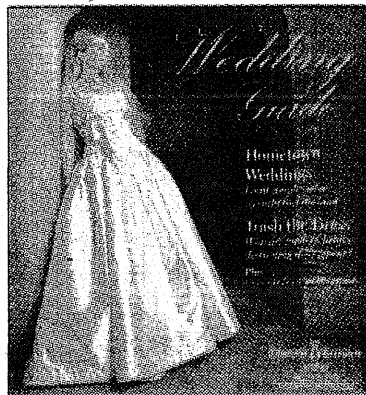
It's important to look at examples and talk to other couples to get ideas — as well as scan wedding magazines and Web sites.

But in the end, you have to listen to your heart to add those special touches that will make the event memorable for you, and everyone who witnesses your vows.

— Wensdy Von Buskirk, editor

Wedding Guide

The Wedding Guide is published annually by the Observer & Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers, a division of Gannett.



On the Cover

White crystals and ivory satin blend with a bow in this delicate Peter Langer design (\$12,890) available at Roma Sposa Atelier in Birmingham.

Photo by Bill Bresler
Cover designed by Dan Dean

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Happily Ever After

Once upon a time, we asked local couples who've recently wed to share their photos with us. The response was overwhelming. From Disneyland to the Detroit Athletic Club, these hometown newlyweds prove there are infinite ways to create a dream wedding. Let these images inspire your quest to find the perfect setting for the beginning of your very own fairy tale.



DAVID REED



HUGH BOYLE, WWW.SCENESANDDREAMS.COM

Callahan-O'Toole

Colleen Callahan of Livonia and Steven O'Toole of Cincinnati, Ohio, were married Oct. 5, 2007, at St. Raphael Catholic Church in Garden City. The wedding's theme, Michigan Vineyards, was carried through the reception at the Meeting House Grand Ballroom in Plymouth with wine bottles and oversized wine glasses full of flowers used as centerpieces. The bride and groom danced in bubbles to Garth Brooks "Make You Feel My Love." The newlyweds honeymooned in Jamaica and now live in Redford.



Davis-Carcone

Kelly Brianne Davis and Joseph Anthony Carcone, both of Redford, were married July 14, 2007, at Ward Presbyterian Church in Livonia. A reception for 200 guests followed at the Italian American Club in Livonia. The couple is making their home in Livonia.

Kuczajda-Steil

Lynn Kuczajda of Rochester and Bob Steil of Milwaukee, Wis. were married on Amtrak's Wolverine #355 from Pontiac to Dearborn on Feb. 16, 2008. The 1940s-themed wedding was officiated by Rochester's Mayor Stuart Bikson.

Invitations were designed to resemble a train ticket and boarding pass.

Conductors helped guests aboard the train car, adorned with twinkle lights and flowers. All the guest seats were covered in white linen and tied with silk accent bows, and the train car was reconfigured so the couple could walk down the aisle to a draped candlelit dais where the ceremony was performed.

Music from the '40s was piped through a portable sound system, which also allowed the ceremony to be heard over the clackety-clack of the rails. Lynn's creme colored silk wedding gown, complete with its own train, reflected the elegance of the era.

Each guest received an eyelet cut wedding gift bag that included a train whistle to blow instead of throwing rice. After the ceremony, the train stopped in Birmingham, and guests boarded a motor coach that whisked them to the reception dinner at Big Rock Chop House.



STEVE SCHWALL, RAWLINSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Bohr-Martin

Megan Bohr of Plymouth and Christopher Martin of Canton, were married Oct. 26, 2007, at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Plymouth. The reception was held at the Italian American Club in Livonia where Daryl Onderik and The Coachmen Orchestra entertained all 300 guests. After a honeymoon in Maui the couple settled down in Novi.



Merrill-Stone

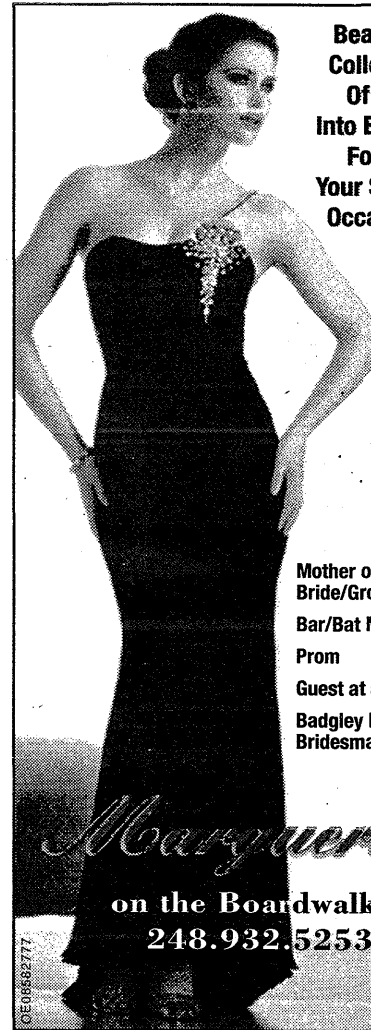
Emily Merrill and William Stone, both of Livonia, were married Aug. 11, 2007, at St. Colette Church in their hometown. The couple now resides in Philadelphia where Bill attends law school and Emily works as a teacher at a virtual charter school.



RAWLINSON PHOTOGRAPHY

Samsel-Androsian

Andra Lynn Samsel of Livonia and Jeffrey William Androsian of Dearborn were married July 7, 2007, at the Chapel at Ward Church in Northville. A reception followed at Lyon Oaks Golf and Banquet Center in Wixom. The couple honeymooned in Jamaica and are making their home in Dearborn.



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Orozco-Reese

Liz Orozco of Livonia and Josh Reese of St. Clair Shores were married Oct. 27, 2007, at St. Joan of Arc in St. Clair Shores. Before the reception at Metro Beach Metropark, the couple and their attendants visited their favorite spots in Detroit to take photos, including this one snapped in the rain at Belle Isle.



PAT WALKER

Wilson-Staley

Cindy Lou Wilson and Zackary Staley of Canton Township married on June 30, 2007, at Detroit's Masonic Temple, where this photo was snapped on the front steps. After the reception at the Inn of St. John's in Plymouth, the couple spent their honeymoon enjoying a Caribbean cruise.



TREVOR MOELKER

Nagy-McLean

Kristen Nagy and Scott McLean were married in a sunset ceremony on June 6, 2007, in Maui, Hawaii. Attendants for the couple were close friends Katie Moelker and Bernie Combetta. The couple hosted a party for friends and relatives at Roosevelt's in Farmington Hills upon their return. They are currently residing in Garden City.



JANET HUSBAND

Haefner-Straith

Gail Haefner and James Straith, both of Birmingham, were married during an outdoor ceremony at The Otsego Club, overlooking the Sturgeon River Valley in Gaylord on Sept. 22, 2007. The groom wore a kilt in honor of his Scottish heritage. A bagpiper escorted the bride and groom down the aisle after their vows. The celebration continued with an informal reception at the River Cabin at Otsego.



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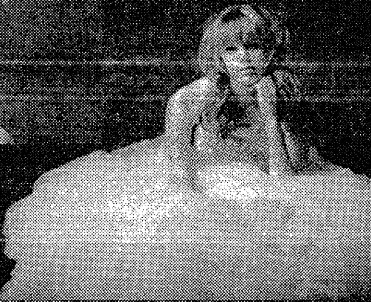

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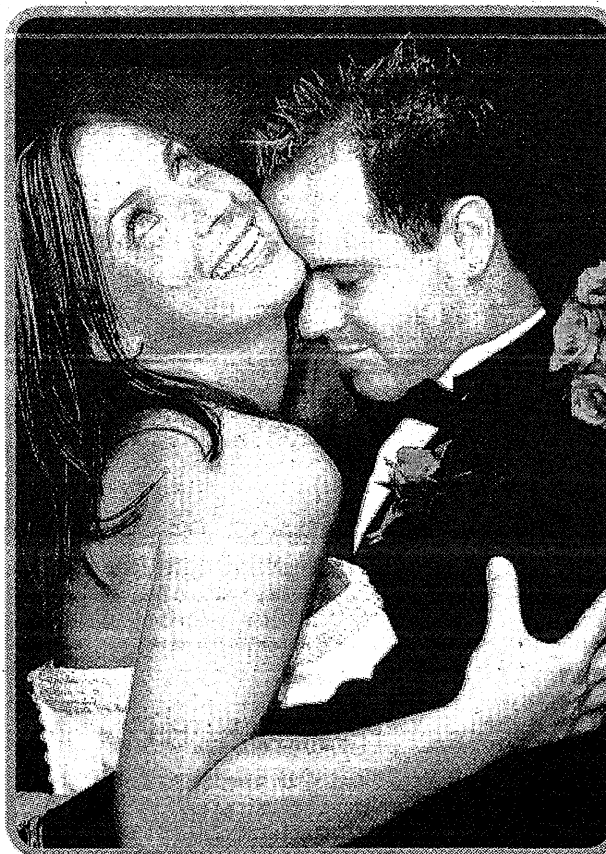
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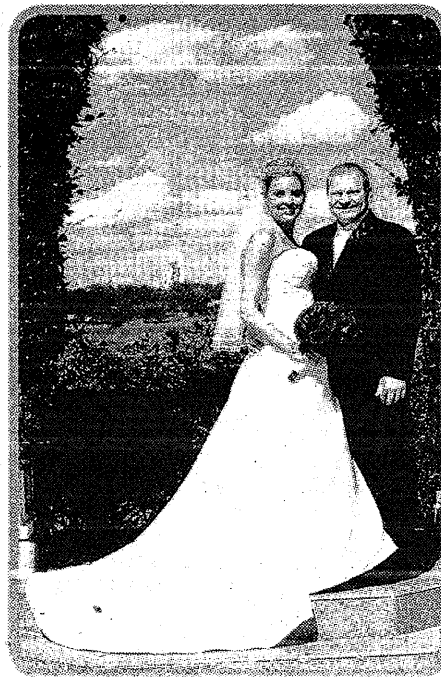
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Markiewicz-Brockway

Ewa Markiewicz of Szczecinek, Poland and Donald Brockway of Livonia met while Ewa was serving as a local au pair. They were wed June 2, 2006, at the Church of the Divine Child in Novi with a reception following at Park Place in Dearborn.

FRED RIDER, ICONMATICS LLC WEDDING PHOTOGRAPHY



KAREN CHANDLER, DISNEY EVENT GROUP

Hudeck-Swek

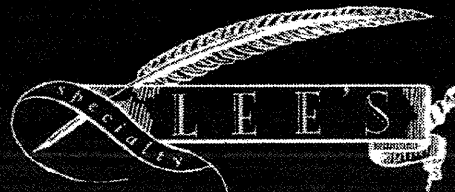
Melissa Hudeck and Michael Swek of Waterford were married at the Wedding Pavilion at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. on Oct. 13, 2007, in front of 35 family and friends. The fairy tale festivities included a horse and carriage ride, dessert party in front of the EPCOT fireworks, and a farewell brunch the morning after the wedding. During the ceremony, the rings were brought down the aisle in a glass slipper.



Clor-Daniels

Ann Clor and William Daniels, both of Garden City, were married Aug. 4, 2007, in Ocho Rios Jamaica on the beach, accompanied by 12 close family and friends.

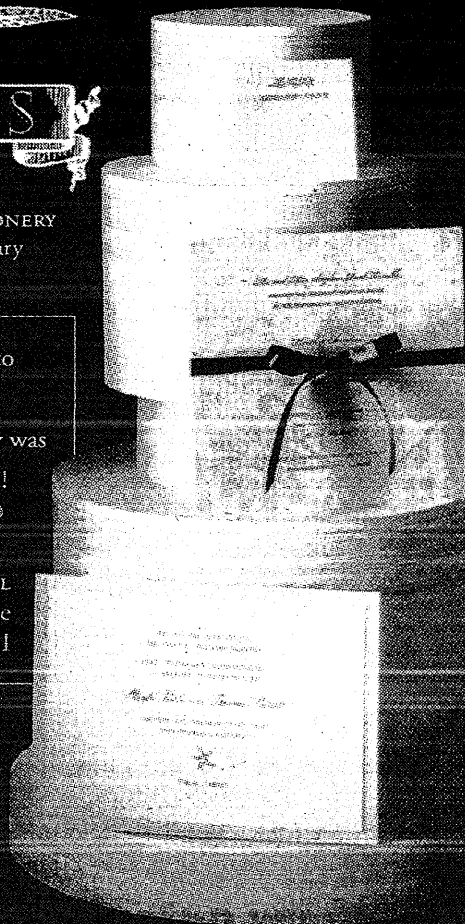
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Pettibone-LaPointe

Kelly Pettibone and Philip LaPointe had friends and family in from across the country for their wedding on Nov. 3, 2007, and wanted to give them a glimpse of Detroit. Here, the couple is on the roof of the Detroit Athletic Club, where they had their wedding and reception.



JOHN HEIDER

Barber-White

Michelle Barber and Wayne White, high school sweethearts who met at Redford Union, were married Oct. 13, 2007. The ceremony took place in the backyard of the groom's parents in Howell, with a reception following at the Howell Elks Lodge. The couple's 2-year-old daughter, Ava, served as flower girl.



Duncan-Gorman

Katy Duncan of West Bloomfield and Adam Gorman of DeWitt were wed Oct. 27, 2007, the wedding anniversary of her late grandparents. The ceremony was held at Milford Presbyterian Church with a reception following at Lyon Oaks Golf and Banquet Center in Wixom. The couple now lives in Okemos.

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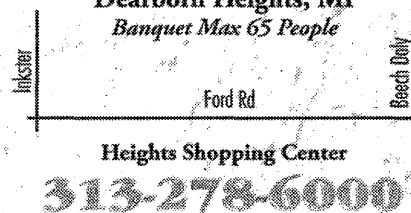
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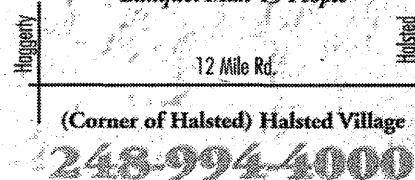
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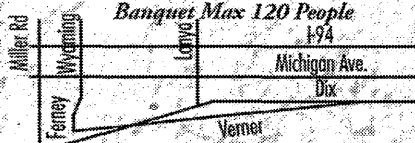
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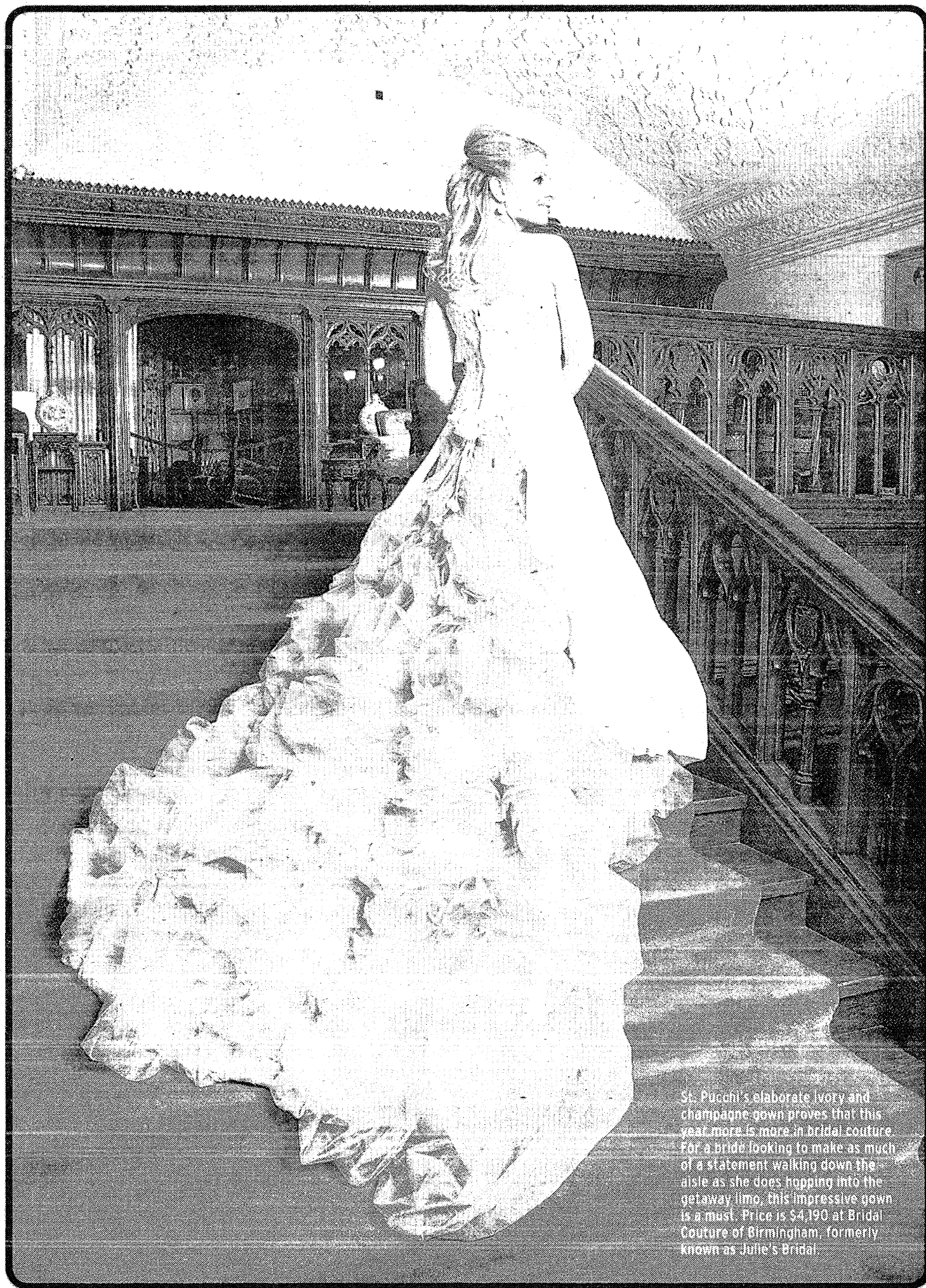
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St. Pucci's elaborate ivory and champagne gown proves that this year more is more in bridal couture. For a bride looking to make as much of a statement walking down the aisle as she does hopping into the getaway limo, this impressive gown is a must. Price is \$4,190 at Bridal Couture of Birmingham, formerly known as Julie's Bridal.

The Bride: Kathleen Kennedy
Resident: Berkley then Royal Oak
Her profession: Marketing director
Her groom: John Ferris
His profession: GM project manager for f
Coincidence: The two attended the same (and in recent years lived just a mile apart. 2004.
Engaged: Feb. 14, 2007
Wedding date: Feb. 16, 2008
Wedding destination: On a terrace overh
Photo Shoot: Feb. 7, MeadowBrook Hall, Rochester Hills
Photographer: Bill Bresler, staff photogra Eccentric and Mirror Newspapers
Gowns: Courtesy of Bridal Couture of Birr Bridal with a second location in Plymouth, Birmingham.
Jewelry: Roma Sposa Atelier, Birmingham Shoppe, Berkley
Hair Jewelry, Veils: The Wedding Shoppe
Makeup: Mariposa Beauty Boutique & Stu
Hair: Andrew Marke Salon, Rochester
Get the look:

Owner Monique Zafarana and Make Up Gamalski of Mariposa Beauty Boutique are very wearable — wedding look for our mod Kathleen Kennedy of Royal Oak. Makeup enhance your beauty, Gamalski said. She foundation, offering optimal coverage that proof and water-proof. "It's good for proble "It provides a lot of coverage without being

When it comes to color, Zafarana su tell where one color ends and another b blue eyes with plum and smoky gray ton Kennedy's eyes in black kohl liner and ad — courtesy of MAC Cosmetics.

Kennedy's cheekbones were emphasized er one for contour and a lighter "Cupcake" apples of her cheeks. For that killer smile, ten lips are beautiful." On Kennedy she ott topped with a silvery pink gloss for a clean

For wedding-worthy hair, Stylist Voula I Salon crafted a look that would last. She pi thick blonde mane onto the crown of her h set into loosely cascading curls. It worked headpieces. Isakov said this spring brides e set their hair lower on the neck. "It's simple of curls," she said. "It's more sleek."

Love, With Style

ell vehicles
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v of Andrew Marke
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while the rest was
a variety of veils and
oting for styles that
Prom-y and not a lot

ed by Stephanie A. Casola



After a fairy-tale wedding full of dancing, a bride can kick up her heels in this red vined, white tulle ball gown by St. Pucchi, available at Bridal Couture of Birmingham. It bears the very essence of spring. Price is \$4,950.

Roma Sposa Atelier in Birmingham is an exclusive carrier of famed wedding dress designer Monique Lhuillier's gowns. This strapless simple dress (\$8,390) showcases a major comeback for lace in 2008. Adorn it with a satin sash or keep it simple.



PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Fingertip veils like this delicately-adorned style can shine when worn with a simple, lacy dress, like this one by Monique Lhuillier, available exclusively at Roma Sposa Atelier in Birmingham. Veil found at The Wedding Shoppe.

Unveiling personal style on your wedding day

BY STEPHANIE A. CASOLA
STAFF WRITER

Michelle McFarland, owner of The Wedding Shoppe in Berkley, has an innate sense when it comes to pairing accessories with that dream-worthy wedding gown. "We listen very closely," said McFarland. Given the color and fit of the gown she can easily pair it with complementary accessories.

With the array of options — ranging from every length of veil to a bevy of sparkly tiaras and hair jewelry — the right headpiece can truly set off a bride's entire look. And it's typically the veil, McFarland said, that makes any bride-to-be first feel as though she's about to walk down the aisle. "That's when it all comes together," she said.

This Spring details are hot, and when it comes to wedding veils, McFarland said, it's all in the cut.

■ A face-hugging Russian net — like the Cynthia style — pairs perfectly for a high-fashion bride with a voluminous gown.

■ A cage veil — try the Gardenia — falls gracefully over the face and is best paired with a simple straight silhouette.



Hair jewelry is all the rage. Simpler than a tiara and stylish enough to pair with a veil, combs like this one — at The Wedding Shoppe in Berkley — give a bride more bling on her big day.

Please see **VEILS, 13**



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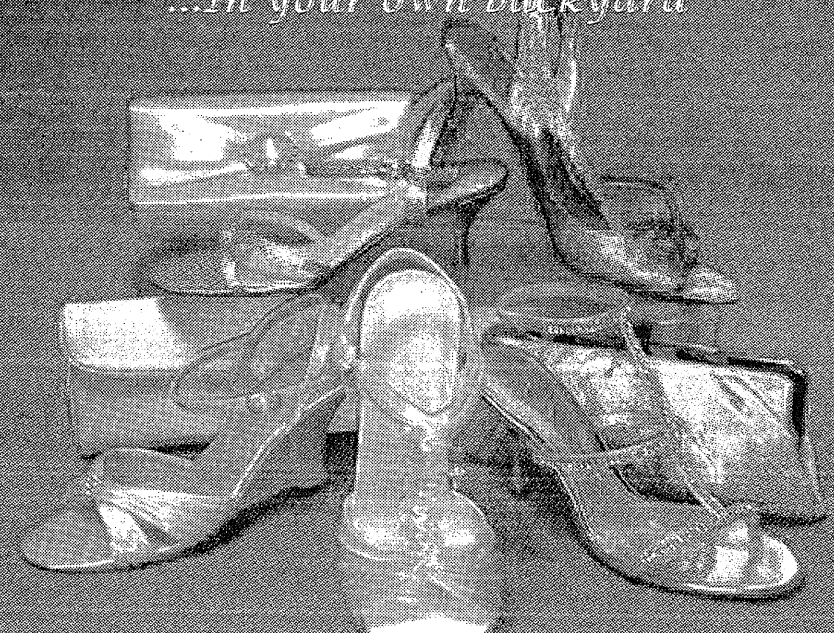


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VEILS

FROM PAGE 12

■ Fingertip-length veils work best on taller brides but, McFarland noted, the veil shouldn't compete with the gown.

■ Hair jewelry — Fashion-forward brides are adding bling to their hair. Those who might've opted for a tiara a few years ago are discovering an array of clips, brooches, hair vines and decorative hair bands coated in jewels. They're sure to add sparkle in a modern way. McFarland noted that hair jewelry is quite wearable — and it isn't limited to just your wedding day.

Whatever the case, she said: "We definitely try to encourage brides that less is more."

The Wedding Shoppe, located at 27333 Woodward Ave. in Berkley, will begin selling gowns — in addition to its alterations services and already awe-inspiring array of wedding-related accessories — this April. Call (248) 541-1988.



It takes a special kind of bride to wear this minimalist Russian net veil. The "Cynthia" style is available at The Wedding Shoppe in Berkley. This bride knows exactly what she wants.

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Always a bridesmaid: Tales from the dressed-alike

My life bears little resemblance to Hollywood it-girl Katherine Heigl's. But when the blonde *Grey's Anatomy* bombshell took a starring role as the quintessential bridesmaid in *27 Dresses*, our worlds inched ever so slightly closer.

That "always a bridesmaid" mantra is an easy one for many women to understand. We've all stuffed at least a few puffy taffeta gowns into the back of our closets. At least five by my count. They range in shades and styles, and cost somewhere between a steal and a fortune. No matter how many times your dear bride-to-be tells you — "You can have it shortened," or "You'll wear it again." — that's never the case.

But that's the cardinal rule of Bridesmaid loyalty — smile and agree. It's her day after all. We know that going in — the moment you take us to dinner and sweetly ask "Will you be my maid of honor" — we're armed with positivity and ready to help.

Wedding planning is no doubt an emotional time. Families are connecting — or colliding. Everyone from your mom to your florist probably has an expectation and opinion on where the wedding should be, what food you should serve



Stephanie Casola

'We've all stuffed at least a few puffy taffeta gowns into the back of our closets.'

and what music you should play. It's enough to turn any girl into Bridezilla.

Cue the bridesmaids — they're your sounding board, those who want the best for you, who will wear anything for you, and only expect that you'll return the favor on their day.

I've held the title of maid of honor twice now — once for my eldest sister and once for my best friend. The experiences were as different as the brides themselves. Still, each time I felt little pangs of nervousness and oodles of pride. I bought a how-to guide at the bookstore, started saving for and eyeing possible gifts, and plotting bachelorette parties.

Now, looking back, it's amazing how each of the bridesmaid gowns I wore represent so clearly the style and sass of the bride in question.

There's a classic-but-daring royal blue floor-length strapless number that still fits like a glove and makes me feel like a princess. It also reminds me of struggling through my speech as I held back tears.

And I still gush at the sight of a little strapless green silk faille dress shopped for via Internet while on the phone with my pal, the bride-to-be in Alabama. It proved perfect for her outdoor summer ceremony, and I can still see us all — her identically-outfitted pals — running barefoot on the beaches of Lake Michigan.

Most recently, an elegant mossy green A-line tea-length gown carried me from afternoon photos dodging lucky rainshowers straight through to a non-stop dance party reception. Wish I could say the same for those shimmery heels.

Maybe I'm lucky. Is it possible my friends and relatives are more fashionable than most? Whatever the case, I've never been stuffed into a gaudy gown.

This year bridesmaids can avoid the same by keeping in mind the current trends. According to Penny Little of Miss Kate's Maids, a Birmingham-based shop

specializing in giving bridesmaids that special flair, the "it" color this year is grey. It's overshadowing last year's favorite, a rich chocolatey brown. And the top three best-selling dress designers, Little said, include Melissa Sweet, Charsa and Priscilla of Boston.

"I've also noticed that for awhile now the trend for the length of dress chosen had been knee-length but now brides are going back to the full-length gown options for a more elegant and dramatic look (on their bridesmaids)," added Little. And going into the busy 2008 wedding season she's noticed a penchant for vintage looks, which "can be found in the details of many of the dresses we carry — flowing fabrics, full skirts, broaches and pleating just to name a few."

See for yourself — when it comes time to buy that 28th bridesmaid dress — Miss Kate's Maids has relocated to 2121 Cole Street in Birmingham. Stay strong, my fellow always-a-bridesmaids — our day will come.

Stephanie Angelyn Casola, truth-be-told, loves any excuse to put on a gown and get her hair and make-up done. She writes about beauty and pop culture for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and can be reached at (248) 901-2567 or scasola@hometownlife.com.

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Local businesses share the latest in wedding trends

JEWELRY

Robert Greenstone, owner of **Greenstone's Fine Jewelry** in Birmingham, meets couples at a special time in life. When it comes to trends he said: "I find that brides are — more than ever — interested in delicate fine diamond wedding bands, small round diamonds set in a very brilliant but delicate look made to match their engagement ring." Grooms are opting for white gold or platinum bands wider in size and bold.

At **David Wachler & Sons** in Birmingham, rings by names like Christian Bauer and Diana are highlighted.

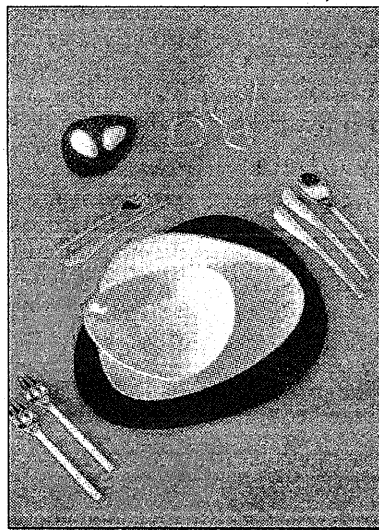
FASHION

Sonia Kadoo, an owner of **Bella Bridal** in West Bloomfield, noted that wedding dresses are simple and elegant this year — think Audrey Hepburn. "The most common style is the mermaid, it's also called fit and flair or trumpet skirt," she said, adding that "lace is back."

Brides who want to get married outdoors no longer have to tone down to tea-length dresses for the setting. Vanessa Brinker of the **Rochester Hills Museum** said some brides who opt to wed in the museum's outdoor gazebo wear full-tilt ball gowns, formerly reserved for the most formal of weddings. Of course, they may be barefoot under those layers of tulle. Brinker also said she's seen flower girls walk down the aisle in fairy wings — an adorable touch.

FOOD

"The hot thing is stations," said Meredith Martek, director of sales and events at the **LaSala Banquet & Events Center** inside Papa Joe's Gourmet in Rochester Hills. "Many couples are having the food stations set up later in the evening with sliders, pizza or mac and cheese in a martini glass. They want more of a club-type atmosphere. They want the guests up and walking around. It's completely different



Creative gift registry items, like this trendy tableware by Alessi, is available at ArtLoft in Birmingham.

from the traditional sit-down meal."

For entrees, couples choose chicken dishes and sometimes prime rib with a mashed potato station nearby.

BEAUTY

At the upscale **Margot's European Day Spa** in Birmingham the most popular trend for brides is also a long-standing one: French manicures and pedicures.

Manager Sherrie Perkins said that for brides-to-be, the second trend is in cosmetics.

"Women come to us to purchase cosmetics and to have us create their look on their wedding day," Perkins said.

That style is called "the bride look" with neutral, soft, glowing shades. No harsh dark liners or bold lips.

Both brides and now grooms often get facials to try and halt potential surprise problems that could arise on wedding day: namely blemishes.

"If they have problematic skin they should get their facial at least a week before to give the skin time to clear up," Perkins said.

At **Artistic Permanent Makeup** in Plymouth, where

women can get permanent eye and lip liner, a common beauty improvement trend is called "scar camouflage."

There, color is matched to the skin tones and applied to hide scar tissue.

GIFT REGISTRY

Couples are going beyond Bed, Bath & Beyond when it comes to registering for gifts. Rachael A-Woods, owner of **ArtLoft** in Birmingham, said many brides- and grooms-to-be already have fully stocked households, so they're looking to add pieces that are fun as well as functional, such as those by Alessi or Johnathan Adler. Artsy gifts for the bridal party and groomsman also are popular, such as handmade compacts, business card cases, Hobo leather goods and flower votives.

Compiled by Stephanie Casola, Lana Mini, Ken Abramczyk and Wensdy Von Buskirk

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Second time offers second chance

Doing things the second time around is an opportunity to do things differently and weddings are no exception. So for this, my second wedding, I couldn't wait to get started; I always regretted not doing wedding favors or having a live band. And, I never forgot the sinking feeling of not loving my wedding dress.

Despite it being my "second marriage" (as my mother would say in hushed tones when she talked of the impending nuptials), I was even more into the planning this time around. Like most brides, the Internet became my best friend, yet I still yearned to feel, touch and smell the products I was looking for. I needed the bricks and mortar. Living and working in Birmingham, the city became integral in my daily search for all things wedding.

For guest favors, I had two criteria: something that people would actually use and something sophisticated. I splurged on Anthropologie's Illume Good Nature Candles (\$16) but with hip scents like Sweet Live Blossom and Edamame & Melon, and neatly packaged in contemporary yet pretty tins, they were everything I wanted. I also gave away gifts at the rehearsal party, a raucous affair complete with a Johnny Cash impersonator. The silver heart shaped key rings from Imelda's Closet (\$6, 10 percent discount for large orders) were a huge hit.



Maureen Evans Cameron wears a beautiful crushed silk gown from Nicole Miller during her wedding to handsome hubby David Cameron.

At Crimson Rose Antiques, I found the most beautiful vintage cake stand for our wedding cake, a milk glass number in a shade of pink so opalescent, you can't help but run your fingers over the surface. Whether perched on my kitchen counter or used to display holiday ornaments, it's a lifetime of happy wedding memories. Not bad

for a for a \$75 investment.

And known all over Metro Detroit for her fabulous brows, my trusted esthetician Dina Sukhomlina at Virtuoso Salon helped me achieve the ideal brow shape (you know, just the right amount of arch). Virtuoso has also started carrying a makeup line from Jane Iredale that's fantastic for brides, prod-



A pink cake stand from Crimson Rose Antiques (\$75) proves useful for the wedding and beyond.

ucts that are long-lasting yet feel and look dewy on your skin. My newest favorite is the multi-tasking In Touch Cream Blush (\$26) - use it on both your cheeks and lips, but here's the best part: one of the ingredients is pure cocoa powder, giving it a fragrance and taste that are, well, divine.

And in case you were wondering, I did find the perfect dress at Nicole Miller. When I put it on, it made me feel confident and sexy - the bride I always wanted to be.

Maureen Evans Cameron recently celebrated her one-year wedding anniversary with her husband David. Married in Nova Scotia where they both grew up yet didn't know each other, they met on a flight to Detroit where they discovered their mutual love of many things, including eventually each other.

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BRIDAL CALENDAR

Whimsical Occasions Wedding Events

When: Sunday, March 2

Where: The Inn at St. John's, 44045 Five Mile Road, Plymouth

When: Sunday, March 16, 2008

Where: Royal Oak Music Theatre, 318 West Fourth St., Royal Oak

What: Wedding exhibits, planning ideas, fashions and fun including A-list experts, runway shows, tastings, decor, and goodie bags.

Tickets: \$8 online; \$10 at the door

Information: Call (248) 909-6511 or visit whimsicaloccasions.com

BLISS! Bridal Fest

When: Noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 30

Where: Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft Rd., Livonia

What: Michigan's biggest bridal show of the season features wedding experts, fashion shows, mini-seminars, hors d'oeuvres, tastings, prizes and more.

Tickets: \$6 in advance; \$8 at the door

Information: Call (800) BLISS-11 or visit www.blissbridalfest.com

Brides To Be Expos

When: Noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 9

Where: American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple Road, Troy

When: Noon to 4 p.m. Sunday, March 16

Where: Glen Oaks Country Club

30500 W. 13 Mile, Farmington Hills

What: Michigan's "original" bridal show offers fashions, giveaways, samples, exhibits, experts, discounts and coupons.

Tickets: \$7 in advance; \$8 at the door

Information: Call (586) 228-2700 or visit www.bridestobeshows.net

Pamper the Bride & Beyond

When: Noon to 6 p.m. Sunday, April 13

Where: PI Restaurant, 28447 Franklin Road, Southfield

What: The second annual expo will feature fashion shows, interactive workshops, live music, exclusive exhibitors, strolling appetizers, a Groom's Lounge, giveaways, champagne and pamper services including massages, facials and more.

Tickets: \$15; 2 for \$25.

Information: Call (248) 747-3482 or visit pamperthebrideexpo.com.

Bridal Bliss 2008

When: Saturday, April 26

Where: Downtown Royal Oak and Farmer's Market

What: During this special shopping day, stores, salons and restaurants that specialize in all things bridal will offer deals, samples, promotions, experts and informal modeling. The event culminates in a Bridal Show at the Royal Oak Farmer's Market.

Tickets: Free

Information: Call (248) 414-4533 or visit www.downtownroyaloak.org



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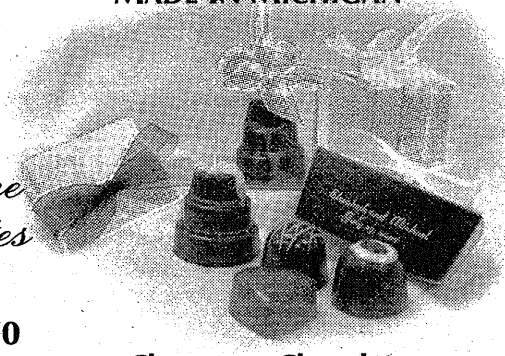
The *Observer & Eccentric* and *Mirror Newspapers* publish Wedding, Engagement and Anniversary Announcements free every Sunday. They are printed in order of receipt and as space allows. We accept quality black and white or color photographs, but they must be accompanied by a release from the photographer. Details for submitting photos are included on our announcement forms. Download forms and upload photos online at www.hometownlife.com. Click on "Customer Service," then look for "Announcements."

Shelley Jaye Millman of West Bloomfield and Mark Edward Milby of Keego Harbor were married May 5, 2007, at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills.

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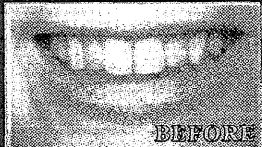
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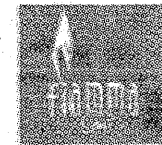
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Trash the Dress

Some brides are opting to destroy, rather than preserve, their gowns

BY WENDY VON BUSKIRK
STAFF WRITER

Lisa Cressey got married in a beautiful A-line strapless satin gown, embellished with beads and costing upwards of \$1,000.

A few months after her wedding, she gleefully destroyed the dress.

No, she wasn't mad at her new husband. In fact, Tony Cressey helped her douse the dress in paint.

Cressey, 28, is part of a growing group of modern brides taking part in "Trash the Dress," an underground campaign in which photographers document women as they rip, shred, tear, soil and otherwise denigrate their gowns.

"The possibilities are endless depending on how creative you want to be," said Bryan Mitchell, a Northville-based photojournalist who shot Cressey's wedding and post-wedding dress trashing session.

Mitchell said he was surfing the 'net when he discovered www.trashthedress.com, a site that showcases artsy Trash the Dress photos and urges brides to do extensive damage to their frocks.

"Go ahead, you know you want to. Trash it. Get it dirty. Get it wet. Roll around in the mud. Drench it in the ocean. Totally trash it," the site reads.

Mitchell became intrigued and put out a call to recent brides who might be game.

"I got really excited about it," Mitchell said. "It's a departure from what I normally do. I get to be playful and creative. The girls enjoy it because they get to dress up again."

It doesn't matter how long ago a bride got married, as long as she still fits in her gown. Then again, it doesn't really matter if she rips the seams.

So far Mitchell has photographed brides dirtying up their dresses in creek beds and piles of fall leaves.

He and Cressey executed their shoot against a backdrop of graffiti in the Dequindre Cut, a stretch of railroad running from Eastern Market to the Detroit River.

"Her husband painted the back of dress, and while we were shooting three graffiti artists came down to



PHOTOS BY BRYAN MITCHELL/BRYANMITCHELL.COM

From princess to punk – Cressey gets playful during her Trash the Dress photo shoot.

do some murals and we asked them to spray paint the dress," Mitchell explained.

The resulting high-fashion images are beautiful, but for many the question remains: Why trash a perfectly good — and sinfully expensive — wedding gown?

According to Trash the Dress, why not?

"You've made a commitment to your husband. He's your one and only true love, right? Then you'll never need the dress again," the Web site says. "And no, your daughter won't wear it in 20-30 years."



Lisa Metelka and Anthony Cressey of Livonia were married June 29, 2007, at Delhi Park in Ann Arbor, with a reception following at Laurel Manor in Livonia.

Like most brides, Cressey had planned to take her dress to a dry cleaner and get it preserved in a box. But trashing it seemed like much more fun.

"I was never going to do anything with the dress after the wedding. There's no one to give it to. I probably was just going to keep it in the closet like anyone else would," she said. "Now I feel like I have somebody's piece of art on something that was important to me. It was a one-of-a-kind opportunity."

Cressey is thrilled with the results of her Trash the Dress collaboration. She loves the photographs and has thought about framing the dress itself. But so far, no evidence of her Trash-the-Dress experience hangs in the Cressey home.

"My parents don't know I did it," Cressey said. "My mom paid for the dress, and I don't think she'd be happy."

For more information, call Bryan Mitchell Photography at (248) 420-3488, visit www.bryanmitchell.com, or check out www.trashthedress.com.

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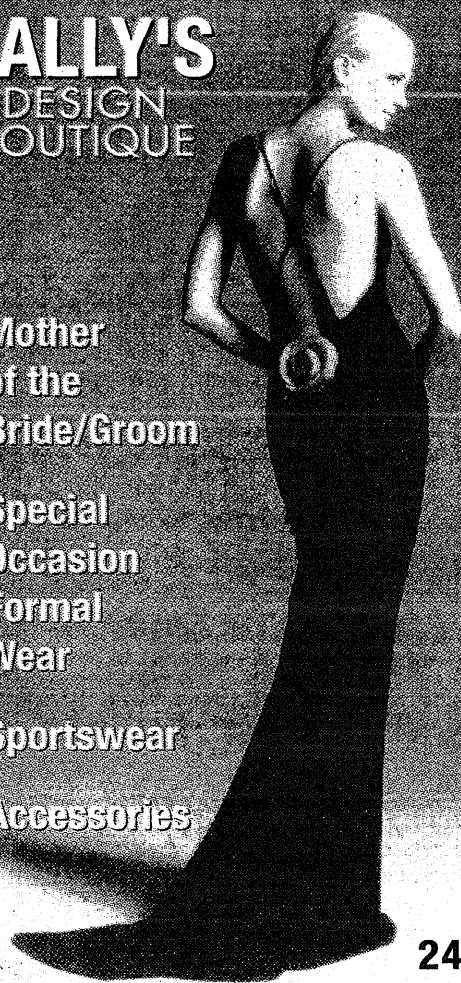
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