

Plymouth Observer

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IN THE PAPER
TODAY

Observer to publish new Sunday paper

Dear Readers,

On Feb. 2, we will begin publishing a Sunday edition that will replace the Monday edition of the Plymouth Observer. You can expect to find the same quality news and features you are familiar with in the Monday paper.

The Observer has continued to win many national awards for journalistic quality, and we are committed to providing our readers with high quality service. With our move to Sunday delivery we will be able to provide you with even more of the best community news and information for your reading pleasure.

Sincerely,
Banks Dishmon,
Publisher

Presidential performance



Marching on down: Cold temps didn't daunt the spirits of the Mid American All Star Pompon Team who performed for President Bill Clinton's inauguration Jan. 20. Here Angela Bernard (front) and Libby Birchmeier of Plymouth Canton High School are photographed as they move down Pennsylvania Avenue. Clinton was in the viewing stands when the team performed their routine.

MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Pet fancy: Animal rights activist and lawyer Sharon Atma opens a very special shop in Plymouth. /A10

TASTE

Chinese New Year: Make plans to celebrate the year of the ox at local Chinese restaurants. /B1

Main Dish Miracles: Dietitian Muriel G. Wagner's saucy shrimp dish will win your heart. /B1

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Recreation program draws eye on costs

A joint city of Plymouth and Plymouth Township survey to begin next month should provide some insight for the future of the city's recreation program.

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Should the city expand its recreation program, or dump it?

Plymouth city commissioners on Tuesday said the results of a joint city-township sponsored recreation survey, to begin in the next month, could provide some answers.

But running a recreation program is also a budget issue, they said - especially if few residents use it.

The discussion was sparked by a report from city Recreation Director Tom Willette. He noted other communities including Canton are providing fitness facilities and day care in their recreation centers, and this could raise money to offset other programs.

Commissioner Doug Miller said he opposed this idea, as the city would unnecessarily compete with private businesses. But others said they favored reviewing some new uses for the Plymouth Cultural Center.

Some other ways of offsetting recreation costs have been reviewed by city officials in recent months. They've talked of raising non-city resident fees. What they'd really like is for the Plymouth Township govern-

See RECREATION, A2

Pedal patrols to target downtown

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Police bicycle patrols have been approved by Plymouth city commissioners, to better patrol the downtown area.

The commission on Tuesday approved the police department's request to spend \$4,699.98 for four bikes and assorted equipment for a bike patrol program.

Commissioners also approved spending \$7,500 for an electric vehicle to be used for parking enforcement and other uses.

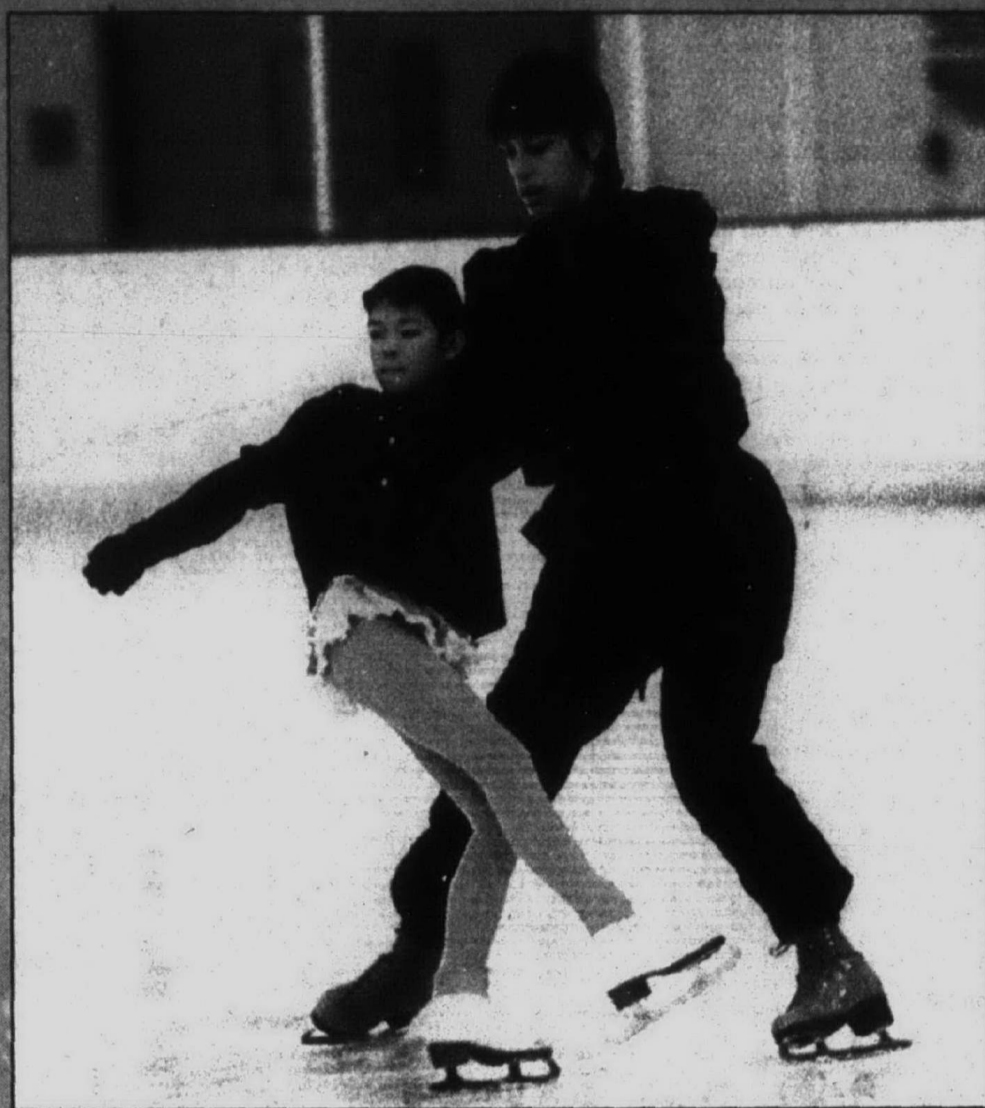
"I can't think of an atmosphere more perfect for bike patrols than the city of Plymouth," said Sgt. Steve Huntersmark, who presented a written proposal for the bike patrol.

Police Chief Robert Scoggins said the department was ineffective in responding this past summer to business owners' complaints about rowdy skate boarders.

"We feel this type of approach will help us, we think we will turn that thing around," he said.

Police said the bikes could also be useful in residential areas, Old Village, for parades and special events, fall festival, to monitor cruising and more.

See BIKES, A2



On ice: Teacher Peggy Szura helps skater Nicole LaBell during a practice session at the Compuware Ice Arena, while skater Janell Feiler practices solo. Both are members of the Plymouth Figure Skating Club.

STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER

Skaters find a home

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Things have been looking up for the Plymouth Figure Skating Club since moving to the Compuware Ice Arena.

The club now runs its own lessons. And the U.S. Figure Skating Association was so impressed with the new facility, they're having the club host the 1998 Midwest Precision Skating Competition at Compuware Arena.

The club has 200 members, from Plymouth and Canton, around Wayne County

and beyond. Some come from as far as Port Huron.

Since moving operations from the Plymouth Cultural Center to the Compuware arena, the club has picked up 30 new members, LaBelle said.

"I think it's the facility, for one thing the Olympic-size rink," said Nancy LaBelle, of the figure skating club's board of directors.

Running lessons and hosting regional competitions are things the big clubs do. And when a club's reputation grows, so

See SKATING, A2

MEAP doesn't score for most local private schools

BY M.B. DILLON
STAFF WRITER

There's a good reason why private schools in Plymouth-Canton haven't reported student scores on the state standardized test known as the MEAP (Michigan Educational Program Test).

Most don't administer the MEAP, opting instead for nationally-normed tests.

The MEAP math and reading tests are given to fourth- and seventh-graders in the fall. Fifth- and eighth-graders take the MEAP science and writing exams in March.

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools are sending MEAP results home to parents this month. Administrators will present a report on the MEAP at the Feb. 4 Board of Education meeting.

Plymouth Christian

"We use the Stanford Achievement Test," said Mary Harmsen, guidance counselor at Plymouth Christian Academy. "In our reports, we can get national norms as well as Christian school norms."

"The MEAP is not norm-referenced; it's just within the state of Michigan. So it doesn't give us a whole lot of statistical data we can use," she said. "It doesn't tell you enough. The curriculum we cover is not tested by the MEAP, so it gives us no feedback on that."

The Academy has an enrollment of 780 in grades kindergarten through 12.

St. Peter's Lutheran

At St. Peter's Lutheran School, students take the Metropolitan Achievement Test.

"We give the test in the spring for the entire school as opposed to just fourth and seventh grades," said teacher Kurt Heyer. "We have made use of the Iowa Test of Basic Skills and the Metropolitan test at different times."

St. Peter's has given the MEAP in the past. "Each of the different tests is a piece of a small puzzle we use to try to get a good academic picture of our students," he said.

Said Principal Gerold Meier: "It's nothing against

See MEAP, A4

Local man wins big in lottery

A Plymouth man has won \$100,000 in the Michigan Lottery.

Guy Gillespie said he was watching the Cash 5 drawing Dec. 12. "I saw that I'd matched the first two numbers, and I got really quiet," he said.

"My wife looked at me and asked me if I'd matched three or four numbers. I held up five fingers and my wife was just ecstatic," he said.

Gillespie, 43, bought his winning ticket at Schulz' Cap N' Cork, 40644 Five Mile Road in Plymouth. The winning numbers were 4, 11, 19, 27 and 30.

Gillespie said he'll use the winnings to pay off his house and for his daughter's education expenses.

"I almost missed the drawing because I didn't buy a ticket until the day before the drawing," he said.

Doubts remain over school bond issue

BY M.B. DILLON
STAFF WRITER

With Plymouth-Canton schools' election little more than two months away, citizens are still raising questions about the merits of the plan to ask voters for a \$79.7 million bond issue.

Tentatively slated for the ballot March 22 is a proposal to build a new high school on district-owned land at Beck and Joy roads and a new elementary in southwest Canton; and purchase land for a future middle school in Canton.

The district also wants to buy buses, refurbish existing school facilities; and upgrade computers and classroom technology.

Former school board president Roland Thomas, a finance executive with Ford Motor Company, made a rare board meeting appearance recently to voice his concerns about what he describes as "empire building."

Thomas analyzed enrollment projections and the state formula for student capacity and said, "anyway you look at the numbers from a reasonable person's perspective, we are going to be significantly over capacity," possibly by as much as 45 percent.

"You don't need a high school; you need classroom space at the (existing) high schools."

Concerned about deficit spending, Thomas also noted that the board hasn't budgeted the \$300,000 for athletics at the new high school, or the \$3 million it will cost to staff the school with teachers.

"You can't open that new high school. You can't do it. Why are you building it?"

Thomas says he doesn't want to see Plymouth-Canton in the position of the Livonia school district, which closed 20 schools when enrollment dropped.

"I cut my teeth in finance. This is wrong," said Thomas. "The board is asking us to spend \$40 million when we can get away with \$15 million - \$20 million. I have a problem with that."

The bond proposal is the outgrowth of three recent community forums hosted by the district and a consultant. An average of 70 people attended the sessions.

Administration has said the bond proposal reflects what the community said it wanted at the forums.

A member of the district's citizen housing and facilities committee, Carol Bollman disagrees.

"This bond issue isn't a plan initiated by the community, because the facilities committee's first request last year was a new middle school," she said.

"I feel the forums' purpose was to gather information in support of a plan suggested by this administration."

Bollman agrees with Thomas that better use can be made of existing room at the high schools, and that what's needed is more classroom space, not a new high school.

Former Plymouth mayor Robert Jones, a member of the citizens' finance committee, said, "I'm still concerned about where we're going to get the operating money for new schools."

"What are we going to do until the schools are built? What is our alternative if the bond fails? It's important that that be available to people before March 22."

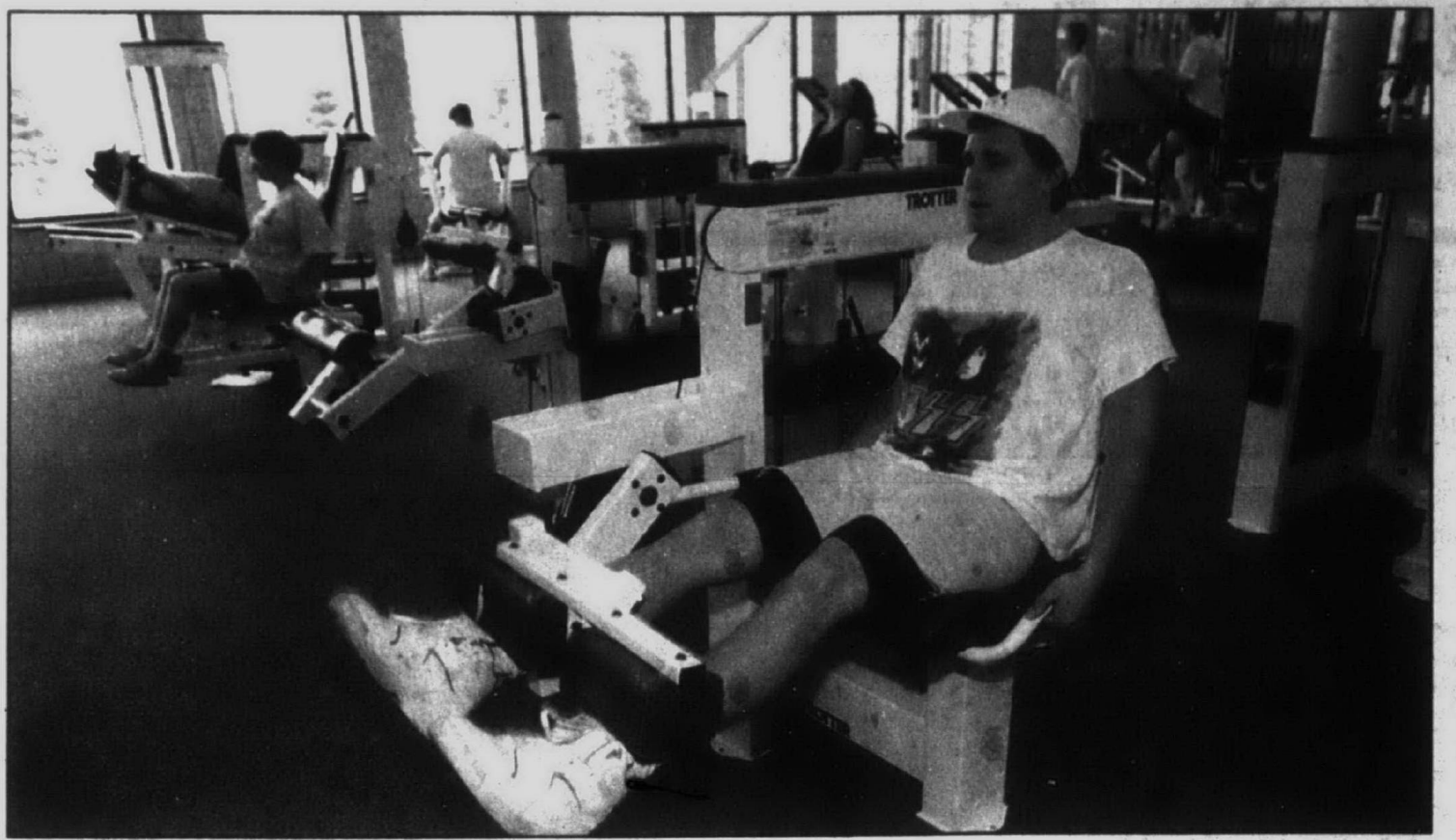
Jones reiterated his suggestion that the state Legislature be approached about providing revenue for new facilities.

"I would rather see us share some of this money that's floating around in out-state Michigan," Jones said.

Finance committee member Ted Bohlen, a retired General Motors attorney, is concerned about extending ever-increasing debt further into the future.

The \$79.7 million bond issue would be repaid over 25 years. Annual cost for the owner of a \$100,000 home would be \$87.50. For the owner of a \$200,000 home, cost would be \$175 per year.

The problem with passing bond issue after bond issue is that "as you extend the period, the cost is greater," said Bohlen. "I see no value in paying double the interest rates. It's like running up your credit card and having to pay it off later on. You have a current need, but you don't want the guy who graduates this year to be paying for this 45 years later."



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Fitness: Tyler Best, of Canton, uses the fitness machines at Canton's Summit on the Park. City commissioners have talked about a fitness center and a daycare center as a way to generate revenue.

Recreation from page A1

ment to kick in some budget money for recreation services, as township residents use the city programs.

While city and township officials have been discussing recreation, some city officials say it appears unlikely the township would contribute.

So rather than wait for recreation survey results and an ultimate decision from township officials, city officials said they should be talking now about recreation programs - especially with talks on the 1997-98 city budget looming.

Mayor Ron Loiselle appointed a committee of three commissioners: Donald Dismuke, Stella Greene and Miller, to join Willette in discussing recreation provided by the city.

Willette reported that a child care center

could generate \$220,800 in revenue before costs, more than a fitness center. Another option would be to offer both in the cultural center's multi-purpose room, which has 2,800 square feet.

"My initial impression is it's inappropriate to compete with free enterprise," Miller said. "In the real world you can make a lot of money with a pizza franchise."

Loiselle said in other communities, government recreation-run fitness centers have "proved to be well used. It appeals to a whole different section of people" than commercial fitness centers.

"Let's say nothing happens with Plymouth Township," Dismuke said. Rather than see something sit vacant we should have a plan B."

"I commend the staff for looking into

alternatives," Greene said. "That's exactly what they're doing instead of waiting for the township. We do have to use this space as cost effectively as we can."

Miller cautioned against an involved equipment purchase to staff a fitness center. Should it fail, he said, "Two or three years down the road we could be saying now what do we do, who wants all this used equipment?"

"If we can generate revenue so much the better," said Commissioner Joe Koch.

"When someone talks about getting rid of the recreation department the hairs on my back go up," Willette said, adding there's obviously a need for recreation as many communities offer recreation departments.

Skating from page A1

does its ability to attract talented skaters - the kind who compete on regional, national or even Olympic levels.

Some club members who've distinguished themselves in competitions include Karen Deneau, who placed third in regional U.S. Figure Skating Association competition and sixth in sectional competition last year. Another club member, Erin Sutton, has earned a Junior Olympics gold medal.

LaBelle first joined the club three years ago, when daughter Nicolle began taking lessons. More than 90 percent of the skaters are girls.

"TV is a big influence on kids, figure skating became really big the last five years," she said.

Skaters who are able to master one technique seek to improve by mastering the next technique, then another.

"It's an addicting sport. You can work on a single axel and go

■ 'They learn very good time management skills. It gives them a feeling of self worth. I think the sport itself is just beautiful.'

Cheryl Feiler
—Past president

up to double axels. It's very artistic," LaBelle said.

Carl Modettez is the club's current president. Past president Cheryl Feiler - her daughter Janell is a skater - said a lot of skaters also take dance classes.

Because serious skating requires a year-round commitment, Feiler said, "They learn very good time management skills. It gives them a feeling of self worth. I think the sport

itself is just beautiful."

Beautiful, yes. But if you think figure skating might be cheaper to get involved in than say, hockey, think again.

The cost for skates for serious skaters ranges from \$350-\$750. Blade and boot are sold separately. Competition dresses range from \$150-200. "If you can sew you're far ahead," Feiler explained.

Skaters also typically pay \$5.50 per hour for advanced lessons with club professionals. Money gained through starting and intermediate level lessons offered by the club help defray members' costs for ice time.

Are skaters prone to injury, with all that leaping around? "They get sore backsides and sore hips, that's the extent of it," Feiler said.

For more information on the club or lessons, call 459-6686.

Bikes from page A1

Commissioner Doug Miller said bike patrols made sense. But he asked Scoggins if the program would continue two years from now, if interest from officers waned.

Scoggins said the department has been adding younger officers to replace retirees, and younger officers are enthusiastic about the program.

Bike patrol officers are to wear a special uniform with the word "police" prominently displayed, and that message will also be prominent on the bikes.

Commissioners asked why four bikes were needed. Huntersmark said having four would provide enough bikes for training, and ensure there would be enough bikes if one or two need repairs.

Officers who will serve on bike patrol are to be trained this spring.

The commission also on Tuesday approved a police request to buy the electric police vehicle. The silent, battery-run unit would have a top speed of 25 mph.

"The mobility of the electric vehicle will certainly improve parking enforcement and greatly assist us with special events and uptown foot patrol," Scoggins said.

■ Bike patrol officers are to wear a special uniform with the word "police" prominently displayed, and that message will also be prominent on the bikes.

The department tested a similar unit earlier, and Scoggins said the battery never ran down.

The unit takes eight hours to charge by plugging into a conventional socket. It then runs up to 35 miles before it needs recharging.

Miller asked how often it would be used. Scoggins said a minimum of three days a week and maybe as much as five.

"Because the unit is silent, 'You can get on top of things very quickly,'" Scoggins said.

Commissioner Joe Koch asked if police had studied gas-powered alternatives. "To our knowledge, there is no other vehicle that is designed like this," Scoggins said.

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Retailers blame cold for dip in business at ice fest

BY KEVIN BROWN
STAFF WRITER

Business during the ice festival was down this year compared to last, several downtown store owners said last week.

"Sales were down from last year, about 10 percent," said Laura Walker, accountant for Little Professor Book Store on Main Street across from Kellogg Park. "That's because it was cold."

"I don't think it was quite as busy, I think those cold days slowed it down," said Jane

Kuhns, owner of the Michigan Made store at Ann Arbor Trail and Main.

Downtown retailers agreed that near-zero temperatures on Saturday and Sunday kept crowds down from last year, the best attended ice festival ever.

"Last year there were dozens and dozens of strollers in here on Saturday," said Native West owner Annette Horn, adding she saw no baby strollers on Saturday this year. "It was really too cold to walk the streets," she said.

Horn said business for the ice

'Sales were down from last year, about 10 percent. That's because it was cold.'

Jane Kuhns
—Michigan Made owner

festival at her Ann Arbor Trail store was down 50 percent overall.

Still, warmer weather on the final day of the festival boosted

business. "This year's Monday was the best Monday we ever had," Horn said. "The ice festival show itself was phenomenal."

"We were down from last year, mainly due to the weather," said Repeat the Beat manager Tom Morgan. He estimated sales dropped 15 percent from last year.

Still, the "Romeo and Juliet" soundtrack - complete with free promotional candle with the movie logo - was popular with shoppers at the record store on Penniman Avenue across from the park.

One store owner who reported an increase in sales was Larry Bird of Gabriela's on Main Street. "Friday and Saturday were comparable to last year, but Saturday night was down because we didn't have the fireworks," he said.

"Sunday was phenomenal because the weather warmed up," Bird said, adding business overall was up a bit from last year.

Some big sellers included hockey theme bracelets - about 50 of these sold during the ice festival - and powdered soup

mixes.

Bird said that during the ice festival he signed up 900 new customers for his mailing list.

"I think it's a really nice event for the city of Plymouth, but a lot of everyday local prescription customers stay away," said Wiltse's Pharmacy owner Dale Knab.

Still, he reported business was up during the ice festival. "We sell a lot of film and post cards," he said, adding weekend sales during this year's festival weren't as brisk as last year.

First-graders travel the continents

One-hundred-fifteen first graders at Isbister Elementary saw the world without leaving home Jan. 16.

"They were adorable," said Joanne Kokoszka, one of four teachers involved in the special Parade of Nations programs. Other teachers were Aileen Wise, Sarah Smith and Denise McLane.

Special activities included each child dressing up in native costume of the country of their choice and bringing in food samples of the same country. Parents made some of the costumes, Kokoszka said.

The activities completed the students' social studies unit of holidays and landforms around the world. "We have been to all the continents," Kokoszka said.

Each of the children also carried flags they made of their chosen countries.

While the children represented the various countries and seven continents from around the world, the teachers took the role of scientists from Antarctica.

"We marched by all the continents," Kokoszka said.

Parade of nations: First-graders at Isbister Elementary (right) tour the continents of the world dressed in costumes and carrying flags of their chosen countries.



In costume: Jennifer Rogers (above) wears a costume of Poland while Spencer Tobin (right) represents France during a parade in costumes of their chosen countries. The event was part of the students' social studies unit on holidays and landforms of the world.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BILL BRESLER

Plymouth businesses exhibit at annual home and garden show

Great Lakes Hydronic Heating Association, Deck Detail, Old Faithful Sprinkler, Your New House, Wild Wings Gallery, Days Gone By/Lace Curtain, Absopure Water and Rock Shoppe, Inc. of Plymouth are among more than 300 exhibitors at the fifth annual Spring Home & Garden Show, Jan. 30-Feb. 2, at the Novi Expo Center.

"The gathering together of companies such as these is what makes our show a favorite with homeowners," said Scott Jacobson, president of Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan (BIA) and S.R. Jacob-

son Development Corporation in Bingham Farms. "Where else can they go and see a myriad of home and garden products without having to make numerous phone calls and trips in the car?"

Great Lakes Hydronic Heating Association will feature wall radiators, boilers and radiant products for radiant in-floor heating.

Deck Detail will display cleaning and refinishing services for outdoor decks. Old Faithful Sprinkler will present sprinklers and landscape lighting. Your New House will have videos on building new homes. Wild Wings

Gallery will exhibit wildlife prints and carvings. Days Gone By/Lace Curtain will feature curtains and home accents. Absopure Water will display water coolers and bottled water and Rock Shoppe, Inc. will present paving brick and retaining walls.

Novi Expo Center is at I-96 and Novi Road. Show hours are from 2-10 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$6 for adults; \$4 for seniors; \$3 for children 6-12 and children under 6 are admitted free. For more information, call (810) 737-4475.

All Saints meeting at 7 p.m. tonight

All Saints Catholic School will hold an informational town hall meeting for all parents in the four-parish region who are considering All Saints for their children.

The meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 3, at St. Kenneth Parish.

Information packets will be available concerning the school, as well as a presentation by

principal, Mary Rita Allen, about the status of preparations for the new school year.

For information, newsletter and registration forms, call (313) 459-2490.

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BFI wins contract for Newburgh Lake

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
STAFF WRITER

A Northville firm received a \$1.6 million contract Thursday from Wayne County to excavate contaminated dirt from Newburgh Lake.

County commissioners approved the agreement with Browning-Ferris Industries to provide for waste disposal services in removing sediments and soil contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) during the \$10 million restoration of Newburgh Lake.

Jim Ridgway, project manager of the Newburgh lake restoration and vice president of Environmental Consulting & Technology, said the firm will remove 650,000 tons of soil from the lake's bottom. Contractors will begin work in April or May, once the water warms up, Ridgway said.

"The construction contractor will be given access before the fish kill begins," Ridgway said.

A fish kill also will be conducted this spring. Rotenone, a restricted use pesticide, will be used to kill the fish in the lake because many species there are contaminated with the PCBs. The water containing the rotenone will be treated or "detoxicated" with potassium permanganate.

Native fish will be restocked in the lake once the kill is completed.

If the lake level is lowered before the fish kill, the rotenone and potassium permanganate can be concentrated in an area with less water volume. Thus the kill will be more efficient.

Rotenone, a white, odorless,

crystalline substance, clogs the fish's gills and suffocates them. It is not considered fatal to humans, but it can cause injury if inhaled or swallowed in substantial doses. Potassium permanganate is a dark-purple crystalline compound used as an oxidizing agent.

The project will be funded by a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Any dirt that falls in a range of 1 to 50 parts per million will be transported to Michigan landfills, while any above 50 will be removed by a different contractor and placed in designated landfills in New Jersey or Alabama, Ridgway said.

Earlier tests have found PCB levels within the 1-50 range, Ridgway said.

After the excavation EC&T will drill 464 holes to test the lake's area for PCBs before the lake is refilled.

Browning Ferris will stockpile clean dirt to use along the shore to create shallow areas where fish can spawn. Aquatic plants will be placed in the water.

After the excavation most of the lake will average a depth of eight feet, except along the shore, Ridgway said.

A sluice gate will be removed in February. The water flow then will be controlled by a cofferdam. The lake will be lowered 9 feet, then the excavation will begin.

Ridgway illustrated how conservative the cleanup process was to get the levels below one part per million. The state Department of Environmental Quality's cleanup criteria for a residential lot for occupancy is 2.17 part per million.

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

Only the Michigan Association of Realtors cheered as Gov. John Engler signed a new Land Division Act aimed at halting the wasting of farmland.

"We're just plain disappointed," said John Amberger, executive director of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. SEMCOG wants to halt "urban sprawl" and asked Engler to veto the bill.

Even Engler was unhappy at the passage of Senate Bill 112, sponsored by Sen. Leon Stille, R-Spring Lake. The governor cited two defects:

■ The bill wasn't given "immediate effect" and won't become law until March 31, creating "the potential that landowners could divide their land under the provisions of today's law and then in April-again split the parcel."

■ SB 112, now known as Public Act 591 of 1996, did nothing to speed up the "bureaucratic" approval of new subdivisions. Realtors made the same criticism.

Crux of the fight was the question of how many land splits will be allowed before a developer

must platt the land under the eye of local government, drain commissioner and county road panel. Local units typically require a good water supply, ability to handle wastewater, road access and lot shape.

Realtors were successful in watering down the Senate bill when it reached the House Local Government Committee.

The Realtors said, "The new law does not require that land parcels be over 10 acres in size to be exempt (from the act), allowing for much more efficient use of land. It also allows property owners to keep larger parcels intact."

Urging a veto were SEMCOG, the Michigan Farm Bureau, the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Townships Association and Michigan Association of Counties, as well as the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC).

"This latest version does not address the problem of land puzzling or bowling alley lots," said Julie Stoneman, MEC's land programs director. The MEC spokesperson added:

"Over time, we will still have more platting exemptions than currently allowed, which means developers have the ability to

create large subdivisions over time without necessary public review. And SB 112 does very little to protect farmland or other natural resource lands. It's a flawed bill."

Most parties agreed Michigan was wasting farmland by allowing farms to be split into an unlimited number of 10-plus acre parcels without going through subdivision procedures. Result: "bowling alley" lots that extended far back into a parcel, taking that land out of farm production.

Stille, the sponsor, said his bill "is not a magical cure for urban sprawl, but it is definitely a positive first step toward a long overdue revision of the original act. My legislation is not now, nor was it ever, intended to prohibit development.

"Pursuant to the governor's request, I fully plan to revisit this issue and address any points of disagreement which exist between the interested parties. I will attempt to negotiate an acceptable solution which will satisfy the concerns of all those involved."

PA 591 takes effect March 31.

Said Engler: "This legislation puts a stop to the unlimited creation of 10.01-acre parcels, cre-

ating lots too large for most residential purposes and too small for agriculture purposes." He said the new schedule allows:

■ Four splits on any parcel under 10 acres.

■ One split for each additional 10 acres up to parcels 120 acres in size.

■ One additional split for every 40 acres over 120 acres.

■ Two bonus splits if a new road is built to accommodate access or if at least 60 percent of the original parcel is maintained in one parcel after the split.

■ Divisions involving parcels over 40 acres are not counted as splits.

■ New parcels over 40 acres in size earn their own split rights after a 10-year wait.

Here is an example of the bill's metamorphosis through the political process:

Current law requires no depth-to-width ratio, resulting in "bowling alley" lots.

Engler's farmland task force recommended a 1:1 depth-to-width ratio.

Stille's original Senate bill called for a 4:1 ratio.

The House revision exempted parcels 10 acres or larger from the 4:1 ratio.

Land Division Act

Realtors praise bill, SEMCOG sought veto

Madonna offers reading, writing enrichment class

Madonna University's Learning Center is accepting applications for its enrichment program titled "Connections in Reading/Writing."

The program is designed for children in grades one, two and three who demonstrate the ability to understand the meaning of a story and are interested in advancing in interpreting the author's message.

Children will work in groups of five or six students, with a

teacher for each group.

The focus will be on folk tale such as animal stories, myths, fairy tales, legends and fables. The students will participate in various activities.

Initially, the teacher will spend time reading with the students and introduce and take them through the different stages of process writing. Students will then develop their

own story based on the teacher's assignment, and from their story, they will present a mini-drama acted out through puppets.

Classes will be held on Saturdays beginning Saturday, Feb. 15, and run through Saturday, April 12, from 9 to 11 a.m. There will be no class on Saturday, March 8, due to Madonna's spring break.

The cost of the program is \$105 and includes all materials. Class size is limited to the first 30 students who apply. Registration forms are available at Madonna University's Learning Center or check with your local school, and deadline for registration is Monday, Feb. 10.

For more information, call (313) 432-5585.

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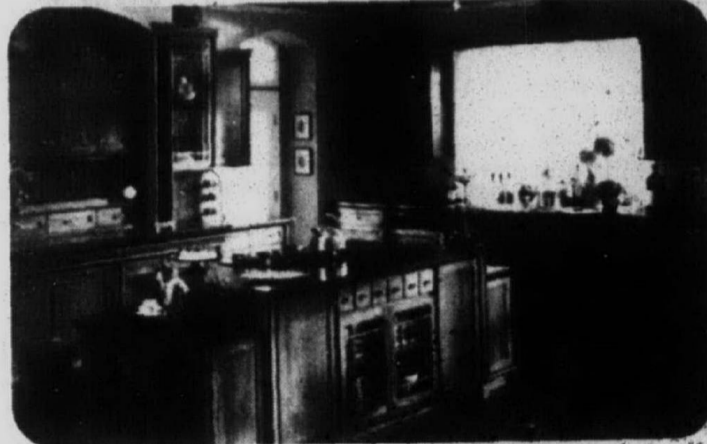
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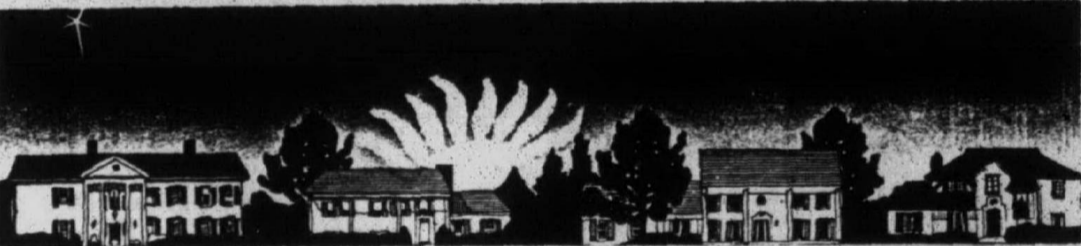
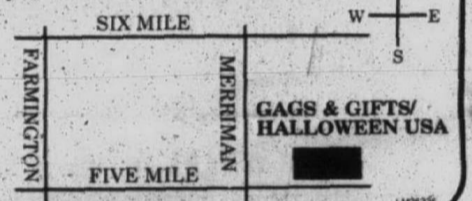


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Lawmakers question need for new law to curb vote fraud

BY TIM RICHARD
STAFF WRITER

A maverick Republican has joined Democrats in questioning the need for a new voting law designed to curb fraud at the polls.

State Rep. Greg Kaza, R-Rochester Hills, asked the U.S. Justice Department to review the legality of a law, signed Jan. 17 by Gov. John Engler, that would require Michigan voters to present a photo identification card before being given a ballot.

The law "has the potential to intimidate certain classes of voters," Kaza wrote in a letter to U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno. "Citizens who do not pos-

sess a photo identification card should not be disenfranchised from exercising their right to vote under the U.S. Constitution."

Kaza was the only Republican to vote against the measure when the House passed it 56-44 on Dec. 13, the last day of the session. He said he has confidence in the FBI's ability to investigate vote fraud, "when, and if, it occurs."

Rep. Ed Vaughn, D-Detroit, said, "Disgruntled Republicans pushed this legislation after several of their incumbents were defeated in the November election." The GOP had 56-54 control of the House until Dec. 31. This year Democrats have 57-52

control with one seat vacant.

Engler signed it as Public Act 583 of 1996 and took a blistering attack from new House Speaker Curtis Hertel, D-Detroit.

"There isn't any evidence of voter fraud, which supporters claim necessitated the legislation in the first place," said Hertel. "We should try to increase access, not restrict it."

"All it will do is make it more difficult for many people, including the elderly who are less likely to have driver licenses, to vote," said Hertel.

During the signing ceremony, Engler replied, "People don't need an identification card to vote, but without identification, they could be challenged."

STATE NEWS

Engler said voter identification cards will be available free at Secretary of State branch offices for those who lack driver's licenses.

"The hallmark of a democracy is absolute assurance of the integrity of the process," Engler said.

The law started as House Bill 5420, sponsored by Rep. Beverly Hammerstrom, R-Temperance, a former local clerk, and was designed as a routine repair of election procedures. The photo ID amendment was added in the Senate.

PA 583 also:

- Eliminates the need for candidates to file petitions signed by voters. Delegate candidates will need to submit an affidavit of identity with the county or local clerk.

- Requires more voting stations, in order to reduce the number of voters using a station from 400 to 200.

- Provides for certification - and decertification - of voting machines.

- Sets a maximum, as well as minimum, number of signatures that may be filed on candidates' petitions.

- Provides that election counting centers may be set up only in locations also used as polling places.

- Establishes a criminal offense for threatening or harassing a poll challenger.

Rivers offers tax forms


U.S. Rep. Lynn Rivers, D-Ann Arbor, is making federal income tax forms available to constituents again this tax season.

District residents in Canton Township, Plymouth Township, city of Plymouth, Northville Township, city of Northville, Westland and Garden City can have most tax forms mailed to them simply by calling district offices in Ann Arbor at (313) 741-4210 or (313) 722-1411 in Wayne. The 1040 forms are available on a walk-in basis at

several local post offices and libraries.


The service is available only to residents of 13th Congressional District.

Tax assistance questions should be directed to the IRS toll-free hotline at 1-800-829-1040. The best time to call this number is between 3 and 4 p.m. Walk-in service is available at the IRS office in Detroit, located in the McNamara Federal Building, 477 Michigan Ave.



Dentistry in the 90s

by Herbert M. Gardner, D.D.S. & Martha P. Zinderman, R.N., D.D.S.



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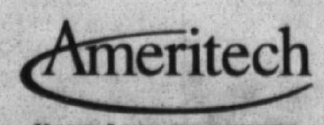
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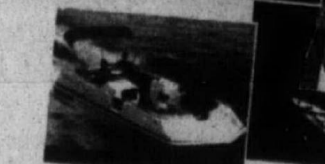
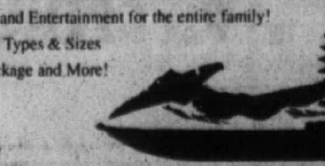
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MALLS & MAINSTREETS

Monday, Jan. 27, 1997

A10

SHOPPING CENTERED



Linda Ann Chomin

Shop is a dream for animal lovers

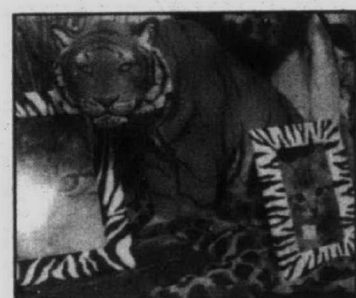
BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
SPECIAL WRITER

Walk in the bright red door to the Animal Odyssey and you're bound to smile. I did a couple of weeks ago when I visited the shop in Plymouth's Old Village area.

The cozy space is packed with animal-related gifts and art. From a fake fur purse that looks like a moose (\$74.95) to ceramic tableware hand-crafted in Zimbabwe, the shop is an animal lovers paradise.

Sharon and Cecilia Atma opened Animal Odyssey in November, just in time for the holiday rush. The mother-daughter team stocked it well with gifts, artwork, crafts, decorative accessories, jewelry, T-shirts, leopard print vests, hats and scarves, toys, and figurines.

Several of the items were created by local artists like Jenna of Plymouth, who works in stained glass, and Jeannette Pugliese, Lathrup Village who likes cat-themed mirrors, clocks,



pins, and earrings. Bev Blanchard from northern Michigan created the adult-size stuffed llama (\$275) and tiger rockers (\$495); Kay Eberly made the ceramic framed mirror and vase with

cat head. Donna Bragg of Chicago fills another shelf with cat dolls with porcelain heads.

"We've gone to the trade shows and contacted art schools for merchandise. We want to provide a forum for artists to exhibit their work. When you think of art a lot of people are intimidated by galleries. We want this to be a place where people can have fun," said Sharon, 30, who lives in Livonia with five cats. She grew up in Bloomfield Hills and graduated from Andover High.

Sales have slowed since the holidays, but it's only a matter of time before animal lovers hear of this magical place. Plush puppets including the big bad wolf (\$52.95) would make terrific props for telling children stories. If you own a cabin, or are into sports like fishing, a separate area in the back of the store features everything from a frog lamp to a fish paper towel holder, both priced at \$32.95.

"We like to emphasize the art if it's handcrafted or handpainted," added Cecilia. "We look for funky stuff. When people come in here, it's a thrill when they go 'ooh and 'aah.'"

"It's our first stab at retail. It's been a lot of work, but it's been fun. You have to be a jack-of-all trades from negotiating leases to ordering merchandise. You spend so much time at work. I may not become a millionaire, but I'm having a lot of fun," insisted Sharon who is also an attorney in private practice. Her office is located in back of the shop.

Cecilia, 68, is a retired Hamtramck school teacher who enjoys retailing as much as Sharon.

"It's always been kind of a dream all my life to have my own business. I love animals and feel they should be appreciated. My daughter has a T-shirt that reads, 'They were here before us.' I guess that sums up our whole philosophy," said the Bloomfield Hills resident.

Sharon began doing volunteer work a few years ago at the Michigan Animal Rescue League. She now sits on the board of the no-kill shelter in Pontiac. It's no wonder sales from a number of items benefit various non-profit animal and nature organizations. Just a step away from the llama rocker, a large wicker basket accepts donations of canned and dry food and accessories like leashes for homeless animals.



PHOTOS BY BILL HANSEN

Cool stuff: Sharon Atma in her shop.

Bert and Ernie star at mall benefit



More than 500 families stopped to meet Sesame Street stars Bert and Ernie at Oakland Mall's center court last week, making donations to be photographed with the pair. Children's Hospital of Michigan benefits from the event, which raised \$300. Local celebrities munched cookies donated by Keebler in a contest to see who could eat the most.

Above: Taylor Munroe, 3, of Clinton Township, poses with her new friends; (top right) Kevin Kresnak, 21 months, of Auburn Hills gets a lift from his dad Pat as he shakes Bert's hand; (lower right) Karey Miller, 7, and sister Samantha 9, of Lake Orion catch cookies thrown from the mall stage.

PHOTOS BY BILL HANSEN



Treadmill talk keeps business brisk



The treadmill is the hottest-selling retail item after the holidays. All around town, shoppers are checking into these expensive pieces of equipment. Be sure you do your homework before you buy say the experts.

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
SPECIAL WRITER

Ever since July's release of "The Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health," treadmill sales have gone through the roof. In the report, acting surgeon general Audrey Manley concluded that since a review of studies showed physical activity directly related to preventing disease and premature death, lack of it could be detrimental to your health.

Treadmills allow walkers to reap the benefits of exercise while dodging snow and ice in winter, and rain and lightning in summer. That's why the equipment is so popular.

Local retailers like American Exercise (with locations in Southfield, Rochester and Novi) agree with the Feb. 19 issue of *Business Week* magazine; "Treadmills are the most popular of all exercise machines with 42-percent of the market." Store director Karl Nilsson expects the upsweep in sales to continue through the winter.

"Treadmills are definitely leading the charge because walking is enjoyable for most people. But also, like me, a 46-year old male, people need to keep on top of it. You can always walk and reap the benefits, plus

there are no injuries resulting from treadmills. The new decks are safer than walking outdoors because they cushion the impact better when compared to walking or running on concrete."

American Exercise's motorized treadmills range in price from \$700 to \$4,000. In addition to burning up those excess holiday calories quicker than other forms of exercise (according to a study by the Medical College of Wisconsin) indoor walking equipment offers another benefit.

"Treadmills are the number one cardiovascular piece in the industry as far as being the most efficient," said Graham Montgomery of Southfield American Exercise.

Although ski exercise machines sell consistently at NordicTrack Fitness At Home in the Somerset Collection South, treadmill sales by folks aged 30 to 50, were brisker through the holidays. Along with motorized treadmills (\$799-\$999), NordicTrack offers non-motorized models (\$499-\$599).

"With the non-motorized you will actually get a better workout because you are actually pushing at some resistance. The motorized machines are better for people looking for a running workout," accord-

ing to manager Ian Fleming.

Fitness Things in Canton sells only motorized treadmills (\$1,200 to \$4,200). The more expensive models with foldable decks conserve space. Owner Elise Walley credits her strong sales to the fact that walking machines are not trendy. Some of the ones made by Trotter are 20 years old and still going strong.

18-inches wide and a length in excess of 50-inches. There should be a safety to pull so if you fall, it cuts off. Warranty is also important because treadmills take a lot more abuse than people realize. When someone walks or runs they come down on a surface with two to three times their weight. Find out if someone will come out to your house to service it, or does it need to be packed and shipped.

"If you are going to buy a treadmill, look for quality components as far as the motor and rollers go," said Walley. "The motor should be a minimum of 1 1/2 horsepower, the size of the deck or surface a minimum of

Walley advised shoppers to bring their tennis shoes to the store. "A person should walk on the treadmills before deciding to buy, but not in street shoes," she said.



Walk it off: The low-impact treadmill from Precor features a one-touch scan key that displays time, distance, speed, calories and incline, plus 10 programmed courses. \$1,900.

News of special events of interest to shoppers is included in this calendar. Send promotion information to: Malls & Mainstreets, c/o The Observer & Eccentric 805 East Maple, 48009; or fax (810) 644-1314. The deadline is Wednesday at 5 p.m. for publication on Monday.

MONDAY, JAN. 27

Cyberspace Safari

Explore the Internet and discover facts about dinosaurs through a program running until April. Co-sponsored by The Detroit Science Center and seven computer-related companies. Fees. Reservations suggested. School groups welcome. Near Service Merchandise entrance.

Wonderland, Plymouth/Middlebelt, Livonia. (313) 577-8400, ext. 417.

TUESDAY, JAN. 28

Antique Show

Furniture, books, dolls, pottery, prints, cut glass and more, for show and sale. Glass repair by Mr. Chips, also china and pottery repair. Tel-Twelve, 12 Mile/Telegraph, Southfield. (810) 353-4111.

Scarf event

Saks Fifth Avenue hosts "Scarf Tying" semi-

ADDED ATTRACTIONS

nar, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Receive a complimentary handbook with scarf purchase. First floor.

Fairlane Town, Hubbard/Michigan, Dearborn. (810) 336-3070.

THURSDAY, JAN. 30

Starlab & Magic School Bus

Stop by the mall for science fun and information as Starlab Planetarium opens at 7:30 p.m. and again on Sunday, Feb. 2 at 1 and 3 p.m. The Magic School Bus arrives Friday, Jan. 31 for shows at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. also Saturday, Feb. 1 at 12:30 and 4 p.m.

MeadowBrook Village Mall, Adams/University, Rochester Hills. (810) 375-9451.

Home & Garden Show

Mall's annual exhibition through Feb. 2. Browse amid indoor/outdoor product booths. Livonia Mall, Seven Mile/Middlebelt. (810) 476-1160.

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

Kids Book Events

"Sesame Street Live" kicks off *The Great Adventures Reading Club* at noon in Grand Court. Cookie Monster will greet children and a Rockers soccer star will read a book. Co-sponsored by Standard Federal Bank. Ages 5-10. Participants earn prizes, including bookmarks, pencil sets and Peacock Cafe gift certificates for meeting reading goals. Also, on Feb. 2 at 2 p.m. Bring in a used book and receive a new one.

Somerset Collection North.

Big Beaver/Coolidge, Troy. (810) 816-5484.

SUNDAY, FEB. 2

Groundhog Day Stories

Border's Books Children's Corner 1 p.m. Hear stories and make a craft. Free. 13 Mile/Southfield, Birmingham. (810) 644-1515.

MONDAY, FEB. 3

Senior dance

Monthly program for senior citizens 11 a.m. Coffee and refreshments at 12:30 p.m. Dance ends at 1 p.m. Lower level community room. Westland Center, Wayne/Warren (313) 425-5001.

Where can I find?

Thanks to all the readers who phoned in locations for the hard to find items in this feature! Several callers have inquired about fees for this service. There are none! *Where Can I Find?* is a service of these retail pages for consumers.

- Margaret Nagy searched her basement and came up with an April 1945 copy of Ford Times magazine for Robert Hisson. "My late husband worked for Ford for 38 years and he was a saver!" she said.
 - Two callers said they came across clothing made from recycled plastic. The *Aveda Lifestyle Store* at Somerset Collection North sells a line called *Anatomy* which includes polar fleece, sweats and T-shirts made from old plastic spun into fibers, and *The Nature Company* at Somerset Collection South features a collection of gloves, mittens and shirts - plus more, through a catalog 1-800-227-1114.
 - Three callers came up with sources for mens' *Supp-hose* stockings - *Mitzelfeld's Department Store* in downtown Rochester (810) 651-8171; the *Veteran's Hospital canteen* on Southfield Rd. in Allen Park and *McClutcheys Store* in Indian River, (616) 238-7712. The store is happy to send out special orders.
 - Suzanne Edmunds (super shopper) reports seeing *Math To Go* by Texas Instruments at *Sam's Club* on Haggerty in Farmington Hills. She also found Picarelli hamburger relish at *Ackroyds*, Five Mile and Beech Daly in Redford, 313 532-1181.
 - A caller reports seeing Yardley's liquid soap at the F & M on Warren road.
 - Two readers were willing to sell Weavever Super Shooters that they no longer use.
 - Several callers explained that Hallmark's Frosty Friends are still issued annually. They may be found at the Dearborn Civic Center's annual Hallmark Show in February, and also through Ron Kesterson of Knoxville, TN, who carries them (423) 675-7511.
 - A reader has a copy of "The First Nine Months Are the Hardest" and has been put in touch with the caller looking for it.
- We still need to find:**
- Linda Gorinski is searching for a copy of an English textbook for her seventh grade son: "Warriner's English Composition and Grammar Complete Course." Has anyone come across this book?
 - Lynn Duke hopes to locate a copy of Michael Douglas' recording "Happy Birthday Jesus," popularized in the 1970s on his afternoon talk show. "I can also make do with the words."
 - Former state representative John Jamian is anxious to come up with old restaurant photos, menus, signs and other memorabilia for a history book he is writing on the Woodward Corridor. Specifically, he wants information about the old Corning's, Ted's, Devon Gables and May's Drive-In. He welcomes information at (810) 540-0605.
 - Sandy Hill hopes to track down a place to buy mineral oil for a rainlamp KAYDOL-35.
 - A reader is looking for a copy of "Boy on a Dolphin" by David Devine. Since it is out of print, she'd be willing to buy an old copy.
 - Ever see Magic Baking Powder made by Nabisco of Toronto on your grocery shelf?
 - A Birmingham resident can't find the Almay hypo-allergenic all-over body splash that she used to buy at Montgomery Wards.
- If you've seen any of these items in your travels, let Malls & Mainstreets know and we'll print the answers. Please call (810) 901-2567.

Funky stylist likes to break the rules

BY SUSAN DEMAGGIO
EDITOR

Fashion designer DeLah McKay assures you that she understands all the rules - "I just don't happen to live by them."

Speaking about her spring collection from offices in New York, McKay explains that she is "an artist" who attempts to design "what people will love."

"My pieces are garments your heart tells you to buy," she said. "I make unusual clothing that's fun and fits well."

For spring McKay introduces romantic, long, flowing shifts and skirts. Her signature jackets feature patchwork or contrasting bias. There is lacework on her cardigans.

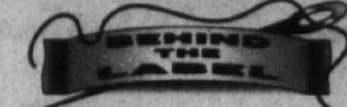
"I design for the woman who has been there, done that," she said. "She owns 50 jackets and 10 pants but buys mine because they are different and expressive."

Eleganza owner Sue Loussia-Hickey features McKay's collections in her West Bloomfield boutique. She said there is another reason women buy McKay - comfortable fit.

"Her pants are generous cuts. Her jackets offer room to move," she said. "You can wear a McKay design for years because she listens to her customers."

McKay grew up in England where her mother was a men's tailor. She said she never gave her mother's work a second thought, but subconsciously it must have taken hold of her.

"I started out, unsuccessfully, to be a designer and model," she said. "I could not get into college so I wound up traveling the world, living in seven countries, buying fashion in Paris that I'd



sell in Australia.

"I met designer Pierre Balmain at a party and he became my mentor. I was his right hand girl in those days. After he went bankrupt, contacts in the business led me to become fashion director for a chain of British department stores. I went to Hollywood where I was a stylist for the stars (Stephanie Powers, Kathleen Turner, Vicky Lawrence, Jacqueline Bisset to drop a few names). Eventually, I got a job as a Seattle television host doing makeovers and fashion segments."

A reversible jacket McKay made for herself launched her design career the second time around. Friends all wanted one, and when a department store ordered some, a New York Times article set McKay on her way.

"It was a fluke," she laughed. "In 1989, I sold a million dollars worth of jackets in just eight months."

McKay said she believed her lack of ability to sketch kept her from being a designer early on, until she realized, she "sketched" collections all day long in her "mind."

Single, McKay said she's devoted to the long hours of her career, and then to decapaging furniture, playing tennis and doing "home stuff" to unwind.

The *Eleganza boutique* is in the *Robin's Nest Plaza* on *Orchard Lake*, north of 14 Mile. *DeLah McKay's line* is priced at from \$135. Inquiries are welcome at (810) 737-2666.



High style: Designer DeLah McKay works in georgette crepe, rayon, silk and wool, adding whimsical touches to jackets and dresses.

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Livonia Chamber of Commerce http://oeonline.com/livoniachamber

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CLASSIFIED ADS
Observer & Eccentric Newspapers http://class.oeonline.com/classifieds.html

COMMUNITIES
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Progress Electric http://www.pe-com.com

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Authority of SW Oakland Co.

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Greenberg Laser Eye Center http://www.greenbergeye.com

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Interactive Incorporated http://www.interactive-inc.com

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Birmingham Bloomfield Rochester
South Oakland Association of Realtors http://www.justlisted.com
Century 21 at the Lakes http://oeonline.com/realnet.html
Chamberlain Real Estate http://www.chamberlainrealtors.com
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Langard Realtors http://www.langard.com
Ralph Manuel Associates http://oeonline.com/realnet.html
Sellers First Choice http://www.sfcreeators.com
Showcase of Distinctive Homes http://oeonline.com/showcase
Bob Taylor http://www.bobtaylor.com
John Toye http://www.toye.com

RELOCATION
Conquest Corporation http://www.conquest-corp.com

RESTAURANTS
Birmingham Restaurant Collection
Alban's http://oeonline.com/dineout/albans.html
The Community House http://oeonline.com/dineout/communityhouse.html
Midtown Cafe http://oeonline.com/dineout/midtowncafe.html
Norman's Eton Street Station http://oeonline.com/dineout/etonstreet.html
Ocean Grille http://oeonline.com/dineout/oceangrille.html
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Rugby Grille http://oeonline.com/dineout/rugbygrille.html
Inn Season Cafe http://oeonline.com/~innseason/
Steve's Backroom http://www.stevesbackroom.com

SHOPPING
Birmingham Principal Shopping District http://oeonline.com/birmingham

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RETAIL DETAILS

Retail Details features news briefs from the Malls & Mainstreets beat, compiled by Susan DeMaggio. For inclusion, send information to: Retail Details, c/o The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers 805 E. Maple, Birmingham, MI 48009. Or fax (810) 644-1314.

Benefit a success

Over the holiday, Westland Center shoppers turned in more than 450 blankets to benefit the Salvation Army. The program was also held at Eastland and Northland Centers for a grand total of 1,000 blankets going to the SA.

Gallery features

The Art Gallery II at Summit Place in Waterford features the work of Nancy Wurm and Staci Miron through January. Wurm shows a collection of sailing ships in pen and ink and animal sculptures and paintings.

Miron uses watercolors and pastels to create large florals. Her watercolor greeting cards feature skating figures on handmade papers.

The Art Gallery II is a cooperative of area artists with a permanent display two stores down from Hudson's, open during regular mall hours. For more information call (810) 683-8142.

Outlet center adds hotel

The Horizon Outlet Center in Monroe has broken ground for a two-story 63-room Amerihost Inn Hotel scheduled for a June grand opening. The facility will have an indoor pool, exercise room and five suites with whirlpools.

AmeriHost Inn is one of eight Michigan locations where the hotel chain is doing business.

Spring home show opens

The Novi Expo Center hosts the 5th annual Spring Home & Garden Show, Jan. 30-Feb. 2. Visitors will see storage systems for walk-in closets, kitchens with center islands, luxurious bath fixtures and media rooms.

Special features include visits by the Garlic Guru, Tom Reed; Richard Trethewey of PBS' "This Old House," and WXYT's Ask the Handyman Glenn Haeger.

Show hours: Thursday-Friday 2-10 p.m. Saturday 10-10 p.m. Sunday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Admission is \$6 for adults; \$4 for seniors. For more details call (810) 737-4478. The Novi Expo Center is at I-96 and Novi Road.

Silverdome hosts golf show and fashion collections

The Second Michigan Golf Show runs Jan. 31-Feb. 2 at the Pontiac Silverdome. In addition to 250 exhibits, testing grounds and golf skills competition, Bavarian Village Ski and Golf Shops will present fashion shows Jan. 31, 3 and 6 p.m. Feb. 1 at 11 a.m., 2 and 6 p.m. and Feb. 2 at noon, 2 and 4 p.m.

The latest spring collections from Izod Golf, Greg Norman, Nicklaus, Nike, Bobby Jones, EP Pro, Sport Haley, Sunderland and Marcia will be presented. Tickets are \$8 for adults; \$3 for children. Discount coupons at Bavarian Village and Target stores.

Game inventor meets shoppers

Tisby word game inventor Greg Schindler will play his game and answer questions at Wunderground on Main near 11 Mile in Royal Oak, Feb. 1 from noon to 6 p.m. He will repeat the fun on Feb. 2 at Adventures in Toys on Maple in Birmingham from noon to 5 p.m.

Student art for sale

Artists from Orchard Lake Middle School in West Bloomfield will display and sell their creations at Objects of Art, 6243 Orchard Lake, Jan. 30-Feb. 22 from 11 a.m. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Pontiac Rescue Mission.

There will be a "Meet the Artist Night, Thursday, Jan. 30 from 6-8 p.m. For more information call (810) 539-3382.

Antiques discounted

The annual "Queen of Hearts" sale has merchandise priced 10 to 50-percent off regular price, Feb. 1-28 at Antiques by Pamela and Tally Ho! in downtown Rochester. On sale are jewelry, furniture, sterling lighting and books. For more details call (810) 652-0866.

Jewelry outlet store open

The Gold and Diamond Outlet store is open at Kensington Valley Factory Shops in Howell. Ultra buys manufacturer overruns and close-outs direct.

Neiman's gets ready for annual spring show

The Art of Fashion to benefit Hospice of Southeastern Michigan is set for Thursday, March 6 at 1 p.m. at Neiman Marcus in the Somerset Collection South, Troy.

For more details and reservations please call (810) 643-3300, ext. 2511.



A cliché lovers dream

Party game: If birds of a feather flock together and you're ever up a creek without a paddle, try playing *Cluche*, a new game of clues and clichés by Andre Williams of Detroit available at Adventure in Toys in Birmingham, \$35, and popular at the Big Surf Cybernet Cafe. Teams have 60 seconds to guess as many clichés as possible to earn points that win the game. The categories include *Tips, Old Sayings, Expressions or Hard Knocks.* To order call 1-800-835-9255.

Free circus fun

Ringling Bros. is offering free items. *The 3 Ring Gazette* is a full-color quarterly newsletter packed with puzzles, jokes and feature stories on performers and interactive fun.

A new brochure "How to Make a Clown Face" explains the basics of creating a professional-looking clown face from start to finish.

Both are available by sending the child's name, age and mailing address to: Ringling Bros. Stocking Stuffers, P.O. Box 21309, Chattanooga, TN, 37424-0309.

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The Observer TASTE

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MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1997

GUEST CHEF



STEVEN ALLEN

Casual souper Sunday supper simply delicious

When I was approached to write a food article for the Observer & Eccentric, I gladly agreed. However, I did not want to write the story by writing solely about recipes. Instead, I wanted to write about the entire dining experience. The setting, the mood, and the company all work together to create an atmosphere for enjoying the food, whether its a simple sandwich or a seven-course dinner.

A good example of this was a cold, snowy Sunday recently at our home in Fenton. My wife Terri, seven-month-old daughter Sarah and I had recently moved into our new home, an old, remodeled farmhouse with six acres and a barn. Built around the turn of the century, it was called the Franklin Schoolhouse and as typical of the times, was one room with pine floors, a school bell and no running water. One hundred years later, its appearance has changed dramatically. In the 1930s the school was rolled down the road on pine timbers pulled by horses and reformed into a house. A large addition was built and plumbing and heating added. Still, the school bell was left intact. For us, it is now a comfortable home.

Leisure time

The day we were expecting visits from several friends and family members to share our new home, have good conversation and watch a football game. My position as executive chef at the Golden Mushroom does not allow me a lot of leisure time, so days like these are cherished.

Since I have worked at the Mushroom for 14 years, it was natural for me to invite past and present work mates like Brian Polcyn, owner and chef of Five Lakes Grill in Milford; Chris Hessler of the Huntsman in Metamora; and Kevin Frantz; John Adamski and Lorenzo Spratling, all fellow Golden Mushroom employees. Also included were my brother and sister Sue and Tom and our new across-the-street neighbors, Stan and Alice.

With so many chef friends, the conversation naturally centered around food and cooking. We busied ourselves in the kitchen while the kids played outside in the snow.

We all cook elaborate meals that make it naturally for us to ease up a bit and make it simple when we are at home. On this particular day we also wanted something warm and satisfying.

Hearty fare

A huge pot of chicken, pesto and potato gnocchi Italian soup filled the bill. We accompanied this hearty fare with bruschetta, a traditional Italian garlic bread, topped with cured ham, bacon, olives and bleu cheese. It was perfect for the day.

We just left the soup on the stove and ate it at our leisure, in between tractor rides for the kids and trips to the barn to see the new chickens. Guests arriving later simply helped themselves and the kids coming from the snow were instantly warmed.

Try it yourself the next time you have a casual get-together on a cold Sunday in Michigan. This recipe is wonderful for cross-country ski parties, after ice skating or any other outdoor winter activity.

GNOCCHI (POTATO DUMPLINGS)

- 2 pounds baking (Idaho) potatoes; cooked, cooled and grated (can substitute all-purpose flour)
- 2 cups semolina flour (can substitute all-purpose flour)
- 1 whole egg
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper

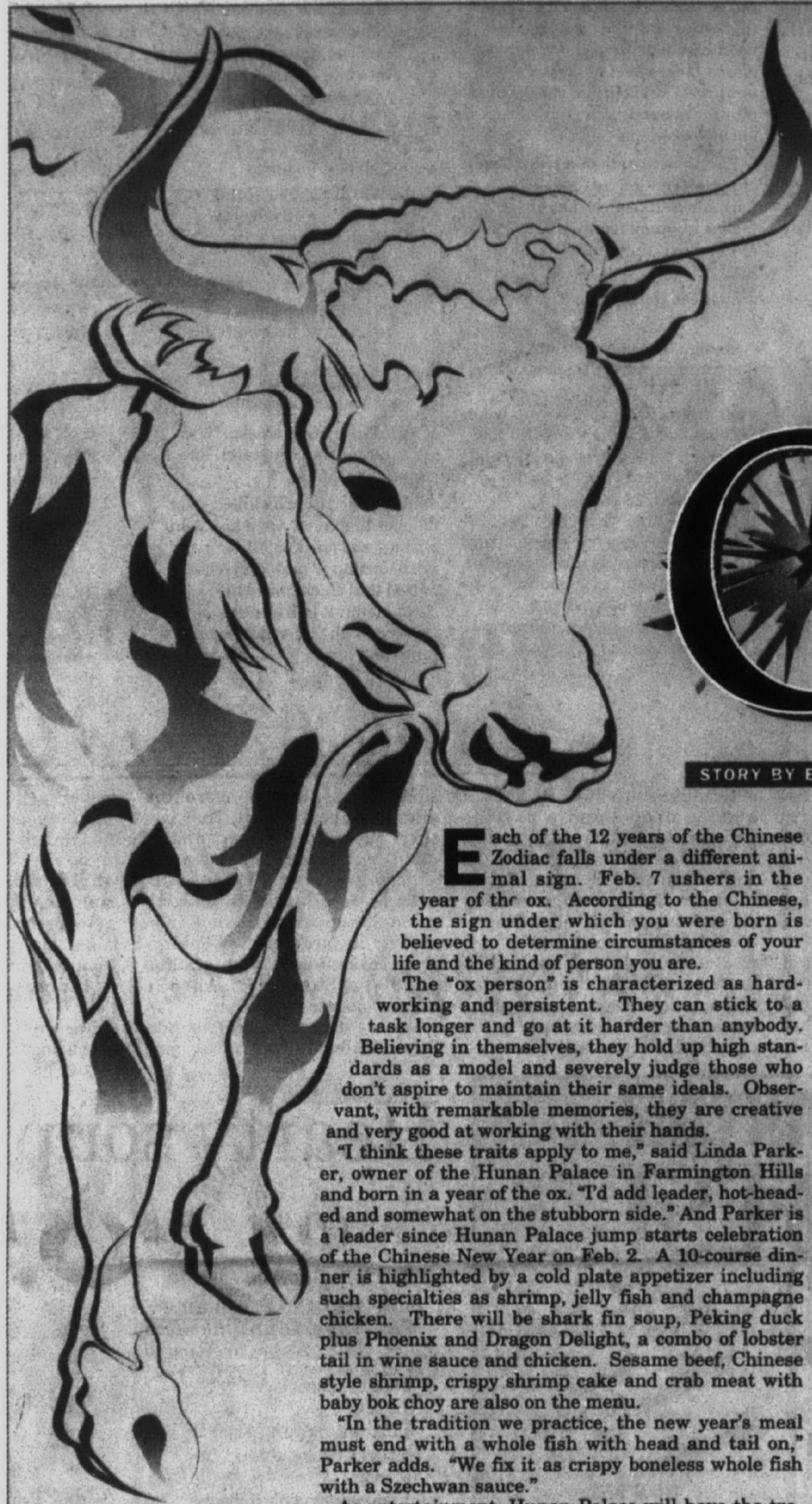
Place grated potatoes in a bowl. Add the rest of the ingredients and knead into a dough. Divide dough into six equal parts and place on a cutting board. Roll into 1/2-inch diameter cylinders and cut cylinders into 1-inch portions. Roll each into an oblong shape and gently pinch the side to make an indentation. Reserve gnocchi for soup.

Trained under Master Chef Milos Cihelka and in France under Chef Michel Guerard of Eugenie les Bains, Steven Allen is the executive chef of the Golden Mushroom in Southfield, which is celebrating its 25th year.
See soup recipe inside.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Taste next week:

- Warming soups and stews
- Focus on Wine



TAMMIE GRAVES/STAFF ARTIST

The Year of the OX

STORY BY ELEANOR HEALD • SPECIAL WRITER

Each of the 12 years of the Chinese Zodiac falls under a different animal sign. Feb. 7 usher in the year of the ox. According to the Chinese, the sign under which you were born is believed to determine circumstances of your life and the kind of person you are.

The "ox person" is characterized as hard-working and persistent. They can stick to a task longer and go at it harder than anybody. Believing in themselves, they hold up high standards as a model and severely judge those who don't aspire to maintain their same ideals. Observant, with remarkable memories, they are creative and very good at working with their hands.

"I think these traits apply to me," said Linda Parker, owner of the Hunan Palace in Farmington Hills and born in a year of the ox. "I'd add leader, hot-headed and somewhat on the stubborn side." And Parker is a leader since Hunan Palace jump starts celebration of the Chinese New Year on Feb. 2. A 10-course dinner is highlighted by a cold plate appetizer including such specialties as shrimp, jelly fish and champagne chicken. There will be shark fin soup, Peking duck plus Phoenix and Dragon Delight, a combo of lobster tail in wine sauce and chicken. Sesame beef, Chinese style shrimp, crispy shrimp cake and crab meat with baby bok choy are also on the menu.

"In the tradition we practice, the new year's meal must end with a whole fish with head and tail on," Parker adds. "We fix it as crispy boneless whole fish with a Szechwan sauce."

As entertainment, Hunan Palace will have the traditional lion dance accompanied by a demonstration of Gong Fu. Chen Oi Chin, executive director of the Chi-

nese American Educational and Cultural Center in Ann Arbor, explained the lion dance symbolism.

"The Chinese believe past misfortunes should be wiped out. The lion dance has a mission to ward off past evil spirits and bring in luck, prosperity and good health for the new year."

The lunar year is the longest and most important Chinese festival. The foods used to celebrate are related to the diverse geographical areas that developed each cuisine. As people emigrated from China, they brought their regional cuisines and traditions with them.

"Chinese are gastronomic people," Marshall Chin, owner of Mon Jin Lau in Troy, said. "Whether it's to celebrate the new year, a birthday or anniversary, they eat out at a restaurant rather than cook at home. Chinese are also very superstitious and use symbolisms in decorations and foods. Oranges, as an example, represent prosperity. Lettuce or vegetables represents money. These enhance the new year's theme of good fortune and wealth."

Chen Oi Chin explained that a whole fish symbolizes the beginning and end. The word fish in Chinese sounds like the word abundant. Whole also symbolizes something perfect. Chicken, she says is a homonym with luck and that's why it is also included in the meal. Round is also perfect, therefore Chinese families prefer seating at round tables while celebrating with food.

Some Chinese carefully observing the new year's eve at home make supper a feast, with all family members coming together. One of the most popular courses stemming from regions in the north of China is steamed dumplings and a Mongolian hot pot. Dumplings in Chinese have the same sound as coin (money). The whole new year celebration is brought to something of a climax 15 days later when the festival of the lanterns is observed. One typical food from southern China regions is served then is another kind of dumpling made of sweet rice rolled into balls and stuffed with sweet filling.

"We also like to celebrate the new year ahead and welcome its coming," said Shen Yu, owner of New Peking Restaurant in Garden City. He offers special 12-course dinners beginning Feb. 3. Chinese cultural dancing will start the festivities followed by dinner, then a drawing for prizes.

See NEW YEAR, 2B

Chinese New Year Festival Dinners - Reservations essential

- Hunan Palace, 38259 W. 10 Mile Road, Farmington Hills • (810) 473-3939
Feb. 2, 4 p.m., \$45 per person
- Mon Jin Lau, 1515 E. Maple Road (at Stephenson), Troy • (810) 689-2332
Feb. 10, 6 p.m., \$85 per person
- New Peking Restaurant, 29165 Ford Road, Garden City • (313) 425-2230
Feb. 3-6, 6:30 p.m., \$28 per person, \$10 reservation deposit required
- Oceania Inn, 64 N. Adams Road (at Walton in Meadowbrook Mall), Rochester Hills • (810) 375-9200
Special nine course gourmet dinner offered Feb. 6-9, \$14.95 per person, \$7 children 10 and under. (Minimum four people, by reservation only). Also featuring traditional Lion Dance 7 p.m. Feb. 6-8; 6 p.m. Feb. 9.
- Shangri-La, 6407 Orchard Lake Road, (at Maple in Orchard Mall) • (810) 626-8585
Feb. 7-9, 5 p.m., \$35 per person (Entertainment offered Feb. 9 begins at 4:30 p.m. with Lion Dance).
Note: If you would like to learn more about Chinese culture and foods, Shangri-La will have a post new year's dinner 6 p.m. Sunday, March 9, \$30 per person, hosted by the Chinese American Educational and Cultural Center. Host and hostesses will be present to explain more about symbols, cultural values and Chinese food.

MAIN DISH MIRACLES

Saucy shrimp will win your heart

Editor's Note: Muriel G. Wagner is a registered dietitian, and charter fellow of the American Dietetic Association. She received her master's degree and doctorate from Wayne State University and the University of Michigan. Wagner has practiced in Southfield since 1978, and recently started publishing a quarterly newsletter, "Eating Younger." Look for her column in Taste on the last Sunday of the month.

BY MURIEL G. WAGNER
SPECIAL WRITER

When my patients saw the write-up in the Dec. 30 Observer & Eccentric about my newsletter, they asked what I meant by "Main Dish Miracles." Since I'll be writing a monthly column with that title, I thought that you too, would like to know where I'm coming from.

I grew up in a fat-friendly family. Mother prided herself on the taste of her food. I was brought up to appreciate food flavors and appearances. This helped to formulate my food perspective, which is "if it doesn't taste wonderful why bother making or eating it?" I call it my "Judicious Diet."

All of the recipes included in Main Dish Miracles have passed three hurdles for taste and eye appeal.

The first is my fat-educated palate. The second is my panel of super-tasters comprised of people who work with me on my newsletters. The third is my patients who provide insight into the appearance, taste and ease of preparation.

Main dishes in this column will be scrumptious, gorgeous, easy to prepare, and help you to "Eat Younger" painlessly. These are recipes that not only your family will enjoy, but also dishes that you will be proud to serve to company.

Though this recipe is for Shrimp Creole, any firm, white colored fish can be substituted if shrimp is not within your food repertoire. It's freezer friendly. After I defrost it, I sometimes like to add some chopped, fresh plum tomatoes while I'm reheating it. Somehow, fresh tomatoes seem a luxurious touch in January.

If you've shied away from shrimp, you may be missing out on a heart healthy treat. Unfortunately, shrimp has an undeserved high cholesterol reputation. Three ounces of shrimp have about half of the recommended cholesterol limit of 300 mg per day, just a little more than veal. But the fat and saturated fat are practically non-existent. (Saturated fat is about

three times more likely to raise your blood cholesterol than the cholesterol in your food).

Whether you choose shrimp, lean meat, skinned poultry or fish, portion control and low-fat preparation are keys to "Eating Younger." Six ounces a day (3 ounces each per lunch and dinner) are the recommended amounts that will keep your dietary fat and cholesterol within limits.

I developed the Creole recipe because the spicy sauce makes the three-ounce serving look much larger, especially when you add its natural partner — rice pilaf. Three ounces of medium shrimp, 12 to 15, is a lot more than I got in my last order from a local eatery.

Control the heat of the recipe by adding more or less hot sauce, according to taste. I like to add some fresh, chopped flat leaf parsley to the pilaf and serve the Creole with an interesting green salad mixed with sliced olives and walnuts. Try it for Valentine's Day or even Mardi Gras. The way to a man or woman's healthy heart is through their stomach.

To subscribe to "Eating Younger," send a check or money order for \$13.50 to Eating Younger, P.O. Box 69021, Pleasant Ridge, MI 48069.

SHRIMP CREOLE

- 12 ounces medium shrimp, shelled and deveined
- 1 teaspoon butter
- 3/4 cup onion, coarsely chopped
- 3 ribs celery, coarsely chopped
- 1 green bell pepper, cored, seeded and coarsely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, finely minced
- 3 cups canned crushed tomatoes (28 ounce can)
- 1/4 teaspoon thyme
- 1 bay leaf
- Hot pepper sauce to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon grated lemon rind
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- 2 teaspoons parsley, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice

Melt the onion in a saucepan. Add the celery, green pepper and garlic. Cook briefly, stirring. The vegetables must remain crisp.

Add the tomatoes, thyme, bay leaf, lemon rind, hot pepper sauce and pepper. Simmer 10 minutes, uncovered. Add shrimp to sauce.

Heat 3-5 minutes covered, no longer. Add chopped parsley and lemon juice. Add more hot pepper sauce, if desired. Serve over pilaf. Serves 4.

Nutrition facts: Calories 163, Total fat 1.7g; Saturated fat 0.3g; Cholesterol 165 mg; Sodium 550 mg.

Welcome the year of the ox with Chinese specialties

See related story on Taste front.

STIR-FRIED BEEF WITH ORANGE

- 1 pound boneless lean beef
- 1 tablespoon dark soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon rice wine or dry sherry
- 1-1/2 teaspoons finely chopped ginger root
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 2 teaspoons sesame oil
- 1/4 cup peanut oil
- 2 dried red chilies, cut in half lengthwise
- 1 tablespoon coarsely chopped fresh orange peel
- 2 teaspoons finely ground toasted Szechwan peppercorns (optional)
- 1 tablespoon dark soy sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon fresh ground black pepper
- 1-1/2 teaspoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons sesame oil

Cut beef into thin slices 2 inches long, cutting against the grain. Put beef into a bowl together with the soy sauce, rice wine, ginger, cornstarch and 2 teaspoons of sesame oil. Mix well and then let mixture marinate for about 20 minutes.

Heat peanut oil in wok or skillet until very hot. Remove beef from marinade with slotted spoon. Add it to the wok and stir-fry for 2 minutes until it browns. Remove and drain in a colander. Pour off most of the oil leaving about 1 teaspoon.

Reheat the wok over high heat and add dried chilies. Stir-fry for 10 seconds, then return beef to wok. Add remaining ingredients and stir-fry for 4 minutes, mixing well. Serve at once. Serves 4.

Recipe from Ken Hom author of "Ken Hom's Quick & Easy Chinese Cooking" and other Asian cookbooks.

ORANGE-ALMOND CRISPS

- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup cornstarch
- 12 tablespoons (1 1/2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened to room temperature
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
- 2 tablespoons finely grated orange zest
- 1 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/2 cup finely chopped blanched almonds

Sift together the flour and cornstarch.

Process the butter and sugar in

a food processor fitted with a steel blade for 2 to 3 minutes, until light and fluffy. Add the orange zest and almond extract and process to blend. Alternately add the flour mixture and the chopped almonds in several additions, pulsing just until blended. Turn the dough out onto a large sheet of plastic wrap, wrap well, and chill in the refrigerator for about 1 hour, until firm enough to shape.

Place the dough on a large sheet of aluminum foil and roll into a long snake-like piece about 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Wrap in the foil and chill in the freezer for 1 hour.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F.

Using a sharp knife, cut the dough into 1/4-inch-thick slices. Arrange 1 1/2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets, and bake for about 10 minutes, or until the edges are golden. Using a spatula, transfer to wire racks to cool. Makes about 28 cookies.

Cook's tip: "For two memorable variations, try substituting either grated lemon zest or vanilla extract and ground cinnamon for the orange zest."

Recipe from "China Express" by Nina Simonds, (William Mor-

row and Company, Inc. New York, copyright 1993)

SPICY CHICKEN AND SHRIMP

- 1/4 pound medium shrimp, shelled and deveined
- 1/2 pound skinless, boneless chicken breast halves, cut into bite-size pieces
- 2 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 cup peanut oil
- 2 scallions, chopped
- 1 small green bell pepper, cut into 3/4-inch squares
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 2 tablespoons hoisin sauce
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger
- 1/4 cup chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon cold water

Mix shrimp and chicken with 1 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch and pepper; set aside.

In wok or 10-inch skillet, heat oil over high heat until hot. Add shrimp and chicken and stir-fry until shrimp is pink and loosely curled and chicken is white throughout, 2 to 3 minutes. Remove with a slotted spoon to a plate and drain.

Drain off and discard all but 2 tablespoons of oil from wok. Add scallions and green pepper and stir-fry over high heat 1 minute. Add soy sauce, hoisin sauce, brown sugar, garlic, ginger, and broth. Stir 1 minute. Return shrimp and chicken to wok.

Dissolve remaining 1 tablespoon cornstarch in cold water and stir into wok. Cook over high heat, stirring, until sauce boils and thickens, about 2 minutes. Serve immediately with hot cooked rice. Serves 3 to 4.

Recipe from: "365 Easy One-Dish Meals" by Natalie Haughton. (Harper & Row Publishers, New York, 1990).

SWEET-AND-SOUR CHICKEN WITH PINEAPPLE

- 1 1/2 pounds skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 1 large onion, cut into thin wedges
- 1 large green bell pepper, cut into 3/4-inch squares
- 2 tablespoons rice wine vinegar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 (20 ounce) can unsweetened pineapple chunks, juice reserved

- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons ketchup
- 1 large tomato, cut into eighths
- Salt to taste

Using a sharp knife, cut chicken into strips or 1-inch squares. In a wok, heat 1 tablespoon cooking oil until very hot. Add onion and green pepper and stir-fry over high heat until vegetables are crisp tender, 2 to 3 minutes. Remove to a dish and set aside.

Heat remaining 2 tablespoons oil until very hot. Add chicken pieces and stir-fry over high heat until chicken is white throughout, 5 to 7 minutes.

Mix vinegar and cornstarch; combine with juice drained from pineapple, brown sugar and ketchup. Add to wok. Cook, stirring constantly, until sauce clears, boils and thickens, 1 to 2 minutes. Return onions and green pepper to skillet. Stir in pineapple chunks. Cover and cook 2 minutes longer, until heated through. Stir in tomato. Season to taste with salt. Serve with hot cooked rice. Serves 4 to 6.

Recipe from: "365 Easy One-Dish Meals" by Natalie Haughton (Harper & Row Publishers, New York, 1990).

New Year from page B1

Lastly, Chef Mike Yu does his noodle show, where diners can learn to make handmade Chinese noodles, a symbol of longevity.

The courses at New Peking begin with soup, followed by traditional appetizers including shrimp, egg roll, chicken wings and barbecue spareribs. Several main courses include seafood, meat, chicken, pork and beef. "We'll also end with fish," Yu

added. "But we only serve fillets."

Offering its first new year's dinner is the recently opened Shangri-La in West Bloomfield. Owner Nancy Chan said nine-course dinners will be offered beginning Feb. 7. She plans to have entertainment in form of the dragon dance, dating back to ancient China and invented to stop the spread of epidemics, but this part of festivals is purely

entertainment today. Prizes will also be drawn and a psychic palm reader will be at the ready.

Always breathing in a fresh East Wind to Chinese cuisine is Mon Jin Lau where a one-day celebration is Feb. 10. Proprietor/chef Marshall Chin's "new Asian" style of cooking will be featured. After a dinner with two appetizer courses, a vegetarian spring roll and ginger garlic eggplant, diners will have two

first courses, lobster in wonton and Asian pear salad. They can then choose one from a list of main courses including steamed Chilean sea bass in banana leaf, mandarin filet mignon with roasted pepper and fried rice, seafood in taro's nest or Peking-style roasted duck with scallion noodles. Save room, there's mango mousse for dessert.

During dinner, magicians perform tableside and tarot card

readers tell fortunes. Afterward and outdoors, marshal arts studio students and instructors perform the lion dance and the whole spectacle ends with exploding firecrackers.

At Oceania Inn in Rochester Hills, you can celebrate the new year, which is 4695, according to restaurant manager Don Gin, Feb. 6-9. The traditional lion dance will be performed nightly. A gourmet nine-course new year

dinner, including roast duck meat soup, spring roll, Phoenix Chicken (crispy chicken garnished with ham), Nanking Ribs (marinated spareribs in a garlic sauce), shrimp cooked two ways, and dessert will be offered during the celebration.

"Those who order the Chinese New Year dinner will receive a gift, and can have their photo taken with the lion," said Gin. Additional photos are \$2 each.

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Hearty soup sure to satisfy

See related story on Taste front.

CHICKEN GNOCCHI (POTATO DUMPLING) AND PESTO SOUP

- Wine suggestions:** Cambria Pinot Noir, Napa or Girard Chardonnay
- 2 large onions, diced 1/2-inch
 - 4 carrots, diced 1/2-inch
 - 6 stalks celery, diced 1/2-inch
 - 1 pound sliced mushrooms
 - 3 leeks, white part diced 1/2-inch

- 4 ounces butter
- 1 tablespoon crushed garlic
- 1 tablespoon crushed fennel seeds
- 1 tablespoon thyme leaves
- 1 tablespoon oregano leaves
- 5 quarts chicken stock or broth
- 1 large roasting chicken (approximately 5 to 7 pounds)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Pesto (this can be purchased at most supermarkets and specialty food stores)
- gnocchi (see recipe on Taste front)

In a large stock pot (10-quart pot or larger), gently saute all diced vegetables in butter on medium flame. Do not brown. Add garlic and herbs, stir. Add chicken stock and bring to a simmer. Place chicken in pot and poach covered, for approximately 1 hour or until meal is cooked at the bone.

Remove chicken and let cool. Remove meat from carcass, julienne and hold for later. Skim fat from soup and bring it back to a simmer for another 10 minutes. Add julienne chicken back to soup. Bring to a simmer and drop gnocchi individually into broth.

Let gnocchi rise. Turn down flame, taste and season if necessary. For service, ladle soup into individual serving bowls and spoon 1 teaspoon of pesto on top.

This recipe makes approximately 20 to 25 servings.

Chef's note: Recipe can be halved easily by dividing all ingredients in half and using a 3-pound broiling chicken instead of the roasting chicken.

Recipe from Chef Steven Allen.

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Microwave cooking tips

(NAPS) — Microwave oven cooking is so fast that it seems impossible to come up with ways to make it any more time-efficient. However, according to home economists from Whirlpool Corporation, there are a few things that can be done to speed up cooking and clean-up.

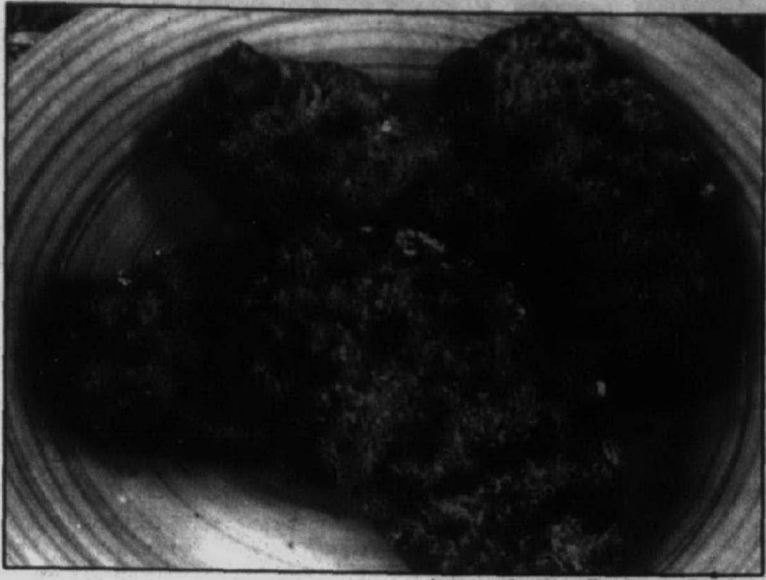
■ Use covers on cooking utensils when possible to retain heat and moisture. The covers also help reduce splatters and decrease cleaning time.

■ Cook and serve in the same dish to cut down on preparation and serving dishes.

■ Thin foods cook faster than thick foods, so spread casseroles, vegetables, etc. in a shallow dish with straight sides for the fastest, most even cooking.

■ Place thicker areas of food (such as the meaty portion of drumsticks) toward the outside of a dish where they will receive the most microwave energy and cook the fastest.

■ Use the donut shape to cook foods. Foods cook slowest in the center. By eliminating the center area, all portions of the food will receive the most energy and will cook faster and more evenly.



AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RESEARCH

Quick bread: Cinnamon Carrot Bread has a spicy-sweet flavor and a good supply of nutrients that makes it a special breakfast treat or afternoon snack.

Get busy making easy quick breads

Busy cooks love quick breads. They are easy to prepare and their intense flavors are a popular addition to any meal. Many traditional quick bread loaves, however, contain as much as a cup of oil or margarine. Fortunately, there are some great ways to make quick breads lighter that can boost their nutrition without reducing their flavor.

While quick breads are easy to prepare and generally bake in under an hour, the "quick" refers to the fact that you need not wait for the dough of these yeastless breads to rise. Originating in the mid-19th century, quick breads are usually leavened with baking soda or a combination of baking soda and baking powder.

The key to making the best quick breads is not to overwork the dough or it will become tough. Before measuring the flour, fork-stir it in order to aerate it a bit. Then whisk the flour with the leavening agent(s) salt and any dried herbs or spices in your recipe. Add any fat or fat substitutes, such as nonfat yogurt or applesauce next. Liquids such as eggs, milk and vanilla should be beaten in a separate bowl, and then combined with the flour mixture using a few swift strokes. Spread the dough evenly into a loaf pan.

Add texture and flavor to quick breads with crunchy chopped nuts. Make sure to use them sparingly, however, since they are high in fat. Dried fruits provide flavor, as well as fiber, when added to bread batters. Avoid the temptation to cut large slices when serving quick breads, since calories still count even when the fat has been reduced.

Low-fat quick breads have a slightly dry texture that will tempt you to serve them with a creamy spread like margarine or butter. You can add moisture and flavor without fat, by topping your bread with jam, fruit butters or preserves. For a richer-tasting low-fat spread, com-

bine 1 cup of low-fat or fat-free cream cheese with 2 tablespoons each of finely-shredded carrots and radishes, 1 tablespoon chopped green onions, 1/8 teaspoon salt and 1 small, mashed garlic clove.

Here's a recipe to try:
CINNAMON CARROT BREAD

1 cup raisins
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 cup whole-wheat flour
2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon each baking soda and baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 egg
3 tablespoons vegetable oil
3/4 cup low-fat yogurt
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup finely shredded carrots
Topping:
1 tablespoon rolled oats
1 tablespoon oat bran

Pour boiling water over the raisins and let them stand for 5 minutes; drain thoroughly. Meanwhile, combine the all-purpose and whole wheat flours, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, baking soda, baking powder, salt and raisins; set aside.

In a large bowl, beat the egg until fluffy; beat in the oil. Mix in the yogurt, sugar and vanilla; stir in the carrot. Add the flour mixture and stir until it well combined. Pour the batter into a greased or wax paper lined 8 by 4-inch loaf pan.

Topping: Combine rolled oats and oat bran; sprinkle over the batter. Bake in a 350 degree F. oven for 50 to 55 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean. Let the bread stand for 5 minutes. Remove the loaf from the pan and let cool before slicing.

Each of the 13 slices contains 166 calories and 4 grams of fat.

Recipe and information from the American Institute for Cancer Research.

COOKING CALENDAR

Send announcements for Cooking Calendar to Keely Wygonik, Taste Editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, Inc., 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150, or fax them to (313) 591-7279.

IRISH COOKING SCHOOL

Sponsored by the Metro Detroit Chapter Irish American Cultural Institute, 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, Coach House of the Botsford Inn, 28000 Grand River, Farmington. Preparing the Bounty of the Sea is the theme this year. The donation is \$17 per person, includes buffet lunch, recipe book. Call (810)

540-6687 for reservations.

MGREAT MEALS — COOKING AND NUTRITION SCHOOL

Metropolitan Adventist School Auditorium, 15585 Haggerty Road, (north of 5 Mile Road) 2-6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23. Each participant will receive a vegetarian cookbook loaded with practical ideas and recipes. A delicious vegetarian buffet will be served. Suggested donation \$15 per person, \$25 for couples. Taught by Natalie Weaver, Dr. Arthur Weaver, and Jeannie Weaver. To register, call (313) 531-2179 or (313) 495-0538.

Kiwifruit salsa colorful

AP — Kiwifruit and golden tangerines are the basis for a versatile and colorful Kiwifruit Salsa. The ingredients are quick and easy to combine. Chill briefly before serving.

Serve the salsa as a dip with tortilla chips, toasted pita bread triangles or warm tortillas. Or use as a sauce over grilled or baked halibut or swordfish steaks, chicken or roasted pork tenderloin. For a main dish, serve the salsa over warm flour tortillas filled with scrambled eggs.

KIWIFRUIT SALSA

3 to 4 kiwifruit, peeled and diced (1 1/2 cups)

2 medium tangerines or 1 orange, peeled and diced
1 cup peeled and diced jicama
1/2 cup diced sweet red or yellow bell pepper
1/4 cup chopped cilantro
1 tablespoon lime juice
1 tablespoon vegetable oil
1/2 to 1 small jalapeno pepper, minced, seeds and veins removed
1/4 teaspoon salt

In a large bowl, combine all ingredients, mixing well. Chill briefly. Makes about 2 1/2 cups.
Recipe from: California Kiwifruit Commission

Beginning February 2,

your hometown newspaper will now be on your doorstep bright and early Sunday mornings.

It's Sunday.

This means no alarm clock clanging in your ear.

No grabbing a quick cup of coffee before fighting the freeway.

Sunday seems slower-paced for all of us, even if we don't have to dash out the door to work. It's a day to spend time doing what you want to do, not what you have to do.

Like discovering what's happening right where you live. And beginning Sunday February 2, you can do just that because we've moved our Monday papers to Sunday.

Your hometown newspaper will now be on your doorstep bright and early Sunday mornings.

It'll be filled with some familiar features, a few new ones and some that you've been used to seeing on Thursday. It'll be like sitting down and spending what they like to call "quality time" with the whole town. You'll be able to make a career change, find a new place to live, plan your leisure hours, check the sales, a whole lot more, without feeling pressed for time.

And here's another plus: on Monday morning, you'll be the one that starts the conversation with, "Did you read about..."

THE
Observer & Eccentric
NEWSPAPERS

WE REACH MORE PEOPLE IN OUR HOMETOWNS THAN THE DETROIT NEWS AND FREE PRESS COMBINED*

*Source: CAC 1996 Audit, ABC 1996 Audit



405 Homes PLYMOUTH - 3 bedroom, 2 full bath, fireplace, sunroom, large backyard. Asking \$1,000/mo. Call 313-453-9941

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405 Homes ST. CLAIR SHORES - Estate, Lake St. Clair frontage, 3300 sq. ft., 3 bedrooms, 4 baths, 3 car garage, Lake View. Fully updated. \$595 per mo. KESSLER & CO. 810-288-5009

405 Homes WESTBIDE - Enclosed 3 bedroom, full basement. \$425 per mo. plus security deposit. Please Call (313) 534-3716

411 Vacation Resort Rentals MARCO ISLAND, FL - 3 bedroom home, pool, all amenities, 1 block to beach. Available Feb & Mar. due to cancellation. (313) 871-8006

457 Property Management SINGLE FAMILY SPECIALISTS Services Tailored to Corporate Transfers, Investors, Out-of-Town Owners

500 Help Wanted General ACCOUNTANT Farmington Hills real estate developer seeks a highly motivated Accountant.

500 Help Wanted General ALL STUDENTS/OTHERS 1997 EXPANSION National firm has 37 Part time openings

banking

Open doors to a great opportunity! Open House NBD Bank will be accepting applications and on-site interviews for part-time tellers and part-time clerical positions at our Open House:

Saturday, February 1, 1997 10 am - 2 pm NBD Technology Center Human Resources Department 9000 Haggerty Road Belleville, MI 48111

Part-Time Teller Positions Must be able to work a flexible schedule 8% shift differential for afternoon and midnight positions Customer service and cash handling experience

Operations Positions All three shifts available 8% shift differential for afternoon and midnight positions Weekend shifts available

The above positions offer excellent pay and benefits, including 401k savings plan and paid vacations. No phone calls please. An Equal Opportunity Employer.

NBD NBD and You! Logo and text for NBD Bank advertisement.

PERSONAL BANKER Old Kent is currently accepting applications for the position of Personal Banker. This position is responsible for the maintenance of positive customer relations through the efficient handling of account openings, closings, questions, problems, sales and cross-selling of bank products and services.

Fitness USA HEALTH SPAS \$10 Per Hour To Start Career Opportunities With A Growing Company • \$10/hr. To Start, Then Regular Pay • Performance Reviews • Work 3 Days A Week, 40 Hours • Management Training Programs • Deluxe Benefits • Paid Vacations

410 Time Share Rentals ARIZONA - Condo rental, furnished, 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath, pool & spa. Available April 1st. 1-800-678-0234

414 Rooms GARDEN CITY, Ford/Inkster. Bedroom, sitting room, 1 1/2 bath, and cable. \$95/week. Drug free neighborhood. Call (313) 525-7108

ASSISTANT BRANCH MANAGER TRAINEES As Old Kent Financial Corporation continues to grow, there is an increasing need to enhance our successful management team to help achieve our aggressive goals.

Agency Relations Specialist (Job Code: EF/AGDET) This position will be responsible for acting as a liaison between Company and Taxing Authority personnel.

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ARE YOU LOOKING FOR FULL TIME WORK? WE HAVE IT! Livonia, Belleville, Canton, Detroit, Ann Arbor, Plymouth

SPORTS

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 1997

P/C **C**

OBSERVER SPORTS SCENE

Scholar-athlete nominees

The Michigan High School Athletic Association reported a record 2,456 applicants from 497 member schools for Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award, which presents \$1,000 scholarships in each sport.

To be eligible, students must have a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) and previously won a varsity letter in the sport in which they are applying.

- Here is a list of nominees from area schools:
- Plymouth Canton — Jeffrey Ammons, boys tennis; Matt Ammons, boys soccer; Mary Anderson, girls basketball; Rachel Burt, girls cross country; Sarah Carson, girls softball; Nathan Copenhaver, baseball; Jessica Dumas, girls tennis; Scott McLane, football; Jennifer Parviainen, girls soccer; Angkana Roy, girls track; David Schacht, boys swimming; Cason Donte Scott, boys basketball; Sanjay Sharma, boys cross country; Amy Sonnanstine, girls swimming; Jason Vergari, boys track; Alyson Young, girls golf.
 - Plymouth Salem — Lisa Bacynski, girls soccer; Jennifer Nicole Bolton, girls cross country; James Chapman, football; Katie Collins, girls swimming; Mark Dettling, boys swimming; Brian Fox, boys golf; Kristin Kosik, girls track, gymnastics; Kristin Los, girls softball; Greg Mitchell, boys cross country; Kathryn Murinas, girls golf; Lawrence Nunn, boys track; Ryan Rumberger, baseball; Matt Sarkeesian, boys soccer; Suzanne Theodore, girls tennis; Laurel Weinman, girls basketball.
 - Plymouth Christian Academy — Kelly Hamlin, girls volleyball; Elisa Roseann Moore, girls track; Kimberly Rinzema, girls softball; Sarah Kay Sumner, girls basketball.

Record-setter

Plymouth Canton HS graduate Kari Jackson, a sophomore at Hope College, established a new school record for 10 dives on the 1-meter board Jan. 15 when she scored 380.50 points.

Jackson's record eclipsed that of Laura Mihailoff (374.75), set just one week earlier.

The record helped the Flying Dutch record a 94-67 victory over Olivet College in a "telephone" meet — the result of the inclement weather, which forced each team to swim each event in its own pool, then phone results to each other for comparison and scoring.

Hope improved to 3-0 in the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association, 4-0 overall.

Stingrays reach finals

The Plymouth Midget AA Stingrays recently reached the finals of the North American Silver Stick Tournament, Jan. 17-19, in Sarnia, Ontario after earlier winning the Regional Silver Stick championship in St. Clair Shores.

Members of the Stingrays, who also captured the Early Bird and Christmas tournaments, include: Brett Reinhart (forward), Jeff Lang (forward) and Marc O'Keefe (defenseman), all of Livonia; Gordy Smith and Justin Lilienthal (goalies), Westland; Austin Meibers (defenseman), Jason Perino (forward), Nik Derouin (forward), Brad Feiler (forward), Matt Church (defenseman), Miles Meibers (defenseman), Clint Bonkowski (forward), all of Canton; Heath Marnon (forward), Redford; Ryan Ossenmacher (forward), Ryan Ward (forward), Northville; Dan Klacking (defenseman), West Bloomfield; Ryan Safran (defenseman), White Lake.

The team is coached by Fred Feiler, Paul Safran and Chris Manery. The team is managed by Jim Reinhart.

Double winner

The Plymouth Lightning, an under-14 premier girls soccer team, gained a pair of first-place finishes in their indoor leagues.

The Lightning were 7-1 in Southfield and 7-1 in Ann Arbor.

Team members are Marisa Biniecki, Melinda Broines, Jill Dombrowski, Sara Hiemerl, Sarah Holmes, Betsy Heubler, Aimee Jachym, Tina Lopez, Andrea Lorion, Megan Lukasik, Allison Mills, Betsy Radtke, Beth Sandusky, Nicole Schilk, Sara Schupra, Cynthia Stabnick and Amber Williams.

The team is coached by Ken Hiemerl, Greg Schupra and Dan Schilk.

Winning side

One thing's for certain — this was no finesse, just for fun kind of hockey all-star game.

In a hard-hitting contest pitting stars of tomorrow against each other, the Ontario Hockey League's West Division got the game-winning goal from Chris Hajt just 57 seconds into overtime to edge the East Division stars 5-4 Tuesday at the Barrie Molson Centre in Barrie, Ont.

The Detroit Whalers were represented by goalie Robert Esche, who started in the nets for the West. Esche was victimized for three goals before giving way to Patrick DesRochers midway through the second period, with the game tied at 3-3.

Esche made 11 saves in his pre-determined stint in goal.

Other goal-scorers for the West were Richard Jackman, Boyd Devereaux, Trevor Letowski and Jon Sim.

The game drew a standing room-only crowd of 4,173.

Vikes shoot past Salem

BY BILL PARKER
STAFF WRITER

There was no sense of urgency just a strong desire to take a step up to the next level of play, which is exactly what Todd Negoshian did. After being held scoreless in the first quarter Friday, the junior point guard exploded for 31 points in the final three quarters leading host Walled Lake Central to a thrilling 71-69 victory over state ranked Plymouth Salem. The win leaves Central and Salem with identical 4-1 records in the Lakes Division of the Western Lakes Activities Association. Westland John Glenn leads the division with a 5-0 ledger.

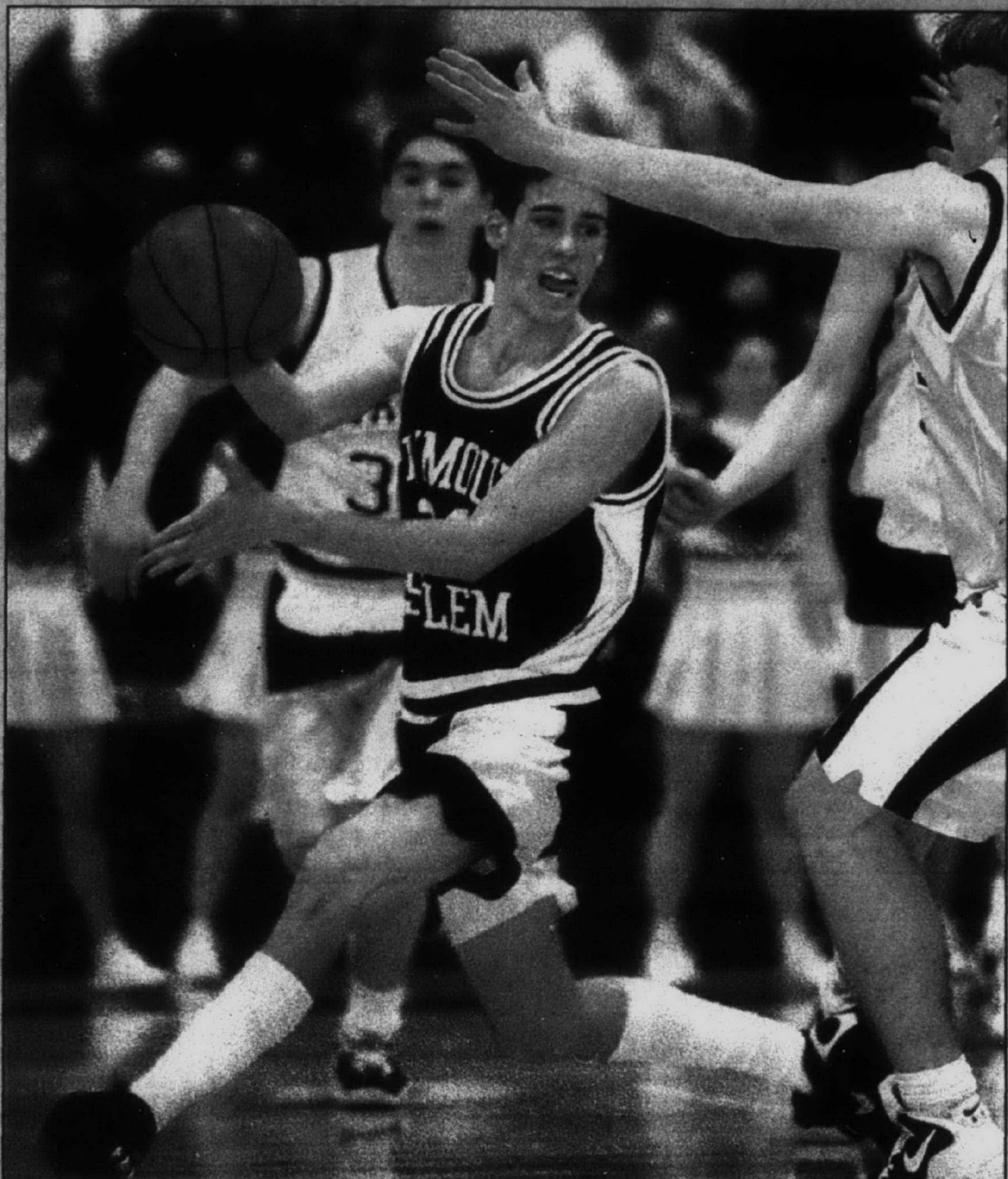
"That was a big ball game," said Central coach Steve Emert, whose team improved to 7-2 overall. "It was a division game, too, and that puts us right in the thick of things. Our league is pretty even. There are a lot of good teams."

With under seven minutes remaining in the game the Vikings had more to worry about than the league race as they found themselves trailing by eight points, 55-47. But a triple by Negoshian sparked an 8-0 run by Central and all of a sudden the game was tied at 55.

Another triple by Negoshian with 2:50 left to play gave the Vikings their first lead since early in the third, 62-59. Salem's Andres Lopez answered with a three-pointer of his own to draw the Rocks even at 62-62. The teams swapped baskets — Matt Mair scored from inside and Jeff McKian nailed two free throws for Salem while Brad Burlingame hit a layup and Dave Cardinal sank two free throws for Central — as the score remained even at 66-66.

Negoshian finally put the Vikes ahead to stay, 69-66, when he rattled through his seventh triple of the game with 34 seconds left to play. Burlingame and Cardinal each split a pair of free throws to pad the Vikings' lead, 71-66, before Lopez drained a triple at the buzzer for the final margin of victory.

See SALEM HOOP, C2



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Surrounded: Salem's Jeff McKian searches for a teammate to pass to against the swarming Central defense. It wasn't too easy a task, but the Rocks played the Vikings evenly right to the end, thanks in part to McKian's 14 points.

Canton free throws wreck Western's upset plans

Plymouth Canton found out the same stuff about Walled Lake Western's basketball team that Plymouth Salem discovered three days earlier.

And the Chiefs handled it the same way, too.

A tight game from start to finish, Canton finally subdued the visiting Warriors Friday 50-42. The win improved the Chiefs' record to 7-4 overall, 3-2 in the Western Lakes Activities Association.

Western slipped to 3-7 overall and remains winless (0-5) in the WLAA.

BASKETBALL

Which is not indicative of the way the Warriors have played. Last Tuesday, they gave Salem — unbeaten in the WLAA at the time — fits before succumbing in the final minute to Rock free throws in a seven-point loss.

It was much the same against Canton. "They just hung in there," said Chiefs' coach Dan Young. "We

broke it open at the end with free throws, and we had a couple of defensive stops."

According to Young, it was a tight game throughout. Canton led 21-20 at the half and 37-34 after three quarters.

The Warriors closed to within a point in the fourth quarter, but clutch free throws by Joe Cortellini (5-of-6 from the line in the fourth) and Nick Hurley (3-of-4) sealed their fate.

Rob Johnson's 16 points paced Canton's offense. Johnson also had five rebounds, three assists and two steals. Hurley finished with 14 points and Cortellini had 10. Matt Ammons contributed seven points, 10 boards, three steals and three assists.

Mike Massey's 13 points led Western. Wes Hazel had 10.

Canton was without starting forward Donte Scott, who injured a knee last week and remains questionable.

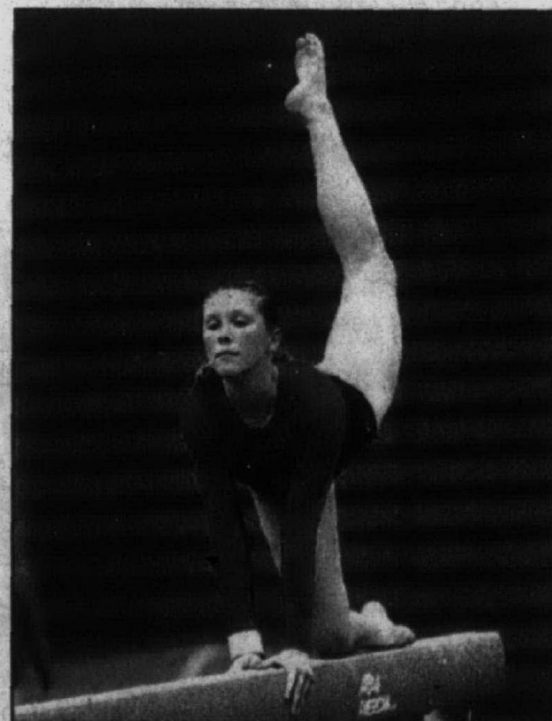
Regaining form

Rocks look sharp in dual-meet win over Canton



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRESLER

Soaring: Salem's Lindsay Hawraney has improved steadily — like her team.



Well-balanced: Canton's Liz Fitzgerald placed in the top six in all four events.

See GYMNASTICS, C2

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Featuring 30 dealers. Feb. 6 & 7, 11 AM - 8 PM...

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GETTING TIRED OF YO-YO DIETING?
Go to a slimmer you. Physician supervised weight management...

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JANUARY CLEARANCE

Auto Show Truck of the Year!
1997 Taurus GL Sedan, 1997 Contour GL, 1997 Escort LX 4 Dr., 1997 Aspire, 1997 F-150 XLT, 1996 Explorer XLT 4x4, 1996 Mustang, 1996 Extended Aerostar XLT, 1997 Windstar GL, 1997 Ranger XLT 4x2.

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Suburban Observer & Eccentric Automotive Showcase

Published Every Monday

CAReport



Saturn's SC1 should make a lot of noise with buyers in 1997

By Anne Fracassa
Avanti NewsFeatures

I was really pleased with myself. There were eight days left before Christmas and I actually had ALL my shopping complete.

Walking back to the 1997 Saturn SC1 in the Target parking lot with two kids and a shopping cart in tow, I pressed the remote key fob to open the doors and light the interior of the car. Nothing happened.

I'm right up to the car and still nothing. OK, be stubborn. It's cold as cold can be and I've got to get my 5-year-old and my 3-year-old into the car. I open it manually, with the key.

All hell breaks loose.

The horn starts beeping and gets louder and louder as the seconds pass. I hurry the kids in the car. They look scared. "There's nothing wrong," I tell them.

I put the key in the ignition to silence the roar. Nothing happens. I get out of the car, and put the key in the door again. Nothing.

So I sat back in the car again.

OK, time to open the glove box. Where's the manual? There isn't one. Great.

It's late at night. Too late to call anyone at Saturn. Now I'm angry.

I try it again. Same thing. The car is totally disabled. It's not going anywhere. I'm frustrated. Becca, my 3-year-old, tries to



ROAD TEST
By
Anne
Fracassa

As I'm sitting in the cold car I remembered the Chevrolet roadside assistance number. Heck, it's GM. Saturn, Chevrolet ... they're in the same family, right? Somebody's got to know.

Chevy's roadside people take my call, listen to me scream above the din of the horn and crying children and immediately connect me with Saturn's roadside assistance. Snap! Just like that. A polite gentleman instructs me to press all the buttons of the key fob for 15 seconds. "Now lock the doors. Unlock them," he says.

And the din is done.

A crowd had gathered around the SC1. I hang up the phone, shrug my shoulders, start the car and get out of there like a bat outta you-know-what.

Thus began my surprising week in the 1997 Saturn SC1.

This is the first time since Saturn has graced our roads that I was actually impressed with one of its cars. The SC1's updated styling and new interior redesign are just what the doctor ordered.

Truth be told, I never liked

rests and lumbar support. One thing that's neat — a "presenter arm" for the front safety belts. This contraption makes the front seat belts more accessible. The belts are mounted in back of the driver seat on the B-pillar, but the arm brings them forward more, making them much easier to access and put on. The only problem is that a rear passenger has to negotiate around that arm. A minor inconvenience.

Back to the optional Saturn Security System. I'll tell you one thing: The doggone thing did its job. Disabled the whole car, it did.

But really, what happened to the Saturn I was in, I'm told, can happen to anyone. The key fob somehow got its memory erased. By holding down all the buttons, it reinitialized the key fob and I was on my way in no time.

The system allows you to lock the car and arm the security system all at once. Press "lock" again, and it chirps to tell you all is well. There's a panic button for your personal security. One press activates the horn and flashes the interior lights for two minutes.

Here's what happened to me: When armed, if the door is opened or the ignition is turned on, the system activates the horn and interior lights and the starter circuit is cut off, preventing the vehicle from being started. Keep fiddling with the door and ignition and the whole system activates again.

Saturn owners are provided with a pocket card telling them exactly what to do if the remote fob is broken, lost or dysfunctional. Dealers will tell you to read the card. Then, what happened to me won't happen to you.

The Saturn SC1 is much, much quieter this year, thanks to an improved door-sealing system, sound-absorbing material added between exterior door panels and door frames, and

improved engine mount and torque struts.

The wheelbase is larger for 1997, giving the SC1 much more stability on the road than ever before.

The exterior is all new and it's really sharp. It's sportier than ever before. Everything has been revised, from the front to the rear.

The new roof and decklid designs nearly eliminate water runoff into the passenger and cargo compartments. There are standard daytime running lamps, as well as optional foglamps located in the smartly designed air intake.

On the inside, there are large storage pockets, dual airbags and an ample center console.

The SC1 is powered by a 1.9-liter single-overhead-cam 4-cylinder engine that produces 100 horsepower that sounds less powerful than it is. Optional is a dual-overhead-cam 4-cylinder that outputs 124 horses.

The engine is not going to win you any drag races, but it's respectable and can hold its own on the freeway.

The 5-speed is smooth-shifting. An automatic is available, and preferred.

Available options include air power windows and door locks, a power sunroof, rear spoiler, ABS with traction control, cruise control, foglamps, AM/FM cassette or cassette/compact disc and leather appointments.

Suffice it to say, this Saturn was so good it surprised me. For the SC1's base price of \$12,495, give me a break — you can't go wrong.

1997 Saturn SC1
Vehicle class: Subcompact.
Power: 1.9-liter SOHC 4-cylinder.
Mileage: 28 city / 40 highway.
Where built: Spring Hill, Tenn.
Base price: \$12,495.

Anne Fracassa is senior editor of Avanti NewsFeatures.

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 <p>1997 GRAND AM SE COUPE</p> <p>Air conditioning, AM/FM stereo, air bags, 24 hour roadside assistance, three year/36,000 mile warranty, stock #970175.</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$12,995* GM OPT II Deduct \$732.45</p> <p>36 month Smart Lease \$199 per mo.</p>	 <p>ALL NEW 1997 TRANS SPORT SE</p> <p>Automatic transmission, air conditioning, V6, AM/FM stereo cassette, cruise, tilt, power windows & locks, keyless entry, anti-lock brakes, seven passenger, dual air bags, deep tinted glass, rear defroster & more. Stock #970244.</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$20,895 GM OPT II Deduct \$1111.20</p> <p>36 month Smart Lease \$309 per mo.</p>	 <p>1997 SIERRA PICKUP</p> <p>VORTEC 4300 V-6 engine, automatic transmission, dual air bags, ABS brakes, air conditioning, tilt, & cruise, AM/FM stereo cassette & much more! Stock #979052.</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$16,399* GM OPT II Deduct \$872.85</p> <p>36 month Smart Lease \$219 per mo.</p>	 <p>1996 FULL SIZE CONVERSION VAN</p> <p>Vortec 5,700 engine, four speed automatic transmission, dual air bags, ABS brakes, front & rear air conditioning & heat, high top, 13" TV & VCR, tri-fold rear power seat, starcraft conversion, fiberglass running boards, high gloss walnut wood trim, AM/FM cassette & CD player with headphones & much more! Stock #968443.</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$27,995* GM OPT II Deduct \$1116.75</p>
 <p>1997 SUNFIRE SE COUPE</p> <p>Rear defroster, air conditioning, AM/FM stereo cassette, dual air bags, anti-lock brakes, sport mirrors, tinted glass, power steering, power brakes. Stock #970142.</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$12,695* GM OPT II Deduct \$663.95</p> <p>36 month Smart Lease \$189 per mo.</p>	 <p>1997 SONOMA PICKUP</p> <p>2.2 liter four cylinder engine, five speed manual transmission, air bag, ABS brakes, air conditioning, AM/FM cassette stereo and much more! Stock #4122.</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$10,995* GM OPT II Deduct \$609.10</p> <p>36 month Smart Lease \$149 per mo.</p>		

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HOME & SERVICE GUIDE

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THE
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CABLE/TV WEEKLY

January 27 - February 2, 1997

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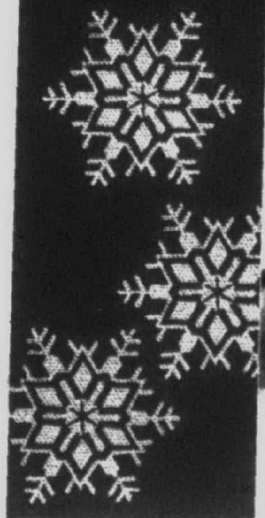
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Feature
Story



DARK SKIES

Megan Ward and Eric Close star in the NBC sci-fi series *Dark Skies*, airing Saturdays. The program, which focuses on the government cover-up of an extraterrestrial invasion and the events that surround it, is just one of the new crop of gloomy science-fiction shows.

Darkness falls over the science-fiction genre

By Teresa Ortega
©TVData Features Syndicate



Kate Mulgrew

To Americans, the 21st century has always symbolized a far-off, technically advanced future.

Space travel would most likely be as easy as hopping in the family sedan. But as the year 2001 draws nearer, the future as depicted on television has come to look less and less rosy.

Science fiction has always encompassed both positive and negative strains, but suddenly the more pessimistic view has the upper hand. A new breed of shows has mated sci-fi with horror (*The X-Files*, *Millennium*), while programs presenting less diluted science fiction — such as *Dark Skies* (Saturdays on NBC), *Babylon 5* (check local listings) and *Star Trek: Voyager* (Wednesdays on UPN) — seem infected by a darker vision as well.

Dark Skies is fueled by a sobering re-creation of events in U.S. history. The show posits a governmental conspiracy surrounding a planned alien invasion to account for what *Dark Skies* supervising producer and co-creator Brent Friedman identifies as the "downward spiral" of national morale since President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

The series has been blasted for everything from ripping off *The X-Files* to presenting inaccurate history, but, in fact, its premises are more complex than it is usually given credit for.

Rather than trying to present hard facts, the show thrives, Friedman says, "in the gray areas," and tries to promote a skeptical stance toward official history — a stance Friedman hopes will lead viewers to investigate unanswered questions for themselves.

J. Michael Straczynski, the executive producer, creator and writer of *Babylon 5*, insists his show is not so much dark as it is "more adult." The show's hard-hitting take on humanity, along with its spectacular special effects, makes a nice counterpoint to the high-mindedness and even occasional preachiness of a show such as *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

If the characters on *Babylon 5* are conflicted, gritty and sometimes villainous, that's because in Straczynski's view, "people 200 years from now are not going to be substantially different from what we are now."

Straczynski suggests the trend toward darker content in sci-fi may be attributed to the networks' need to compete with the racier material on cable.

With *Star Trek: Voyager*, the somber-

ness comes from the show's premise, that the starship USS *Voyager* has wandered so far out in space that it will take a lifetime to get home.

Brannon Braga, the show's supervising producer, says the initial episodes were "relentlessly depressing," but denies that the recent turn toward gloominess in science fiction has had an effect on the program. The purpose of the various *Star Trek* shows, Braga points out, is to imagine "a future that viewers would want to be in." Expecting the *Star Trek* family to suddenly turn moody would be like "asking the Cleavers to come down with some terrible skin disorder," Braga says.

Still, he says *Star Trek: Voyager* has taken its cue from *The X-Files* on what

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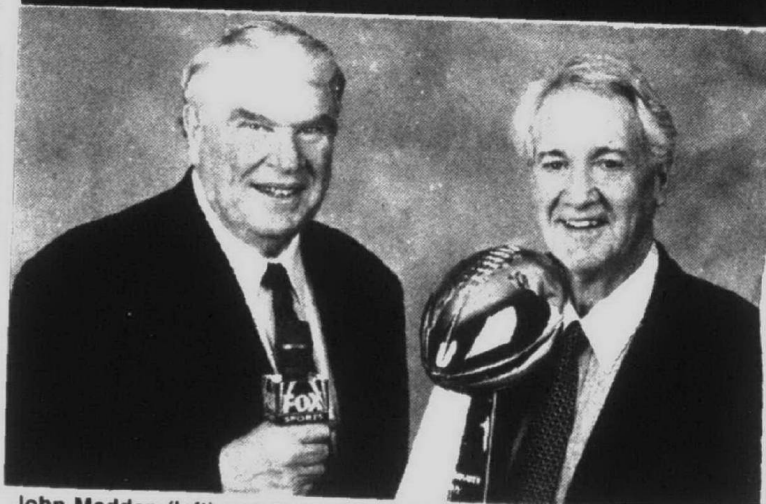
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he calls "the weirdness factor." That is, he and his colleagues have tried to keep up with the innovative creatures and weird phenomena that have helped make its competitor so popular.

And *Voyager* will pull out the big guns in February, when the Borg crosses paths with Capt. Janeway (Kate Mulgrew) and the *Voyager* crew.

So if things do appear a little dark, with so much good science fiction to watch, the future's looking brighter already.

SUNDAY



John Madden (left) and Pat Summerall head to the field to call the action for Super Bowl XXXI. Broadcast from the Louisiana Superdome, the game airs Sunday on Fox.

★ LEGEND ★

Channel	Station	City					
12	WJBL	Southfield	45	60	63	67	FAM Family
13	WDIV	Detroit	46	61	64	68	FLIX Movies
14	WADL	Detroit	47	62	65	69	HBO Premium
15	WXYZ	Southfield	48	63	66	70	HBOII Premium
16	CBET	Windsor	49	64	67	71	HOME Gardening
17	WXON	Southfield	50	65	68	72	HOT Premium
18	WFUM	Flint	51	66	69	73	INT Internatl
19	WWJ	Detroit	52	67	70	74	LIFE Lifetime
20	WTVS	Detroit	53	68	71	75	MAX Premium
21	WKBD	Southfield	54	69	72	76	MTV Music
22	A&E	New York	55	70	73	77	NICK Nickelodeon
23	AMC	Classics	56	71	74	78	PASS Ann Arbor
24	BET		57	72	75	79	QVC Shopping
25	BRVO	Movies	58	73	76	80	REQ1 Premium
26	CABLEVID		59	74	77	81	REQ2 Premium
27	CICA	Toronto	60	75	78	82	SCI New York
28	CNBC	Finance	61	76	79	83	SHOW Premium
29	CNN	News	62	77	80	84	TBN Religious
30	CNNII	News	63	78	81	85	TBS Atlanta
31	COMD	Comedy	64	79	82	86	TLC Learning Chan
32	CSPAN	Government	65	80	83	87	TMC Premium
33	CTNDEW	Religious	66	81	84	88	TNN Nashville
34	DISC	Discovery	67	82	85	89	TNT Atlanta
35	DISN	Premium	68	83	86	90	TOON Cartoons
36	E!	Entert.	69	84	87	91	USA New York
37	ESPN	Sports	70	85	88	92	VC1 Premium
			71	86	89	93	VH1 Music
			72	87	90	94	WGN Chicago

NOTE: The cable company previously called Omnicom is now identified as Continental II for the Plymouth and Canton areas. • Metrovision is now Time Warner.

SATURDAY



An arrogant weatherman (Bill Murray) falls for his producer (Andie MacDowell) while reliving the same day over and over in *Groundhog Day*, airing Saturday on ABC.

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IN FOCUS



Kristian Alfonso heads to prime time to star as a wealthy woman who seduces two young men into a life of crime in *What Happened to Bobby Earl?* Tuesday, Jan. 28, on CBS.

Bobby (Drew Ebersole) is the first member of his family to go to college. While there, he meets a woman (Alfonso) who involves him in criminal activities. Feeling guilty, Bobby tells his mother (Kate Jackson), who convinces him to tell the police. Bobby's life appears to be turning around until he mysteriously disappears.

Super Bowl XXXI announces the arrival of Fox Sports

By Jim Baker

TVDData Features Syndicate

No network broadcast team has worked more Super Bowls than Pat Summerall and John Madden, who will preside over their sixth on Sunday, Jan. 26, on Fox. Super Bowl XXXI is Fox's first and represents the crowning jewel in a 1996-97 season that included the network's first World Series and second NHL All-Star Game.

Madden, the popular analyst who jumped with Summerall to Fox in 1994 when the network wrested the NFL coverage from CBS with a record four-year, \$1.58-billion deal, is ready for his first Super Bowl in five years.

Fox's coverage begins with a 90-minute *All Time Super Bowl All Madden Team* special that kicks off an exhaustive five-plus-hour warm-up to pro football's most celebrated game, which will be played at the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans.

And Madden is showing up not only with a sense of the game's history but with a blunt approach to the future of the NFL.

"No one knew what the Super Bowl would become when it started," says Madden, who's been involved with the game almost from its beginning. Madden was the Oakland Raiders' linebackers coach when the team played Vince Lombardi's Green Bay Packers in Super Bowl II, and as head coach, Madden guided the Raiders to a victory over the Minnesota Vikings in Super Bowl XI.

"First, it was the biggest event in sports, then the biggest event of the year, and now it's not just a game anymore," Madden says. "People make a day out of it. It's a happening. And we need more memories—that's the fun."

When asked his reaction to all five NFL networks suffering drops in viewer ratings this season, four with record-low averages, Madden says, "I've seen this coming. I've seen more empty seats than ever this season. The interest is not there the way it was. And the longer we make excuses and hang our heads, we're not solving the problem."

So what is the problem? Why was Fox's regular-season Nielsen ratings average down 10 percent from a year ago? Madden blames it in

part on the NFL teams' emphasis on stadium luxury boxes over family values.

"How many fathers and mothers take their sons and daughters to the Super Bowl?" he asks. "Probably none. We started losing the kids 20 years ago and now we've lost the generation between 20 and 35. When we started luxury boxes, we started losing the kids. Now they're not kids anymore. The NFL, TV and the clubs have done nothing about this."

Still, seven Super Bowls are among the 10 most-watched TV programs of all time, and the Dallas Cowboys' 27-17 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers on NBC last year (46.0 rating, 68 share) was the 10th most-viewed sports event ever, trailing eight Super Bowls and the Nancy Kerrigan-Tonya Harding showdown at the 1994 Winter Olympics. No wonder a half-minute commercial during the game now costs \$1.3 million.

"I've always been anxious to get back to the Super Bowl booth," Madden says. "The greatest thing about it is just being there. And in preparing, I concentrate more on the AFC team because Pat and I know the NFC teams more, covering them for Fox. We must bring ourselves into balance."

Madden calls Summerall, whom he joined in the broadcast booth 16 seasons ago, "the easiest guy to get along with in the world. If you can't get along with him, you can't with

anyone. Whatever situation comes up, he's been there. But I'm no day at the beach."

Madden, who will be 61 years old in April, insists there will be no difference in the Fox announcers' approach to covering the game from their days at CBS.

"There's only one way to cover a game," he says. "You can't format a live event. You have to react and adjust. And there's no comparison to coaching. The greatest thing on the sidelines is you win or lose. The high and lows can never be copied and you live with them the rest of your life. But in the booth, we don't win or lose."

And where does the NFL on TV go from here? The current contracts extend through next season, but CBS wants to get back in the mix, cable channels ESPN and TNT want more than a half-season's coverage each, and Fox is eyeing ABC's Monday night slot.

But for now Fox is making the Super Bowl a bigger bonanza than ever, something Madden approaches matter-of-factly.

"People can make a whole day out of it or just watch the game," he says. "It's their choice, but it is a happening."

John Madden (left) and Pat Summerall will call the action for Super Bowl XXXI from the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. The game airs Sunday on Fox.



Cybill Shepherd takes a bow as Cybill Sheridan, a hard-working actress whose everyday roles include friend, ex-wife and mother, in *Cybill*, airing Mondays on CBS.

	MONDAY, JAN. 27			
	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30
WJBC (2)	12	2	2	12
WDIV (4)	13	4	4	9
WADL (38)	14	19	23	23
WXYZ (7)	15	7	7	10
CBET (9)	16	9	9	24
WXON (20)	17	6	20	20
WFUM (28)	18		24	21
WWJ (62)	19	14	14	14
WTVS (56)	20	11	6	6
WKBD (50)	22	5	13	13
A&E	32	50	45	37
AMC	31	36	46	39
BET	69	43	62	51
BRAVO	30	40	44	62
CABLEVID	63			
CICA		21		
CNBC	41	53	39	50
CNN	39	28	37	44
CNNI		29	38	49
COM		47	55	46
CSPAN	8	56	10	25
CTNDWNTN	22	17	2	
DISC	33	27	42	47
DISN	26	74	57	57
E!	44	52	56	63
ESPN	38	31	35	38
FAM	46	60	53	52
FLIX		66		
HBO	24	67	5	5
HBOH	52	68	68	17
HOME	57	42	48	28
HOT		77	78	55
INT		61		32
LIFE	34	26	52	16
MAX	25	71	22	19
MTV	29	44	64	41

More Afternoon Listings On Next Page

PRIME TIME CONTINUED MONDAY, JAN. 27. Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11:30) and rows for various channels (TNT, TOON, USA, VC1, VH1, WGN) listing programs like 'In the Heat of the Night', 'Garfield', 'Jetsons', 'Scooby Doo', 'World Wrestling Federation Raw', etc.

LATE NIGHT MONDAY, JAN. 27. Table with columns for time slots (11 PM to 2:30) and rows for various channels (WJBK, WDIV, WADL, etc.) listing programs like 'Cheers', 'M*A*S*H', 'Who's Boss?', 'Cosby Show', 'Dating Game', 'Newlywed', etc.

AFTERNOON TUESDAY, JAN. 28. Table with columns for time slots (12 PM to 5:30) and rows for various channels (WJBK, WDIV, WADL, etc.) listing programs like 'News', 'Real TV', 'Gerald Rivera', 'Dating Game', 'Newlywed', 'Ricki Lake', etc.

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PRIME TIME TUESDAY, JAN. 28. Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11:30 PM) and rows for channels (TNT, TOON, USA, VC1, VH1, WGN).

LATE NIGHT TUESDAY, JAN. 28. Table with columns for time slots (11 PM to 2:30 AM) and rows for channels (WJBK, WDIV, WXLN, CBET, WXON, WFUM, WWJZ, WTVS, WKBD, A&E, AMC, BET, BRAVO, CABLEVID, CICA, CNBC, CNN, CNNI, COM, CSPAN, CTNDWTH, DISC, DISN, E!, ESPN, FAM, FLIX, HBO, HBOH, HOME, HOT, INT, LIFE, MAX, MTV, NICK, PASS, QVC, REQ1, REQ2, SCI, SHOW, TBN, TBS, TLC, TMC, TNM, TNT, TOON, USA, VC1, VH1, WGN).

AFTERNOON WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29. Table with columns for time slots (12 PM to 5:30 PM) and rows for channels (WJBK, WDIV, WADL, WXYZ, CBET, WXON, WFUM, WWJZ, WTVS, WKBD, A&E, AMC, BET, BRAVO, CABLEVID, CICA, CNBC, CNN, CNNI, COM, CSPAN, CTNDWTH, DISC, DISN, E!, ESPN, FAM, FLIX, HBO, HBOH, HOME, HOT, INT, LIFE, MAX, MTV, NICK, PASS, QVC, REQ1, REQ2, SCI, SHOW, TBN, TBS, TLC, TMC, TNM, TNT, TOON, USA, VC1, VH1, WGN).



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AFTERNOON CONTINUED WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29

Table with columns for time slots (12 PM to 5:30) and rows for various channels (NICK, PASS, etc.) listing programs like Little Bear, Blue's Clues, and The Nanny.

PRIME TIME WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11:30) and rows for various channels (WJBC, WDIV, etc.) listing programs like News, Cheers, and Frasier.

Advertisement for Marty Figley's column 'The GARDEN SPOT' every Thursday in 'AT HOME'.

PRIME TIME WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11:30) and rows for various channels (A&E, AMC, BET, etc.) listing programs like Quincy, Equalizer, and Biography.

PRIME TIME CONTINUED

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29

Grid for PRIME TIME CONTINUED showing channels (TNT, TOON, USA, VC1, VH1, WGN) and their respective programs (e.g., In the Heat of the Night, Garfield, Renegade South of Hell, etc.) from 6 PM to 11:30 PM.

LATE NIGHT

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 29

Grid for LATE NIGHT showing channels (WJBK, WDIY, WADL, etc.) and their respective programs (e.g., Cheers, M*A*S*H, Who's Boss?, etc.) from 11 PM to 2:30 AM.

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AFTERNOON

THURSDAY, JAN. 30

Large grid for AFTERNOON showing channels (WJBK, WDIY, WADL, etc.) and their respective programs (e.g., News, Jeopardy!, Days of Our Lives, etc.) from 12 PM to 5:30 PM.

More Afternoon Listings On Next Page

AFTERNOON CONTINUED

THURSDAY, JAN. 30

Table with columns for time slots (12 PM to 5:30) and rows for channels (NICK, PASS, QVC, etc.).

PRIME TIME

THURSDAY, JAN. 30

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11:30) and rows for channels (WJBL, WDIV, etc.).

Advertisement for 'Inviting Ideas' read by Ruth Mossok Johnston every Thursday in AT HOME.

PRIME TIME

THURSDAY, JAN. 30

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11:30) and rows for channels (A&E, AMC, BET, etc.).

PRIME TIME CONTINUED THURSDAY, JAN. 30

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM, 6:30, 7 PM, 7:30, 8 PM, 8:30, 9 PM, 9:30, 10 PM, 10:30, 11 PM, 11:30) and rows for various channels and their programming.

LATE NIGHT THURSDAY, JAN. 30

Table with columns for time slots (11 PM, 11:30, 12 AM, 12:30, 1 AM, 1:30, 2 AM, 2:30) and rows for various channels and their programming.



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AFTERNOON FRIDAY, JAN. 31

Large table with columns for time slots (12 PM, 12:30, 1 PM, 1:30, 2 PM, 2:30, 3 PM, 3:30, 4 PM, 4:30, 5 PM, 5:30) and rows for various channels and their programming.

AFTERNOON CONTINUED FRIDAY, JAN. 31

Table listing TV shows and movies for Friday, Jan 31, Afternoon Continued. Includes channels like NICK, PASS, QVC, etc. with show titles and time slots.

PRIME TIME FRIDAY, JAN. 31

Table listing TV shows and movies for Friday, Jan 31, Prime Time. Includes channels like WJBK, WDV, WADL, etc. with show titles and time slots.

The "Appliance Doctor" is in. Read Joe Gagnon
AT HOME
in AT HOME every Thursday



every Thursday

PRIME TIME FRIDAY, JAN. 31

Table listing TV shows and movies for Friday, Jan 31, Prime Time. Includes channels like A&E, AMC, BET, BRAVO, etc. with show titles and time slots.

PRIME TIME CONTINUED FRIDAY, JAN. 31

Table with columns for time slots (6 PM to 11:30) and rows for various TV shows like 'In the Heat of the Night', 'Garfield', 'NBA Basketball', etc.

LATE NIGHT FRIDAY, JAN. 31

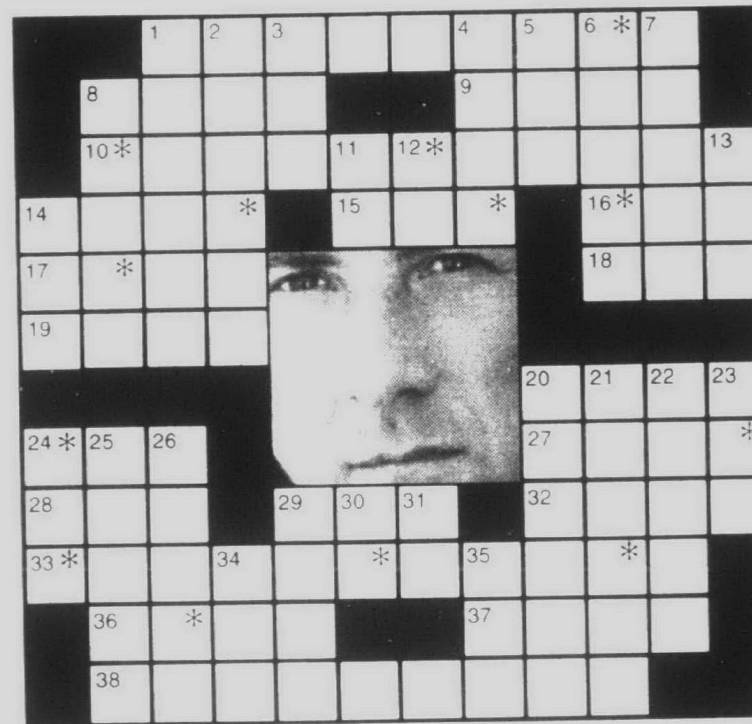
Table with columns for time slots (11 PM to 2:30) and rows for various TV shows like 'Cheers', 'M*A*S*H', 'Who's Boss?', 'Cosby Show', etc.

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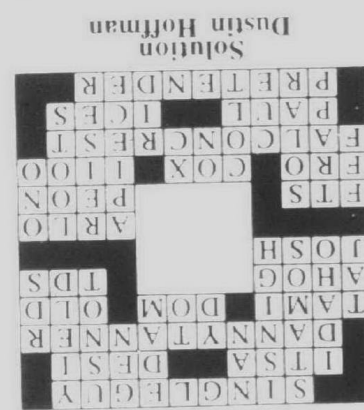


TV CROSSWORD



The identity of the featured celebrity is found within the answers in the puzzle. To take the TV Challenge, unscramble the letters noted with asterisks within the puzzle.

- ACROSS
1 The _____ sitcom about a bachelor
8 _____ Living (1980-82)
9 One who starred on I Love Lucy
10 Role on Full House (2)
14 The _____ Show 1964 film for the Rolling Stones
15 The _____ DeLuise Show (1987-88)
16 _____ Boyfriends, 1979 John Belushi movie
17 As greedy as _____
18 Buccaneers' goals for short _____
19 Actor Taylor, once of Beverly Hills: 90210
20 Woody's son _____
24 Worth and Wayne' abbr _____
27 Unskilled laborer _____
28 To's opposite _____
29 Monica's portrayal on Friends _____
32 MC _____
33 1981-90 series for Jane Wyman (2) _____
36 With 21 Down, actor who stars in a sitcom (2) _____
37 Writes "Happy Birthday" on a cake _____
38 Series about a genius _____
12 _____ Rome With Love (1969-71)
13 Yellow Brick and others' abbr _____
14 _____ Mahal _____
20 _____ of the Action, 1977 Sidney Poitier film
21 See 36 Across _____
22 Plunders _____
23 Sean Lennon's mom _____
24 Shameful report card _____
25 Von _____ family, heroes of The Sound of Music _____
26 _____ Crisis, 1990 Charlton Heston movie
29 Lee Majors' role in The Fall Guy (1981-86) _____
30 _____ the Rocks (1975-76) _____
31 Cugat's initials _____
34 Word with card or ball _____
35 _____ of free from _____



- DOWN
1 Actor John, _____ once of You Again? (1986-87) _____
2 _____ by my cradle till morning (from "Away in a Manger") _____
3 Nickname for McKeon, perhaps _____
4 Imported cheese _____
5 High-ranking officer' abbr _____
6 _____ and lead _____ into _____ temptation _____
7 Highway sign _____
8 Washington's neighbor _____
11 Linear meas _____

SOAP TALK

Return of Ryan on Another World

By Candace Havens
cTVData Features Syndicate

Dear Candace: What is the story behind Vicky and Ryan (Jensen Buchanan, Paul Michael Valley) on Another World? I knew they were engaged and he was killed by his brother, Grant (Mark Pinter). I also want to know if his returning as a ghost is a permanent or temporary thing. -TC in New Jersey

Dear Reader: Vicky and Ryan were one of the great all-time love stories on AW.

In true soap form, every time they came close to being happy, something ripped them apart, it usually had something to do with Grant.

"Grant can't deal with the idea that Vicky has custody of his children," Pinter says. "Those children mean everything to him, and he will kill her if he has to."

"Now, Grant is picking on Bobby (Robert Kelker-Kelly) and Vicky. We are working on one of the best stories we've ever had."

Valley's return is temporary.

Dear Candace: I want to know why they are dragging out this John and Marlena (Drake Hogestyn, Deidre Hall) story line on Days of Our Lives. It isn't fair to the viewers.

The writers have to know how much we want these two to be together. Are they doing this for ratings? If they are, I think it will work against them. -Snow on the Internet

Dear Reader: Once Kristen's baby is born, the story begins to take a different turn. Marlena wises up and makes up her mind about something important.

We can only hope John gets a clue sometime soon.

Dear Candace: I was wondering why Shane McDermott was replaced as Scott Chandler on All My Children. Also, can you tell me the name of the actor who took over the role? Marjy on the Internet

Dear Reader: The producers decided they wanted to take the character in a different direction and wanted someone else in the role.

Daniel Cosgrove is the new Scott.

Send questions of general interest to Candace Havens, Soap Talk, TVData Features Syndicate, Northway Plaza, Queensbury, N.Y. 12804, or e-mail to soaptalk@tvdata.com. Only questions selected for this column will be answered. Personal replies cannot be sent.

MORNING

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

Table with columns for time slots (6 AM to 11:30 AM) and rows for various channels (WJBL, WDIV, WADL, etc.) listing program titles and ratings.

AFTERNOON

SATURDAY, FEB. 1

Table with columns for time slots (12 PM to 5:30 PM) and rows for various channels (WJBL, WDIV, WADL, etc.) listing program titles and ratings.

Table with columns for channels (NICK, PASS, QVC, etc.), time slots (12 PM to 5:30), and program titles (Salute Shorts, Hey Dude, Looney Tunes, etc.).

Table with columns for channels (WJBK, WDV, WADL, etc.), time slots (6 PM to 11:30), and program titles (News, M*A*S*H, Access Hollywood, etc.).

Find out about fine arts - read Linda Ann Chomin every Thursday in



Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Table with columns for channels (A&E, AMC, BET, etc.), time slots (6 PM to 11:30), and program titles (Home Again, Home Again, Mysteries of the Bible, etc.).

Table with columns for channels (TNT, TOON, USA, VCI, VH1, WGN) and times (6 PM to 11:30 PM). Title: PRIME TIME CONTINUED SATURDAY, FEB. 1. Content includes program listings like Flintstones, Addams Family, Scooby Doo, and various movies.

Table with columns for channels (WJBC, WDIV, WADL, etc.) and times (11 PM to 2:30 AM). Title: LATE NIGHT SATURDAY, FEB. 1. Content includes program listings like Mad TV, News, Sports, and various movies.

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TV PIPELINE

By Taylor Michaels
—TVData Features Syndicate

Q: What happened to the Ken Olin drama *EZ Streets*? The two-hour movie aired, but none of the hourly Wednesday shows. —Peg M., no address.

A: Actually, one regular *EZ Streets* episode aired before CBS decided that, apart from *The Nanny* and *Pearl*, its Wednesday lineup was a bust.

The network canceled *Almost Perfect* and *Public Morals*, but put *EZ Streets* on hiatus. It will return this spring.

CBS' dilemma is that, like last season's *American Gothic*, *EZ* is uncompromisingly complex and dark, unlike anything else on the network's mostly middlebrow schedule.

That makes *EZ* difficult to schedule—and to promote.

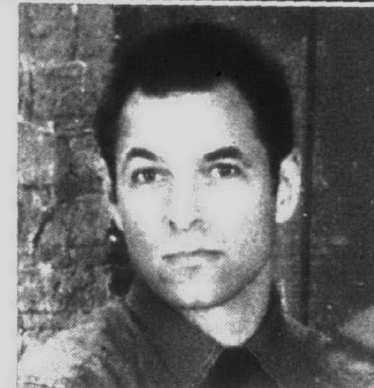
My prediction: CBS will return *EZ* as promised, and viewers once again will reject an exceptional show.

Q: The movie *Miracle on 34th Street* was remade with Sebastian Cabot as Santa and, I believe, Natalie Wood from the original movie playing the mother. I can't find it on video anywhere. —John L. Newman, South Hill, Va.

A Jane Alexander, not Wood, played the mother in the 1973 TV-movie remake of the 1947 classic. David Hartman, Roddy McDowall and Suzanne Davidson co-starred.

Film historian Leonard Maltin reports that the 1973 *Miracle* hasn't been released on video, but as always, call Movies Unlimited at 800-4MOVIES to check on current availability.

Q: Back in the '50s I recall watching a TV game show called *Dollar a Second*, which none of my contemporaries remember. Do you have any information on this ancient program? —Pete Klimek, Berkeley, Calif.



Ken Olin

A: Come Jan Murray hosted *Dollar a Second*, which resembled the more familiar *Truth or Consequences*.

Contestants earned \$1 for each second during which they answered questions correctly.

If they were incorrect or Murray interrupted them, they had to perform a stunt.

During its 1953-57 run, *Dollar* aired at various times on the Dumont, ABC and NBC networks. It was based on the French radio program *Cent Francs par Seconde*.

Q: Is NBC newscaster Jack Ford the son of former President Gerald Ford? —V.R., Kewaskum, Wis.

A: The former president has a son named Jack, but he isn't the Jack Ford who works for NBC.

Q: My husband insists that Delta Burke and Gerald McRaney are married. I think not. Please settle this. —Jean Reeves, Nashville, Tenn.

A: Your husband is right.

Send questions of general interest to TVData Features Syndicate, Northway Plaza, Queensbury, N.Y. 12804, or e-mail to tvpipeline@tvdata.com. Only questions selected for this column will be answered. Personal replies cannot be sent.

FOR THE BEST IN LOCAL NEWS, IT'S THE OBSERVER & ECCENTRIC NEWSPAPERS

CABLE



Charles Haid (left) and Tom Selleck lay down the law as judges who become involved in a government investigation in *Broken Trust*, airing Wednesday on TNT.

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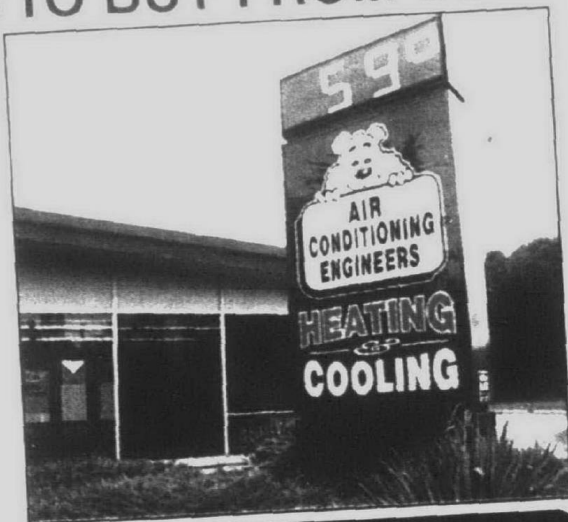
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